



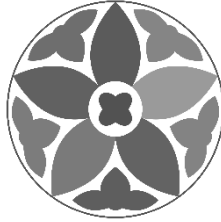
SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Eleven O'clock

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



11 AM 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

Blessed Assurance

J. Bert Carlson

*The Call to Worship

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

One: Let us praise the Lord, Most High.

All: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praise.

One: Let us worship God, our Maker.

All: For the Lord has done great things for us.

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 62 v. 1, 4, 5, & 7 | All Creatures of Our God and King

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: Loving and generous God, you have given us all we need for life and godliness. You pour out your blessings and benefits into our lives each day, and you love us with an everlasting love. You have not withheld anything good from us, and you supply all our needs according to your riches in glory. We confess that at times we fail to recognize how good you have been to us because we are focused on the blessings of others. Forgive us we pray. Give us hearts of gratitude, so we will always be thankful for your goodness to us.

One: Hear the good news: All we have comes from God, and God's faithfulness will never end. Be thankful, and bless God's holy name. 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.

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
Assurance

John Ness Beck

*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 13:8-14

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Message for the Younger Church

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

*Hymn of Preparation

TFWS No. 2060 | God, the Sculptor of the Mountains - 2060

*The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-15

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Life Hack: How to Overcome Comparison

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. 548 | In Christ There Is no East or West

*Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Aaron David Miller

The flowers on the Altar are giving today by the Saint Mark UMC Trustees to the Glory of God and in Memory of Ruby Edward Pressley Brown.

   **YouTube** @StMarkUMCATL

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*

Dr. Mike Smith, *Lay Reader*

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, Deana Hilton, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle

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

Greeter Team: Andy Davis and Pam Davis, *Head Greeter*

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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.

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.



<https://www.stmarkumc.org/an-evening-with-thressa>

Don Schoner's Celebration of Life

On Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 1 PM, please join Don's husband, Bobby Strickland, for a time of celebration here at Saint Mark UMC. Wear comfortable clothes and fun colors. There's no minister, no formal program. There will be an open mic and you are welcome to share a favorite story with the group, but it's totally up to you. Bobby will be facilitating the celebration. He will be speaking from his heart, and hopes you do the same. We will be together for two hours.

Congregation Listening Sessions

Pastor Carolyn and members of the Church Council will be hosting listening sessions with the congregation in the coming weeks.

Sessions will be held on Sunday, September 17 and Sunday, September 24 at 12:15pm, following the 11am service. Both sessions will be held in the chapel.

The sessions are open to 20 persons per gathering, to permit the time needed to answer the questions asked.

Please sign up below for the day you are able to attend. If that day is full please try for another date. <https://forms.office.com/r/3uLaYmUVXy> or contact Robert Gilleo in the office at RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org.



All dinners include an assortment of salads, desserts and iced tea.

Cost is \$11 per person. \$10 for seniors 65 and over.

Make your reservations now for Wednesday Night Dinners here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/29Xbv198wy> or contact Robert Gilleo in the office at RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org.

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| September 13 | Picnic Dinner with grilled steak burgers and ¼ lbs. hot dogs |
| September 20 | Low Country Boil includes boiled shrimp, sausage, corn, and red potatoes |
| September 27 | Baked Potato Bar includes applewood bacon and pulled chicken |