



December 16 & 17, 2023  
Worship Bulletin

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## CENTERING PRAYER

We thank you, O God, for all those in Scripture who point to Christ; for your prophets Elijah, Isaiah, and John. We thank you, too, for those in our lives who point us to Christ: pastors, teachers, strangers, and friends. Give us eyes to see Jesus today among those who are oppressed, imprisoned, brokenhearted, or beaten down, and we will give our testimony, too: how Christ releases and sets free; how he turns ashes into garlands; how he repairs and builds up what was ruined. We, too, will point others to Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen.

PRELUDE (Sunday Worship)

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Lyndell Leatherman

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MOMENT FOR MISSION

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

SPECIAL MUSIC (please hold applause until after the last selection)

"The First Noel"  
"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"  
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
Youth Ensemble

arr. G.E. Holmes  
R.S. Willis  
Felix Medelssohn  
John Reading

## HYMN

**"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"**

**Hymnal #107**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil? You give us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench your Spirit among us? You give us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we hear from you? You sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we continue to pray. (Silent Confession)**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## † SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## † GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

**Hymnal #581**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN (Sunday Worship)

## † HYMN

**"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

**Hymnal #129**

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

## SERMON

**"Unexpected Flowers"**

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## OFFERTORY

O Come All Ye Faithful with "Sheep May Safely Graze"  
Chancel Bells

arr. Linda McKechnie

## † THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #609

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## † HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Verses 1, 2, 6, and 7

Hymnal #88

## †CHARGE AND BLESSING

## †BENEDICTION RESPONSE (Sunday Worship)

"Peace on the Earth"

See last page of bulletin

## POSTLUDE (Sunday Worship)

"Deck the Hall"  
Youth Ensemble

Welsh Air

*The Trumpets Shall Sound*

James Mansfield

† In body or in spirit, please rise.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>17</b> Youth Hangout at the Zoo, 5 pm            | <b>24</b> Advent Sunday Worship, 10 am                             |
| <b>17</b> Nativity Displays, Before & After Worship | <b>24</b> Christmas Eve Services, 5 pm & 7 pm                      |
| <b>19</b> Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am                | <b>31</b> Lessons in Carols & Pajama Sunday Worship Service, 10 am |
| <b>19</b> Yoga, 6:30 pm                             | <b>31</b> Congregational Meeting, immediately following service    |
| <b>21</b> Chair Exercise, 10 am                     |  |

## WELCOME TO ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We are pleased to have you join us this morning. Your presence enriches both us and this experience of worship together. It is our prayer this will be a time of challenge and encouragement. Wherever you may be on your faith journey, there is a place for you to participate in our life together here at St. Mark.

**TO OUR GUESTS:** We hope you enjoy your visit today. Whether this is your first visit, or you have been coming to St. Mark and are considering joining the church and you would like to know more about St. Mark, we would be happy to talk with you. For more information, please contact the church office, 636-394-2233.

**TO ALL:** Listening devices are also available and may be picked up from the sound technician in the booth at the back of the sanctuary.

**Devotional Booklets,** *These Days* are available in the lobby at the 'Mark' entrance.

**Please be aware** that, as St. Mark works to increase safety and security, all doors to the building are locked Sunday morning once worship has begun. Those who arrive late should approach the 'Mark' door and will be admitted by a member of the Security Team.

**Flowers in the Sanctuary** are donated by Phil & Debbie Rahn.

**TO MEMBERS:** Please wear your NAMETAG at church. Don't have one? Stop by the church office where you will find a form to fill out in the "Name Badge" mailbox.

**WAYS TO GIVE:** There are several convenient and easy ways to contribute to St. Mark:

**In-person:** During Sunday Worship Service

**Mail:** Please make check out to St. Mark Presbyterian Church and send to St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011

**Online:** To donate, use the **QR Code** here to be directed to our giving page on [discoverstmark.org](http://discoverstmark.org).



What child is this? Jesus Christ, a perfect gift from a gracious God.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us—past, present, and future—who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Let's continue St. Mark's tradition of strongly supporting the Christmas Joy Offering. Use the envelope in your packet or simply designate the Joy Offering in the memo line on your check made out to St. Mark.

### THE SEASON OF ADVENT

JOIN US FOR OUR ADVENT	DECEMBER 3	HOPE
WORSHIP SERVICES	DECEMBER 10	PEACE
	DECEMBER 17	JOY
	DECEMBER 24	LOVE

## JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE

<b>5:00 PM</b> FAMILY WORSHIP		<b>7:00 PM</b> CANDLELIGHT
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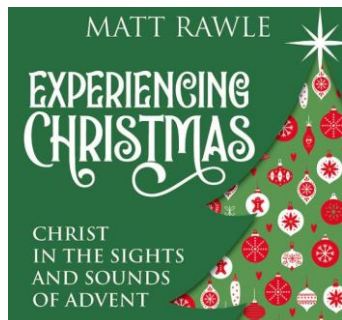




## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

### ST. MARK MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's bible study meets in room 102 every Tuesday at 7:30 am. We are reading, What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancy. All men are welcome! You may contact Glen Corlett or Bruce Cranston for more information.



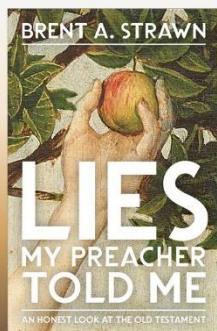
### FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us Friday mornings from 9:00 am - 10:00 am on December 22 either in person or on Zoom. You can buy the book if you desire but it is not

necessary though we will be drawing from parts of it for the discussion. If you have any questions or want the Zoom link, contact Pastor MP

All-Church Book Study  
Arriving in January 2024

Pick up your copy today!



## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for children PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

### NURSERY

Nursery Care, for ages 0 – 2 years, is available Sunday mornings from 8:30 am - 11:00 am

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN IN

Please be sure to sign in your student(s) for Sunday School! Parents will receive a card after Time With Children with a QR code for access to the sign in. Please register your student(s) so that we can contact you via text if needed.

### THANK YOU, ST. MARK!

To all who helped make the Santa Breakfast a success by contributing for the bake Sale and/or helping with set up, cooking, serving or clean up, we sincerely thank you! Over \$700 was raised for the Women's Assistance League to buy books for children. The Children's Ministry Committee is so appreciative of the support and generosity of our St. Mark family!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH

### JOIN US FOR YOUTH WEDNESDAYS!

**DECEMBER 20** - Youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up meet Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00 pm (unless noted otherwise) for food, fun, fellowship, and faith!



December classes are December 17 at 9 am.

## MISSION AT ST. MARK

**WANTED**  
**Winter Coats**

New and gently used clean winter coats and clothing are needed for men, women, and kids, all sizes, and styles. Our mission partners will ensure someone in need receives your gift of warmth! Place your donations in the foyer outside the office.

## DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS



- Kid-friendly Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Jelly (we have peanut butter)
- Adult personal care products (shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste & toothbrushes, lotion) Please place donations on the table in the Pastors' hallway.

## EQUAL EXCHANGE / FAIRLY TRADED – December 17 in the Narthex



Great host/hostess gifts and treats for you and your loved ones! When you choose Equal Exchange, you're supporting a more equitable alternative trade system that empowers local communities and small family farms worldwide. Cash, Credit, Debit, Tap accepted.

## HONORING FAMILY AND FRIENDS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE GIVING

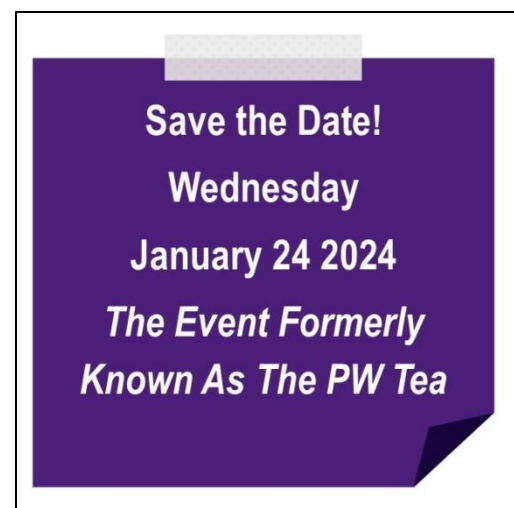
Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives honors the recipient and also helps deserving people who have so little but need so much. This is the final week to purchase items.



## CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE

The Burgess Family invites you to join us for an informal open house on Christmas Eve. We will open our doors (419 Claymont Dr.) at 6:00 PM, and everyone is invited to come by for a time of light refreshment after the Family Service or before the Candlelight Service.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



## FAITH STORIES

This past summer, a number of St. Mark members began a journey which included **seeking** examples of other writers and their faith, **discovering** how to write about their faith experience, and **sharing** their writing with others.

Fifteen faith stories written by members of our congregation have been posted on the St. Mark blog throughout this past summer and fall at <https://discoverstmark.blogspot.com/search/label/Faith%20Story>, and more may be added in the future. If you want to submit your own story, send to Bill Tucker. In the meantime, "Share the faith!"



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2024**



## Honoring Family and Friends Through Alternative Giving

Because we are blessed with many material possessions, when Christmas comes around, we encounter a huge challenge selecting gifts for family and friends. Finding the perfect gift for someone who has many wonderful possessions is a difficult task! With this in mind, in 2001 the newly formed Mission Committee at St. Mark created "Christmas Alternatives."

Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives honors the recipient and also helps deserving people who have so little, but need so much.

Thank you for your faithful support during the past 22 years (2001-2022)

Your generosity has transformed lives and had a lasting impact around the world!

## Christmas Alternatives 2023 - Our 23rd Year!

### PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
PHONE:	
Do you want Christmas Cards ?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
St. Mark Member ?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, contributions will be included on your annual giving statement.	
If No, would you like us to mail you a receipt ?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

**DEADLINE: December 24th, 2023**

*Please include payment with form.*

Place in Mission Committee Mailbox in Church Office

-- or --

Mail to:

St. Mark Presbyterian Church  
ATTN: Christmas Alternatives  
601 Claymont Drive  
Ballwin, MO 63011

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE SUBMITTED:

PAID?

## Shopping List 2023 Christmas Alternatives

Marion Medical Mission (Africa)	Price	Qty	Total
Contribute to Build a Well (\$450/well)	\$ 25.00		
	Total		

Medical Benevolence Foundation	Price	Qty	Total
Nursing school scholarships: Malawi, Haiti, DR Congo, Kenya	\$ 30.00		
Life Saver Clinics: DR Congo, Malawi, Kenya and Haiti	\$ 25.00		
Share for Greatest Needs (e.g., vaccinations, malaria nets)	\$ 15.00		
	Total		

Education Scholarship Partnership with Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy	Price	Qty	Total
Plan Grande #2, Nicaragua High School (\$200/year/student)	\$ 50.00		
	Total		

PCUSA International Food and Income Security Missions	Price	Qty	Total
Family of Chickens (\$25/family)	\$ 25.00		
Share of Cow (\$450/dairy cow)	\$ 50.00		
Share of Goat (\$178/pair)	\$ 30.00		
Piglet (\$40/piglet)	\$ 40.00		
Share of Bee Hive (\$240/hive)	\$ 20.00		
Share of Moringa Seeds (food for humans - \$40/bag)	\$ 20.00		
Share of Rainwater Catchment (\$75/system)	\$ 25.00		
Share of Sewing Machine (\$50 each)	\$ 25.00		
	Total		

PCUSA Mission Co-Workers	Price	Qty	Total
Rev. Jed and Jenny Koball, Peru	\$ 50.00		
Chenoa Stock, Peru	\$ 50.00		
	Total		

Presbyterian Childrens Homes and Services	Price	Qty	Total
Support Farmington Service Center community, family, and youth therapeutic programs	\$ 50.00		
	Total		

General Gift to Christmas Alternatives	Price	Qty	Total
St. Mark Mission Committee to Designate Recipients	\$ 50.00		
	Total		

SHOPPING LIST GRAND TOTAL	Qty	Total
Checks to: St. Mark Presbyterian Church		\$
Memo Line: Christmas Alternatives		

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Peace On the Earth      Sussex Carol

"Peace on the earth, Good Will \_ to all, the  
"Peace on the earth, Good Will \_ to all," we

an - gels to sang \_ from Heav'n a - bove.  
go to share \_ God's peace and Love.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. J. David Burgess  
Associate Pastor: Rev. MP Panco  
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland  
Dir. of Claymont Preschool: Susan Talley  
Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte



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Saturday Musician: Mark Reynoso  
Sunday Accompanist & Organist: Jee-Hye Lee  
Special Music: Chancel Bells & Youth Ensemble  
Saturday Advent Liturgist: Carol & Mark Weber  
Sunday Advent Liturgists: The Rouff Family