

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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 Everlasting Father

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Everlasting Father.

R. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who knows our deepest thoughts.

R. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who cares for our deepest needs.

R. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who knows our most pressing concerns.

R. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who knows our innermost being.

R. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Thank you to Norm and Sue Holland for lighting the Advent wreath each week.

Hymn 60 "Creator of the stars of night" vs. 1-4

Conditor alme siderum

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



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3 When this old world drew on toward night,
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

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:*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from the Second book of Samuel (SAM-you-el).

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan (NAY-than), "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David (DAY-vid): Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt (EE-jipt) to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel (IS-ray-el), whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

Lector: Volunteer

Leader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

People: **for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

Leader: From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

People: **the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

Leader: He has mercy on those who fear him *

People: **in every generation.**

Leader: He has shown the strength of his arm, *

People: **he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

Leader: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

People: **and has lifted up the lowly.**
Leader: He has filled the hungry with good things, *
People: **and the rich he has sent away empty.**
Leader: He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
People: **for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**
Leader: The promise he made to our fathers, *
People: **to Abraham and his children for ever.**

The Second Lesson

Romans 15:25-27

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans (ROW-mans).

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles (JEN-tiles), according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 265 "The angel Gabriel from heaven came"

Gabriel's Message

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

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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 VI

Leader: Volunteer

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Ian and Laura our Bishops; and for Shaw our Priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: Hear us, Lord;

People: For your mercy is great.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings

Leader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

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.**

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.

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.**

Dismissal Hymn 54 "Savior of the nations, come"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

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



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 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 Kruvka, 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: Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; for the children of the world, the Bishop's Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk.

Those who serve our country: Ryan Beaudoin, Parker Browne, Michael Johnston, and Ed Priesser.

Parish families: Mary Jo Ronstrom, Donald Roskowski, Walter Rotherforth, Holly Rozman and Fred Salling.

Those who have died, especially Thomas Smith and those who are remembered today: Michael and Edith Clifford.

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.

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 –
40 people pledged \$49,645.88
and others are welcome to land.

Come, make yourself comfortable!
There's ministry to do – together!



CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SING

St. Mark's will hold a Zoom Carol Sing prior to the Christmas Eve service. Please send in your favorite carol to the parish office so we can add it the list of carols.

The Zoom service will open at 6:30 for the Carol Sing.

The Carol Sing will begin around 6:45.

(The Meeting ID number is below.)

[Join us for this Festive Carol Sing!](#)

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>

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Vestry nominations are now being sought. If you are interested, communicate with Father Shaw or any vestry member.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 27th – The Service for the First Sunday After Christmas will begin at **9:15 a.m.** (Time change from the usual Sunday service)

Sunday, February 7th – St. Mark's Annual Meeting on Zoom – watch the bulletin and Message for more information

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