



SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, May 5, 2024
Eleven O'clock

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Service of Holy Communion
Music Sunday





11 AM Morning Worship

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

The Gathering

Prelude

Prelude on "Blessed Assurance" and "Aurelia"

Paul Fey

You are invited to use the paper you were given upon entering to write words signifying prayers of hope and/or remembrances of harm. When coming forward to receive communion, you will have a chance to offer these in confidence.

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!

Introit

Andante Maestoso from Jupiter

Holst, arr. McChesney

*The Call to Worship

One: O sing to the LORD a new song, for the LORD has done marvelous things.

All: We lift our hearts in thanksgiving, and join our voices in shouts of praise.

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

All: Our spirits quiver with anticipation to see what the LORD will do.

One: Let the sea roar in all its fullness; the world and those who live in it.

All: May God's love fill us so fully that our lives will shine like a beacon of hope for all to see.

One: O sing to the LORD a new song, for the LORD has done marvelous things.

All: We rejoice in the new day and new beginnings that the Lord has given!

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 545 | The Church's One Foundation

The Invitation

Christ our Lord 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.

A Prayer of Celebration for All God's Children

One: Let us pray:

All: Creator and Maker of us all,

We thank you for the gift of life, and for the way this gift of love is revealed in all humans.

In love You have made all peoples, and breathed in us eternal life by Your divine breath, calling all you have made good.

We celebrate this inherent good that is in all of us, and its expressions when lived out authentically each day.

We know not everyone recognizes your divine image in each other. We know there are persons who refuse to affirm the divine worth of everyone. We know, however, that we are all your children, bearing your divine image, and made in your likeness. We know that we do not need to hide our authentic selves because we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

When the world tries to tell us otherwise remind us of the truth. When the world tries to tell us we are less than remind us of your love. For You are our Creator, and you have made all things beautiful and complete.

It's in the name of Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: Creator God – Once again we come into your house of worship, needing your forgiveness and grace. We have trespassed, in word and deed, against you and against one another. We have been swift in anger and halting in understanding; quick to judge and slow to forgive. We desire to do your will, but we need still to learn to love as you love.

One:Hear the Good News – God's love IS never ending, and it remains at work within you and within the life of Saint Mark. Be still, and know that God is with you, and ever will be. You are loved, even exactly as you are. But listen for God's leading, be honest and yet gentle with your soul, and trust you are indeed growing in faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

*Gloria Patri

He Never Failed Me Yet

Robert Ray

**I will sing of God's mercy every day,
every hour He gives me power.**

**I will sing and give thanks to Thee
for all the dangers, toils and snares that He has brought me out.**

**He is my God and I'll serve Him no matter what the test
Trust and never doubt Jesus will surely bring you out
He never failed me yet.**

*The Passing of the Peace

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

All: And also, with you.

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

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Proclamation of God's Word

Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Anthem during Communion

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies.
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies, over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night.
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, sun and moon
and stars of light.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child. Friends on earth and friends
above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild, for all gentle thoughts and mild.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, graces human and divine.
Flowers of earth and buds of heav'n, flowers of earth and buds of heav'n.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

*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

Psalm 98

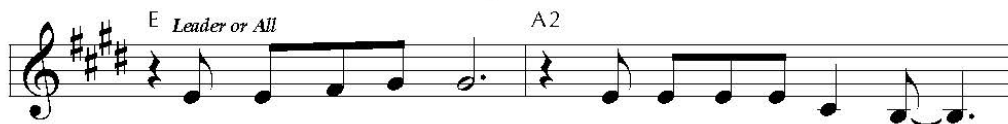
One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn of Preparation
UMH No. 98 | To God Be the Glory

Sermon
Sing to the Lord

*Hymn of Response
Insert | For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
 joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,
 God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus-tice and joy!

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998

MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006

Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBCMusik)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

11.10.11.10 with refrain

Response to God's Word

Celebration of Holy Communion

UMH Page 17 | Musical Setting A

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, creator of heaven and earth. You took the dust of the earth and breathed your life into it, making all of humanity in your image. ALL of humanity. Because of your act of creation and your breath that lives on in our spirits, everyone is welcome at your table. Since the Ethiopian eunuch's journey from Jerusalem to Gaza until this very day, we have encountered time and again the hurtful stories of persons, eagerly and earnestly seeking after you, who have been excluded from full participation in the ministry and ministries of our church. Yet, you continued to be faithful in loving us. Faithful in sending your prophets throughout the ages to call us to repentance. Faithful in sending leaders to Saint Mark – lay and clergy alike – who have challenged the church to more faithfully reflect your radically inclusive love.

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

All: 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. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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: 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: Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Lord's Prayer

One: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

All: 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

When coming forward to receive communion, feel free to bring your folded paper containing any prayers of hope and/or remembrances of harm. No one but God will see or read these. They will be burned in a supervised outdoor committal ceremony in June prior to Annual Conference in Athens.

*At the front of the Sanctuary,
Rev. Dr. Carol Rawlinson is available for prayer and anointing.*

*This month's Communion Offering will go to the
Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering.*

The Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering provides charitable financial assistance, pastoral care, and wellness programming to older adults living in Wesley Woods communities. Support is provided to residents in need of financial assistance to remain in their Wesley Woods homes. A robust wellness program includes fitness classes and on-site nurses to enhance the well-being of residents, enabling them to live independently longer. Wesley Woods chaplains provide ministry through personal visits, pastoral support, Bible study, and worship. Help create hope and spread joy with a gift to Wesley Woods.

You may also give online at wesleywoods.org/donate. Thank you for helping to ensure seniors living at Wesley Woods continue to thrive.

Anthem during Communion

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

Mark A. Miller

There's a spirit of love in this place.
You can't see it, but it's there just as precious as the air.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name!

There's a presence of peace in this room.
In God's tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name!

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. 519 | Lift Every Voice and Sing

*Benediction

Congregational Response

Insert Next Two Pages | Draw the Circle Wide

Mark Miller

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. No one

stands a - lone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the

cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

wide. Draw the cir - cle wide, draw it

wid - er still. Let this be our song: no one

stands a - lone. Stand - ing side by side, draw the

cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

Words: Gordon Light

Music: Mark A. Miller

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wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the

cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. No one

stands a - lone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the

cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this

be our song: no one stands a - lone. Stand - ing

side by side, draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle

wide. Draw the *Repeat as desired* Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle

wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide.

Postlude
Toccata Brevis

Dan Gawthrop

Worship Team

Preaching:	Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Liturgists:	Rev. Andy Peabody, <i>Associate Pastor</i> Luke Murphy, <i>Youth Minister Intern</i>
Anointing:	Rev. Dr. Carol Rawlinson, <i>Retired Elder in Full Connection,</i> <i>South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church</i>
Communion Servers:	J.W. & Jena Mozley
Music:	Justin Bowen, <i>Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist</i>
Audio Visual:	Johnny Sims, <i>Coordinator of Online Ministry,</i> Nikki and Tiffany Baltazar, Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Hayden McArthur, Anna Rader, Paul Spencer, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle
Usher Team:	Buddy Wofford, <i>Head Usher,</i> Chip DuPont, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney
Greeter:	Deana Hilton

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.

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.

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.



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 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.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

For reservations, please email **Robert Gilleo** at RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org no later than 12 Noon Wednesday. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Program begins at 6:00 PM. Tickets: \$10 for seniors, \$11 general

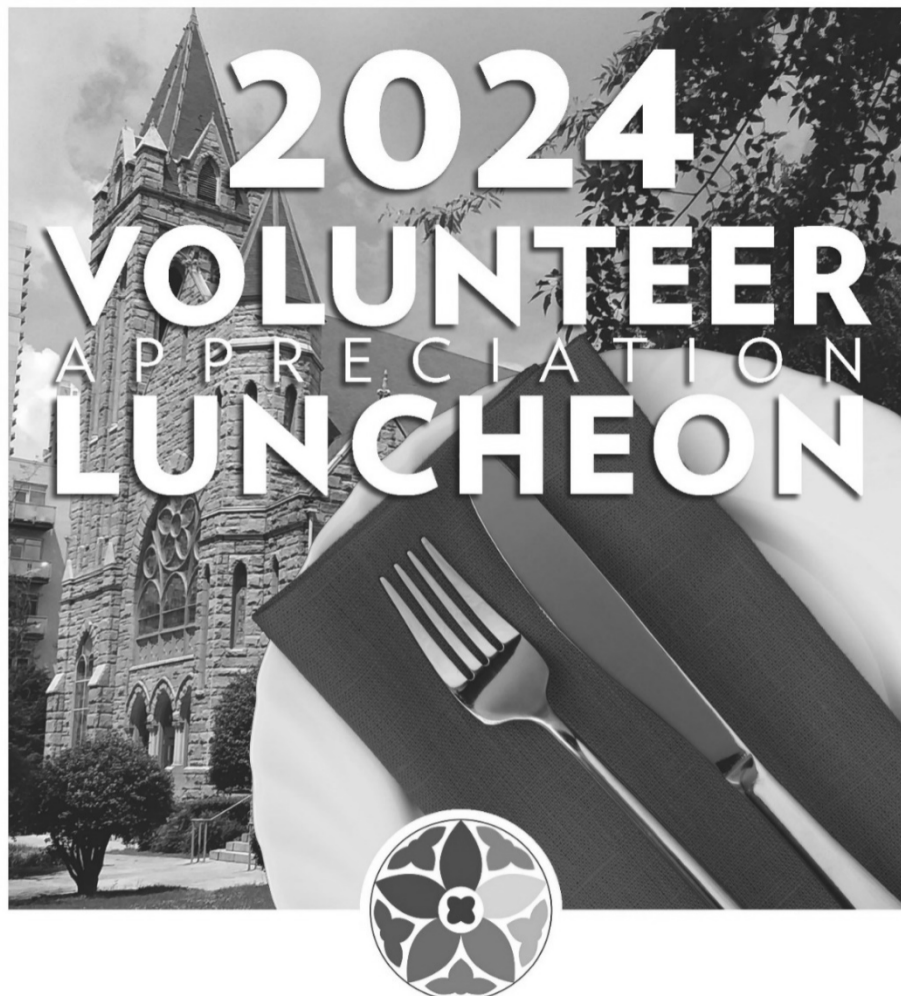
- May 8 BBQ Pulled Pork and Chicken
- May 15 Cookout (Hamburger and Hot Dogs)

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Habitat for Humanity

It's May and the Habitat for Humanity Build starts this month! The first volunteer workday, Saturday, May 11, is already filled up to waitlist status - which is GREAT! We would like to see as many Saint Mark volunteers SIGN UP to SERVE on SATURDAY, MAY 18 as possible. There are a number of dedicated Saint Mark spots and there are others that are 'first come, first served' - and we want folks to SIGN UP EARLY to obtain those spots! Let's start off the summer months lending a hand to a neighbor in need!

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



SAINT MARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Join us for a church-wide celebration of our volunteers,
Sunday, May 5, after the 11:00 Service.

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO PRIDE AUCTION



SAINT MARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRIDE SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 13, 2024

WE'RE BEARING UP TO HOST ANOTHER PRIDE AUCTION THIS YEAR! MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THE PRIDE AUCTION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6TH TO 20TH THIS YEAR.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRIDE COMMITTEE OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY AND IS NOT FUNDED THROUGH THE CHURCH BUDGET. THEREFORE WE RELY ON YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE OUR EVENTS POSSIBLE

YOUR PARTICIPATION, DONATIONS, AND INVOLVEMENT ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS YEAR'S AUCTION. WHETHER IT'S CONTRIBUTING ITEMS FOR AUCTION, VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME, OR SPREADING THE WORD, EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.

TO COORDINATE DONATIONS, WE ASK THAT YOU EMAIL NOEY BARRERA-DISLER AT BDfamily99@gmail.com WITH DETAILS ABOUT THE ITEMS YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE OR ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

Donations are accepted until May 17th.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Saint Mark UMC family.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

DONATE ITEMS:

We encourage you to consider purchasing gift cards from your favorite restaurants, coffee house, or stores. Additionally, unique artwork, handmade crafts, gift certificates, or special items available locally would be appreciated. Every contribution, regardless of size, holds the power to positively impact those around us.

OFFER SERVICES:

Donate your time and skills. Whether it's providing a home-cooked meal, gardening services, or offering a music lesson, your talents can help diversify and enrich our auction, appealing to a wider audience.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation to support the auction. These funds will be used to enhance the event and contribute to our Pride Activities.

SPREAD THE WORD

Share the news about our Pride Auction with friends, family, and colleagues who might be interested in participating. The more people involved, the greater impact we can make together.



IT'S TIME FOR



731 PEACHTREE STREET NE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

JUNE 3-7, 9 AM- 1 PM

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:



Sign up your child!

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION:



Volunteer Yourself!



Questions? Comments? Concerns? Email mdunne@stmarkumc.org