



SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
6:30 PM

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday | 6:30 PM Service

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

The Gathering

Prelude

O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin

J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome and Grace

We welcome each of you to this service! Maybe you've been here more times than you can count. Maybe it's been a while, maybe never. Here is what matters: No matter who you are or where you are from, you are a child of God, and you are welcome here!

*The Call to Worship

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

All: And also, with you.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

One: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities.

All: Who redeems your life from the grave, and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness.

*Opening Prayer

One: Let us pray:

[A brief silence]

Most Holy God, your Son came to save sinners. We come to this season of repentance, confessing our unworthiness, asking for new and honest hearts, and the healing power of your forgiveness. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

UMH No. 269 | Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days

Old Testament Lesson

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Response from Psalm 51

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

All: according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

One: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

All: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

One: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

All: so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

All: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

One: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

One: a broken and contrite heart,

All: O God, you will not despise.

Anthem

Create in Me

Terre Johnson

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit in me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
And take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,
And uphold me with thy free spirit.

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Message

Burning of the Palm Leaf

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

One: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of the Ashes

Hymn During Imposition

Bless the Lord, My Soul

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

It is God who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
God does not treat us according to our sins,
nor replay us according to our faults.

As a father has compassion on his children,
The Lord has pity on those who fear him,
for God knows of what we are made.
God remembers that we are dust.

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.

*Closing Hymn

TFWS No. 2130 | The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? ____ Will you go where you don't know and
your name? ____ Will you care for cruel and kind and
your name? ____ Will you set the pris - oners free and
your name? ____ Will you quell the fear in - side and
my name. ____ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? ____ Will you let my love be
nev - er be the same? ____ Will you risk the hos - tile
nev - er be the same? ____ Will you kiss the lep - er
nev - er be the same? ____ Will you use the faith you've
nev - er be the same. ____ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, _ will you let my name be known, _ will you
stare ____ should your life at - tract or scare? ____ Will you
clean, _ and do such as this un - seen, _ and ad -
found ____ to re - shape the world a - round, _ through my
go ____ where your love and foot - steps show. ____ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? ____
let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? ____
mit to what I mean in you and you in me? ____
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? ____
move and live and grow in you and you in me. ____

WORDS: John Bell
MUSIC: Traditional Scottish

KELVINGROVE
13 13 7 7 13

Words © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.

Dismissal with Blessing

Those who do not wish to remain to pray may depart in silence.

Worship Team

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

Liturgists: Rev. Andy Peabody, *Associate Pastor*

Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*

Luke Murphy, *Youth Intern*

Meagan Williams, *Assistant Minister of Young Adults*

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

Audio Visual: Johnny Sims, *Coordinator of Online Ministry*, Nikki and Tiffany Baltazar, Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Hayden McArthur, Anna Rader, Paul Spencer, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle

Music reproduced within this document is done so with permission under license A-740638.

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.



YouTube

@StMarkUMCATL

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.

In honor of Black History Month: North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal Hush Arbor

DuWanna Thomas | Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Viewing Begins at 4 PM | Interview: 6 PM

What is a Hush Arbor?

"The hush arbors served as the location where slaves could combine their African religious traditions with Christianity. It was safe to freely blend the components of each religion in these meetings. The enslaved blacks could let go of all their hardships and express their emotions. Here is where Negro spirituals originated. The songs created by enslaved blacks were known to contain a double meaning, revealing the ideas of religious salvation and freedom from slavery. The meetings would also include practices such as dance. African shouts and rhythms were also included."

Visit the NGBMCR Website at <https://ngbmcrumc.org/hush-arbor>



Clint Clark-Duke: Songs of Love and Heartache

Join us for an unforgettable evening of "Songs of Love and Heartache" with **Clint Clark-Duke** on Wednesday, February 28, 2024!

Current COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

If you are sick, please stay home. If you have come into contact with someone positive for COVID-19, follow the precautions recommended by the CDC. In order to care for our collective well-being, we strongly recommend that anyone who is eligible to be vaccinated do so, especially before participating in indoor activities.

Church Council Meeting Reminder

The next Church Council meeting is Sunday, February 25, 2024.

Church Offices Closed

The Church Offices are closed on Monday, February 19, 2024, in honor of Presidents' Day.



2024 Publix Marathon | Sunday, February 25, 2024

Please take time now to plan your route to church. The links below will give you “turn by turn” and roadblock information. After entering in the link information, you will receive a prompt asking you to download the file, click “OK.”

Turn by Turn & Roadblock listings

<http://tinyurl.com/2mm9c22k>

Course Map

<http://tinyurl.com/4yvu7kpz>