



Third Sunday of Advent
December 11 & 12, 2021
Worship Bulletin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRELUDER (Sunday Worship)

Carol of the Bells

Hayes

BELL PRELUDE REFLECTION

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a highway in the desert for our God.
From ages of old, no ear has heard, no eye has seen
one so glorious as the Lord our God, for whom we wait.
Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain and hill, made low;
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
God's anointed one is coming –
to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and to announce the time of the Lord's favor.
Let us live into JOY!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Christmas is Coming

Raney Chancel Choir

Drew Davis – drums, Chancel Bells

† HYMN

"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

Hymnal #107

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess we need repentance. Our hearts are filled with many idols, and we do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We ignore your Word, and fear consumes us. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. (Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

†GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal #581

TIME WITH CHILDREN (Sunday Worship)
(Children 5th grade and younger may leave to attend Sunday School)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Suo Gan
Chancel Bells

arr. by Lamb

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.

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.

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

October/November/December These Days devotional booklets are 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, who will be in the Narthex before, during and after worship.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AT ST. MARK

St. Mark will be closed the following days to observe the Christmas, and New Year holidays:

- Monday and Tuesday, December 27 and 28
- Monday, January 3

In addition, there will be no Saturday evening worship service on December 25 and January 1.

WAYS TO GIVE

If you would like to make a monetary donation to St. Mark, we have several convenient and easy ways to do this:

1. **In-person:** An offering plate is available in the Narthex after the worship service.
2. **Mail:** Please make check out to St. Mark Presbyterian Church and send to: St. Mark Presbyterian Church 601 Claymont Drive Ballwin, MO 63011
3. **Online:** To donate, use the **QR Code** here to



be directed to our giving page on discoverstmark.org, **OR** go to: www.discoverstmark.org/giving/make-an-on-line-donation-to-st-mark/



Use this link to find the next episode and access fun family activities for the third week of Advent.
<https://ministryspark.com/connected-christmas-episode-3/>



THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



The Christmas Joy Offering Supports Education and Leadership

For Sarah Valentina Hernandez Solache (SO-LA-CHAY), the colorful city of Zitácuaro (ZEE-TA-QUARO) in the highlands of Mexico — where millions of Monarch butterflies bathe the fields and forests in a sea of orange during their annual migration — was, and always will be, home. But, despite its beauty, Sarah readily admits that it simply wasn't a safe environment for her.

"I had an amazing childhood there," said Sarah, who was raised Presbyterian in her local church. "Mexico is beautiful, with the best climate and the best food ever. But it is also a really dangerous country."

The ongoing violence against young girls that terrorized her community while she was growing up was one of the primary reasons her parents decided to send her, like her older sister before her, to pursue education in the U.S. at the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas.

Established in 1911, the school is an international, college-preparatory, boarding school related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that motivates and equips young people for lives of Christian leadership in the global community.

"We met the school thanks to our church," Sarah said. "They send scholarship award letters to people all over Mexico."

The experience was life-changing and transformative. Both sisters are now distinguished graduates of Pan Am. Sarah is a pre-med student on a full scholarship at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Tx and her sister is a Houston-based architect.

Assistance for the scholarships and the schools comes from the Christmas Joy Offering.

YOUTH WEDNESDAYS



Wear your favorite ugly sweater or dress up in your Christmas best! Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!



**YOUTH MISSION TRIP
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Contact Pastor MP for more
information**



**MUSIC NOTES
Christmas Is Coming, Let the Church Bells Ring! And they will on Dec 12!**

The Chancel Choir and the Chancel Bells are preparing extra music for worship on Sunday, December 12. Lively and meditative music will help us all reflect on the Coming of Christ. Join us!

CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVES 2021 - The Tradition Continues!

Are you struggling to find just the right gifts for family members and friends? Look no further than the St. Mark Christmas Alternatives shopping list!

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

Please visit our displays in the narthex December 5th, 12th, and 19th. We look forward to helping you select the perfect gift! Of course, you are welcome to drop your completed shopping list and check (Christmas Alternatives on the memo line) in the Mission Committee mailbox in the church office or via mail. You will find the Christmas Alternatives Shopping List on the back of the bulletin.

FOOD INVENTORIES DROPPING

The shelves are emptying out faster than any other time this year at our food pantries. Please bring your donations to St. Mark during office hours or worship. You may also write a check indicating the mission partner(s) on the memo line.

Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries Critical Needs

- peanut butter
- canned meat
- canned fruit
- rice
- feminine hygiene pads



SUPPER CLUB – Holiday Potluck

Parents of preschool and elementary age kids (and anyone else who wants to join) are invited! Join us Saturday, December 18 at 6:30 pm at the



Burgess' house for a Holiday Potluck and an Ugly Sweater Contest. Bring your favorite side dish! Childcare will be provided at St. Mark from 6 - 10 pm. RSVP by December 11 to Shelley Lester.



COAT DRIVE RESULTS

Over 100 new and "like new" coats were collected for distribution by Third Pres and Isaiah 58 Ministries. The recipients were literally warmed by your generosity and want you to know how much they appreciate the coats.

GO GETTER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



The Go Getter Christmas Luncheon will be held at the church on December 14, 2021 at noon. We will have a \$10.00 round robin gift exchange and lunch will be provided. Please make your plans now to attend as we will be catering the lunch and will need to know the number of attendees on or before December 10. Please let Judy Richardson or Jan Graves know of your plans to participate.



FLOWER SIGN UP FOR 2022 IS NOW AVAILABLE!

You may now sign up to donate flowers for the Sanctuary in 2022! Look for the Flower Chart in the Mark door entry by the elevator.

PART-TIME SEXTON POSITION

St. Mark is seeking the employment of a Part-Time (weekends required) Sexton. General duties will include, but not limited to: cleaning and minor maintenance services for the Church building & grounds, and driving of small bus for church members attending Sunday services and other church events. The successful candidate will work under the leadership and guidance of the Senior Pastor and Office/Facilities Manager, in collaboration with the Property Committee. To view this job posting and to apply, please visit www.discoverstmark.org. Send all completed applications and resumes to personnel@discoverstmark.org

Pastor: Rev. Dr. J. David Burgess
Associate Pastor: Rev. MP Panco
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland
Dir. of Claymont Preschool: Lynne Dauve
Dir. of Music and Organist: Marsha Medley

Saturday Musician: Mark Reynoso
Sunday Choir Accompanist: Jee-Hye Lee
Sunday Special Music: Chancel Choir,
Chancel Bells, Drew Davis - drums
Sunday Advent Liturgists: The Eisenberg Family



601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011
Office Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm.
If you need to come in on another day, we encourage you to contact the church office to make an appointment.

CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVES 2021 -- OUR 21st YEAR!

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 not only honors the recipient, but also aids other deserving people who have so little, but need so much.

Thank you for your support during the past 20 years.

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

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

PHONE:

Do you want Christmas Cards? YES NO

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 25th, 2021

Please include payment with form.

Place in Mission Committee Mailslot in Church office or Mail to:

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

Shopping List for 2021 Christmas Alternatives

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

	Price	Qty	Total
Medical Benevolence Foundation			
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		

	Price	Qty	Total
Education Scholarship Partnership with Presbytery of Giddings LoveJoy			
Plan Grande Dos, Nicaragua High School (\$200/year/student)	\$ 25.00		
Kenyan Education Project, High School (\$125/year/student)	\$ 25.00		
	Total		

	Price	Qty	Total
PCUSA International Agricultural Missions			
Family of Chickens	\$ 25.00		
Share of Cow (\$450/cow)	\$ 50.00		
Share of Goat (\$90/goat)	\$ 30.00		
Piglet	\$ 40.00		
Share of Bee Hive (\$240/hive)	\$ 20.00		
Bag of Moringa Seeds (food for human consumption)	\$ 5.00		
	Total		

	Price	Qty	Total
PCUSA Mission Co-workers			
Rev. Jed and Jenny Koball, Peru	\$ 25.00		
Chenoa Stock, Peru	\$ 25.00		
	Total		

	Price	Qty	Total
Presbyterian Childrens Homes and Services			
Support Farmington Service Center community, family, and youth therapeutic programs	\$ 25.00		
	Total		

	Price	Qty	Total
General Gift to Christmas Alternatives			

	Qty	Total
SHOPPING LIST GRAND TOTAL		

Checks to: St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Memo Line: Christmas Alternatives

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE SUBMITTED:

PAID?