



SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMING LIVES

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

781 PEACHTREE STREET, NE | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308 | WWW.STMARKUMC.ORG

MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023 | 11:00 AM

THE GATHERING

THE WELCOME

We welcome each of you to this service! No matter who you are or where you are from, You are a child of God, and you are welcome here!

PRELUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Paul Manz

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Come let us worship the Lord.

People: We bring our gifts of praise and thanksgiving.

Minister: Come let us bow before our Maker.

All: In reverence, we humbly bow our hearts before the Christ, our Lord.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*OPENING HYMN

UMH NO.254 | *We Three Kings*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All **God of love, you come to us in the most unexpected places and at the most unexpected times. You came to us to us in the form of a humble baby in a manger, and you are still coming to us today. Forgive us for the times we fail to recognize your presence with and among us. Like the wise kings, help us to follow the guiding presence of your Holy Spirit, so we, too, can worship you.**

Minister: Hear the Good News: God comes to each of us in ways that are discernable. Take the time to listen, perceive, and be, and you will find Christ anew in your hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Star Is This?

Jay Althouse

*DOXOLOGY



D Bm A A⁷ D/F[#] G D A⁷ D A⁷
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A⁷ D A⁷ D A⁷ Bm A A⁷
crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F[#] G D A⁷ D A⁷ D G A⁷ D A⁷ D
heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A⁷ D Bm F[#]m D G A⁷ D A
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A⁷/E D/F[#] D/A A⁷ D
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Psalm 37:27-31*

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNGER CHURCH

ANTHEM

Hurry Now to Bethlehem

Ruth Morris Gray

*GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12*

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Wise & The Lowly

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

** universal*

REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH NO. 245 | *The First Noel*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gracenote on The First Noel

Timothy Albrecht

*Where indicated, please rise in body or spirit.

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Preaching: Rev. Jess Cusick, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults
Liturgists: Rev. Carolyn Stephens, Senior Pastor
Sheila Stephens, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation
Meagan Williams, Assistant Director of Young Adult Ministry
Acolyte & Crucifer: Audra & Duncan Dial
Music: Jon Easter, Minister of Fine Arts and Organist
Audio Visual: Jay Drew, Johnny Sims, and Eric Steverson
Ushers: Keith Adams, Joel Black, Bob Brown, and Deana Hilton

WELCOME | THINGS TO KNOW



Welcome! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today!

ATTENDANCE | Please sign the attendance pad located at the end of your pew or scan this QR code to register your attendance and share prayer requests using our online Connection Card.

NURSERY | A nursery provided for infants and toddlers is located on the first floor of the Education building. Please see the usher for more information. We encourage children of all ages to be present and participate in worship.

TITHES & OFFERINGS | Please place your offering in the plate during this morning's service, or use the Secure Giving App, or Saint Mark's assigned number for text donations is 844-703-1444 and the keyword is 'operating'. To give via text, text the word 'operating', a space, and the amount you would like to give. For example, to give \$25, text 844-703-1444 operating 25. Your generosity allows us to love, accept and serve the people of our community.

PRAYER REQUESTS | Let us pray for you. Prayer request cards are in the pews. Please return your request to the offering plate or the prayer boxes in the Narthex.

PARKING & SHUTTLE SERVICE | We have a shuttle service that runs between the AT&T parking deck (located at 759 West Peachtree Street) and church on Sunday mornings beginning at 8:30am. Don't forget to bring your parking ticket to church with you for validation (see the usher for assistance).

PEW CUSHIONS | Need some extra cushion for the pew? Ask an usher for a pew cushion.

FOOD & BEVERAGES | Please no food or open containers in the Sanctuary.

HYMNALS | We sing from 2 hymnals, including the red United Methodist Hymnal located in the pew racks and the black The Faith We Sing, located at the end of the pews. Large print hymnals and Bibles are also available. Please see an usher for assistance.

HEARING & VISUAL AIDS | Enhanced listening devices and reading glasses are available in the Narthex, please see an usher for assistance.

RESTROOMS | Men's & Women's restrooms are located just outside the chapel. As you exit the sanctuary turn left. Once you reach the chapel, turn left then immediately right. The Women's restroom is the third door on the left. For the men's restroom, pass the Women's restroom and the Men's restroom is just around the corner. Gender Neutral restrooms are available downstairs. As you leave the sanctuary turn left, take the set of stairs down just before the balcony stairs on the left. The restrooms are on the first landing. Please see an usher for assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To learn more about upcoming events, to subscribe to our weekly newsletter (the Remarks), see the church calendar, or give, visit stmarkumc.org.

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP ROBIN DEASE

The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church invites you to a service celebrating the assignment of Bishop Robin Dease to the North Georgia Area of The United Methodist Church.

Today, Sunday, January 8, 2023 | 4:00 pm

Oak Grove United Methodist Church
1722 Oak Grove Road
Decatur, Georgia

Reception immediately following service.

FRANCES WINSHIP WALTERS CHAPEL

During the month of January, the Frances Winship Walters Chapel will be closed for interior repairs. The Sunday 9 AM service will meet in the Sanctuary. Vespers will meet in Room 209 when the service returns on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Also, during the renovations of the Chapel, the Parlor will be closed and the Interactions Class will meet in Wade Hall.

MIDWEEK RETREATS

Return Wednesday, January 18, 2023

5:00 pm | Bible Study with Pastor Carolyn and Candler Intern, Kenny Smallhorn, Jr.

5:30 pm | Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper

6:30 pm | Vespers in Room 209

7:30 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room 3rd Floor Education Building

PARK AND MAKE YOUR MARK

"Make Your Mark" Day is back - and this one is extra special because volunteers will be among the first to PARK in our new parking deck!

Join us on **Saturday, February 18th from 9 am – 1 pm** as we gather to spruce up our space while enjoying time together. We are looking for at least 60 people this time - yes, we want to make this this biggest one ever. There will be projects for ages 8+ and all physical abilities.

Arrive for breakfast around 8:45 and start making your mark from 9 am to 1 pm, with lunch provided. You will still have time to enjoy your weekend as well as have some fun with your Saint Mark family.

Sign up and share your project passion via this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Feb18-Park-MakeYourMarkDay>

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Children's Ministry is in need of four to six volunteers to help facilitate our nursery on an alternating schedule. If you LOVE babies and toddlers and can provide a one and a half to two-hour service once a month, WE NEED YOU! Please contact **Sheila Stephens** at sstephens@stmarkumc.org.

ONLINE SERVICES SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Though they make it look so seamless and easy on Facebook, it takes a team of volunteers to produce our online services. We have an immediate need in the following positions: Facebook Moderator; Soundboard Operator; Camera Operator or Stream Director. If you are interested in serving as one or more of these positions above, please contact office@stmarkumc.org. Training will be provided.