

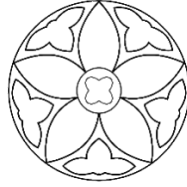
SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, May 7, 2023
Eleven O'clock

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
Graduation Sunday



Morning Worship

*You are invited to stand as you are able in body and spirit.

The Gathering

Words of Welcome and Grace

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

Meditation

Maurice Durufle

*The Call to Worship

One: Come, let us worship God!

All: Let us give praise and thanksgiving,

One: For God's goodness, mercy and love.

All: We honor God as we lift up God's holy name!

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 140 | Great Is Thy Faithfulness

The Invitation

Christ invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: God of grace and mercy. God of everlasting peace. God of goodness and glory. God of tranquility and love. You, oh God, are our everything; our provider and protector, our deliverer and sustainer. With the dawn of each new day, you give us new mercies. You pour out your blessings seen and unseen, always seeking to care for us and cover us. Yet we continue to ignore you and choose our own way. Often times causing harm and anguish to others and ourselves. Forgive us, we pray, you are our God and we are your people.

One: Hear the good news, God's love abounds. Submit your petitions knowing God sees and hears you. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

*Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*The Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

All: And also, with you.

We offer each other signs of peace.

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Proclamation of God's Word

Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Anthem

Come By Here

Kyle Pederson

Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here. Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here. In the morning, in the evening, in my waking, in my sleeping, in my pleading, waiting, caring, in my loving, in my hoping, grieving; In my longing, falling, hiding, rising, healing, aching, laughing, praising, seeking, finding, breathing, dying, Lord, you are here.

*Doxology

UMH No. 94 | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Scripture Lesson

Philippians 4:4-9

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Conversations of the Heart: Living Your Integrity

Response to God's Word

Celebration of Holy Communion

TFWS Page 2257 | Mark Miller

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God (Father), creator of heaven and earth. Through your son, Jesus Christ, you gave us an example of how to live even in the midst of scrutiny. By his example, you have taught us how to live with grace in the midst of critique. When we forget and are stirred up with anger or irritation, remind us of the ways in which Jesus taught his disciples and his critics alike, responding with the kindness of a friend.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: (Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: (Sung) Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God (Father), now and forever.

All: (Sung) Amen, Amen, Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (God), 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. Amen.

The Communion of the People

*As you come up for communion, please take time to lay hands and
or pray over the packages for each of our graduates.*

*The Prayer of Dedication

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication

UMH No. 715 | Rejoice, the Lord is King

Celebration of our 2023 Graduates

*Benediction

Postlude

Peal on "Rejoice the Lord Is King"

James Biery

Worship Team

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, Senior Pastor

Liturgists: Rev. Jess Cusick, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

Sheila Stephens, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation

Meagan Williams, Assistant Director of Young Adult Ministry

Music: Jon Easter, Director of Fine Arts and Organist

Audio Visual: Jay Drew, Johnny Sims, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle

Ushers: Joel Black, Bob Brown, Deana Hilton, and Yin Xu-Moore

Greeters: Deana Hilton & David Wilson

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We Invite You

Want to stay updated on the Saint Mark Community?

Visit www.stmarkumc.org and subscribe to the newsletter on the homepage. We send our Remarks newsletter every Wednesday, a message from our Senior Pastor every Friday, and a Sunday Morning at Saint Mark email.

We Welcome You

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



Attendance

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

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.

Saint Mark Welcome Statement

As a United Methodist Church, we are proud to be a congregation with open hearts, open minds, and open doors. We strive to be a congregation that embodies God's absolute love and hospitality, proclaiming Jesus as our savior and as our model of the ultimate embodiment of God's love. We believe that all persons are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's good creation. Saint Mark United Methodist Church welcomes all persons into the full life and ministry of our congregation, regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family, or socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, or faith history.

Young Adults take on financial literacy!

Mitch Foster is leading the young adults through 6 weeks of financial literacy this summer. Mark your calendar from 5:30-7:30 on Wednesdays: 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28, 7/12, and 7/19. Dinner will be served and they will meet in the young adult room. See Rev. Jess or Meagan Williams for more information.

Midtown Assistance Center | 5K Run & Walk



Through their services, MAC provides emergency assistance, including rent and utilities assistance, food pantry, MARTA cards, assistance with required work uniform items, Georgia ID assistance, and more. By participating in the Midtown Race for MAC 5K, you'll be supporting these vital programs and helping to keep Atlantans in their homes and preserve their dignity.

Registration is open now, so don't wait to sign up! Whether you're a serious runner or just looking for a fun day out with your family and furry friends, the Midtown Race for MAC 5K is a great way to get active and support a worthy cause. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a difference in our community - register today at <https://tinyurl.com/3nzvbprb> and join us in the fight against homelessness and hunger.

Flowers

The flowers today are presented to the Glory of God by Robert Gilleo in honor of Rev. Dr. Carolyn A. Stephens's graduation from Emory University Candler School of Theology as a Doctor of Ministry.

Today's Communion Offering

Today's offering will go to the 2023 Annual Conference Special Offering (Disaster Response & UMCOR) and for The North Georgia Conference Ministerial Education Fund which will be received at the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination during Annual Conference.



Bishop Robin Dease has chosen UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) and our Conference Disaster Response efforts as the 2023 North Georgia Annual Conference Special Offering. Part of the offering will be used in our Conference tornado recovery efforts as UMCOR guides us in our local own disaster response.

In 2023 tornadoes have caused significant damage across North Georgia. When multiple tornados struck in January, UMCOR approved a solidarity grant in less than 24 hours, allowing the Conference to respond immediately. Our Conference launched its first long-term recovery effort in Griffin and surrounding communities, even as our response continues in West Point and Troup County after a devastating tornado in March.

As the humanitarian relief and disaster response arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally and locally in direct ministry to persons in need.

UMCOR and our trained ERTs are also at work in Florida, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Working alongside established partners, UMCOR has distributed more than \$2 million in humanitarian aid to support the Ukrainian people. UMCOR is at work in Turkey and Syria and in Madagascar and Mozambique. Our giving to UMCOR makes God's love tangible to survivors of all kinds—be it from war or conflict, hurricane, famine, earthquake, or flood. And, thanks to your generosity on UMCOR Sunday to cover the cost of doing business, 100 percent of gifts go to the response for which they are designated.

In addition to our Special Offering for Disaster Response and UMCOR, an offering for The North Georgia Conference Ministerial Education Fund will be received at the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination.

MEF is funded by United Methodists to provide scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license to preach school. MEF is a general church-apportioned fund of which 25 percent is retained by our conference. But 100 percent of the giving to the Annual Conference Ordination Offering will go to United Methodist seminary and course of study students in the North Georgia Conference.

Please give generously to the Annual Conference Special Offering and to the offering during the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination.

Next Sunday | Special Mother's Day Offering



WESLEY WOODS
FOUNDATION



For nearly 50 years, churches of The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church have received the Mother's Day Offering for Wesley Woods.

This generous support funds financial assistance for meals and housing to residents who have the gift of a long life but may have outlived their resources.

In addition, the Mother's Day Offering also supports on-site chaplains and an innovative wellness program.

Let it Sing
A CONCERT BY *Daronte Evans*

MAY 21 | Fundraising Concert for RMN | **4 PM**

St. Mark UMC Sanctuary
781 Peachtree St NE • Atlanta GA • 30308

www.stmarkumc.org
(404) 873-2636

For tickets, go to <https://tinyurl.com/57sthvv2>



Alex Brooks-Alt
Reed Fazenbaker
Jason Hernandez
Perry Kezh
Emma Zuniga-Martin
Carolyn Stephens

Jacob Byars
Jackson Fleming
Andi Kezh
Megan Kramer
Anna Brook Opalinski
Meagan Williams

Thank you for your Service!

Our intern, Kenny Smallhorn

Disciple II: Into the Word – Into the World

Dawan O. Buie (remote from Ohio)
Eddie Gammill
Johnny Sims

Laura Butler
Viveca Richards
Julie Tootle

Pam Buzbee (Facilitator)