



The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2019

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Mission

We are an inclusive community of faith, reflecting Christ's love,
ministering to all who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

Vision

Our strength as a faith community depends on our inner vitality, inclusive welcome, and outward action.
Grounded in these values, we continue our strong tradition of liturgical worship and education for all ages.
We advocate for justice, serving those in need.

The Gathering of the People

Presider I: Principal Celebrant

Presider II: Preacher/Assistant Celebrant

Prelude – Savior of the Nations, Come

Whayne Barlow

Welcome and Invitation to a Holy Advent *(standing as able)*

Presider: †Blessed be God: most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity.

People: **And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. Amen.**

Presider: Advent is a season of waiting and preparation to celebrate the coming of our Savior and the promised salvation for God's people. This time of waiting is also a time for us to work for peace and justice. It is a time for us to consider our priorities as we walk in the light that God gives us.

The Procession and Litany *(Please stand as you are able)*

Presider: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Govern and direct your holy Church especially here at St. Mark's; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; strengthen the first responders and medical professionals across the world.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word. And may God forgive our sins, those things we have done and those things we have left undone, in the †Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn – Once He Came in Blessing

1. Once He came in blessing,
All our ills redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us,
Hope and freedom gave us.

2. Still He comes within us,
Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us;
Would to Truth convert us
From our foolish error
Ere He comes in terror.

3. Thus, if thou hast known Him,
Not ashamed to own Him,
Nor dost love Him coldly,
But wilt trust Him boldly
He will then receive us,
Heal us, and forgive us.

4. Those who then are loyal,
Find a welcome royal.
Come then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us;
Let us here confess you,
Til in heav'n we bless you.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting

Presider: Blessed are you, O God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. †Bless this wreath and candles made by human hands. May increasing light be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for Christ's coming among us and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Today as we light the first Advent candle, we are reminded that the flickering of the flame reminds us that our waiting is a time of both contemplation and action. *(The first Advent candle is lit.)* Let us pray together:

People: Dear God, through your Spirit you spoke to the Prophets, and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come. Through your Spirit, speak to each of us that we may feel your presence and know your will in our Advent waiting. Amen.

Hymn – O come, O come, Emmanuel (verse 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel!

Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The Hebrew Scripture (*Seated as able*)

Isaiah 64: 1-9

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah **Lector I at the Lectern**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18 *Lector I at the Lectern* - Let us meditate on the Psalm as it is sung by the cantor

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Christian Scripture *Lector II at the Pulpit*
A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: My Lord, what a morning

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning!

My Lord, what a morning!

O my Lord, what a morning

When the stars begin to fall,

When the stars begin to fall.

**1 You will hear the trumpet sound
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

**2 You will hear the sinner cry
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

**3 You will hear the Christian shout
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

The Gospel Reading (*standing as able*) *Presider II at the Pulpit*

Mark 13: 24-37

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

The Homily

The Rev.Dr. Christian Brocato

The Nicene Creed (Please note the language for the Spirit.)

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 a 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, the Spirit is worshiped and glorified. The Spirit 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.

Prayers of the People (All remain standing as able)

Lector I During this Season of Advent, we ask God to hear our prayers.

For St. Mark's, the Vestry, all those in Parish leadership, and all that we do to offer ourselves and all we have to bring about the reign of God.

We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II For the President, the Governor, the Mayor, the President Elect and Vice President Elect and all elected officials. For peace throughout our nation and the world. For the unemployed and under-employed. For an end to racism, violence and war.

We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I For Archbishop Justin, Presiding Bishop Michael, The Rt. Rev. Wayne Hougland, Dana, his wife, and their family, and all who give of themselves for the sake of the Gospel.

We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II For Mother Earth and our individual and collective responses to changes in the climate and for all those suffering from natural disasters in our land and throughout the world.

We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I For our Stewardship Season, Faith-filled Generosity", as we give of our gifts for the mission of St. Mark's in 2021. May we give in thanks for the many blessings in our lives of faith at St. Mark's.

We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II For the sick, especially remembering those on our Parish Prayer List found in today's bulletin, those suffering due to the Corona Virus and all those for whom we have promised to pray. (Pause to add additional prayers either silently or aloud)

We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I For those who have died. We especially remember Honestie Hodges and Patrick Quinn. May all the departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them. (Pause to add additional names)
We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II For what else or whom else shall we pray this day?
(Pause to add additional prayers either silently or aloud)

O God, hear these prayers which we have named aloud and those which lie deep within our hearts. In the Name of Jesus,
We pray: **O God, hear us.**

The Peace *Presider II*

Presider: May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Witness Message

The Holy Communion

Offertory Music – Oh Thou, Who Tellest Good Tidings to Zion
Riley Wells, countertenor

G.F. Handel

Presentation *Presider I: Let us praise God together (Spoken)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow:

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP, Church of England, Eucharistic Prayer E*

Presider: God be with you

People: **and also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Presider: And now we give you thanks because when Jesus humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago and opened for us the way of salvation.

So now we watch for the day, knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so, we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and as we pray:

People : **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider: We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, (*Presider blesses the gifts with the † sign of the cross*) that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends, and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:

People: **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Presider: God of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

†Look with favor on your people

Gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St. Mark and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Directive from the Bishops of Michigan indicates that we are able to receive the consecrated bread of the Eucharist but not the consecrated wine. Therefore we 'fast' from the consecrated bread and wine due to COVID virus risks and open ourselves to a spiritual communion until that time when we can receive the Eucharist as a community of faith gathered around the 'Table of the Lord.' The Consecrated Bread and Wine will not be shared.

**<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/holy-week-and-easter-2#mm055>*

Presider: Christ whose table was open to all is now present in this bread and in this wine. He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers himself to us.

Presider: Therefore, we pray:

People: **O Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar. We love you above all things and long for you in our hearts. Through we will fast from receiving you in these elements of the Eucharist at this time and until we gather again as a community, come spiritually into our hearts. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

The Consecrated Bread and Wine will not be shared until we can share them together as a community of faith.

Prayer after Communion

Presider: Let us pray together:

People: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing *Presider II*

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of the †God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with us now and forever we pray, Amen.

Hymn of Sending Forth – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers *All recess in the same order as processional*

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch in expectation!
At midnight comes the cry.

2 See that your lamps are burning,
replenish them with oil;
and wait for your salvation,
the end of earthly toil.
The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the Bridegroom near;
meet him as he approaches,
with alleluias clear.

3 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
above the darkened sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Dismissal *Presider II*

Presider: Let us go forth in peace to love and serve God and all God's people. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude – Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

eNnews:

Please refer to the St. Mark's eNews for information on Services, events and other activities.

Stewardship Season

Please join us in pledging for 2021. Pledge cards are available through our website or you may contact the Parish office. The goal for 2021 is \$470,000 toward the budget for next year. We have received 95 pledges for a total of \$332,894.00. God bless you!

Sustaining St. Mark's Ministry in 2020

Thanks to all those who financially sustain our ministry together at St. Mark's with pledges and offerings. The total budget for 2020 is \$782,838, which requires an estimated \$15,055 income per week, an amount arrived at through a variety of resources. During these weeks of the Pandemic, the average weekly collection has been around \$6,000, an obvious downturn in giving. We are very conscious of not worshipping together and thus not receiving more weekly contributions.

Last week, we received \$5,279 in pledges and offerings. That amount included pledges paid by mail, online through Give Plus, PayPal, and regular giving.

Pledged income shortfall to date:	\$ 63,000
Total Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$ 15,055
Total Contributions Received this week:	\$ 5,279
Difference:	\$ 9,776 (Shortfall)

Year to Date:	Total Contributions Needed:	\$ 703,498
	Total Contributions Received:	\$ 645,559
	Difference:	\$ 57,939 (Shortfall)

We are truly grateful to all of you who donated, paid your pledge in full during this time, those of you who have kept up to date on your pledges and those of you who continue to give even though you have not pledged. We have been blessed by the donations we have been receiving during this pandemic while very conscious of the financial future if the level of giving remains the same.

Thank you for maintaining your pledges and giving whether pledged or not.

Stay safe, and healthy!

Pam Stevenson, St. Mark's Finance Manager

The St. Mark's Prayer List

Prayers are requested:

David Atkinson
Chuck Bocskey
Carter Born
Jennifer and Bob Conklin
Marcia Coolsen
Marge Dickinson
Amanda Greenman
Dan and Nicole Huber
Kari Ingersoll
Ty Karsen
Barb Kent
Tom Klein
Mike Krushinsky
Roger Leech Jr.
Sarah McIntire & Kate Goebbert
Alissa Monsalvo
Bill Nasser
Andrea Nowak
John Oatley
Aila Olivia
Carolyn Rehman
John Ritchey
Jesse Roby
Elise Rossell
Mary Slew
Heidi Stoneman
Beth and Dave Tomac
Tom West
Helena and Ken Westrate
Steve Wildeboer

Our inbound and semi-inbound parishioners:

Irene Haizman
Shari Takus
Margarett Tanase
Jean Zylstra
Sue Allen
Gertrude DeAguire
Nita DeGraaf
John Gracki
Arlene Griffin
Larry Manglitz
Mary Rollins
Irene Savara
Shirley VanDerBos

Those in Military Service

LTC Timothy Brower Sr. USA
Cpl Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC
Maj Todd Murray, USAF
1/Sgt Deidre Piechocki, USA

Prayer for Discernment

Bea Rocco