

St. Mark's Messenger

December 22, 2020

3502 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

Vol. 47 Issue 51



Rev. Jeri Newell-Davis
Associate Pastor

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:30 a.m. Streaming at

vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego,

YouTube and on our

Facebook page.

Find our on-line Christmas
Eve service at 6:00 p.m. these
same places.

Catch Up/Get Ahead

All of your 2021 planned giving must be in the church office by noon, Thurs, 12/31 or postmarked no later than 12/31/20 in order to be credited on your 2020 giving statement for tax purposes. There is no "grace period."

If your gift is a prepayment of any 2021 planned giving, please label it as such so that it gets credited properly. To find out if you are caught up on your giving, please call our finance secretary, Arlene Dempster, at (858) 273-9938.

Keeping In Touch

Dear friends,

What a year it was; a year of census taking, a widening gap between the haves and have nots, and living in a politically divided country. Keeping faith in such a time as this can be a challenge. Yet, Mary and Joseph did keep their faith. They followed the Law of Moses, and they met their obligations as citizens under Roman rule. Obedient, expecting, disoriented, and humble, they arrived in Bethlehem and sought shelter in a stable, because it was made available to them that night.

The writer of Hebrews says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Keeping faith doesn't mean that doubt cannot creep in, fear does not intrude, or that disappointment won't be experienced, but faith is predominant, even in times of uncertainty. Simeon and Anna knew this. Both had lived long lives and each of them waited for God's promise to come to fruition as they had been told. Independently they continued to search for the miracle who would assure them of God's faithfulness as they worshiped and followed the Law. And yes, both praised God for the fulfillment of things hoped for when they saw the Christ child.

What a year it has been; a year of census taking, a widening gap between the haves and have nots, and living in a politically divided country. Keeping faith in such a time as this can be a challenge. Yet, we too are called to be faithful. Like Simeon and Anna, we can experience God's promise in our lives. In this Christmas season we can experience Emmanuel, God-with-us. With faith we can sing the familiar hymns, share the familiar Word, experience the light of God, and share in sacrament of Holy Communion. As people of faith, we can enter into and bring joy to the world. We can be people of praise!

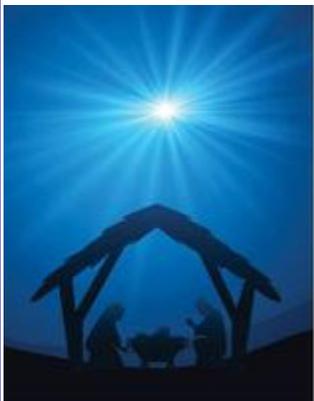
This Christmas season things are different, but I hope you will share in the many offerings that St. Mark's has technically prepared to bring you comfort and joy. There will be something for everyone. And for those who have shared your Christmas Eve offering with CCSA, thank you. As you know, CCSA feeds the hungry, offers clothes to those in need, and provides additional resources to the disoriented. Your offerings will help our neighbors in these uncertain times.

Blessings to you all in this season of joy.

In grace and peace,
Pastor Jeri

There will be no Messenger the week of December 28 as the office is closed from Dec. 25 to Jan. 3. Look for an electronic "From the Pastor" letter on Monday, December 28.

St. Mark's Christmas Worship Celebrations



Christmas Eve Worship Service: On Thursday, December 24 at 6 p.m. this magnificent celebration can be found in your email, on Facebook, YouTube or Vimeo just like our Sunday services. As always, it will remain on-demand so share with family and friends everywhere to have a safe, and inspired Christmas Eve.

Family-Friendly Living Nativity Service: St. Mark's is offering a hands-on extended "Children's Time" for your family to enjoy on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This video will include readings, our very own children and youth, as well as an activity to do while watching. Watch for an email on December 23 with all the information.

Christmas Day Communion Zoom: Join Pastor Jeri at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25. Zoom login details will be in your email at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day.

Pick Up Poinsettias, Christmas Eve Bulletins and Candles Wednesday, December 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the North Lot

Staff and volunteers will be in the North Lot from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to distribute poinsettias, bulletins and candles. If you requested poinsettia delivery, they will arrive later that afternoon.

We may not be able to gather this Christmas season, but it is our hope that we can equip you with all of the elements to experience the specialness of the Christmas Eve service in your home.



Christmas Eve Offering

Over the past few years St. Mark's has received your Christmas Eve offerings and donated them for a mission ministry program. St. Mark's will receive this offering for the work of CCSA.

St. Mark's Missions **will match your funds** received for this year's Christmas Eve offering. Mission ministry has designated \$2000 to accompany your gifts for our neighbors who rely upon CCSA for their support. Please put Christmas Eve in the memo line of your check. **Look for an envelope in the Christmas Eve bulletin.**

Next Week @ A Glance

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

11:00AM Poinsettia, Bulletin, Candle Pickup

Thursday, December 24, 2020

6:00PM Christmas Eve Worship Service/Zoom

Friday, December 25, 2020

Merry Christmas!

11:00AM Christmas Day Communion/Zoom

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's

11:00AM Movie Day Teleparty

Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's

Closed Fri, Dec 25, 2020 - Mon, Jan 4, 2021

No Pastor's Bible School Dec. 23 nor Dec. 30