

# **SAINT MARK**

## **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**  
**Eleven O'clock**

Third Sunday in Lent  
Service of Holy Communion





# 11 AM Morning Worship

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

## The Gathering

Prelude

**Flourish on Lift High the Cross**

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!

Introit

**Rae Baker, Guest Cellist**

\*The Call to Worship

One: O Lord, your word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

**All: We have sworn an oath and confirmed to observe your righteous decrees.**

One: We are severely afflicted with the world and all of its troubles, O Lord.

**All: Give us Life, O Lord, according to your word and your law.**

One: Accept our offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach us how to follow you.

**All: Turn our hearts away from the ways of the world, O God, and help us to uplift and praise your name.**

# Praise and Thanksgiving

\*Hymn of Praise

**UMH No. 159 | Lift High the Cross**

## 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: Wise and merciful God, you allowed yourself to be crucified so that we may be saved through our belief. Often, we forget to heed your call for us. Often, we become distracted by the ways of the world and forget that it is you who we should imitate. Often, we show our foolishness and selfishness by forgetting to turn to you and trust in your wisdom. Forgive us we pray. Remind us that we are your beloved and let the things of the world fall away, so that we may turn wholeheartedly towards you.**

One: Hear the good news: God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. God has given us the sign of the cross as a way to establish God's relationship with all of us. All we need to do is listen. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

\*Kyrie

**Carl Maultsby**

Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Christ have mer-cy. Christ have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

\*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.*

\*The Gospel Lesson

**John 2:13-22**

One: The Gospel of Our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

**Proclamation of God's Word**

Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Offertory

**Wayfaring Stranger**

**Craig Courtney  
Rae Baker, Guest Cellist**

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger while trav'ling through this world below;  
Yet there's no sickness, toil nor danger in that bright land to which I go.  
I'm going there to see my Father, I'm going there no more to roam.  
I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, I know my way is rough and steep;  
Yet golden fields lie out before me, where weary eyes no more shall weep.  
I'm going there to meet my mother. She said she'd meet me when I come.  
I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I want to wear a crown of glory when I get home to that good land.  
I want to shout salvation's story in concert with the heav'nly band.  
I'm going there to meet my Savior, to sing his praise for evermore.

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger while trav'ling through this world below,  
I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.  
I'm going over home.

### \*Doxology

#### **Take My Life and Let it Be**

**Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

### The Scripture Lesson

#### **I Corinthians 1:18-25**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### Sermon

#### **The Way of the Cross: Going Against the Grain**

## **Response to God's Word**

### **Celebration of Holy Communion**

**Liturgy adapted from "A Wee Worship Book" (Fifth Incarnation) 2015**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them 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 to praise you, for you are the One from whom we came and the One to whom we will return. You conceived the universe, wove the world together and hold all life in your hand. You watch us waking or sleeping, you keep every tear we shed, you hear every prayer we make, you know both our best and our worst, O love that will not let us go.

So, with rain, wind, and sunshine, with all that moves in time with its Maker,

**All: We praise you.**

One: With the angels and archangels, with the saints in glory,

**All: We praise you.**

One: With the church throughout the world, we praise you and sing unending praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Yes, blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord, who was born among us incognito, who grew up without privilege or status, who walked the way of heaven through the back streets of this world, who told the deepest truths in ordinary language, who touched and healed, blessed and disturbed without fear or favor, who showed inclusive love in all its unconditional glory;

Who, for all this, was crucified, died, and was buried, who, for all this and for all of us, rose again; who, though high in heaven, is present with us here and now.

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "This is my body it is broken for you."

Then later, he took the cup and said, "Take this – all of you – to remember me."

God beyond holiness, as we do what Jesus once did, let your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread and this cup that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ. And let that same Spirit stir our souls so that as we share this sacrament, we may recognize our Lord and receive our Lord and receive him that he may be in us and we in him forever.

**All: Amen.**

One: All you who hunger and thirst for a better life, for a deeper faith, for a better world, here is the bread of life, feed on it with gratitude; here is the cup of salvation drink from it and believe. The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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 baskets at each communion station for donations to the  
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).  
These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world  
and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.*

## Music During Communion

**Rae Baker, Guest Cellist**

## The Prayer of Dedication

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us, remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Amen.**

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn of Dedication

**UMH No. 128 | He Leadeth Me**

\*Benediction

Congregational Response  
**Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross vs. 4**

**Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever;  
Till I reach the golden strand,  
Just beyond the river.  
In the cross, in the cross  
Be my glory ever!  
Till my ransomed soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.**

Postlude  
**Little Prelude in E Minor**

**J.S. Bach**

**Safe Sanctuary Training**

Next Sunday, March 10, 2024 | 12:30 PM

This training will equip and empower all who work with Saint Mark's vulnerable populations with the training and tools you need to recognize abuse, as well as teach you about Saint Mark's reporting guidelines. All who currently work or hope to work with vulnerable populations should attend.

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## **Worship Team**

<b>Preaching:</b>	Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
<b>Liturgists:</b>	Rev. Andy Peabody, <i>Associate Pastor</i> Madi Dunn, <i>Children's Minister</i> Meagan Williams, <i>Assistant Minister of Young Adults</i> Luke Murphy, <i>Youth Minister Intern</i>
<b>Anointing:</b>	Rev. Dr. Carol Rawlinson, <i>Retired Elder in Full Connection, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church</i>
<b>Music:</b>	Justin Bowen, <i>Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist</i>
<b>Audio Visual:</b>	Johnny Sims, <i>Coordinator of Online Ministry</i> , Nikki and Tiffany Baltazar, Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Hayden McArthur, Anna Rader, Paul Spencer, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle
<b>Usher Team:</b>	Buddy Wofford, <i>Head Usher</i> , Joseph Hackett, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney
<b>Greeter Team:</b>	Luke Murphy and Chip DuPont

## **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 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**



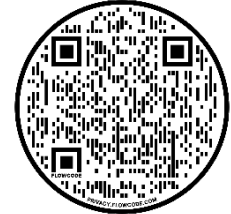
**PayPal**



**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.

## Today's Communion Offering

Today's Communion offering goes to support UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.



## 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.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

For reservations, please email **Robert Gilleo** at [RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org](mailto:RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org) no later than 5 PM Tuesday. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Program begins at 6:00 PM. Tickets: \$10 for seniors, \$11 general

## **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.

## **Flower Ministry**

The Flower Ministry is carried out by our own outstanding designer, **David Boswell**. He seeks to serve the Saint Mark community and to glorify God by creating skillful and graceful flower arrangements to enhance worship and other church sponsored activities. To request a flower dedication, please contact the **Church Office** at [office@stmarkumc.org](mailto:office@stmarkumc.org).

## **Easter Eggtravaganza**

Saturday, March 30, 2024

### **We need Easter Candy for the Egg Hunt!**

Please donate bags of individually wrapped candy by Wednesday, March 20th, if you are able. No chocolate, please. It melts! We greatly appreciate it!

### **We need Volunteers for the Easter Eggtravaganza on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Madi Dunn at [MDunn@stmarkumc.org](mailto:MDunn@stmarkumc.org).

## **Congregational Hikes | Walk with us...**

- April 20<sup>th</sup>- Atlanta Beltline | Monroe Dr. Access Point
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sweetwater Creek State Park
- August 17<sup>th</sup> - Suwanee Greenway Trail
- October 19<sup>th</sup> - Amicalola Falls State Park

## **Mission Sunday**

### **Sunday, March 17, 2024 | After Second Service**

Details in upcoming Remarks and bulletins.

# Holy Week



SAINT MARK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 24 | Palm Sunday

March 28 | Holy Thursday

Mid-Week Fellowship Dinner | 6 PM

Dramatic Setting of John 13 | 7 PM



March 29 | Good Friday

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross | 1:30 PM

Seven Last Words of Christ | 7 PM

March 30 | Easter Eggtravaganza

Children's Games | Bouncy House

Easter Egg Hunt | Volunteers Needed



March 31 | Easter Sunday

7 AM | Sunrise Service | Terrace

9 AM | Service | Sanctuary

11 AM | Service | Sanctuary

12:30 PM | Brunch | Reservations Requested

FAITH HOPE LOVE

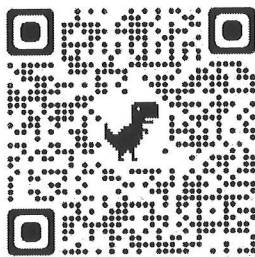


GIVE BLOOD

Saint Mark  
United Methodist Church  
Blood Drive

Sunday, March 3

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

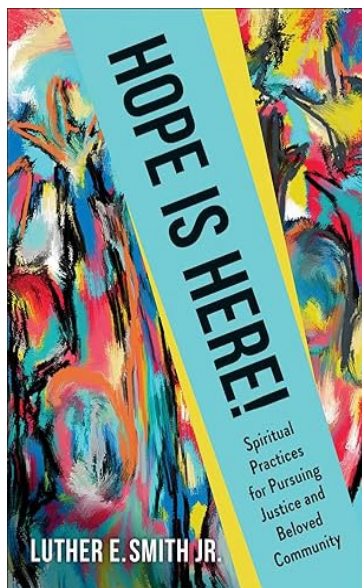


*Click or scan the QR code!*

*All donors will receive a \$20 gift card!*

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

**LIFESOUTH**  
Community Blood Centers



# HOPE IS HERE!

## Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community

~ Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr.

*Book Study – Winter/Spring 2024*

*Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 p.m.*

*Rev. Andy Peabody, Facilitator*

### **Calendar**

Feb 28 – Introductory Session

Mar 6 – Discuss Ch. 1 – “Where Hope Abides”

Mar 13 – Discuss Ch. 2 – “Hope’s Work and Its Witnesses”

Mar 20 – Discuss Ch. 3 – “Contemplative Praying”

Mar 27 – Discuss Ch. 4 – “Prophetic Remembering”

Apr 3 – Discuss Ch. 5 – “Crossing Identity Boundaries”

Apr 10 – Discuss Ch. 6 – “Transforming Conflict”

Apr 17 – Discuss Ch. 7 – “Celebrating Community”

April 24 – Possible Next Steps

### **Expectations**

Sessions will begin at 5:00 and end at 5:45 so that participants will still have the opportunity to partake of Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper if they wish. Everyone should read the assigned chapter prior to arrival for book study.

### **Study Guide**

We will be using a congregational study guide created by the Rev. Cecilia D. Armstrong in association with the book’s publishing company, Westminster John Knox Press.

### **Who is Luther Smith?**

If you would like to learn more about Luther Smith and HOPE IS HERE!

You can watch a YouTube interview here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ft8b5jt>

Interviewer is Kate Rademacher/“Writing for Your Life.”

# EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH



**SAINT MARK**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caramelized Apple Wood Bacon  
Assorted Fresh Fruit | Breakfast Sausage  
Spinach Salad with Feta Cheese | Caesar Salad

**Roast Sirloin of Beef**

**Honey Glazed Ham**

**Chilled Fresh Gulf Shrimp**

**Quiche Lorraine**

Carrot Soufflé | French Green Beans with Mushrooms  
Pan Seared Asparagus | Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Bacon

Assorted Breads | Muffins and Sweets

Carrot Cake | Strawberry Cream Cheese Pie

Iced Tea | Coffee | Water | Assorted Juices

**\$20 per person | Reservations Required | [stmarkumc.org/store](https://stmarkumc.org/store)**



# Easter Lily Order Form

Purchase an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone special this Lenten season. Order online at [stmarkumc.org/store](http://stmarkumc.org/store) or by completing this form and place it in the offering plate with your payment, or return both to the church office by **Wednesday, March 27, 2024.**

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>In HONOR of:</b>	<b># of Plants</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

<b>In MEMORY of:</b>	<b># of Plants</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Total # of Lilies Ordered** \_\_\_\_\_

**@ \$10 Each**

**Total Order** \_\_\_\_\_