

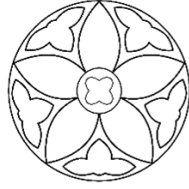
# **SAINT MARK**

## **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, August 20, 2023**  
**Eleven O'clock**

Twelfth 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

**Adagio, BWV 564**

**J. S. Bach**

#### \*The Call to Worship

One: We come into the presence of the eternal God.

**All We bow our hearts in worship.**

One: We come before the Creator of all the worlds.

**All: We lift our hallelujahs in praise.**

One: We come into the Holy of Holies.

**All: We open ourselves to the Spirit's presence.**

### Praise and Thanksgiving

#### \*Hymn of Praise

**UMH No. 185 | When Morning Guilds the Skies**

\*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

**All: Merciful and compassionate God, in your great love you invite us to come to you in prayer. You invite us to come, so we can know you more; to come when we are burdened by life; and to come when we have missed your will and your way. Yet, so often we neglect your invitation, choosing not to seek your face and your grace. Forgive us we pray. Remind us that ours is the lost when we fail to come to you.**

One: Hear the good news, church! God's invitation into the Divine relationship is always open, and is for everyone. Enter in, and know the God whose love endures forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: 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.*

Ministry Moment

Children's Ministry  
Minister Shelia Stephens

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

#### **Covenant Prayer**

**Karen Marrolli**

*Creator, we belong to you, and you dwell within our hearts. Though the road be rough, we will follow you with the strength you grace imparts. Though we be brought high, through we be brought low, though we journey far from home, let us always seek to grow in love, no matter where we roam.*

*Now let us reach out with loving hands to accept, affirm, embrace every child of God throughout the world and shower them with grace. And let us reach out with grateful hearts and praise our God above through our acts of light and justice as we warm the world with love.*

*Creator, let us understand that our covenant with you is a covenant with humankind to honor and pursue the road of Christ, through the rocky fields, to the broken and unshod. Let us heal with love, for each soul we meet is a precious Child of God.*

### \*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 11: 25-32**

One: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### \*Hymn of Preparation

**UMH No. 405 | Seek Ye First**

\*The Gospel Lesson

**Luke 18:1-8**

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

**The Character of a United Methodist: Prays Without Ceasing**

## **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. 352 | It's Me, It's Me, O Lord**

\*Benediction

Postlude

**Prière**

**Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens**

## **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*

Sheila Stephens, *Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation*

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

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

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

**Acolytes:** The Herbert Family

**Usher Team:** Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Joel Black, Bob Brown, Deana Hilton, and Yin Xu-Moore

**Greeter Team:** Deana Hilton and David Wilson

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## **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.

## **Saint Mark Welcome Statement**

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.

## **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.



## **Announcements & Special Events**



### **Popsicles on Peachtree**

Next Sunday, August 27, 2023 | After Second Service | Front Terrace

## **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 can change your life...It changed mine"*

- Paul Winslow