

St. Mark's



Episcopal Church



www.stmarksnewbritain.org
www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb

P.O. Box 1538
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St. Mark's Sunday worship starts at 10 a.m. in the Erwin Chapel and on Zoom

Welcome. Our service will always be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. You may also enter by calling 1-646-558-8656. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service. (For more information on the Zoom service, please go to the back page of the bulletin.)

If there is a significant negative change in the trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will switch to Zoom-only worship. An email will be sent out to the parish to alert everyone if the service is to be Zoom only.

In-person services at 90 Main Street **will no longer require** that everyone wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. Please use your best judgement concerning mask use if you have been exposed to someone who tested positive. Masks will be available for those who need them. Thank you.

Curtis Searle is our e-verger this week.



Entrance Hymn 538 *“God of mercy, God of grace”*

Lucerna Laudoniae



THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

Decalogue

Celebrant: Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit murder.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.
Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness.
People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31 (Silence may be kept)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Everyone: (pausing at the punctuation)
Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
People: Amen.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ have mercy.
Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Lector: Volunteer

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said,

“Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.
(*silence*)

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 Volunteer

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd; *
People: I shall not be in want.
Leader: He makes me lie down in green pastures *
People: and leads me beside still waters.
Leader: He revives my soul *
People: and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.
Leader: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
People: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Leader: You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
People: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Leader: Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
People: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Second Lesson Lector: Volunteer

Ephesians 5:8-14

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

(*silence*)

The Holy Gospel**John 9:1-41****Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**People:** *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
(*silence*)**People:** *Praise to you, Lord Christ.***The Sermon****The Reverend Joseph Pace**

The Creed

Celebrant sets the pace.

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

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.]

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People: Glory to you for ever and ever.
Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People: By your will they were created and have their being.
Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
**People: By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**
Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Celebrant and 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.**

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

People: Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People: **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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion is open to all baptized Christians, and for precautionary measures, only consecrated bread is distributed. If coming forward to receive the bread, please keep a respectful 6 foot distance from the people in front of you, if you do not live in the same dwelling.

To receive the bread, please extend your hands and keep them level. The priest will drop the wafer into your hands. Please take the bread back to your seat and consume it there, briefly moving your mask, to do so. In Anglican liturgy, receiving bread is equivalent to receiving bread and wine.

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(To be recited by those worshiping on Zoom)*

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.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn 533 “How wondrous and great are thy works, God of praise” Lyons

Announcements

Priest, Deacon or
Worship Leader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: **Thanks be to God.**



Thank you to everyone who participated in putting the service together today.

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, March 26 - 10:00 a.m. - 5th Lent - Service in the Erwin Chapel
with the Rev. Joseph Pace**

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday - 10:00 a.m. beginning in Cooper Hall
(see back page for more details.)

**Holy Week - St. Mark's will not hold any Holy Week Services. Please feel free to attend
services at other Episcopal churches.**

**Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel with
the Rt. Reverend Laura Ahrens**

Tuesday, April 11 - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, April 16 - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel

Sunday, April 23 - 10:00 a.m. - **St. Mark's Day - Service in the Erwin Chapel**

Sunday, April 30 - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel



EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

This Easter we will welcome The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens as our Celebrant and Preacher. We would like to have as many flowers in the church as possible to celebrate Easter.

If you would like to donate flowers for Easter in the memory of loved ones, please fill out and return the form below to the church office.

A donation of at least \$25 would be appreciated. Please make checks payable to: **St. Mark's Altar Guild.**

Please include the name of the people to be remembered with the flowers and by whom they are donated.

Please feel free to call Cheryl Rusczyk in the Parish Office 860-225-7634 if you have any questions.

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ALTAR FLOWER FUND (Please print information)

Donated by: _____

1. Easter Memorial 2023 Names:

Donations included: \$ _____

For **Easter** Flower Donations: Please complete and return to St. Mark's Church Office **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023.**

Additional copies of this form may be obtained by calling the church office at 860-225-7634.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 19, 2023

Longterm prayers are asked for: Stacey Albert, Irene Alibrio, Patricia Anderson, Bill Briggs, Barbara Canzonetti, Cletus Cone, Patricia Cone, Danny, Edward Dubois, Gary Hudkins, Margaret Hughes, Mike Krumrine, Florence Kruvka, Claire Lucid, Ann Maltais, Manny Monteiro, Kelly Nauss, Rae Robinson, Francis and Joann Rusczyk and Harry Thompson..

Healing: Carol Roeder, Brody Searle, Elora Cass, Georgie Bethel, and Cheryl Hanson.

ECCT Cycle of Prayer: St. Michael's, Litchfield; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Mary's, Manchester; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale; ECCT Join Leadership members of the Mission Council, Missionary Society, Standing Committee, and Commission on Ministry and Donations & Bequests.

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

Parish families: John and Agnes Hartan, Jeffrey and Page Hartling, Miriam Hayes, Norm and Sue Holland and Garry Holland.

Those who have died, and those who are remembered today: Evelyn and Donald Briere and Rosalie Von Achen.

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.

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



Sunday, April 2

10 a.m. Gathering in Cooper Hall for a joint service of the Blessing of the Palms with the congregations of 90 Main, followed by the neighborhood procession of the palms.

Following the Procession: St. Mark's will gather in Cooper Hall for our Antecomunion Service including the communal proclamation of the Passion.

No Coffee Hour following the service as we prayerfully enter into Holy Week

HOLY WEEK

We will not have Maundy Thursday or Good Friday Service. Please feel free to attend these services at another area church.



Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Festive Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection with Bishop Laura Ahrens. A Festive Potluck Easter Brunch will follow the service. Bring your favorite dish to share.

We will have Easter Flowers in the church in memory of our loved ones. Please complete the form and return it to the parish office, with a donation, to include the names of your loved ones.

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