



# SAINT MARK

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**  
**Eleven O'clock**

### Transfiguration Sunday

*Transfiguration Sunday is a day when we remember when Jesus' appearance changed, and he shone bright with God's glory.*



# 11 AM Morning Worship

*\*You are invited to stand as you are able in body and spirit.*

## The Gathering

Prelude

**Impromptu No. 2, Op. 78, No. 2**

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**

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!

\*The Call to Worship

One: Life can seem shrouded in mystery.

**All: O Lord, lift the veil of our misunderstanding that we may see your Light.**

One: We are eager to serve.

**All: O Lord, calm our spirits and patiently prepare us for service.**

One: Look to the Lord for mercy and comfort.

**All: We look to the Lord for healing and hope.**

## Praise and Thanksgiving

\*Hymn of Praise

**UMH No. 519 | Lift Every Voice and Sing**

\*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

**All: Patient Lord, you know how accustomed we are to “magic” tricks. Our spirits and our senses get fooled easily. Like the disciples, we often do not understand what you are doing before us. Forgive us when we miss the significance of your workings. Help us to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the blessings of unexpected revelations. Give us wisdom and strength to be your disciples, proclaiming your transforming love to all people.**

One:Hear the good news: Light and love is being reveled through God's ministry.  
You have been blessed by God to be witnesses, to proclaim God's love to  
all. 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

**What Black History Means to Me**

**Ken Mills**

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

### **Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal**

**Alice Parker**

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore.  
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lamb, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
glory to the great I AM.

And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,  
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lamb, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
glory to the great I AM.

Souls have crossed before me, saintly to that land of perfect rest.  
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lamb, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
glory to the great I AM.

### \*Doxology

#### **UMH No. 94 | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Son, and Holy  
Ghost! Amen.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### \*The Gospel Lesson

#### **Mark 9: 2-9**

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Message for the Younger Church

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

### \*Hymn of Preparation

**Insert Next Page | We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

1. We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this  
 2. Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor  
 3. Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful

high and ho - ly place, where we wait with  
 bathes the flesh - joined Word, Mo - ses and E -  
 lest our faith de - cline, we, like Pe - ter,

not in vain, search - ing like those first dis -  
 Proph - ets meet: Christ with gar - ments drenched in  
 we pro - fess, that our dai - ly lives may

ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.  
 bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
 prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

hope and long - ing for some to - ken of God's grace.  
 li - jah mar - vel as the heaven - ly voice is heard.  
 find it tempt - ing to re - main and build a shrine.

Here we pray for new as - sur - ance that our faith is  
 Eyes and hearts be - hold with won - der how the Law and  
 But true wor - ship gives us cour - age to pro - claim what

## The Scripture Lesson

### Proverbs 2:2-6

One: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

### Bent By God

Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas

## Response to God's Word

One: God in us, We know the miracle inherent in our existence.

**All: We are here, our beauty stretching out and dwelling within us.**

One: But it is hard to believe in one's dignity when the systems and societies to which we belong are content to destroy us.

**All: We have heard lies of our worthlessness in the explicit and implicit ways the world interacts with our bodies, stories, and homes.**

One: It is incessant – this lie of our own inadequacy, this charade of our inferiority.

**All: Remind us that our dignity does not wane or bud in relation to anyone's belief in it, including our own.**

One: Let us rest in the knowledge that we have nothing to prove; our dignity, perpetual as it is divine.

**All: We will not shrink. We expand. Remind us of our making. For we too contain the divine. Amen.**

*Response adapted from "Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human." Cole Arthur Riley*

## \*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. 62 v. 1, 5, & 7 | All Creatures of Our God and King**

\*Benediction


Congregational Response

**Amen**

Postlude

**March on Lasst Uns Erfreuen**

**David Bednall**

	<p><b>February 14, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Imposition of Holy Ashes</b> Front Steps - Terrace   7:00 – 8:30 AM Front Steps - Terrace   12:00 – 1:00 PM</li><li>• <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> Sanctuary   6:30 PM</li></ul>
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## Worship Team

- Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas, *NGUMC Central South District Superintendent*
- Liturgists:** Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, *Senior Pastor*  
Rev. Andy Peabody, *Associate Pastor*  
Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*  
Luke Murphy, *Youth Intern*  
Meagan Williams, *Assistant Minister of 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, and Julie Tootle
- Usher Team:** Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Joseph Hackett, Russell McKinney, Mark Jefferson
- Greeter Team:** Luke Murphy and Chip Dupont



### 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.

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

### Chili & Soup Social | After this Service

After the 11:00 AM Service, join us in Wade Hall, find out who won and enjoy larger serving portions of the delicious dishes!



**YouTube**

@StMarkUMCATL

### 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.



## 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.

## Current COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

If you are sick, please stay home. If you have come into contact with someone positive for COVID-19, follow the precautions recommended by the CDC. In order to care for our collective well-being, we strongly recommend that anyone who is eligible to be vaccinated do so, especially before participating in indoor activities.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

For reservations, please email **Robert Gilleo** at [RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org](mailto: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.

Tickets: \$10 for seniors, \$11 general

## **In honor of Black History Month: North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal Hush Arbor**

DuWanna Thomas | Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
Viewing Begins at 4 PM | Interview: 6 PM

### **What is a Hush Arbor?**

"The hush arbors served as the location where slaves could combine their African religious traditions with Christianity. It was safe to freely blend the components of each religion in these meetings. The enslaved blacks could let go of all their hardships and express their emotions. Here is where Negro spirituals originated. The songs created by enslaved blacks were known to contain a double meaning, revealing the ideas of religious salvation and freedom from slavery. The meetings would also include practices such as dance. African shouts and rhythms were also included."

Visit the NGBMCR Website at <https://ngbmcrumc.org/hush-arbor>



### **Clint Clark-Duke: Songs of Love and Heartache**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of "Songs of Love and Heartache" with **Clint Clark-Duke** on Wednesday, February 28, 2024!

## Welcome New Members

"We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love."



Doug Widener



Victoria McRay



Michael Hirschmann



Tiffany and Nikki Baltazar

Not Pictured  
Ken Mills

## 2024 Publix Marathon

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Please take time now to plan your route to church. The links below will give you "turn by turn" and road block information. After entering in the link information, you will receive a prompt asking you to download the file, click "OK."

Turn by Turn & Road Block listings <http://tinyurl.com/2mm9c22k>

Course Map <http://tinyurl.com/4yvu7kpz>



Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas currently serves as District Superintendent of the Central South District in the North Georgia Conference which covers DeKalb, Henry, Newton, and Rockdale Counties. He is chair of the North Georgia Conference Delegation to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

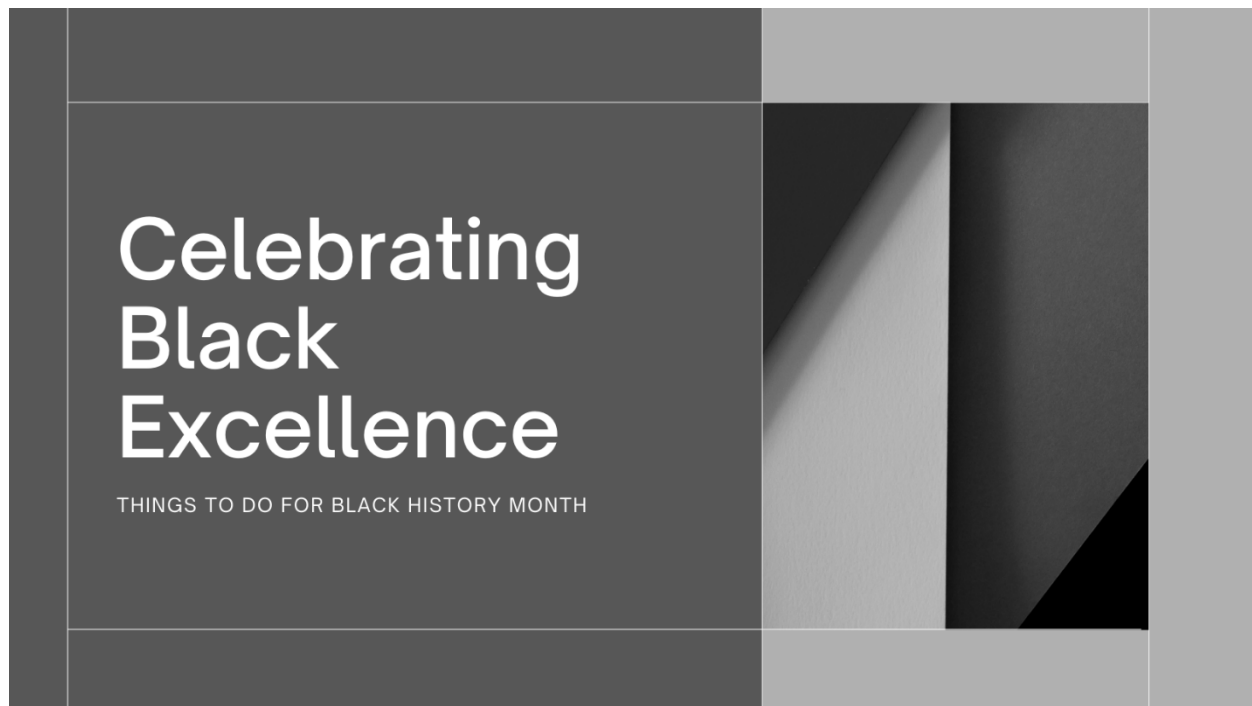
Rev. Dr. Thomas has served appointments as senior pastor at Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta and Central UMC in Atlanta, as Associate Director in the North Georgia Conference Office of Connectional Ministries, and as pastor at Fort Street United Methodist Church in Atlanta. He also served an appointment in the then Little Rock Annual Conference, planting a new church.

He has served in numerous leadership roles in the North Georgia Conference and the Southeastern Jurisdiction including Chairperson of the Committee on Related Agencies, Chairperson of the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Chairperson of the Advocacy Committee, and Member of the Board of Directors of the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, North Carolina.

He served on the District Board of Ordained Ministry and as the Chair of the District Committee on Superintendency. He has twice served as Chaplain and Educational Liaison at Wellroot and has chaired the Board of the Interfaith Children's Movement (ICM). He is a recipient of the Malone Dodson Award given by the Foundation of Wesley Woods to a clergyperson who best exemplifies visionary and committed leadership with respect to older adults. He has served as president of the North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal and coordinator for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodist for Church Renewal. He has served as a Clergy Delegate to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.

A native of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, Rev. Dr. Thomas is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia and a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He also holds a Certificate in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. In 2016, Pastor Thomas graduated from the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) program with a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min) in Preaching through McCormick Theological Seminary.

He is married to DuWanna and they are the proud parents of two wonderful sons.



## **February 2<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### **Down In Mississippi**

Where: Marietta Theatre in the Square

Time: Various Times

Cost: Price Varies

Description: Down in Mississippi takes place during the Freedom Summer campaign to register African Americans to vote in the dangerous, segregated world of Mississippi in 1964. Three young civil rights activists leave the safety of their northern homes in an attempt to change the world; only to discover they must first change themselves.

## **February 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Black Magnolias**

Where: Historic Oakland Cemetery

Time: 1pm

Cost: Free

Description: This guided walking tour explores the history, lives, and labors of Atlanta's African American women.

### **The Color of Friendship**

Where: Atlantic Station

Time: 7pm

Cost: Free

Description: This powerful movie explores the themes of friendship, understanding, and unity, highlighting the importance of embracing diversity.

## February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### We Shall Overcome: African American Stories from Civil War to Civil Rights

Where: Historic Oakland Cemetery

Time: 1pm

Cost: Free

Description: This tour explores the lives and accomplishments of outstanding and ordinary African Americans who fought to overcome the effects of slavery and discrimination to help shape the history of Atlanta.

## February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Black Heritage Festival

Where: Shorty Howell Park, Duluth

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Cost: Free

Description: Visit with merchants while you enjoy music and food in this celebration of African American history and culture.

## February, 2024 – All Month Long

### Black History Month

Where: Children's museum of Atlanta

Time: Various Times

Cost: Price Varies

Description: They will highlight African American leaders in science, art, and innovation.

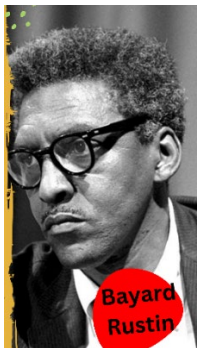
### Dunwoody's Black History Month Mural Exhibit

Where: Brook Run Skate Park

Time: Various Times

Cost: Free

Description: Murals created by African American artists.



This month we are celebrating the contributions of Bayard Rustin. An African American leader in civil rights, gay rights, and nonviolence.

He played a pivotal role in assembling the March on Washington, but because of his outward sexuality he was usually kept out of public view.

Please enter the follow information to watch a short video on the life of Bayard Rustin... <http://tinyurl.com/2s3heubx>