



*"Have you not known, have you not heard
those who wait for the Lord shall mount
up with wings like eagles."*

Isaiah 40:28,31

Let justice roll down like water....

Peace and comfort, that's much of what attracts us to, and keeps us in, the Christian faith. We turn to God in times of need, find God mighty to save, and are encouraged to acknowledge that God is guiding and directing us. The burdens we have been carrying and the pressures we feel are suddenly relieved. We are not alone. There is a loving presence which has brought us into the world, which sustains us, and which will, we are led to trust, love us for all eternity. As one member of this parish has said to me on numerous occasions, "There is a peace at St. John's that I have never found anywhere else."

That peace of Christ allows us to go through various difficulties, enables us to be hopeful and joyous, and connects us with that true wisdom which comes from God alone. As we steep ourselves in that relationship, all that we do has more meaning. We are able to discern a guiding hand that leads us into a better way of living. We come to know that God is making good everything that happens. Even the evil that happens is turned around, or will be one day we are assured. We can trust God to fulfill his purpose. We are given strength to live into our own purpose and do what we are called to do.

That's the other part of the Christian faith, the part having to do with our actions, living into our purpose. God welcomes us, renews us, begins to reveal his will for us, and then asks us to align our wills with the divine will. As we are comforted and given peace, we are inspired to take on activity which we believe is God's work in the world. The work we take on can't compare with the work God is doing, perhaps, but we do come to realize that certain work is left for us in particular. God works to save and renew us; God then rouses our desire to make this world better.

Justice is a primary Advent theme. Our attention in worship is brought to the coming of Christ at the end of time, as we are reminded that Christ came into our world long ago. When he comes again, we pray, may he find us doing his work and fulfilling his purpose. As we find comfort and come to see that God's ways are so much greater than ours, we also come to see that our ways must change.

You and I are called to pursue justice in all aspects of living. The prophet Amos, during a peaceful and comfortable time in the life Israel, proclaimed: "let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5.23). The people

had grown too peaceful and comfortable and had come to ignore the needs of others. They felt entitled to comfort and that others should solve their own problems.

The peace of Christ is constantly offered to us. Yet the peace of Christ yearns for us to help bring peace to others. The Christian faith is personal and private in so many ways. God comes to us intimately and is our balm. In other ways, the gospel Christ brings is public, downright political. When there are people living in the world in need, who else but the faithful should reach out?

Advent encourages us to be fed with the hope of the consummation of history in the coming of Christ Jesus. Advent requires of us great action. There are things in this world which simply are not right. As people touched by Christ, we have a great responsibility to correct what is wrong.

Be renewed spiritually. Grow in peace and comfort. But be renewed in righteousness as well. Make this world more what God would have it be. Do something today, big or small, that will correct an injustice.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

St. John's Episcopal Church

113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
334-262-1937
Fax: 334-262-1931

Rector:
Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

Associate Rector:
Jamie Osborne

Priest Associate
Deonna D. Neal

Staff:
Libby Poole
Financial Administrator
Fay WorriLOW
Parish Secretary
Anne Tippet
Assistant to the Rector

Christian Formation
Sarah Collier
Director of Children's Christian
Formation
Joleen George
Director of Youth Ministries

Music:
Joel Gregory
Organist and Choirmaster

Maintenance:
Mike Jarrell, Superintendent
Myron Smoke
Faye Mitchell

Vestry of St. John's:
Jim Marshall III, Sr. Warden
Bill Eskridge, Jr. Warden

Class of 2019
Ashley Hamlett
Betty Mathews
Dee Moody
Chuck Moore
Dudley Perry
Geoff Stough

Class of 2020
Dick Arrington
Georgia Holmes
Austin Huffaker
Alice Longshore
Jean Smyth
Bob Young

Class of 2021
Virginia Banister
Richard Bradford
Kathryn Dailey
Mike Jenkins
Jimmy McLemore
Stephanie Norrell
Todd Westhauser

Treasurer
Helen Wells

Clerk of the Vestry
Anne Tippet

THE LESSONS:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

THE COLLECT:

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Flowers on the Altar this Sunday are to the glory of God and in memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hawthorne
Carroll R. Thornton

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:

Joel Gregory

ACOLYTES: E. F. Marshall, A. M. Clark, A. Screws, E. Strickler, S. Miller

LAY EUCHARIST MINISTERS: C. Moore, M. Pacheco-West, B. Westhauser, R. Anderson

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS:

A. Mazyck, K. Keller, M.L. Owens, B. Little

VESTRY: 7:30 B. Young

10:30 J. Marshall, R. Bradford, G. Stough, G. Holmes

ALTAR GUILD: D. Schremser, J. Drummond

PASTORAL CARE: B. Cannon, K. Marks, M. Shaw, L. White, L. Fitzpatrick

FLOWER DELIVERY: M. Carter, V. Wilkerson, W. Gunter

Flowers by the St. John's Flower Guild

VESTRY ELECTIONS

Vestry Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 27. Nominees are: **Betty Beale, Tracey Campbell, John Carter, Rosa Davis, Will Gunter, Brice Johnston, Katie Keller, Keith Miller, Scott Mitchell, Mary Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman, Radney Ramsey, Emily Wise.** Early in January a brochure will be sent to you to further identify these nominees. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting you may cast your ballot ahead of time.



Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 23
9:30 am (No Sunday School)

Christmas Eve Services
Monday, December 24
5pm Holy Eucharist with Children's Sermon
10:30pm Festival Music of Christmastide
11pm Festival Eucharist

Christmas Day Service
Tuesday, December 25
10am Holy Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord

The First Sunday after Christmas
Lessons & Carols at 10:30 AM



FEAST OF LIGHTS

JANUARY 6, 2019
5:45 Supper
6:30 Feast of Lights

JOY AND CONCERN

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Kathleen Bradford, Sarah Stone, Sarah Spratling, Charles Brannon, Florence Jordan, Christopher Marshall, Sunshine Huff, Karen Jarrell, Francis Beaulieu, Jim Thomas, Carol Pierce, George West, Eddie McDowell, Dottis Robinson, Joe McGough, Cynthia Hill.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Randy Rushton, Phil Dotts, Paul Hackett, Andrew Warnberg, Doris Thornton, Tommy Oliver, Ruth Jones, Karen & Angelo Pacheco, Acra Hackney Samuels, Margaret (Marty) Hackney, Ed Sellers, Tom Broadhurst, Ricky Hatfield, Willie Fred Gamble, Monica Powell, Chase Pickett, Al Perkins, Debbie Steindorff, Betty Harper, Jennifer Pruitt, Pam Litel, Aaron Hines, Catherine Riddell, Hugh Lee Earnest, Daphne Oliver, Dawn Damato, Ernie Reddick, Dottie Campbell, Scott Bradford, Mary Steindorff, Jack Mitchell, Margaret Carlson, Paula Hamm Roberts, Kim Barnhart, Lavada Spears Person, Charles Colvin, Cookie Zibilich, Charlie Smith, Clemmon Barlow, Chuck Holley, Sandy Lynn Stevens, Masha Kloberg, Andy Silverman.

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.

YEAR-END GIVING

The Church Finance office is here to serve you as we approach the end of the year. All gifts must be postmarked by Monday, December 31 in order to go toward your 2018 giving record. If you are gifting stock, please contact Libby Poole at 262-1937 or libby@stjohnsmontgomery.org in the finance office to help her be aware of those gifts and the designation of those gifts. If you would like more information, please contact Libby. Thank you.

SPECIAL EVENTS AROUND THE CORNER

Christmas Pageant – December 23, 9:30 am

Christmas Eve Services— December 24 @ 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm, Music at 10:30 pm

Lessons & Carols—December 30 @ 10:30 am Service

Feast of Lights – January 6, 5:30 pm

Annual Meeting—January 27

Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 23
9:30 am in the Nave



Our final rehearsal will be December 16 during the Sunday school hour.

Angel Tree 2018

Angels to be adopted can be picked up in the Parish Hall

Questions To sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org

*Remember to bring gifts to St. John's
by December 16th!*



RISE AGAINST HUNGER STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP

Sunday night's event was another huge success where about one hundred folks ranging in age from 3 to 80 worked together and very hard to make 20,000 meals to send to third world countries where poor nutrition is life threatening. While successful in that goal, we remain short of our \$6,000 financial goal. You can still help by sending a contribution to St. John's marked for Rise Against Hunger.

**LOVING SPOONFULS
SOUP DRIVE 2019**



St. John's, Church of the Ascension, and Holy Comforter join forces for the our annual soup drive to benefit Holy Cross Episcopal School.

Calling all cooks to put on your aprons and come down to St. John's kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday beginning January 8 at 10:00 am to prepare our soups!

All soup orders will be taken at the church and by mail January 20-27; orders will be ready for pickup in February.

We appreciate the enthusiasm our congregations have shown by their participation in this fund raiser for Holy Cross.

Mark your calendars, whet your appetites, be generous, and be nourished!!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, Dec 16

7:30 am Holy Eucharist
 8:15 am Breakfast in the Parish House
 9:15 am Christian Formation for all ages
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
 4:20 pm Children's Choir
 5:00 pm Junior EYC
 6:00 pm EYC Eats
 6:30 pm Senior EYC

MONDAY, Dec 17

12 Noon Clergy Led Bible Study in the Small Dining Room

TUESDAY, Dec 18

7:00 am Holy Eucharist
 8:30 am Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY, Dec 19

11:30 am Centering Prayer
 3:30 pm Coffice @ Café Louisa
 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, Dec 20

12:05 pm Holy Unction and Holy Eucharist
 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

St. John's Faithfulness

Required Weekly

\$36,066.80

Received Sunday

\$22,650.68

Required to Date

\$1,767,273.20

Received to Date

\$1,620,395.73

Building Fund Debt

\$110,000

Outstanding Building Pledges

\$135,540

St. John's Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-262-1937
Fax: 334-262-1931
Email:
churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #376
Montgomery, Alabama
36104

«LA_LABEL_NAME»
«AD_ADDRESS_1»
«AD_ADDRESS_2»
«AD_CITY», «AD_STATE» «AD_ZIP_CODE»

The Eagle is available on the
internet at
www.stjohnsmontgomery.org



Looking for Gift Ideas?

Consider the St. John's Bookstore!

There are a variety of gifts
and stocking stuffers as well
as books and jewelry. Come
by before or after church on
Sundays or visit the
Bookstore between 9 to 4
on weekdays!

DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Those who wish to make donations for the decoration of the church at Christmas, please send a check and this form to the church as soon as possible.

NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF _____ and/or IN HONOR OF _____:

