

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1538, New Britain, Connecticut 06050-1538

Parish office (90 Main Street): 860-225-7634

Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb

Parish Web site with service information: <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Combining the Zoom service with the Skype call was a success! Going forward there will be 1 service on Sundays: Zoom coffee hour 9:30 am; Zoom service 10 am; Zoom coffee hour after the service. Zoom Meeting ID 500-865-037

Enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There is also a telephone number you could call on your phone to join the Zoom service: 1-646-558-8656 (phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you don't not have unlimited calling).

Fr. Shaw will call the Skype members 15 minutes prior to the service.

A YouTube playlist of St. Mark's Sunday services has been created, and has been added to each Sunday for your use at any time during the week, via this link on the main parish Web page:

<http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>



Lighting of Advent Candles and Collect

Responsive Litany - He Will Be Called Prince of Peace

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Prince of Peace.

R. The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

In the midst of conflict, we look to the One who brings harmony.

R. The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

In the midst of confusion, we look to the One who brings clarity.

R. The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

In the midst of division, we look to the One who brings unity.

R. The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

In the midst of separation, we look to the One who restores the broken.

R. The Lord gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace.

Hymn 65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Bereden väg för Herran

(everyone muted except instrumentalist and cantor; everyone else sing where they are)



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect For Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trisagion

Celebrant: Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day - The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together, remembering to pause at the punctuation, to let the technology synchronize.
Celebrant sets the pace.

People and Celebrant, *remembering to pause at the punctuation:*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

Lector: Volunteer

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Leader: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Leader: Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Leader: Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Leader: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry" vss. 1,2,5

Winchester New

(everyone muted except instrumentalist and cantor; everyone else sing where they are)

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Shaw Mudge

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People III

Leader: Volunteer

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

[People may add their own petitions.]

Leader: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray together, the Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Celebrant sets the pace.

People and Celebrant, remembering to pause at the punctuation:

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live and die in your love. Amen.

Celebrant: God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Offertory reminder: Please remember to support the work of Christ through St. Marks', either by mailing your financial contributions to the parish post office box or by sending a check via your bank's bill-paying Web page to the parish post office box (the address is listed towards the end of the bulletin). Thank you. People like yourself help make St. Mark's special.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

Celebrant sets the pace.

People and Celebrant, remembering to pause at the punctuation:

(Traditional)

(Contemporary)

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us to
pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Advent Blessing

Priest: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Everyone: Amen.

Dismissal Hymn 66 "Come, thou long-expected Jesus"

Stuttgart

(everyone muted except instrumentalist and cantor; everyone else sing where they are)

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

When a priest is present, the service ends with the dismissal:

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

When a priest is not present, the service ends with the Grace, led by a worship leader or deacon:

Worship Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Announcements, as had.

A helpful note: If you have caller I.D., please note that Fr. Shaw Mudge may be calling from 518-577-2578 or, he may be calling from 518-632-4058.

The Third Sunday of Advent – December 13, 2020

Longterm prayers are asked for: Irene Alibrio, Sophia Anderson, Russell Atkinson, Bill Briggs, Cletus Cone, Patricia Cone, Henry Coutere, Dave, Debbie, Ron DeRobertis, Elaine, Nancy Fields, Thomas Hard, Gary Hudkins, Margaret Hughes, Rachael Johnston, Katherine, Florence Krivka, Pauline Liese, Lindsay, Louise, Carolyn Mansolf, Christopher McLaughlin, Fran Montoya, Gabriella Nauss, Lori Nauss, Nancy Nowlak, Joseph O'Tulak, Olivia Pike, Benjamin Pisseri, P.J., Jack Polinco, Francis and Joann Rusczyk, Debbie Spak, Frank Williams, Zachary.

Prayers are offered for:

Healing: Ian Lucas, Gail Koerner, John Pilla, Robert Haydasz, Patricia Anderson, Kelly Nauss, Bill Briggs, Claire Lucid, Laura Rocco, Danny, Sue Savage, Ann Maltais, Rae Robinson, Edward Dubois, Barbara Campbell, Gail Bates, Mary Gould, Linda, Gary, and Ron Napper.

ECCT Cycle of Prayer: St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; and those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

Those who serve our country: Ryan Beaudoin, Parker Browne, Michael Johnston, and Ed Priesser.
Parish families: Lisa, Gabriel and Jacob Reyes, Ray Reyes, Eva Reynolds, Evelyn Riley and Rae Robinson.

Those who have died, especially Evo Magi and Irene Tutko, and those who are remembered today: Eleanor Forester.

PRAYER CHAIN: To activate the chain call or email:

Barbara Campbell – Phone: 860-673-7607 Email: campbellba24@gmail.com

Please remember to send in your pledges and offerings to the parish. The mail in the St. Mark's post office box is picked up several times a week. Your pledge payments are compiled at least once a month and deposited.

Mailing address for financial contributions:

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church PO Box 1538 New Britain, CT 06050-1538
or send checks electronically to the Church via your bank.**

St. Marks keeps going in God's way, God's time, and to God's glory.

The worship services, the parish office, and ministry to the community adapt and continue. Your contributions of time, talent, and treasure are appreciated to make it happen.

People can gather and talk at Coffee Hour before the service or after the service.

Please remember to turn your phone volume down slightly on the Skype call.

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

The Food Pantry ministry continues on Mondays (9 to 2) and Thursdays (9 to 12).

During Covid times, St. Mark's online, Skype, and YouTube services continue.

STEWARDSHIP

Pledge Cards

have settled into
alphabetical order,
all nestled in nicely
as they get ready to work.

The banner has been raised again –
37 people pledged \$49,235.88
and others are welcome to land.

Come, make yourself comfortable!

There's ministry to do – together!



The Season of Advent
Thank you to Norm and Sue Holland for lighting the Advent Wreath
each week.

Christmas Eve Zoom Service

December 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our Christmas Eve Services on Zoom.

Enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>

Zoom Meeting I.D. Number: 935 2448 8386

Zoom meeting will open approximately 15 minutes prior to the service.

There is also a telephone number you could call on your phone to join the Zoom service: 1-646-558-8656 (phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you don't not have unlimited calling).

Christmas Memorial Remembrance Page

Because we will have a Zoom Service for Christmas, if you would like your loved one remembered on Christmas, please send in their name(s) along with your name and number to the parish office.

Please send them into the office by December 21st.

I will have a page of Christmas Remembrances for the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Thank you.

THE ST. MARK'S FOOD PANTRY



The New Britain Stop and Shop Community Bag Program will be held this year for the benefit of the St. Mark's Food Pantry. If you shop at Stop and Shop, please consider purchasing a "Give Back" bag and \$1 of each bag will be donated to our food pantry.

The Governor of Connecticut has declared that Food Pantry employees and volunteers are essential frontline workers.

The St. Mark's Food Pantry has stayed open throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. Thank you to our volunteers! You have done a tremendous job helping families receive food during these trying times.



A YouTube playlist of St. Mark's Sunday services has been created, for your use at any time in the week, via a link on the main parish Web page: <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>

St. Mark's: "Open to God's Love - Serving Our Neighbor"