

SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMING LIVES

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

781 PEACHTREE STREET, NE | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308

WWW.STMARKUMC.ORG | 404-873-2636

MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023 | 11:00 AM

THE GATHERING

THE WELCOME

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

This Little Light of Mine

Calvin Taylor

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: God calls us to be the light of the world,

People: A city on a hill cannot be hidden!

Minister: Therefore, let your light shine.

All: Let all we do glorify God.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH NO. 585 | *This Little Light of Mine*

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.

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

All **Infinite and compassionate God, you have shown us in Jesus Christ not to dwell on those who wish to tear down. Instead, help us to focus on partnering with Christ to build up. Forgive us when we have gotten bogged down in negativity or misdirection. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us to build with the faith of Nehemiah and the love of Christ.**

Minister: Hear the good news: Christ is the firm foundation upon which we build. Let us join our efforts with Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

*KYRIE

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

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER

ANTHEM

True Light

Keith Hampton

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Almighty God is light, He lives in us as true light. In the beginning, out of the darkness, God created true light. He lives in us as true light. Almighty God is light. He lives in us as true light. Don't let the light that you've given me die, and don't desert my mind. But let the one who serves you praise you again and again. You are the one who judges right from wrong, your glory excites no envy. But let the one who serves you praise you again and again. Everywhere I go, I want the world to know, God gave the world true light!

*DOXOLOGY

UMH NO. 99 | *My Tribute*

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things he has done. With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me; to God be the glory for the things God has done.

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Nehemiah 4:1-6*

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

(Re)Building a Legacy: Ignoring the Critics

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH P.17 | MUSICAL SETTING A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

Sanctus: (Sung)

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.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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.

Amen (Sung)

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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*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. 533 | *We Shall Overcome*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on “We Shall Overcome”

Carl Haywood

*Where indicated, please rise in body or spirit.

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Preaching:	Rev. Carolyn Stephens, Senior Pastor
Liturgists:	Rev. Jess Cusick, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults Rev. Dr. Josh Noblitt, Minister of Community Engagement Kenny Smallhorn, Candler School of Theology Intern Sheila Stephens, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation Meagan Williams, Assistant Director of Young Adult Ministry
Communion Steward:	JW Mozley
Music:	Jon Easter, Minister of Fine Arts and Organist
Audio Visual:	Jay Drew, Johnny Sims, Eric Steverson, & Belva White (Facebook)
Acolyte/Crucifer:	Amy & Izzy Herbert
Ushers:	Keith Adams, Joel Black, Bob Brown, & Deana Hilton

WELCOME | THINGS TO KNOW



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

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

NURSERY | A nursery provided for infants and toddlers is located on the first floor of the Education building. Please see the usher for more information. We encourage children of all ages to be present and participate in worship.

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.

PARKING & SHUTTLE SERVICE | We have a shuttle service that runs between the AT&T parking deck (located at 759 West Peachtree Street) and church on Sunday mornings beginning at 8:30am. Don't forget to bring your parking ticket to church with you for validation (see the usher for assistance).

PRAYER REQUESTS | Let us pray for you. Prayer request cards are located in the pews. Please return your request to the offering plate or the prayer boxes in the Narthex.

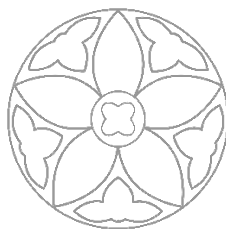
FOOD & BEVERAGES | Please no food or open containers in the Sanctuary.

HYMNALS | We sing from 2 hymnals, including the red *United Methodist Hymnal* located in the pew racks and the black *The Faith We Sing*, located at the end of the pews. Large print hymnals and Bibles are also available. Please see an usher for assistance.

HEARING & VISUAL AIDS | Enhanced listening devices and reading glasses are available in the Narthex, please see an usher for assistance.

RESTROOMS | Men's & Women's restrooms are located just outside the chapel. As you exit the sanctuary turn left. Once you reach the chapel, turn left then immediately right. The Women's restroom is the third door on the left. For the men's restroom, pass the Women's restroom and the Men's restroom is just around the corner. Gender Neutral restrooms are available downstairs. As you leave the sanctuary turn left, take the set of stairs down just before the balcony stairs on the left. The restrooms are on the first landing. Please see an usher for assistance.

PEW CUSHIONS | Need some extra cushion for the pew? Ask an usher for a pew cushion.



Saint Mark United Methodist Church

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To learn more about upcoming events, to subscribe to our weekly newsletter (The Remarks), see the church calendar, or to give, visit stmarkumc.org.

TODAY'S COMMUNION OFFERING

Today's Communion Offering goes to support the ministries of the North Georgia United Methodist Housing & Homeless Council.

CELEBRATING REV. DR. JOSH NOBLITT

We know there are persons God sends our way to enrich our journey of faith, and over time we are blessed not only by their ministry, but also by their friendship. Rev. Josh is one of those persons, and Saint Mark has been truly blessed by his ministry and friendship.

Sunday, March 5th, we will have the opportunity to celebrate Rev. Josh's ministry at Saint Mark. It will be his last Sunday with us, and he will be preaching at both the 9am and 11am services.

There will be a reception for him in Wade Hall from 9:45-10:45am. Please come on out or hear Josh and to celebrate him.

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

Disciple I Fast Track Bible Study is a 24-week in-depth review of the Old and New Testaments. The study comprises 15 to 30 minutes a day of bible reading and dynamic group discussions during the weekly meeting. The purpose is not to make you a Bible scholar, but to enhance your spiritual journey as a disciple of Christ. The study will begin the first week of Lent and continue for 12 weeks covering the Old Testament. The study will begin again in the fall for 12 weeks covering the New Testament. The book for the first session is \$17 and scholarships are available.

There will be 5 class times offered....

- Sunday morning from 9:45 till 10:45... in person
- Sunday evening from 6:00 till 7:30...in person
- Sunday evening from 6:00 till 7:30...virtual
- Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 till 5:00
- Wednesday evening from 6:30 till 8:00



“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

For more information, please contact Paul Winslow at plwinslow3@gmail.com or call/text 757-646-3278. To register, scan the QR code above or complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMUMCDisciple>

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND WITH PASTOR CAROLYN | October 10-19, 2023
INFORMATION SESSION | Sunday, February 19, 2023 | Noon | Wade Hall**

Pastor Carolyn is putting together a group who are interested in going to the Holy Land later this year. If you are interested in going to the Holy Land with Pastor Carolyn join us Sunday, February 19, 2023 after the 11 AM service for an information session with the Rev. Dr. Jamie Jenkins in Wade Hall.

BLACK HERSTORY FOCUS | PAULI MURRAY DOCUMENTARY

February 12:

- Part One - Pauli Murray Documentary - Wade Hall - 9:40-10:30 am

February 19:

- Part Two – Pauli Murray Documentary – Wade Hall – 9:40-10:30 am

February 26:

- Presentation/Discussion - Rosita Stevens-Holsey author and niece of Pauli Murray
- Book signing immediately following 11:00 am worship Interactions Classroom

WIGGINS HOUSE UPDATE AND DONATIONS

We are continuing to make progress with the buildout at Wiggins House...smoke detectors have been installed, ceiling tiles have been finished out, so all is new, clean, and safe. We do have some finishing work to complete, and the furniture needs to be assembled. Now we are ready for basic living needs.

If you would like to support our Wiggins House relaunch, please visit our Amazon.com wish list and consider donating: <https://a.co/6IVJP2d>. Thank you.

SUPPER CLUB | DESSERTS NEEDED

Our baker who graciously provides desserts for our Tuesday Supper Club on a weekly basis will be traveling later this year. We need volunteers to assist making desserts while she is away or to donate towards the purchase of desserts.

Dates desserts are needed: February 28, March 7, March 14, April 4, April 11, and April 18, 2023. Please contact **Viveca Richards** at viveca1956@gmail.com or via phone at **864-884-1206** for further details.

MAKE YOUR MARK DAY | Saturday, February 18th | 9 AM – 1 PM

Join us on Saturday, February 18th from 9 am – 1 pm as we gather to spruce up our space while enjoying time together. We are looking for at least 60 people this time - yes, we want to make this the biggest one ever. There will be projects for ages 8+ and all physical abilities.

Arrive for breakfast around 8:45 and start making your mark from 9 am to 1 pm, with lunch provided. You will still have time to enjoy your weekend as well as have some fun with your Saint Mark family.

Sign up and share your project passion via this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Feb18-Park-MakeYourMarkDay>