



SAINT MARK

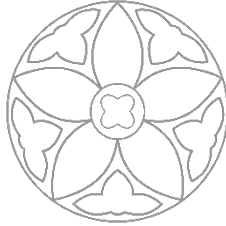
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Nine O'clock

Third Sunday of Advent





9 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!

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 196 | Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: We hurry along our way. There are not enough hours in the day it seems. There are decorations to put up, gifts to purchase, and recipes to plan and prepare. Is it that time already; where did the time go? We passed sad and weary people along the way, but did not share the good news with them. We are so busy with our own lives, we sometimes forget to share the joy of the Light with others.

All: The prophet Isaiah testifies, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall be joyful because of my God.” This is also a testimony for us today, a testimony we should share with all who we encounter, spreading the joy of the Light to all peoples.

One: We light this third candle as a sign of our joy. A joy that is not based on the traditions of the world, but grounded in the one who is the Joy of the world. We light this candle of joy as we anticipate the coming of the Lord.

Light the third candle on the wreath.

One: Fill us with your joy, Lord.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

*The Gospel Lesson

John 1: 6-8; 19-28

One: The Gospel of Our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Waiting for a Savior: Testify to the Light

Response to God’s Word

Holy Communion

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication

UMH No. 206 | I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

*Benediction

Postlude

Worship Team

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

Liturgists: Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*

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

Advent Wreath: Christian and Kristen Fuller

Music: Justin Bowen, *Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist*

Communion Steward: J.W. Mozley

Usher Team: Robert Giacomini

Greeter: Scott Lee

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

We Welcome You

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.



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.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

Return Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Supper Club Volunteers

Every Tuesday afternoon, Supper Club prepares and serves a hot meal to 60 people who are in need. Similar to Breakfast Club, this ministry provides a meal to individuals in a loving and respectful environment.

In 2024, similar to Breakfast Club, we are looking for people to volunteer on a rotational basis a few times a month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Viveca Richards at 864-884-1206 or via email at viveca1956@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Services | Sunday, December 24, 2023

11 AM - Sunday Morning Service with Communion

5 PM - Family Friendly Service

7 PM - Lessons and Congregational Caroling


11 PM - Service of Holy Communion

Church Offices Closed

Monday, December 25, 2023 - Monday, January 1, 2024

New Year's Eve Service | Sunday, December 31, 2023

10 AM - One Service Only



ST MARK YOUNG ADULT

CHRISTMAS PARTY

7pm

WEDNESDAY 12/20

@ AARON AND ANNA'S
199 14TH ST NE
APT 2003

PARKING IS TRICKY SO
TRY TO CARPOOL
FROM ST MARK IF
POSSIBLE :)

WHAT TO BRING:
A SHAREABLE SNACK
OR DRINK
A \$10 MAX GOOFY
GIFT



THE MCDOWELL FINE ARTS CENTER
AT SAINT MARK

presents

A Service of Seven Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
11:00 a.m.

SAINT MARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

781 peachtree street, ne | atlanta, georgia 30308
stmarkumc.org | 404.873.2636