

# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428  
stmarksconshy.org

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*December 23, 2018*

## Gathering

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Prelude

*An Advent Prelude*

*Silent Night; I Saw Three Ships*

*The First Noel; Away in a Manger*

by William Ringham

Calvin Schreiter, piano

Harry Schreiter, piano

### Introit

*If You Believe and I Believe*

arr. By John Bell

Traditional Zimbabwe

*If you believe and I believe and we together pray,  
The Holy Spirit must come down and set God's people free,  
And set God's people free, and set God's people free;  
The Holy Spirit must come down and set God's people free.*

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### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,  
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,  
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.  
**Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God,

**we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we  
confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us  
with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths;**

**and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ☩ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.  
**Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

#### **My Soul In Stillness Waits**

Marty Haugen



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,



tru-ly my hope is in you. ———

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*The cantor will intone the verse the assembly is invited to join in the refrain*  
*O Key of Knowledge guide us in our pilgrimage; we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain; open to us the pathway of your peace. **REFRAIN***

### **Advent 4: Peace within Ourselves**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we pray for peace within ourselves.

*Headlines from the news this week: (add appropriate headlines)*

Peacemaking God, we turn to you in prayer.

#### **In stillness we wait**

Caught in the frenetic holiday rush, a still small voice beckons from within.

#### **In stillness we wait**

Our frantic pace hides the fears that are truly deep within this season.  
Created for relationship, our isolation eats at the fabric of our being.

**In stillness we wait**

Help us to seek your tranquility.

**In stillness we wait**

*(Candle is lit)*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light  
and saved us from the power of sin.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Increase our longing for your presence,

that at the celebration of your Son's birth  
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,

for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

ELW 263

*From God's heart the Savior speeds,*

*back to God his pathway leads;*

*out to vanquish death's command,*

*back to reign at God's right hand.*

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: J. Walter, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**Greeting**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace  
and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you  
in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Word

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## First Reading:

Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

The First Reading is from the fifth chapter of Micah:

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

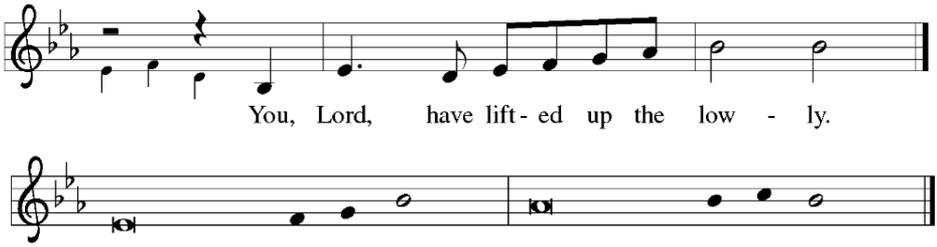
<sup>3</sup>Therefore they shall be given up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of the ruler's kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And the ruler shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of  
the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now the ruler shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**



- <sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will | call me blessed:**  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
 and holy | is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**  
**from generation to | generation. R**  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm  
 and scattered the proud in | their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**  
**and lifting | up the lowly.**  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things  
 and sent the rich | away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**  
**to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forbears,  
 to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **R**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

The second reading is from the tenth chapter of Hebrews:

- <sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;  
<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When Christ said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” Christ abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel as we sing*

*Come, O Lord, and set us free,*

*Give your people peace.*

*Come, O Lord, and set us free,*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*©1993 Damean Music, admin. Gia Publications*

## **Gospel Reading:**

Luke 1:39-45

*We are presented with Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among

women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Children's Sermon**

*We invite our children forward for a lesson before either returning to their seats or heading off to the nursery.*

## **Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **Hymn of the Day**

ELW 257

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*

## **Apostle's Creed**

Together with the whole people of God, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence is kept. Each petition ends:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers are concluded:*

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## **Meal**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **Announcements**

*Announcements are made on behalf of the community*

## **Offering**

*An offering is gathered to support the mission of the church. Funds gathered today will help sustain our ministry efforts at St. Mark's, support the wider national church and help those in need. You can also contribute electronically via our "Give+" giving app on your phone, available in the Apple Store and Google Play.*

## Musical Offering

*Light One Candle*

by Natalie Sleeth

Faith Formation Singers

*Musical selections are offered to the glory of God. The conclusion of which gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts are brought forward*

## Offering Prayer

God of abundance,

we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Together we sing Mary's Magnificat*

*ELW 723 v.1*

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?*

## Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,*

***and the world is about to turn.***

*The presiding minister continues,*

Mighty God, we rejoice with all who hunger,  
for your Son Jesus, whose coming we proclaim,  
spreads a table of blessing before us  
and feeds us with his very presence.

In the night in which he was betrayed ...  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon this meal,  
that we might be united with Jesus Christ,  
and with all who magnify his name.  
Sustain us with your presence  
and keep us faithful to the end,  
singing with joy and confidence:

*Together we sing Mary's Magnificat*

*ELW 723 v.4*

***Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.***

***Refrain***

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.***

*The Great Thanksgiving concludes:*

We pray with the One whose life turns the world as we say together:

**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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Here at St. Mark's we invite all people to the Lord's Table no matter where you are on your faith journey. This is Christ present for you – freely offered in bread and wine – all are welcome to commune.*

God fills the hungry with good things.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*The bread may be broken for the communion*

## **Lamb of God**

*We invite you to begin making your way to the communion table as we together we sing*

***If in your heart you make a manger for his birth***

***Then God will once again become a child on earth.*** ©2007 Ana Hernandez

## **Distribution of Communion**

*Today we will receive communion around the altar rail. At the direction of the usher you are invited forward to receive communion.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond -- Amen.*

## Communion Hymns

ELW 272 - *Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming*

ELW 295 - *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

## Post Communion Blessing

*The Assembly stands.*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## Post Communion Canticle

ELW 253

*He Came Down That We Might Have Life*

## Prayer after Communion

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Sending

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### Blessing

May God direct your ways in peace,  
make you abound in love for one another and for all,  
and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.  
Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Sending Song

ELW 267

*Joy to the World*

### Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ is with you!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude *Macht hoch die Tur*

setting by Robert Buckley Farlee

# Leading us in Worship

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	The Rev. Bryan Penman	
<b>Director of Music</b>	Emily Ballentine Erb	
	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Week 12/30</i>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Sheldon Erb	Katie Colaneri
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Donna Kobi	Joanne Copestick
<b>Reader</b>	Karen Hanna	Nate Ramsden
<b>Nursery</b>	The Walkers	The Schreiners
<b>Acolytes</b>	Don Turkowski	Joe Dryburgh
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pam Keebler	Sandy Portzer, Joanne Copestick.
<b>Ushers</b>	Donna Kobi Delores Lush	Theodora Morley Kathy Pokalo
<b>Counters</b>	Lauren Parkin Pam Keebler	Debbie Eskate Jennifer Schreiner
<b>Offering Recorder</b>	Joanne Copestick	Kathy Pokalo
<b>Fellowship Hour</b>	Open	Open
<b>Faith Formation</b>	The Hoffmans Kim Kriebel	No Faith Formation
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	Given by the Jeanette and Don Nazaryk to the Glory of the Christ Child, in thanksgiving for Many blessings received, in loving memory of our departed family and friends. Wishing Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all.	The McClures

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## Worship Ministry Announcements:

*Ways we gather in praise of God*

### The Season of Advent

The tune, which we know as "Savior of the Nations, Come," (ELW 263) is our musical theme of Advent this year. Each Sunday, we will explore how we are waiting for the light and peace of Christ to enter our whole world. On Advent 1, this hymn tune will be heard in the music during our offering; on Advent 2, it will be the prelude music; the Bell Choir will play a piece that incorporates the

tune on Advent 3; the entire congregation will sing the hymn together on Advent 4.

## **Decorating for Christmas – Today after Worship**

The Altar Guild and Worship and Music team invites those who are available to stay after worship **today** to help set the sanctuary for Christmas Eve.

## **Altar Flower Sponsorship**

We have an opening for Altar Flowers dedications during January and February. If you are interested in signing up for this date, please call the office 610.828.0581 OR email the Office Admin, Mary, at [office@stmarksconshy.org](mailto:office@stmarksconshy.org) OR sign up on the Altar Flower sign up sheet in the “sign up sheet hallway.” Cost is \$40.00 for the week and please indicate if you would like to keep this an on-going annual memorial, or just a memorial for this year.

## **Christmas Eve Worship: 4pm & 7pm**

St. Mark’s Christmas Eve schedule will again be two services at 4pm and 7pm. Our 4pm service will feature a shorter liturgy with some special music, while the 7pm will feature more special music (strings, bells, and adult choir) and conclude with our traditional candlelit singing of Silent Night. This year we will again offer a Pot Luck between the services for those who wish to join Pastor and Emily between the services for some fellowship and food.

## **Faith Formation Ministry Announcements:**

*Ways you can deep your faith life*

### **Faith Formation Today!**

Our Family and Young Person’s Class meets following Communion in our Worship service. Young folks are invited to commune first and then head upstairs for their Faith Formation Lesson from 10:15 and runs to 11:00am.

# Service Ministry Announcements:

*Ways you can do God's work with your hands*

## Special Envelope Appeal This Month

Bear Creek Camp is a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

## Capital Appeal: Pipe Organ Repairs

Our second phase of our Capital Appeal process is in full swing as we raise funds to rebuild and repair our Pipe Organ. The cost of this work is \$53,000 and we hope to be able to raise the funds this year so that the work on the instrument may be completed in the summer of 2019. So consider giving a gift to your church by giving an extra gift to the capital appeal process.

## Thank you!

To Karen Hanna and all who helped her collect Christmas gifts for the children of the Colonial School District and gratitude for the generosity and kindness of St. Mark members for all their donations!

## This Week at St. Mark's

*The Church Office is closed all week*

<b>Mon</b>	<i>Christmas Eve 4pm and 7pm with potluck dinner between services</i>	<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels / 7 pm: Boy Scouts</i>
<b>Tues</b>		<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels/ 7pm cub Scouts</i>
<b>Wed.</b>		<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels/ 8pm: AA Group</i>
<b>Thurs</b>	<i>Dinner Church 6-7pm</i>	<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels</i>
<b>Friday</b>		<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels 7 pm: AA / Al-Anon/ 8:30 AA Group</i>
<b>Saturday</b>		<i>7 pm: AA Group</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>9:30 am – Worship Service 10:30am – NO Faith Formation</i>	<i>7 pm: AA Group</i>

## Welcome to St. Mark's, we are so glad you are with us today!

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you have a place here. *This is Christ's Church. There is a place for you here.* We are a church that shares a living and daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person - questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Children are always welcome to participate in worship. To help our youngest worshippers, "Little Lutheran Activity Bags" are located in the rear of the sanctuary which have crayons and worship appropriate coloring pages. We offer a "Soft Space" for infants and toddlers to spread out a bit in during worship. Worshiping with children is important to us, and so we hope you find these things helpful so that you may worship together as a family.

Restrooms are located through the back left – exit the sanctuary, go up the stairs, through the first room to the end of the hallway. If you need assistance, please see the attendants (ushers) at the back of the sanctuary.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are welcome to be used to Post, Tweet and Instagram the "Good News" you hear today, but we kindly ask you to turn the sound off on them so that they do not cause a distraction to other worshippers.

Our team of ushers is available throughout the service to be of any assistance you might need. Assistive Listening devices are available. Please see an usher.

Are you new or visiting St. Mark's? If you would like to receive more information about St. Mark's, we have several methods where you can leave your information with us:

- Visitor books at the entrance to the sanctuary
- Yellow Visitor Cards in the pew backs, just drop them in the offering plate

We would be delighted to keep you informed about the many events and opportunities here at St. Mark's and hope you will join us again.