

# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428  
stmarksconshy.org

*First Sunday of Advent*  
*December 2, 2018*

## Gathering

---

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

### Prelude

*Wachet Auf*

setting by Jacobus Kloppers

### 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.*

©1991 WGRG Admin GIA Pub., Inc.

### 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. ———

Copyright © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc., Chicago  
All Rights Reserved

*O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you; come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.*

## Advent 1: Peace in our World

On this first Sunday of Advent, we pray for peace in our world.

*We read from the news places of our world that need your peace.*

Peacemaking God, we turn to you in prayer.

### In stillness we wait

The world around us trumpets violence and destruction.

Nations know war all too well.

### In stillness we wait

Your invitation to carry an olive branch seems ludicrous as the call to arms is sounded.

Help us to seek your reconciliation.

### In stillness we wait

*The first advent candle is lit as we pray*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
You call all nations to walk in your light  
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,  
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.  
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.  
Rouse us from sleep,  
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes  
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

by Martin Luther

*Savior of the nations, come;*

*virgin's son, make here your home.*

*Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:*

*God has chosen such a birth.*

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

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful  
protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem  
us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# Word

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

## First Reading:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name - “The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, who shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day

long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting. R**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
good- | ness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may that very God, our Father, and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may the Lord so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son-of-Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the dominion of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son-of-Man.”

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 of heading off to the nursery.*

## Sermon

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## Hymn of the Day

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

ELW 247

Ososo

## 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

---

*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

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

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

setting by Paul Siefert

### 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*

*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*

*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

*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 436 - *Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*

Wachet Auf

ELW 252 - *Each Winter as the Year Grown Older*

Carol of Hope

## 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

---

### 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

*People Look East*

*ELW 248*  
Besançon

### Dismissal

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

### Postlude

*Finale on Wachet Auf*

setting by Wayne Wold

### Leading us in worship today:

**Presiding Minister**

The Rev. Bryan Penman

**Director of Music**

Emily Ballentine Erb

**Assisting Minister**

Kathy Pokalo

**Communion Asst.**

Joanne Popwicz

**Reader**

Kathy Turner

**Nursery**

The Fikes

**Acolytes**  
**Altar Guild**  
**Ushers**  
**Counters**  
**Offering Recorder**  
**Fellowship Hour**  
**Faith Formation**  
**Altar Flowers**

Don Turkowski  
The Dryburghs  
Karen Hanna, LJ Kriebel  
Susan Dryburgh, Lauren Parkin  
Kathy Pokalo  
The Fikes  
No Faith Formation This Week  
Given by Pam Keebler with gratitude for  
many blessings

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS026440. Hymns reprinted by permission under OneLicense Annual License A-722951 New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992. Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission

## **Worship Ministry Announcements:**

*Ways we gather in praise of God*

### **Festival Flowers for Christmas Eve**

Order forms are in the rear of the sanctuary for our Christmas Poinsettia plants. Cost is \$12.00 a plant and orders are due by December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please help us create a festive sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service!

### **Altar Flower Sponsorship**

We have an opening for Altar Flowers on the last Sunday of December. 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 a yearly memorial, or just a memorial for this year.

## **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. For folks not able to attend worship with us, the class starts around 10:15 and runs to 11:00am. The Family Class is for children age 3 and up and parents are welcome to join along with their children. We sing together, we pray together, we do activities together.

## Service Ministry Announcements:

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

### **Knitters and Quilters Needed**

We'll mix and match colors and textures when we sew the squares together on Tues., Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. You can place them in the labelled basket in the back of the church any time give them to Karen Hanna or Kathy Pokalo. Questions? Call or email Kathy Pokalo (610-420-2157, kpokalo@gmail.com)

### **Homework Help @ Conshy Library**

Our congregation will again help to staff the Homework Help Club at the Conshy Public Library. The program is offered on Thursdays from 3:45pm – 4:30pm. If you are interested in helping to tutor, please see Jenn Schreiter (jeschreiter@yahoo.com).

### **Special Monthly Envelope: Bear Creek Camp**

Creek Camp is a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Located on nearly 3,000 acres in the beauty of the Pocono Mountains, Bear Creek Camp offers year-round opportunities, including summer residential youth camp, nature day camp, environmental education programs, weekend camp retreats and outside group rentals..

### **Helping Families in need this Christmas**

St. Mark's will again adopt a few families in need this holiday season and help collect items for under their tree. A list of items that are needed is in the rear of the sanctuary and we ask that items be brought back wrapped, but with the tags on them so we know what is in them.

## Evangelism Ministry Announcements:

*Ways you can share your faith with others*

### **Save the Date – Caroling Through Conshy**

More details are coming soon, but save the date of Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> for our Caroling through Conshy event! We will start around 6pm here at the church! Join us as we spread some Christmas cheer through the streets of Conshy again this year!

## This Week at St. Mark's

<b>Monday</b>		<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels</i>
<i>Office Closed</i>		<i>7 pm: Boy Scouts</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Worship and Music Meeting 7pm</i>	<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels</i>
<i>3pm – 7pm</i>		<i>7 pm: Cub Scouts</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>		<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels</i>
<i>10am – 12N</i>		<i>8:00 pm: AA Group</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Dinner Church 6-7pm</i>	<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels</i>
<i>3 – 7pm</i>	<i>Adult Choir Rehearsal – 7pm</i>	
	<i>Bell Choir Rehearsal – 7:45pm</i>	
<b>Friday</b>		<i>6 am: Meals on Wheels</i>
<i>10am – 12N</i>		<i>7 pm: AA / Al-Anon</i>
		<i>8:30 AA Group</i>
<b>Saturday</b>		<i>7 pm: AA Group</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>9:30 am – Worship Service</i>	<i>7 pm: AA Group</i>
	<i>10:30am - Faith Formation</i>	

### Assisting in Worship Next Week

<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Garrett Kriebel
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Lauren Parkin
<b>Reader</b>	Sue Dryburgh
<b>Nursery</b>	The Ramsdens
<b>Acolyte</b>	Stella Ruggiero
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kathy Turner, Kathy Bell
<b>Ushers</b>	George & Kathy Pokalo
<b>Counters</b>	Susan Dryburgh, Stephanie Conklin
<b>Offering Recorder</b>	Nate Ramsden
<b>Fellowship Hour</b>	Open
<b>Faith Formation</b>	Holly Holst, Joe Ruggiero
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	The Penmans

# 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.