

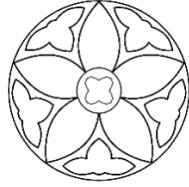
# **SAINT MARK**

## **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, August 13, 2023**  
**Eleven O'clock**

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



## Morning Worship

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

### The Gathering

#### Words of Welcome and Grace

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

**Priere a Notre Dame**

**Leon Boellmann**

#### \*The Call to Worship

One: Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,

**All: Your faithfulness to the skies.**

One: Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,

**All: Your justice like the great deep.**

One: You, Lord, preserve the whole universe.

**All: How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!**

One: People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**All: Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in Your truth; give us undivided hearts to revere Your name.**

One: We celebrate your incredible love today.

**All: We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, and we will glorify Your name forever.**

### Praise and Thanksgiving

#### \*Hymn of Praise

**UMH No. 154 v. 1, 2, 4, & 6 | All Hail the Power of Jesus Name**

\*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

Almighty and gracious God, Your love is everlasting and filled with patience.

**We hurt You and others, and, instead of reciprocating in the same kind, You comfort us and forgive us.**

Our pride often gets in the way of our efforts to reveal Your glory and goodness.

**We try to bear the imprint of Christ throughout the world, yet we often do just the opposite and fail to be the people You've called us to be in Your Word. Forgive us, we pray. Renew our spirit and draw our hearts to you.**

Beloved children of God, our Lord forgives the sin in our lives and grant us hearts to follow the example that God gave us in Jesus. Knowing God endless, boundless love, I say this boldly, in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**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.**

\*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

**Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**

**Moses Hogan**

\*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

**Romans 10:5-15**

One: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Solo

Amazing Grace

John Ness Beck

Message for the Younger Church

*All children are invited to come up to the chancel area.*

\*Hymn of Preparation

**UMH No. 500 v. 1 & 3 - 5 | Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**

\*The Gospel Lesson

**Matthew 22:34-40**

One: The Gospel of Our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

**The Character of a Methodist: Loves God Wholeheartedly**

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

\*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

**UMH No. 408 | The Gift of Love**

\*Benediction

Postlude

**Menuet from Suite Gothique**

**Leon Boellmann**

## **Worship Team**

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

**Liturgists:** Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski, *Elder in Full Connection, Florida Annual Conference and Emory University | Candler School of Theology | Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies; Assistant Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation and Church Leadership*

Michelle Levan, *Lay Member and North Georgia Annual Conference Assistant Director for the Center for Clergy Excellence*

Meagan Williams, *Assistant to the Pastor of Youth and Young Adults*

**Music:** Jon Easter, *Director of Fine Arts and Organist*

Colleen Allard-Smith, *Soloist*

**Audio Visual:** Johnny Sims, *Coordinator of Online Ministry*, Jay Drew, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle

**Acolytes:** The Cundiff Family

**Usher Team:** Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Joseph Hackett, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney

**Greeter Team:** Roger Brown and Luke Murphy

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

## **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.



## We Welcome You

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.

### 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.

### Announcements & Special Events



Next Sunday, August 20 | Between Services  
**Celebrate the Ministry of Pastor Sheila Stephens**



### **Join us...**

During August and September, the Foundations Class discuss the #BeUMC curriculum created as a part of the #BeUMC campaign. You might have noticed the banner in front of the church that is a part of the campaign as well. This study was created to help us understand who we are as United Methodists, our traditions, our history, and our theology. “The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.” If you want to engage in conversations and learn more about being a United Methodist come join us for class on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome to join us at 9:45 in Room 111.

### **Wednesday Night Study**

Do you want to know more about The United Methodist Church? Join us on Wednesday evenings for a weekly discussion that includes our history, traditions, and theology. We will work through the entire #BeUMC campaign curriculum, learning how we can be more engaged in the life of the church, what it means to be connectional, and what it means to be committed to Saint Mark UMC and to The United Methodist Church as a whole. Come learn what it means when we say, “The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.” You can find all the resources for class on [umc.org](http://umc.org), so no book is required, but it will be helpful to have read the materials for the session prior to class, you don't have to attend every session, while they do build on one another, they also can stand alone. If you are interested in participating and want more information please contact **Michelle Levan** – [michelle.levan@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.levan@gmail.com) or by phone at **404-405-0274**.





## **Disciple 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 meetings. The purpose is not to make you a Bible scholar, but to enhance your spiritual journey as a disciple of Christ.

A new class will begin Wednesday September 6th right after the Wednesday dinner. The study will be in two parts...12 weeks in the fall covering the Old Testament and 12 weeks in the spring covering the New Testament. Buddy Wofford will lead the study.

The book for the first session is \$17 and scholarships are available.

If this time does not work for you, you may be able to join an existing class either Sunday morning or Tuesday's at 6:00.

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

Please contact the church office with questions or to sign up.

## **Disciple Bible Study Testimonials**

*“This class has transformed the way I view the old testament. Instead of just being familiar with the history of man-kind I now have a detailed roadmap and I can actually sympathize with each biblical person's struggle and the obstacles they face. This experience is highlighted by having a group of believers to go thru the lessons with; each week I can't wait for us to gather together and share different perspectives and thoughts on the previous weeks lesson.”*

- Carissa Evans

*"Disciple Fast Track (Old Testament) taught me some of the basics I had never learned. I grew up Baptist and could cite the books of the Bible and quote scripture, but aside from the cast of Genesis, I knew none of the history and bloodlines. The weekly lessons in Fast Track were mostly manageable (some weeks more reading than others) and offered tips for delving further into certain subjects. Highly recommend."*

- Donna Rosenmayer

*“Disciple Bible Study will give you an understanding of the Bible that just reading it alone can never do. You will gain meaning and depth as you discuss what you read with your fellow students. I cannot highly enough recommend this program!”*

- Pam Buzbee

*“Disciple Bible Study can change your life...It changed mine”*

- Paul Winslow