



Worship Bulletin
December 14, 2025

QR Code for Volunteer
Accelerator Survey



ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Carol’s of the Stable”

Edward Broughton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ, as we await the blessed hope and manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior.

**Now is the moment to wake from sleep,
for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, welcoming one another, just as Christ welcomed us, for the glory of God.

Be patient and strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

The night is far gone; the day is near.

† HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Hymnal #107

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way.
(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

† GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal #581

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN (Children’s Sunday School will meet in Fellowship Hall)

ADVENT FAMILY MESSAGE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

OFFERING

† THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Love Came Down at Christmas
Chancel Choir & Guest Musicians

Joel Raney

Love Came Down

Love came down at Christmas, Love came down, Love
came down, Love came down, Love came down!

Love came down at Christmas, Love came down!

Love divine, all loves excelling! Joy of heaven to earth come
don! Gloria! Love came down!

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news
that the angels bring. All out of darkness we have light, for
Love came down on that Christmas night.

News of great hope and news of great mirth, joyful news
of our merciful King's birth.

Gloria! He is born, the divine Christ Child, play the oboe
and bagpipe merrily.

O come, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold
Him, born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore Him, O
come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where
a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed. Mary was
that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her tiny Child.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born
King."

Love came down at Christmas, Love came down, Love
came down, Love came down,

Love came down on Christmas night.

Come, Emmanuel, Come (Hope)

A glimmer of hope shines in the darkness, when will the
dawning come?

A whisper of peace echoing silently, when will we hear the
song?

Hope of the earth, Promise of ages, Light for the world to
see.

Spirit of wisdom, power, and love, some, set the captive
free.

Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel,
come.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, come and ransom captive
Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of
God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom
bring!

Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come, Emanuel,
come.

Voices cry out, lost in the darkness, searching for truth and
right, longing for peace, watching and waiting for Love's
redeeming light.

Prophets foretold the promise unfolding, angels in heaven
sing.

Mountains bow down and valleys rise up to welcome the
coming King!

Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel,
come.

Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel,
come.

Grant Us Peace (Peace)

Carolyn McBee - soloist

Dona nobis, dona nobis pacem. Born a child to grant us
peace.

Dona nobis pacem. Grant us peace, Lord.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head;

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the
little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Star light shines in the evening sky while Mary sings a
lullaby.

Peace on earth good will for all.

Hope is born in a manger stall.

Dona nobis, dona nobis pacem. Born a Child to grant us
peace. Dona nobis pacem.

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me
forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for
heaven to live with Thee there.

Dona nobis pacem. Grant us peace.

Listen to the Joyful Song (Joy)

Listen to the sound of the angels' signing, hear the joyful
music fill the sky.

Join with the heavenly chorus, "Glory be to God on high."

Listen to the news of the wondrous story, echo through
the heavens clear and strong.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song.

See the shepherds kneeling at the manger worshiping the
newborn King.

Hear the bells of heaven ringing.

Hark! The herald angels singing.

Listen to the news of the wondrous story echo through
the heavens clear and strong.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners
reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in
Bethlehem.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born
King!"

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone
astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of
comfort and joy!

Listen to the bells in the heavens ringing, Listen to the
sound of the angels' singing.

Listen to the sound of the whole world singing, lifting up
their praises to the sky. Join with the mighty chorus,
"Glory be to God on high."

Listen to the news of the wondrous story, echo through
the heavens clear and strong.

Joy to the world the Lord is come!

Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song! Listen to the
joyful song!

Love Be Yours, Love Be Mine (Love)

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;

Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token, Love be yours, and Love be mine.

Love came down at Christmas, Love incarnate, Love divine.

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows, upon the winter
night, was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of
love and light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth
rejoiced, the grateful earth rejoiced; and at His blessed
birth the stars their exaltation voiced, their exaltation
voiced.

O come let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, O
come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Love came down, Love came down, love came down.

All of earth and heaven sing, the holy birth.

Love and light, life and joy He brings; and peace to all on
earth.

Love came down at Christmas, Love amazing, love divine;
Love came down at Christmas, Love be yours, and Love
be mine.

Love be mine.

Love Divine

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel.

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us Thy humble swelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art.

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news that the angels bring.

All out of darkness we have light, for Love came down on that Christmas night.

A special thanks to our guest musicians: Sarite Christison – violin, Blake Hernton – viola, Nicole Kovaluk – violin, Josiah Moore – cello, Justin Morrow - percussion

O Listen to the sound of the angels' singing, hear the joyful music fill the sky.

Join with the heavenly chorus, "Glory be to God on High."

Listen to the news of the wondrous story, echo through the heavens clear and strong.

Joy to the world the Lord is come! Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song!

Love came down at Christmas, Love came down, Love came down, Love came down at Christmas.

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Peace on Earth"

Sussex Carol

**Peace on the earth, Good will to all,
the angels sang from Heav'n above.
Peace on the earth, Good will to all,
we go to share God's peace and love.**

POSTLUDE

"The Promise of Salvation"

Edward Broughton

†In body or spirit, please rise.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

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| 14 Adult Bible Study, 8:50 am | 18 Chair Exercise, 10 am |
| 14 Christmas Cantata, during worship | 18 Blue Christmas Service, 7 pm |
| 14 Zoo Lights Family Outing, 5 pm | 19 Friday Bible Study, 9:30 am |
| 15 Prayer Circle, 9:30 am | 24 Christmas Eve Worship, 4 & 7 pm |
| 16 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am | 25 & 26 The Church office is closed for the holiday |
| 17 Children & Youth Activities, 5 & 6 pm | 28 Pajama Worship, 10 am |
| 17 Chancel Bells practice, 6 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 main entrance.

Flowers in the Sanctuary are donated by Phil and Debbie Rahn

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 door at the office entrance and will be admitted by a member of the Security Team.

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.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



With a rich history that dates back to the late 19th century, the Menaul School in Albuquerque, NM, started out as a Presbyterian boarding school for Spanish-speaking boys, many of whom were among the first Hispanic/Latino leaders in what is now the PC(USA). Today, as a grades 6-12 preparatory day and boarding school, Menaul has students from as many as 30 countries and graduates from all across the world.

Encouraging, educating and cultivating young church leaders is what the PC(USA)'s Christmas Joy Offering is all about. It helps the school provide scholarships to exceptional students as well as supporting the school. Menaul has launched a new year-long course designed for students who want to better understand what it means to lead a life of service—with emphasis on ministry as a potential career path.

Menaul, Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville, TX, and Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL are the schools benefiting from more than \$800,000 in gifts from the 2024 Christmas Joy Offering. Be part of the initiative for 2025. Use the envelope in your packet or make a note on your check to St. Mark Presbyterian Church.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



SUNDAYS AT 8:50

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a study of the books called "Angels" by Vinita Hampton Wright. Fridays at 9:30 am.

"What - or who - are angels? Where did they come from, and what is their purpose? What is their relationship to us as human beings? This study will explore numerous Bible passages that reveal the services these heavenly beings perform, the part they play in spirituality, and how they differ from other beings in God's created order."

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Tuesday Bible Study is reading Max Lucado's book, "You Are Never Alone". It uses the Gospel of John as a source of God's active presence in our lives. All men are welcome to join us for Bible study every Tuesday morning at 7:30 am! If you have questions call or email Bruce Cranston.

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, except for the first Sunday of the month when the nursery is open but there is no attendant present.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Midweek Praise Club, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN IN!

Use this QR code to sign in for Sunday School. Scan the code to access the attendance form and enter the required information. We ask that you have your student registered before Time With Children so that we can contact you via text in the event that you are needed.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



Youth 6th– 12th grade. Join us for food, fun, faith, and fellowship! If you have any questions, call the church office.



MISSION AT ST. MARK

EQUAL EXCHANGE

In the Narthex on December 7, 14, & 21

St. Mark supports this mission to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just, environmentally sustainable, and to foster mutually beneficial relationships between small farmers and consumers.

Cash, Credit, Debit, Digital Wallet Payments Accepted

Equal Exchange Small Farmers Fund lost its USAID funding, so are seeking funding alternatives that are reliable and consistent. 100% of your donation goes to co-op development projects that offer much needed help support to our farmer partners as they face unprecedented market and climate challenges. Tariffs are also having a significant impact on Equal Exchange. For more info, see

<https://shop.equalexchange.coop/products/donate>



DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Baking basics and mixes
- Canned and dry beans
- Canned tomatoes (15 oz & larger)
- Dinner Helpers
- Personal Care Items



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

Please place your donations on the mission table outside the church office.

HONORING FAMILY AND FRIENDS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Finding the perfect, meaningful gift for someone who has many wonderful possessions is a difficult task! With this in mind, the newly formed Mission Committee at St. Mark created "Christmas Alternatives" in 2001.



Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives honors the recipient and will help lift a family out of poverty. That family will in turn help another community member. Every gift is another word in an ongoing story of hope that will help create a cycle of change for generations to come.

Displays will be in the Narthex on December 7, 14, & 21st.



Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship space as an alternative to the more traditional Christmas gatherings. This service is in honor of those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss and is a holiday tradition in the U.S. dating back to 1990.

Join us here at St. Mark Presbyterian Church for a service of hope and healing where you will have an opportunity to honor your loved one as you are invited to light a candle in their name.



Many people in our region lack enough warm clothing to stay protected throughout winter. New and gently used clean winter coats and clothing are needed, **adult sizes for men and women in particular.** Our mission partners will ensure someone in need receives your gift of warmth. Dog and cat coats are appreciated too!



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland
Dir. Of Claymont Preschool: Jessie Bahr
Parish Associate: Donna Schiro

601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011
(636)394-2233
website: discoverstmark.org

Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte
Accompanist & Organist: JeeHye Lee
Special Music: Chancel Choir & Guest Musicians
Advent Liturgists: The Schick Family