



# SAINT MARK

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**  
**Eleven O'clock**

First Sunday in Lent



# 11 AM Morning Worship

*\*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 God of Wonders - our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - beckons to us.

**All: We hear God's voice, and we discern a stirring, a response from deep within ourselves.**

One: As the deer pants for the waters in a season of drought, we thirst for God.

**All: Let us go down to where the streams of living water refresh and make all things new.**

One: We are initiated into the kingdom of Christ Jesus; welcomed into the wonderful family of God.

**All: Help us to recall and remember our baptism, when we were claimed by the water and the Spirit moving over and within us.**

## Praise and Thanksgiving

\*Hymn of Praise

**TFWS No. 2223 | They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love**

# 2223 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,  
2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,  
3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,  
4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's on-ly Son,



and we pray that all u-ni-ty may one day be re-stored:  
and to- geth-er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu-man dig-ni-ty and save hu-man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir-it, who makes us one:

### *Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. \_\_\_\_\_

WORDS: Peter Scholtes (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)  
MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

ST. BRENDAN'S  
76.76.86 with Refrain

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### \*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

**All: God Almighty, we come to worship this day aware that we stand in need of grace. Despite our efforts, we have fallen short in honoring your command to love our neighbor as ourselves. We have turned away from the cries of those in need, passing by on the other side. Our attention has too often been directed towards our own wants, distracted by fleeting desires. And yet our hearts long to be true, and we yearn to be able to say we have been found worthy of being called your disciples.**

One: Hear the Good News – God is quick to forgive and slow to anger. God's mercy and grace extended towards us will, in turn, teach us how to extend mercy and grace to those we encounter. Take heart! The Lord is with us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

### \*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.*

## 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

### **Order My Steps**

**Glenn Burleigh | arr. Schrader**

Order my steps in your Word, dear Lord, lead me, guide me, every day.  
Send your anointing, Father, I pray. Order my steps in your Word, please,  
Order my steps in your Word.

Humbly I ask thee, teach me your will, while you are working, help me be still.  
Tho' Satan is busy, God is real! Order my steps in your Word, please,  
Order my steps in your Word.

I want to walk worthy, walk worthy Lord, my calling to fulfill.  
Please order my steps, Lord, order my steps, and I'll do your blessed will.  
The world is ever changing, yes, changing, Lord, but you are still the same.  
If you order my steps, I'll praise your name, praise your name!

Order my steps in your Word, order my tongue in your Word,  
Guide my feet in your Word, wash my heart, in your Word.  
Show me how to walk in your Word, show me how to talk in your Word,  
When I need a brand new song to sing, show me how to let your praises ring,  
in your Word, in your Word, your Word! Please order my steps in your Word.

### \*Doxology

**UMH No. 95 | 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! Amen.**

### \*The Scripture Lesson

**Genesis 9:8-17**

One: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### \*Hymn of Preparation

**UMH No. 462 | Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus**

## \*The Gospel Lesson

**Mark 1:9-15**

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

**The Way of the Cross | The Initiation**

## **Response to God's Word**

One: If we have the courage and tenacity of our forebears, who stood firmly like a rock against the lash of slavery, we shall find a way to do for our day what they did for theirs.

**All: Without faith, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible.**

One: Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough.

**All: For those of us with our years of service still ahead, the challenge is ours. May we stop doubting ourselves. May we have the courage to make up our minds and hold to our decisions. May we refuse to be bought for either a nickel or a million dollars.**

One: For I am my mother's daughter, and the drums of Africa still beat in my heart.

**All: I leave you love. I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you a thirst for education. I leave you a respect for the use of power. I leave you faith. I leave you racial dignity. I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow children of God. I leave you finally, a responsibility to our young people.**

*Response adapted by Rev. Andy Peabody  
from various Mary McLeod Bethune quotes*

\*Affirmation of Faith

**UMH No. 886 | The World Methodist Social Affirmation**

One: We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

**All: We believe; God, help our unbelief.**

One: We rejoice in every sign of God's Kingdom; in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**All: Glory be to God on high; and on earth, be peace.**

One: We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith; through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**All: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

One: We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come. The kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## **Sending Forth**

\*Hymn of Dedication

**UMH No. 521 | I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

\*Benediction

Congregational Response

**Amen**

## Postlude

### Tocatta in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

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## Worship Team

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

**Liturgists:** Rev. Andy Peabody, *Associate Pastor*  
Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*  
Luke Murphy, *Youth Intern*

**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

**Usher Team:** Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Joel Black, Bob Brown, and Deana Hilton

**Greeter Team:** Andy and Pam Davis



## 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.

## 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.



## Tithes & Offerings

Please place your offering in the plate during this morning's service, or use one of the QR codes below. Your generosity allows us to love, accept and serve the people of our community.

- Using your Smartphone's camera, scan the QR Code. & follow the prompts.

**SecureGive**



**PayPal**



**Venmo**



**Text to Give**



- To give via text, scan the QR code, and replace the \$\$ in the text with the amount you would like to give. For example, to give \$25, text operating 25.



## We Invite You to Stay Connected with Saint Mark

Visit [www.stmarkumc.org](http://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.

## 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>

## Church Council Meeting Reminder

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

## **Saint Mark Green Team Survey**

Please fill out this short survey to help steer Saint Mark's engagement with environmental issues and creation care. Whether you are interested in getting involved or not, this survey will help our green team prioritize its goals.

<http://tinyurl.com/SMUMCgreenteamsurvey>

## **Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners**

For reservations, please email **Robert Gilleo** at [RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org](mailto:RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org) or complete the Microsoft Forms survey (<https://forms.office.com/r/29Xbv198wy>) no later than 5 PM Tuesday. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Program begins at 6:00 PM.

Tickets: \$10 for seniors, \$11 general

## **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!

## **Church Offices Closed**

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



### **Find your Small Group Community at Saint Mark**

Now during the season of Lent, is a good time to reestablish your spiritual discipline of going to a Sunday School or Spiritual Growth class. At Saint Mark, we have 5 classes that meet on a regular basis most Sundays from about 9:45 AM until 10:45 AM.

#### **Interactions**

**Room 206-207**

The Interactions class is a diverse group of individuals. Every week, we rotate between many different presenters, who cover a wide range of topics. We are an interactive group that likes to have variety in how we conduct class.

#### **Faith-Seekers**

**Room 205**

All are invited to the Faith Seekers Class beginning Sunday, February 18, when Robert Giacomini will be leading the Class in the Lenten Study: The Way, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus by Alan Hamilton. This video presentation was produced in the Holy Land with Adam Hamilton actually walking in the footsteps of Jesus from his time of baptism in the Jordan River to his last days in Jerusalem. While Robert will be using the video in the presentation, an optional companion book is also immediately available through Amazon for \$14.99.

The Faith Seekers Class is a Bible oriented adult Christian education class which meets every Sunday from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in room 205 of the education building. Coffee and refreshments are served. Come early to enjoy fellowship and listen to favorite hymns and gospel songs.

For more information about the Faith Seekers Class and its programs, contact Jerry Becker at [JerryB390@gmail.com](mailto:JerryB390@gmail.com).

**Foundations****Room 111**

Meets from 9:45-10:50 - Beginning February 18th, we will start a new Lenten Series - "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws." In this study pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

There is a companion book you can purchase, but it isn't required (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Luke-5?refq=Luke>) to participate, and you can attend one or all six sessions. If you have questions about the class please contact Michelle Levan 404-405-0274 or Sherri Graham who is teaching the study 404-550-7170.

**Reflections & Vision****Room 209****Young Adult Sunday School****Room 200-201**

Join us for this weekly Sunday school class for young adults to connect with others and grow in community as we dive into conversations about life and faith. Our gatherings will focus on opportunities for fellowship, collaborative discussion, and spiritual formation. Here, all questions are encouraged and topics range from the mundane to the mysterious as we seek to find meaning in all of it.

**Children's Ministry-****Children's Ministry Hallway 1st floor**

The Children's ministry at Saint Mark is a growing program focused on play-based learning and finding opportunities to laugh as we learn! All Children (birth-5th grade) have a place in Children's Sunday school! During Lent, we will be exploring Jesus's ministry through the colors and traditions of the season using a mix of story, craft, and games that all children of God will enjoy! Feel free to join us as we explore coloring outside the lines and as we grow in love with the wonderful world the Lord has made!

For more information about the Children's Ministry and its programs, contact Madi Dunn at [mdunn@stmarkumc.org](mailto:mdunn@stmarkumc.org).