



SAINT MARK

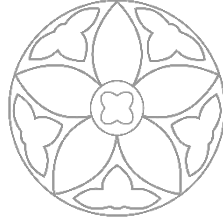
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, January 21, 2024
Eleven O'clock

Third Sunday after the Epiphany





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! Maybe you've been here more times than you can count. Maybe it's been a while, maybe never. Here is what matters: No matter who you are or where you are from, you are a child of God, and you are welcome here!

Prelude

Prelude on Thaxted

David Blackwell

*The Call to Worship

One: All good gifts come from Heaven above.

All: We praise the Lord, and give thanks for all the world's bounteous goodness.

One: The Lord God has blessed each of us with unique gifts and talents.

All: Let us be good stewards of all that the Lord has graciously provided.

One: Christ, our Redeemer, is truly the greatest gift of all.

All: May we always keep Christ, our eternal hope, at the center of our lives – as individuals, as families, and as a congregation.

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

TFWS No. 2009 | O God Beyond All Praising

O God be - yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day
Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our king;
for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,
at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
we'll tri - umph through our sorr - ows and rise to bless you still:
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,
we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: Creator God, we come to this holy hour of worship with an awareness of how blessed we are. Too often, we have fallen short in our calling to love one another as you first loved us. We confess we have held on too tightly to the good gifts we have been blessed with – our unique talents, our financial resources, and our precious time. We acknowledge all these as gifts which you have entrusted to us but for a season. Help us, O God, to have the faith and courage to share our gifts more freely with one another.

One:Hear the Good News – God's great gift to us is the freedom to choose to follow Christ each and every day. Let us be renewed afresh today and give freely of which we have received. 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.

Introduction and Installation of the Church Council
and Lay Leadership

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

And The Father Will Dance

Mark Hayes

And the Father will dance over you in joy! He will take delight in whom he loves. Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God? No, the Lord God himself is exulting o'er you in song! And he will joy over you in song; and he will joy over you in song!

My soul will make its boast in God, for he has answered all my cries.
His faithfulness to me is as sure as the dawn of a new day.
Awake my soul, awake my soul, awake my soul and sing!
Let me spirit rejoice, let my spirit rejoice, let my spirit rejoice in God!

Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart! Cast away fear for you have been restored! Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day. Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song. And he will joy over you in song; and he will joy over you in song!

And the Father will dance over you in joy! He will take delight in whom he loves. Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God? No, the Lord God himself is exulting o'er you in song! God rejoices over you, God rejoices over you, God rejoices over you in song!

*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 Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:14-20

One: The Gospel of Our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn of Preparation

UMH No. 433 | All Who Love and Serve Your City

The Scripture Lesson

Romans 12:3-8

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Covenant Promise: Generous in Gifts

Response to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

UMH No. 883 | A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication

UMH No. 127 | Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

UMH No. 431 | Let There Be Peace On Earth

Postlude
God of Grace

Paul Manz

The floral arrangement on the Altar, designed by **David Boswell**, are given by **Viveca Richards** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, **Martha Neumann**.

Worship Team

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, *Senior Pastor*
Liturgists: Rev. Andy Peabody, *Associate Pastor*
Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*
Meagan Williams, *Assistant to the Pastor of Youth and Young Adults*
Music: Justin Bowen, *Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist*
Audio Visual: Johnny Sims, *Coordinator of Online Ministry*, Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Anna Rader, Paul Spencer, Eric Steverson, & Julie Tootle
Usher Team: Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Bob Brown, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney.
Greeter Team: Deana Hilton and David Wilson

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.

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



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.

2024 Commitment to Saint Mark

If you need help setting up, confirming, managing your electronic donations, or financial commitment for 2024, please contact **Deana Hilton** at **dhilton@stmarkumc.org** or **404-873-2636**, ext. 14.

Tithes & Offerings

Please place your offering in the plate during this morning's service, or use one of the QR codes below. 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.

SecureGive



PayPal



Venmo



Text to Give



- To give via text, scan the QR code, and replace the \$\$ in the text with the amount you would like to give. For example, to give \$25, text operating 25.



YouTube

@StMarkUMCATL

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.

Four Quartets Study at Wednesday Midweek Retreat

For four Wednesdays, January 24 – February 14, read and reflect together on T.S. Eliot's provocative poem Four Quartets. In this long poem, Eliot explores humankind's relationship to time, the universe, and the divine. Written in the years just before and during the early part of World War II, this poem has great relevance for the tenor of our own time. It also provides a good lead up to Lent. **Mary Abbott Waite** is facilitator. You will find a free PDF at <http://www.lettersjournal.org › uploads › 2017/05>

New Member Class

If you would like to join Saint Mark, please reach out to Robert Gilleo at RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org to sign up for the next new member class. The 2-session classes will be in-person at 10 AM on Sunday, January 21 and Sunday, January 28 in the Jamison Conference Room off of Wade Fellowship Hall below the Sanctuary.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

For reservations, please email Robert Gilleo at RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org or complete the Microsoft Forms survey (<https://forms.office.com/r/29Xbv198wy>) no later than 5 PM Tuesday.

Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Program begins at 6:00 PM.

Date	Upcoming Meals	Program
January 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soup• Baked Chicken• Hash Brown Casserole	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet Madi Dunn
January 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soup• Baked Potato Bar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eddie Gammill and Film Maker, Sofia

Church Calendar Reminders

- **Disciple II** | Tuesdays | Zoom | 6:00 PM
- **Vespers** | Wednesdays | Chapel | 6:30 PM
- **Young Adult Book and Bible Study** | Wednesdays | Room 201 | 6:30 PM
- **Four Quartets Study** | Wednesdays | **Room 205 | 6:30 PM**
- **Fast Track Disciple I – New Testament** | Wednesdays | Room 111 | 6:30 PM

- **New Member Class Session 1 of 2** | Sunday, January 21 | Wade Hall | 10:00 AM
- **Church Council Social Gathering** | Sunday, January 21 | Wade Hall | 12:30 PM
- **Finance Visioning Taskforce** | Monday, January 22 | Zoom Meeting | 6:15 PM
- **Celebration of Life: Julie Palmer** | Monday, January 22 | Sanctuary | 1:00 PM
- **Celebration of Life: Dr. Jesse Peel** | Saturday, January 27 | Sanctuary | 2:00 PM
- **New Member Class Session 2 of 2** | Sunday, January 28 | Wade Hall | 10:00 AM
- **Souper Chili Cookoff** | Sunday, February 11 | Wade Hall | 10:00 AM
- **Cabaret with Clint Clark-Duke** | Wednesday, February 21 | Wade Hall | 6:30 PM

Midtown Alliance 2024 Annual Meeting

Midtown Alliance is seeking volunteers for their 2024 Annual Meeting, which will take place on the morning of Tuesday, March 5th at the Fox Theatre. This annual signature event attracts Atlanta's business, civic, and residential leaders and is our first and largest event of the year. It includes an amazing networking breakfast at 7AM, followed by an engaging program at 8AM with Midtown leadership, City leadership, and a keynote speaker.

Volunteers should be enthusiastic about the exciting developments in Midtown and be able to be at the Fox from 6:00 AM to 8:30 AM on the morning of the event. Volunteers will be involved with:

- Electronic guest check-in and name badge distribution
- Ushering guests upstairs to the breakfast, and downstairs to the program
- Passing out event programs at the start of the event
- Guiding guests to seating

If you are available, please contact **Philip Rafshoon** at **Philip@MidtownATL.com** or **404-274-5404** by **Friday, February 16th** – thanks for your consideration and support of Midtown Atlanta.

Souper Chili Cookoff

Come join with the congregation for our "Souper Chili Cookoff" on Sunday, February 11 at 10:00 AM. If interested, we'd love for anyone to enter a homemade soup or chili into the competition. Each attendee will have a chance to taste samples of each entry and then vote for his/her/their favorite soup or chili. Winners will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place. After the votes are in, all will be invited to enjoy the leftovers.

Prayer Ministry

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

- Philippians 4:6

Prayer is how we communicate with God. In prayer, we share our hearts. We also pause to listen for wisdom and guidance. As John Wesley wrote, *"All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God."*

Please visit our prayer ministry page at <https://www.stmarkumc.org/prayer-ministry>. There you can submit a prayer request, view prayer requests, and see any pastoral care announcements.

If you know of someone in need of our prayers and the person is not listed on our Prayer Ministry page, please email **Robert Gilleo** at **RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org** to let him know.

2024 Church Lay Leadership

For more information on the structure of our Church Lay Leadership model, the Laity representing you, minutes of previous meetings, dates of upcoming meetings, and more, please visit our church leadership page at <https://www.stmarkumc.org/our-leadership>.

