



SAINT MARK

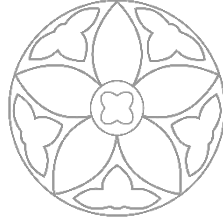
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, January 7, 2024
Eleven O'clock

Epiphany Sunday
Service of Holy Communion





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

Impression on "We Three Kings"

Alfred V. Fedak

*The Call to Worship

One: Christ invites all who are hungry to come to the feast of love.

All: Everyone is welcome to partake of God's goodness.

One: God's table is opened to all peoples of all nations.

All: No one will be turned away.

One: Let us accept God's mercy and grace that are extended to us.

All: We come to the table of love.

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 237 | Sing We Now of Christmas

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: Loving and gracious Lord, we thank you for the privilege to come to you at all times. There are no limits to when we should pray or where we should pray. You invite us to come. We confess how often we fail to accept your invitation, how often we neglect to cast our cares upon you, and how often we choose to carry our burdens by ourselves. Forgive us we pray. Remind us of your grace that is available to us, and your desire to grant us the victory in every trial. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: We have a friend in Jesus; He will bear all our sins and sorrows. Turn to him, for it is our loss when we fail to pray. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

*Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*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

Proclamation of God's Word

Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Offertory

True Light

Keith Hampton

*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

James 5: 13-16

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Solo

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Justin Bowen

Soloist

Sermon

Covenant Promises: Be Steadfast in Prayer

Response to God's Word

Celebration of Holy Communion

UMH Page 17 | Musical Setting A

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God (Father) Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All:

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might." The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the". The third staff continues with a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the". The fourth staff concludes the phrase with a fermata over the final note. The lyrics are: "Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est."

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All:



One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God (Father), now and for ever.

All:



The Breaking of the Bread

The Lord's Prayer

One: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

All: 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 Communion of the People

*At the front left of the Sanctuary,
Rev. Dr. Carol Rawlinson is available for prayer and anointing.*

The Wesley Covenant Prayer

**“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”**

- John Wesley

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication

UMH No. 248 | On This Day Earth Shall Ring

*Benediction

Postlude

Dance on “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Rebecca Groome te Velde

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.

Worship Team

Preaching:	Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Liturgists:	Rev. Andy Peabody, <i>Associate Pastor</i> Madi Dunn, <i>Children's Minister</i> Meagan Williams, <i>Minister of Youth and Young Adults</i>
Anointing:	Rev. Dr. Carol Rawlinson, <i>Retired Elder in Full Connection, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church</i>
Communion Servers:	Win Forrester-Barlow and Eric Steverson
Music:	Justin Bowen, <i>Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist</i>
Audio Visual:	Johnny Sims, <i>Coordinator of Online Ministry</i> , Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Anna Rader, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle
Usher Team:	Buddy Wofford, <i>Head Usher</i> , Joseph Hackett, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney
Greeter Team:	Andy and Pam Davis

Today's Communion Offering

Today's Communion offering goes to support the **United Methodist Dollars for Scholars** program. The **United Methodist Dollars for Scholars** (UMDFS) program involves matching support from a student's church, the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF), as well as participating United Methodist-related schools and UMC conference foundations. At Saint Mark we have two Young Adults at LaGrange College who depend on our funding via the **United Methodist Dollars for Scholars** program.



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.



- Using your Smartphone's camera, scan the QR Code.
- Follow the prompts.

Welcome, Rev Andy Peabody!

We are delighted to welcome our new Associate Pastor Andy Peabody to Saint Mark today!

What's Your Name?

To help our new Associate Pastor Rev. Andy Peabody get to know us better - please remember to wear your nametag. If you do not have a nametag, contact Robert Gilleo at rjgilleo@stmarkumc.org so that he can create one for you. Nametags are stored in alphabetical order in the cabinet in the narthex. If you don't have a nametag to wear today, look for temporary blank ones in the narthex (ask an usher for assistance).

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

Returns Wednesday, January 17, 2024.



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.

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Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee
or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or
brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things,
let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which
I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

John Wesley (1781)