

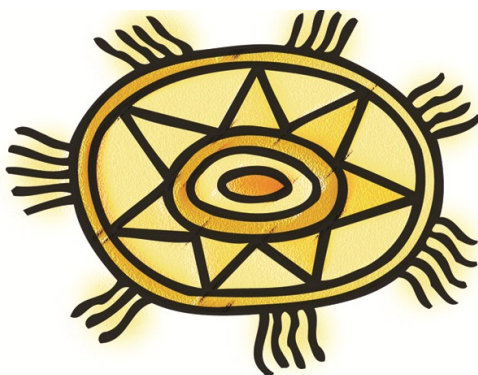


# St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *Christmas Eve*

December 24, 2024



*Growing together in faith to abundantly  
nourish our community*

200 Longwood Drive SE

Huntsville, AL 35801

256.539.4361 | [stmarkshsv.org](http://stmarkshsv.org) | [@stmarkshsv](https://www.instagram.com/stmarkshsv)

# *In 6:30 Worship This Evening...*

Prelude: Christmas Selections & O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

Welcome | Thanksgiving for Baptism

Processional Hymn: **O Come, All Ye Faithful** ELW 283\*

*Our procession tonight begins with something new to St. Mark's- the use of an incense Thurible. In the Hebrew Scriptures, incense was burned to prepare a space for sinful human beings to enter into the presence of the holy God. The psalmist prays that their prayers might be like incense before the Lord, a pleasing smell rising to God's attention. Christian worship over the centuries has incorporated the use of incense as a reminder that our prayers are pleasing and acceptable to the God who is with us and for us. Though we won't incorporate the use of incense every Sunday, on festival days, it is an appropriate addition to worship.*

Prayer of the Day

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: All is Well; SSA Choir

Children's Message

First Lesson Carol: **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** ELW 270 v1

Isaiah 9:2-7 *Pew Bible p.555*

Second Lesson Carol: **Angels We Have Heard on High** ELW 289 v1

Psalm 96 *Pew Bible p.479*

Gospel Processional & Acclamation: **Sing We Now of Jesus\***

Luke 2:1-20 *Pew Bible p.832*

Gospel Recessional

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **O Little Town of Bethlehem** ELW 279 vv1-3

Nicene Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: On Christmas Night; Handbells

*For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:*



Communion Liturgy with **Holy, Holy, Holy** ELW p.152

Distribution

*St. Mark's celebrates open communion which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the bread and wine, and no less present in our gluten-free and alcohol-free options. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.*

Distribution Music: **The First Noel** ELW 300 vv1-4

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** ELW 282 | **In the Bleak Midwinter** ELW 294

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Candle Lighting Hymn: **Silent Night, Holy Night!** ELW 281

*As the introduction for Silent Night is played, worship assistants will share the flame from the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath with the whole congregation. When passing the flame, the lit candle should always remain in an upright position, the unlit candle will tilt to meet the flame of the lit candle as you pass the flame to your neighbors while we sing. After the song is finished, there will be a moment of silent meditation, please extinguish your candle when the introduction for Joy to the World begins. Please place your candle in a basket as you leave the sanctuary.*

Recessional Hymn: **Joy to the World** ELW 267\*

Dismissal | Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo arr. Norman Dello Joio

\*Worship tonight will include the use of incense throughout the service.

### ***Worship Assistants***

Assisting Minister: Deb Williams | Lector: Dane Williams

Thurifer: Andy Sieja | Crucifer: Payton Sieja

Acolyte: Trey Lear | Torch Bearers: Tabitha Rinyu & Edith Sieja

Bible Bearer: Owen Foreman

Autoharp: Lawana Beard | Saxophone: Oliver Sieja

Ushers: Norwood Cutter, Tim Sieja, & Paul Gradl | Tech Volunteer: Kim Caple

### ***We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!***

There are children's activity bulletins and worship activity bags available - just ask our ushers. If a moment out of the sanctuary is needed, a toy-filled nursery and changing table are available too, however, we ask that an adult family member stay present at all times.

# *In 11pm Worship This Evening...*

Prelude: Christmas Selections; Lawana Beard

Welcome | Thanksgiving for Baptism

Processional Hymn: **O Come, All Ye Faithful** ELW 283 vv1,3\*

*Our procession tonight begins with something new to St. Mark's- the use of an incense Thurible. In the Hebrew Scriptures, incense was burned to prepare a space for sinful human beings to enter into the presence of the holy God. The psalmist prays that their prayers might be like incense before the Lord, a pleasing smell rising to God's attention. Christian worship over the centuries has incorporated the use of incense as a reminder that our prayers are pleasing and acceptable to the God who is with us and for us. Though we won't incorporate the use of incense every Sunday, on festival days, it is an appropriate addition to worship.*

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Gospel Processional & Acclamation: **Sing We Now of Jesus\***

Luke 2:1-20 *Pew Bible p.832*

Gospel Recessional

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **O Little Town of Bethlehem** ELW 279 vv1-3

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **In the Bleak Midwinter** ELW 294

For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:



Communion Liturgy

Distribution

*St. Mark's celebrates open communion which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the bread and wine, and no less present in our gluten-free and alcohol-free options. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.*

Music During Distribution: Someday; Gwen Dornbos | O Holy Night; Norwood Cutter

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Recessional: What Child is This?; Piper Roome\*

## Candle Lighting Hymn: **Silent Night, Holy Night!**

You'll be invited to pick up a candle as you leave the sanctuary following Pastor Will during the recessional. Worship assistants will share the flame from the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath with you as you walk outside. When passing the flame, the lit candle should always remain in an upright position, the unlit candle will tilt to meet the flame of the lit candle. After we sing Silent Night, there will be a moment of silent meditation, please extinguish your candle after the Dismissal, when the carillon bells begin to play.

Dismissal | Carillon Peal

### *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

1a	Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.	2	Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
1b	Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.	3	Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

\*Worship tonight will include the use of incense throughout the service.

### *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Madeline Wirtz | Thurifer: Wyatt Billman | Acolyte: Katie Roome  
Ushers: Terry Szymczyk & Bob Dornbos | Tech Volunteer: Philip Altman

### *We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!*

There are children's activity bulletins and worship activity bags available - just ask our ushers. If a moment out of the sanctuary is needed, a toy-filled nursery and changing table are available too, however, we ask that an adult family member stay present at all times.

## *Christmas Poinsettia Dedications*

You may take your sponsored plant(s) home after the 11pm worship service.

### *In memory of her Parents and Brother*

Pat Barber

### *In Memory of the Kolb Family and Corpus Family*

Larry & Kathy Corpus

### *In Memory of Lester & Frances Cutter and Fred & Betty Kaczmarowski*

### *In Honor of Josh, Rachel, Jonathan, Haley, & Amy Cutter and Oliver, Lucy, & Ethan Cutter*

Norwood & Carol Cutter

### *In Memory of Their Parents*

Jim & Betty French

### *In Honor of Max & Colene Horst*

Carrie Horst

### *In Memory of Their Parents*

Rodney & Phyllis Hutchins

### *In Honor of Henry Hagood*

Penny Krell

### *In Honor of Jake & Levi Price*

Timothy & Julia Price

### *In Memory of Ruby Gray and Bobbie Jean Rhodes*

Diana Rhodes

### *In Honor of Their Children and Grandchildren*

Don & Kathy Sieja

### *In Memory of Earl R. & Edith M. Graves and Norman S. & Betty W. Skrenes and Norman D. Skrenes and Kevin T. Skrenes*

Peg Skrenes

***In Memory of Butch Stevens***

Judy Stevens

***In Honor of her Parents' 73<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary***

Melinda Swenson

***In Memory of Ron & Diane Sykstus***

Ron & Patty Sykstus

***In Memory of John & Reba Taff***

Ed & Hannah Vandevaire

***In Memory of Billy & Marie Williamson and Robert & Doris Dana***

***And in Honor of Joshua & Hannah Alvis and Justin & Abby Jolley***

Marlin & Denise Williamson

***Merry Christmas from St. Mark's!***

"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel (which means "God with us"), we remember that the heart of the Christmas story is a promise: God is with us. Not just 2000 years ago in a manger in Bethlehem. But here. Now. In Jesus, God took on flesh to live a human life. In Jesus, God shares fully in our blessings and burdens, in our hurts and our hopes. In Jesus, we see the God is not only with us, God is for us.

In the Advent season leading up to this Holy Night, we have dwelt in the names of the One about whom Isaiah prophesied: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. We believe the prophet's hopes were fulfilled by the child of whom the angels sang. As you worship tonight and celebrate tomorrow, as you participate in your favorite traditions or as you create new ones, the prophet's vision is also our prayer for you: may our Wonderful Counselor give you wisdom and discernment for any hard decisions you might be facing; may our Mighty God give you courage and strength for every challenge that lies ahead of you; may our Everlasting Father surround you with the love and support of family and friends; and may our Prince of Peace fill you with a joy and a peace that surpasses all understanding. Beloved, may you receive every good gift from the God who is with us and who is for us, and may you discover that you have exactly what you need.

The staff of St. Mark's Lutheran Church wishes you a very merry Christmas. May Christ be born in your heart this night and always, and may you share the good news of great joy with all whom you meet.

## *Church Office Closed*

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 until Monday, January 6, 2025.

## *Cozy Christmas*

On Sunday, December 29, we will be having a "cozy" Christmas worship service. Wear your pajamas or favorite Christmas apparel and come sing some familiar carols while celebrating the Christmas message and sipping yummy hot chocolate!

## *New to St. Mark's?*

If you want to stay in contact with St. Mark's, there are pads available in the pews with space for your contact information as well as any prayer requests you may have. You may leave them in the offering plate. We Worship weekly on Sundays at 10:30am with Learning Opportunities for all ages beginning at 9:15am.

## *Bible in a Year*

Pastor Will is beginning a Bible in a Year reading plan on January 1, and you're invited to join! A calendar of readings is available to guide you through a few chapters a day. Every day, prompts will be posted to Pastor Will's Facebook to help you stay on track. Tuesdays at 10am, beginning January 7, he'll be leading a conversation in the Fellowship Hall about the readings from the past week. Come join the conversation and learn about how the story of our faith intersects with your story!

## *Children & Chit Chat*

Families of preschoolers (infant-age 5) are invited to join us the second Saturday of every month for a play date. This month, we will go to EarlyWorks Children's Museum on Saturday, January 11 at 9am. Admission for toddlers is \$7 and \$12 for youth & adults. Please contact Madeline Wirtz with any questions.

## *What's Next? - Sign Up in Communication Central*

Check out the sign up board for info on upcoming events. Something new and exciting is always on the horizon! Supper Club, Faith & Fiction, WELCA, Free Spirits, and more!

## *Ready to Get Online?*

Wi-Fi is available using the *SMLC Guest* network with password: GrowingTogether

## *St. Mark's Staff*

Rev. Will Starkweather, Pastor | [pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org)

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