



SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMING LIVES

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

781 PEACHTREE STREET, NE | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308

WWW.STMARKUMC.ORG | 404-873-2636

MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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

Prelude on Deep River

Adolphus Hailstork

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord!

People: Let us seek God with our whole hearts.

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord!

All: Let us keep our eyes fixed on God.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH NO.369 | *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All Steadfast God, you have given us the stamina to stay the course when we rely on you to guide us. Yet, so often we become tired, stagnant, or arrogant in our aims to bring ourselves glory. Forgive us, we pray. Remind us that you are the one who keeps the path before us.

Minister: Hear the Good News: Christ paved the way for us to lead with love. Therefore, let us follow Christ as we seek to love others. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Sheri Barrera-Disler

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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER

ANTHEM

Dr. Susan Ray, Soloist
arr. Nathan Carter

Precious Lord

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light; take my hand, precious Lord, lead me on. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near. When my life is almost gone. Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home. When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone. At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH NO. 99 | *My Tribute*

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things God 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.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Shelia Stephens

*GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account." Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Minister: The Gospel of Our Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNGER CHURCH

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH NO. 408 | *The Gift of Love*

LESSON *Nehemiah 6:1-9*

Now when it was reported to Sanballat and Tobiah and to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had built the wall and that there was no gap left in it (though up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together in one of the villages[a] in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. So, I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?" They sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. In it was written, "It is reported among the nations—and Geshem also says it—that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall; and according to this report you wish to become their king. You have also set up prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'There is a king in Judah!' And now it will be reported to the king according to these words. So, come, therefore, and let us confer together." Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done; you are inventing them out of your own mind," for they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, strengthen my hands.

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

(Re)Building a Legacy: Staying the Course

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

MINISTRY MOMENT

Mitchell Foster II

*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

TFWS NO. 2153 | *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

Choir Only verse 1; Congregation & Choir verses 2-5

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on We Shall Overcome

Adolphus Hailstork

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 row 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.

*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
Kenny Smallhorn, Candler School of Theology Intern
Sheila Stephens, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation
Meagan Williams, Assistant Director of Young Adult Ministry
Music: Jon Easter, Director of Fine Arts and Organist
Susan Ray, Soloist
Audio Visual: Jay Drew, Johnny Sims, Eric Steverson, & Belva White (Facebook)
Acolyte/Crucifer: Greg & Gabbi Washington
Ushers: Keith Adams, Joel Black, Bob Brown, & Deana Hilton

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 | Services: Noon & 7 PM

Mark your calendars to join us on Ash Wednesday.

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.

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. 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>

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

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.

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY | Lent 2023

Only twelve weeks (remote or in person) this spring with 15-30 minutes of daily Bible reading and a weekly meeting...with another 12 weeks in the fall. It is designed for busy people like you. The book for the first session is \$17 and scholarships are available. There will be 5 class times offered beginning the first week of lent with different leaders for each class

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>

Please join us! If God is nudging you, it may change your life!

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: Discussion - Rosita Stevens-Holsey author and niece of Pauli Murray

Book signing immediately following 11:00 am worship Interactions Classroom

SAINT MARK BALL CAP | Limited Edition | \$25

Help support the Children's Ministry by purchasing one of these limited-edition ball caps for \$25. See Sheila Stephens or email here at sstephens@stmarkumc.org.

CELEBRATING REV. DR. JOSH NOBLITT

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.