

Worship Bulletin
November 29, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead, you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead, you are born among us as an infant. Instead, you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So, we will stay alert, or, at least, we will try, because we are your people, and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

PRELUDE *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* Joseph Parry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place:
With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.
The nights are getting longer, so we light the candle of hope.
Thy Kingdom come!

† HYMN "People, Look East" Hymnal #105

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love.

Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. (Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

† GLORIA PATRI "Glory Be to the Father" Hymnal #581

TIME WITH CHILDREN

† HYMN "While We Are Waiting, Come" Hymnal #92

SCRIPTURE Mark 13:24-37

SERMON "Light Another Candle: Thy Kingdom Come" Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Heidelberg Catechism LORD'S DAY 48*

Q123. What does the second petition mean?
A. "Your kingdom come" means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you.[1] Preserve your church and make it grow.[2] Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word.[3] Do this until your kingdom fully comes,[4] when you will be all in all.[5]

OFFERTORY | Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) Amy Shelton & JeeHye Lee | Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

† THE DOXOLOGY **Hymnal #606**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" **Hymnal #82**

† CHARGE AND BLESSING

† BENEDICTION "Peace on Earth"
RESPONSE

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 *Proclaim the News!* Eric Lewis

†In body or spirit, please rise.

***Heidelberg Catechism LORD'S DAY 48 Q&A** can be found at discoverstmark.org/worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

29 Adult Bible Study, 8:50 am

30 Prayer Circle, 9:30 am

December

1 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am

2 Bell Choir & Chancel Choir Practice, 6 & 7 pm

2 Youth Parent Meeting, 6:30 pm

3 Chair Exercise, 10 am

4 Friday Bible Study, 9:30 am

8 Go Getter Luncheon, 12 pm

12 Santa Breakfast, 9:30 am

13 Christmas Cantata, during worship

13 Make a Joyful Noise Display

13 Music Appreciation Reception, following worship

16 Children's Wednesday Night Activities, 5 pm

17 Blue Christmas Service, 7 pm

24 Christmas Eve Family Service, 4 pm

24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm

25 & 28 St. Mark will be closed for the Christmas Holiday

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.
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.



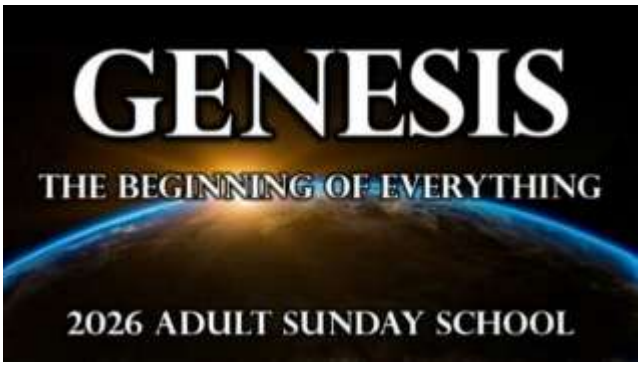
Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Walking humbly means remembering that we belong to one another; we are all connected through Christ. It means recognizing that every person is worthy of dignity, support, encouragement and love.

The Joy Offering provides assistance to our current and retired church workers and their families who may be facing financial crises. illness or unexpected hardship through the Assistance Program of the PC(USA)'s Board of Pensions. A minister's wife needed a service dog to help her avoid falling when her legs gave out. The cost to train a dog was $35,000---not an expense they could afford. Through help from the Assistance Program, funded through the Joy Offering, a service dog was provided and assists her every day.

Every gift, large or small, becomes part of a larger witness to God's love in action.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We are reading NT Wright's, Mark for Everyone. It uses the Gospel of Mark as a source of God's active presence in our lives. We meet every Tuesday at 7:30am. All men are welcome! You can purchase the book on Amazon. If you have questions call or email Bruce Cranston.

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us for a 4-week study on Advent, using the book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell, as a resource. The study focuses on how a house might look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it. In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes,* beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a house, which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* creatively reimagines the season and inspires new and exciting reflection for Advent. We meet at 9:30AM in Room 102, or via Zoom. See Donna Schiro for the link).

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH

PARENT MEETING, NOVEMBER 2

There will be a parent meeting to discuss trivia night and the summer mission trip in Gleason Hall at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be provided. Contact Liz Oglesby with questions.

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.

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.

KID ACTIVITIES AT ST MARK!

GROG Night- December 16 from 5 - 6:30 pm! Children's Ministry is hosting Pizza and flashlight tag/hide and seek for K through 6th grade. Bring a friend and Youth are welcome! This is a great chance to get in some last-minute Christmas shopping. Contact Latisha at lgilliland@discoverstmark.org for more information or to sign up.



Come join us on Candy Cane Lane as we journey to the North Pole for breakfast with Santa and his friends on Saturday, December 12 from 9:30 – 11:00 am. Breakfast includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, fruit, juice, coffee and hot chocolate. There will be activities, games, and of course, a story and visit with Santa!

MISSION AT ST. MARK

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Canned Chicken
- Rice
- Coffee & Hot Chocolate
- Toothpaste
- Dish Soap

All year we collect food and hygiene items for Circle of Concern & Isaiah 58 Ministries. Please place your donations on the mission table outside the church office. *Non-food products cannot be purchased with food stamps.



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 for men, women, and kids, all sizes, and styles. Dog and cat coats are appreciated, too. Please place donations on the mission table. Isaiah 58 will receive our donations.

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 6, 13, & 2.



THE TRADITION CONTINUES

The Angel Tree will once again be making an appearance in the Narthex. Please select an angel or two to help provide a Merry Christmas for one or more children. The gifts donated will go to Isaiah 58 Ministries. Please return your gift and place it under the tree with the angel attached by December 9.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN





Make a Joyful Noise

On Sunday, December 19

Music Appreciation Sunday

This is your time to display your favorite Christmas Music item. This could be ornaments, music boxes, snow globes, bells, angels, etc. As in years before, you have gracefully displayed crosses, nativity scenes and angels. A table will be set up in the Narthex. Please jot down your name and why this is one of your favorite Christmas items. Questions? Contact Mary Beth Powell or Sally Shepherd.



On **Sunday, December 13,** immediately after the Christmas Cantata and worship service is over, we will celebrate **MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY.** We're asking the congregation to bring in their favorite Christmas cookies or treats to share with one another as we take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who participates in the music program throughout the year, whether it's singing in the choir, playing bells, playing instruments, or providing special music in the summer. We hope you will join us as we celebrate our musicians!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Today is the LAST day to order! The poinsettias may be taken home after the service on the 20th or after the Christmas Eve Service. Order forms can be found by the flower chart on the easel. Please make your check payable to *St. Mark Presbyterian Church and* place the order form and check in the "Drop Box" in the Pastor's Hallway. The cost is $7 per plant. Plants are sourced from a locally owned greenhouse. If you have questions, please contact Mickey McKnight.



In an effort to recognize and support those who are experiencing grief and loss during the holiday season, St. Mark gathers for a worship service that provides a contemplative experience that leaves room for finding hope and healing in the Christmas story. Worshippers will be asked to fill out a paper slip with the name of the loved one they are remembering when they arrive. The slips will be gathered and read during worship. As loved one's names are read out loud, candles are lit in their honor. At the conclusion of the service, everyone will receive a small keepsake in remembrance of this experience. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Schiro dschiro@discoverstmark.org.









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

ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte
Accompanist & Organist: JeeHye Lee
Special Music: Amy Shelton
Advent Liturgist: The Hegger Family

Honoring Friends and Family 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 26 years (2001-2026)
Your generosity has transformed lives and had a lasting impact around the world!

Christmas Alternatives 2026 - Our 26th Year!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW
NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY, STATE, ZIP:
PHONE:
St. Mark Member ? _____ YES _____ NO
If Yes, contributions will be included on your annual giving statement.
If No, would you like us to mail you a receipt ? ____YES ____NO

DEADLINE: December 24th, 2026
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
2026 Christmas Alternatives

Marion Medical Mission (Africa)	**Price**	**Qty**	**Total**
Build a Well ($500/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		

Equal Exchange Small Farmer Fund *	**Price**	**Qty**	**Total**
Equal Exchange Small Farmer Fund (100% to Co-op Dev Projects)	$ 50.00		
* Small Farmer Fund lost USAID funding in 2025, so now need our support.	**Total**		

PCUSA International Food and Income Security Missions	**Price**	**Qty**	**Total**
Farming Tools (e.g., machetes, shovels)	$ 10.00		
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		
	Total		

Rise Against Hunger	**Price**	**Qty**	**Total**
Support annual meal packaging event at St. Mark (50 meals)	$ 25.00		
Support annual meal packaging event at St. Mark (100 meals)	$ 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	***Total***
Checks to: St. Mark Presbyterian Church Memo Line: Christmas Alternatives	***$***