



SAINT MARK

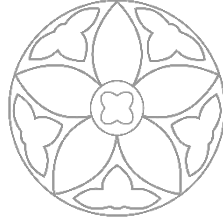
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Eleven O'clock

Second Sunday of Advent





11 AM 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

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 751

J.S. Bach

*The Call to Worship

One: The world is in a frenzied state, and our hearts beat its rhythm.

All: We come seeking beyond what the world offers.

One: Turmoil prevails across the continents, and we feel the shaking within.

All: We come longing for a change.

One: Is there help for our weary souls; is there a cure for our troubled hearts?

All: We find our peace in Christ, our Prince of Peace.

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 211 | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: God of eternal love, you sent the prophet ahead to prepare the way for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. He testified of the Light, so by his testimony others would believe. Christ came and promised to come again, and He instructed us to be witnesses of him and of your love. Forgive us when we fail to prepare the way by showing your goodness to others and pointing them to Christ. Remind us that all our actions are living testimonies that others see, which can determine how they respond.

One: Hear the Good News: We are co-laborers with Christ, charged to share the good news of God's love and salvation until Christ returns. Go forth and do likewise. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

*Gloria

Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.

*The Passing of the Peace

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

All: And also, with you.

Let us offer each other signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

Ministry Moment

Supper Club
Luke Murphy

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Choir: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

One: We are on edge daily, wondering what's next, what else will flare up in our lives and in the world. The tug within us to be right and to be on top tends to overpower us. We also live in a time when retaliation and getting even are the order of the day. The news outlets are filled with scenes of wars, weapons of destruction, crumbled buildings, and innocent victims in their paths. When will we be at peace? When will there be peace? Who will bring peace?

All: The Gospel writer reminds us that there is work to be done. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” In preparing the way, we open paths for our God to come, come to us, come to those who are hurting, come to all peoples. When God comes, peace is experienced and healing is found, but we need to make the way. We need to open the doors of our hearts and lives.

One: So, we light this candle as a sign of our faith and trust that God is not far from us, and that we can clear the way for God to come and dwell with us and give us peace. We light this candle in faith that God loves us and is coming to transform our hearts, our lives, and our world.

Light the second candle on the wreath.

One: Fill us with your peace, Lord.

All (sung): Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer & 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.

Proclamation of God’s Word

Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Anthem

Every Valley

John Ness Back

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;
And the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed.
And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;
And the crooked straight, and the rough places plain,
And all flesh shall see it together.

For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed.
And all flesh shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it, Amen.

*Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Message for the Younger Church

All children are invited to come up to the chancel area.

*Hymn of Preparation

UMH No. 216 | Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*The Gospel Lesson

Mark 1: 1-8

One: The Gospel of Our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Waiting for a Savior: Prepare the Way

Response to God's 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

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication

UMH No. 567 | Heralds of Christ

*Benediction

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729

J.S. Bach

Worship Team

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, *Senior Pastor*

Liturgists: Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*

Meagan Williams, *Assistant to the Pastor of Youth and Young Adults*

Haylie Cundiff, *Lay Reader*

Advent Wreath: The Cundiff Family

Music: Justin Bowen, *Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist*

Audio Visual: Johnny Sims, *Coordinator of Online Ministry*, Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Anna Rader, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle

Usher Team: Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Joseph Hackett, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney

Greeter Team: Andy and Pam Davis, *Head Greeter*

We Welcome You

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.



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.



We Invite You to Stay Connected with Saint Mark

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.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

For reservations, please email Robert Gileo at RJGileo@stmarkumc.org or complete the Microsoft Forms survey (<https://forms.office.com/r/29Xbv198wy>) no later than 5 PM Tuesday.

Upcoming Meals

December 13	Pork Tenderloin
December 20 - January 10	NO MEALS

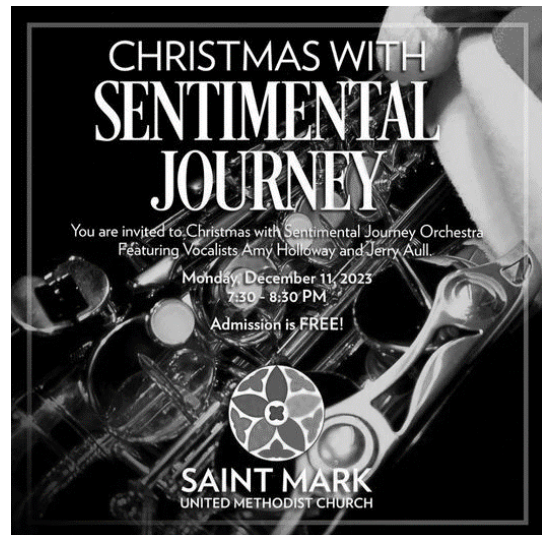
Christmas with Sentimental Journey Orchestra and Amy Holloway Monday, December 11 | 7:30 PM

Join us for an unforgettable night of music and nostalgia!

Experience the magic of the season with our "Christmas with Sentimental Journey" concert, where timeless classics and heartwarming melodies come to life.

Get ready to be swept away by the enchanting sounds of the holiday season. Share this special evening with loved ones and create cherished memories.

Let's make this holiday season even more memorable together.





PRIDE FOR PARENTS

**Donations accepted from now through
Tomorrow, Monday, December 11, 2023.**

This year, Saint Mark is again proud to support Pride for Parents. We will collect toys through Monday, December 11, 2023 at Saint Mark or you can order directly off their Amazon and Target wish lists below. The December 11th deadline is so that they can pick up, sort, and price the toys before the store opens. The store will be officially open this year from December 14th to 23rd.

Pride for Parents is an opportunity for South Atlanta families to provide for their loved ones at Christmas. Toys and gifts area available to purchase at a reduced cost. Families from the neighborhood get to shop for that perfect toy for their loved ones. The revenue generated from the store goes right back to the community supporting affordable housing.

Toy donations are needed!

Amazon Wish List: <https://tinyurl.com/4ccj8ur6>

Target Wish List: <https://tinyurl.com/4z626zs9>



amazon



TARGET

Volunteer at the Store

Once the store is open, Pride for Parents is always welcoming the support of community partners. There are various tasks, including gift wrapping, register support, toy sorting, pricing, and stocking. If you are interested, in volunteering use the following link to register: https://form.jotform.com/FCS_/pride-for-parents-join-the-joy

Supper Club Volunteers

Every Tuesday afternoon, Supper Club prepares and serves a hot meal to 60 people who are in need. Similar to Breakfast Club, this ministry provides a meal to individuals in a loving and respectful environment.

In 2024, similar to Breakfast Club, we are looking for people to volunteer on a rotational basis a few times a month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Viveca Richards at 864-884-1206 or via email at viveca1956@gmail.com.

Give Poinsettias in Honor or Memory of a Loved One \$10 each | Order before December 13

A Saint Mark tradition, the beautiful, red-leafed plants adorn our Sanctuary during the weeks leading up to Christmas Day. The plants are \$10 each (purchased from a local nursery). The last day to order for our annual poinsettias list is Wednesday, December 13. The poinsettias list will be published on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

<https://www.stmarkumc.org/store>

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MUSIC & FINE ARTS MINISTRY
PRESENTS

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Saint Mark United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 17th, 2023

11:00 AM



ST MARK YOUNG ADULT

CHRISTMAS PARTY

7pm

WEDNESDAY 12/20

@ AARON AND ANNA'S
199 14TH ST NE
APT 2003

PARKING IS TRICKY SO
TRY TO CARPOOL
FROM ST MARK IF
POSSIBLE :)

WHAT TO BRING:
A SHAREABLE SNACK
OR DRINK
A \$10 MAX GOOFY
GIFT