



May 4, 2025
Worship Bulletin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPWARD MOMENT

CENTERING PRAYER

Great Creator and Sustainer, we love to hear the story of how you created the universe. We thank you for the beauty of our part of the earth, and especially for animals you have helped us bring back from the brink of extinction to fill our landscape again in recent decades: the wild turkey, bald eagle, trumpeter swan, fisher, timber wolf, peregrine falcon, and sandhill crane. As Christ arose on Easter, help us resurrect the harmony you intended for all you have made. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the waters, and God said “Unbind creation and let her out!”

and God declared it to be Good.

God said, “let there be light” and called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.”

and God declared that the difference was Good.

God spoke the word to call the land from the water, pulling the waters down to the depths and raising hills above the waters,

and in God’s eyes they were Good.

God’s word called to life the soybean and the milking cow, the robin and the earthworm, the honey bee and the gray wolf, the microbe and the muskie,

and God’s heart saw them to be Good.

Then God spoke a final time, making creatures who carry the divine image: us.

Forming humans by holy word, male and female together, to tend and steward all that God had made.

And God declared that it is all Very Good.

On the seventh day, God rested.

And on this seventh day, we come to worship and remember our role as partners in creation.

† HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Hymnal #14

Verses 1 - 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our beautiful blue and green home is an awesome, awesome gift. Yet we trade clean air for the power of convenience, clean water for easy waste disposal, and wilderness for elbowroom. We marvel more at our inventions than over your creations. Share your wisdom and teach us how to protect the best, and restore the rest of your rivers and mountains, seas and prairies, wetlands and forests. Guide us in living sustainably, being satisfied that “enough” is enough of a feast, and not consuming more than we need. Guide us to repair and replace your Very Good: our habitat, climate, and food web. Send your spirit over the waters again; stir us to action, justice, and wise choices. We pray we can be a part of bringing back creation to glory and peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TIME WITH CHILDREN

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

† GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Hymnal #581

† HYMN

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Hymnal #20

SERMON

"UPWARD: From Dark to Light"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith written by 2009 Eco Stewards
For the Faith and Environment Conference, Montreat, NC*

I believe in God, the Creator and Lord of all that is.

**In your hand is the life of everything--
of trees and plants, animals and insects--
and the breath of every human being.**

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, the Redeemer of all that we have damaged,
our broken souls and our broken world,
who offers new life when we love our neighbors,
neighbors sun and soil, water and air.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer of this community and future generations,
and the source of hope and courage to care about creation,
especially when sustainability seems hopeless.**

We promise to work together and with God, to be stewards of this gift, our home. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Youth Ensemble*

Ludvig van Beethoven
arr. Stan Pethel

† THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #609

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One, our God, receive our thanksgiving for the wonders and beauty of nature.

Creator God:

Renew the earth.

Open our eyes to the intricacies and diversity among all living beings.

Creator God:

Renew the earth.

Remind us of our interconnectedness with each other and every created thing.

Creator God:

Renew the earth.

Forgive our actions and inactions that have harmed the earth and its creatures.

Creator God:

Renew the earth.

Grant us courage and hope in the face of climate change and climate injustice.

Creator God:

Renew the earth.

Strengthen us to participate in the mending of all that has been harmed on earth.

Creator God:

Renew the earth.

Graciously accept this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, by whom all things on earth were created and in whom all creation holds together.

We ask all of this and more in the name of Jesus who taught the disciples to pray saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Special version from the NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
Words of Institution
Sharing of the Bread & Cup
Prayer After Communion

† HYMN

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Hymnal #15

Verses 1, 2, 3, & 6

† RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the Spirit move us to protect the Very Good that God has made.
May our Creator show us the way to live more gently, and restore our home.
Go out this day and always seeking to cherish all creatures of earth, sea, and sky.
We will work to make a healthy space for all, until our Risen Savior returns and makes all things new.
And let God again say:
“It is Very Good!”

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

Hymnal #648

POSTLUDE

Everyone Who Longs for the Boundless Love of God

Arr. Alfred V. Fedak

† *In body or in spirit, please rise.*

*Youth Ensemble: Ella Melter – Flute, Declan Phipps – Cello, Ronnie Oglesby - Trumpet

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 4** Youth Worship & Recognition of Graduating Seniors
- 4** Capital Campaign Lunch & Learn, 11 am
- 5** Prayer Circle, 9:30 am
- 6** Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
- 7** Midweek Praise Club, 5 pm
- 7** Youth Activities, 6 pm
- 8** Chair Exercise, 10 am

- 9** Gathering in Memory of Susan Talley, 5:30 pm
- 14** Garden Planting, 5:30 pm
- 14** Capital Campaign Information Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 18** Capital Campaign Lunch & Learn, 11 am
- 18** VBS Volunteer Luncheon, 11 am
- 20** Man Cave Movie Night, 5:30 pm

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 available from a sound technician in the booth at the back of the sanctuary. Large print bulletins and hymnals are also available upon request from an usher.

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 Jen, Mary, Anne, Ray and Donna Bosenbecker - In loving memory of Raymond W. Bosenbecker III.

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.

UPWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LUNCH & LEARN



The Upward Capital Campaign will kick-off on Sunday, April 27. We are excited about all the possible facility improvements throughout the

campus. You are invited to discover more about the projects at a series of "Lunch and Learn" events. We will discuss the form and function of each of these improvements and answer any questions you might have. The programs will take place after Sunday worship on **May 4** and **May 18**. There will also be one midweek hybrid presentation on Wednesday, **May 14**. Please sign up for one of the programs at the Capital Campaign table in the narthex or fill out the form online by using the QR code.

UPWARD DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday, Day Eight

"Stained Glass Window" – Dale Weir

Monday, Day Nine

"The Heart of the Church" – Pastor Dave

Tuesday, Day Ten

"Pipe Organ" – Dale Weir

Wednesday, Day Eleven

"A Room for Rest" – Jackie Morgan

Thursday, Day Twelve

"Narthex Door" – Pastor Dave

Friday, Day Thirteen

"Children's Activity Bags" – Dale Weir

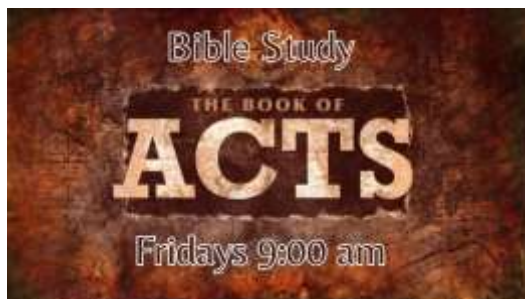
Saturday, Day Fourteen

"Children's Garden" – Latisha Gilliland

UPDATES FOR THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

It's time to update your information. If your address or phone # has changed or you have dropped your landline, Sally Shepherd will be available after today's service to correct this information.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



The Book of Acts

Starting Friday April 25th 9:00am. Join us as we read through and discuss the book of Acts. If you have any questions contact Pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

St. Mark men's Bible study meets in Room 102 every Tuesday at 7:30 am. We are using the book, "12 Ordinary Men", by Joe MacArther. All men are welcome and can contact Bruce Cranston for more information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



We will be taking our summer break starting in May. Keep an eye out for youth and family activities throughout the summer. Youth Wednesdays will resume in September. If you have any questions, contact pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org or call the church office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for children PreK – 5th 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.



GARDEN PLANTING PARTY

You are invited to join us on Wednesday, May 14th from 5:30 - 6:30 pm for a Children's Garden Planting Party. Bring your own plant, bring a picnic or drive-thru. We will plant, play on the playground and pray for a great harvest! Susan Talley's memorial stone will be placed in front of the Children's Garden.



VBS AT ST. MARK – JULY 14-18

You've saved the date - now it's time to write it in your calendar. You have been invited to go on the most fun and extraordinary road trip adventure ever. You won't

be alone as our mascot Scout is coming along and we will learn Joshua 1:9 "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." We need early teams to sign up so - sign up today!



Registration is open! Use this QR code or go to discoverstmark.org to register!



Volunteers are also needed! If you can help for a few days or the entire week, use this QR code or go to the St. Mark website to register!

VBS VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON MEETING MAY 18, 11AM -12 PM

Calling all VBS volunteers to a luncheon/meeting from 11 - 12 pm immediately after the worship service. We are meeting to help answer your questions about your part in this great July Event. If you haven't already registered to volunteer online at the discoverstmark.org website or via the QR code in this bulletin, it is not too late. If you would like to register by form, you can pick up a form in the front office or at the Children's and Youth table in the Narthex.



Look for our Summer Sundays and VBS Volunteer sign up on the Welcome Center. Consider giving of your time one hour/once a month during the summer months AND/OR how to "say YES TO VBS!" and join our team the

week of July 14-18 from 9 am - 12:00 pm.

MISSION AT ST. MARK MAY FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Mac -n- Cheese
- Canned Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal or Oatmeal
- Dish Soap*



All year long, we collect food and hygiene items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries.

*Non-food products cannot be purchased with food stamps.

EQUAL EXCHANGE In the Narthex on May 11 Medjool Dates

- exceptionally large and luscious
- soft and chewy with strong caramel notes.
- enjoy as a sweet, healthy snack
- add to recipes while cooking or baking



Every time we serve Equal Exchange coffee at St Mark or sell Equal Exchange products we are making a strong statement about our values. We are proclaiming that our congregation believes that it's vital to keep small farmers on the land providing food for their families and having some economic control over their lives; that it's important to work with indigenous producers and women; that sustainable agricultural methods are a vital way to address climate change. Cash, Credit, Debit, Digital Wallet Payments Accepted.



St. Mark's inaugural Man Cave Movie Night premieres on Tuesday, May 20 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Dave is smoking pork, and we will have all the western fixins for the meal at 5:30 pm. The movie will begin at 6:00 pm. Bring a friend and an appetite for this special event.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES!

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the next class of Elders, Deacons, Endowment and next year's Nominating Committee. We have a lot of talent in our church community and what better way is there to join in, make a difference and expand your circle of friends than participating in the work of the church! The forms are available at the Welcome Desk to suggest candidates with whom you have confirmed their agreement. Or submit your own name!

Forms are available at the Welcome Desk to leave in the Nominating Committee mailbox in the church office. Your energy and talents are needed, so please prayerfully consider.



Friday, May 9, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Please join us for a joyful community gathering to remember our dear friend, Susan. This is a family friendly get together to visit and play in one of Susan's happy places – the preschool playground. Children are welcome to bring bikes and scooters to decorate. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE!



June 21st, 2025

St. Mark Meal Packing Event

Register and donate using the QR code

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess
Associate Pastor: Rev. MP Panco
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland
Dir. of Claymont Preschool: Jesse Bahr



601 Claymont Drive
 Ballwin, MO 63011
 (636)394-2233

website: discoverstmark.org

Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte
Accompanist & Organist: Jee-Hye Lee
Special Music: Youth Ensemble