



December 24, 2020  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
*7:00 pm Virtual Service*

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### CENTERING PRAYER

*(Church of Scotland, Book of Common Order)*

Today, O God, the soles of your feet have touched the earth.

Today, the back street, the forgotten place have been lit up with significance.

Today, the households of earth welcome the King of heaven.

For you have come among us, you are one of us.

So may our songs rise to surround your throne as our knees bend to salute your cradle. Amen.

#### PRELUDE

*Variations on Angels We Have Heard on High*

Giamanco

#### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### LITURGY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light the CHRIST candle along with these candles of HOPE, JOY, LOVE, and PEACE as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

**let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.**

The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us; God's face will shine, and we will be saved.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

When the Lord restores our lives, we will be like those who dream; those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

We will sing of God's steadfast love forever; we will proclaim the faithfulness of the lord to all generations.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.

**Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.**

† HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymnal #133

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory’s light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. We continue to pray in Jesus’ name. (Silent Confession)**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

† HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymnal #113

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON

“Treasured Words”

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Confession of Faith Shorter Catechism Question One

Q. What is our chief end?

**A. Our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever.**

OFFERING – CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

*O Holy Night*  
Amy Shelton, vocalist

Adams

† THE DOXOLOGY

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table  
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer  
Words of Institution  
Sharing of the Bread & Cup

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(A New Zealand Prayer Book)

**Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant savior, baby who makes every birth holy. May we, who like the shepherds have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love, return to our work with joy. May we, for whom the heavens have opened to proclaim that God is with us, we who have fed on living bread and drunk the wine of heaven, go out to be instruments of your peace, day by day. Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

† HYMN

*“Silent Night, Holy Night*

**Hymnal #122**

† CHARGE AND BLESSING

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Toccata on Angels We Have Heard*

Giamanco

†You are invited to stand, as you are able.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. J. David Burgess

Associate Pastor: Rev. MP Panco

Parish Associate: Rev. Carol DeVaughan

Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland

Dir. of Claymont Preschool: Lynne Dauve

Dir. of Music and Organist: Marsha Medley

Musician: Mark Reynoso



St. Mark Presbyterian Church

601 Claymont Drive

Ballwin, MO 63011

[www.discoverstmark.org](http://www.discoverstmark.org)

Our website is your online resource for the church calendar, blog, video, and employment opportunities. Please make sure to bookmark it and check in regularly.

Advent Candle Lighters – The Polak Family

## WAYS TO GIVE

As we all adjust to this new normal the Finance Committee is making a request of everyone to maintain their level of giving to St. Mark. As a church we have agreed to continue paying all of our full-time staff. In addition, regular bills still arrive and need to be paid. We also want to support our mission partners. To that end it is important that we all commit to making our contributions. They can be mailed to the church or paid online. There will be a link provided at another time on how to set up online giving. Please note that mailed checks will take longer to process than usual. If you wish for your donation to go to a specific area please note that on the check memo line. With all of this said please know at this time we are keeping up with our obligations but we want to be able to continue with all of our efforts. We appreciate your ongoing support of the work of our church. <https://www.discoverstmark.org/giving/make-an-on-line-donation-to-st-mark/>

## 2021 IS ALMOST HERE!

\*All financial gifts need to be delivered to the church office or postmarked by December 31 to be credited to your 2020 giving statement for IRS purposes.

\*Thank you to everyone who turned in their “Estimate of Giving” commitment cards. If you feel led to give but have not turned in a 2021 Financial Pledge, cards may be emailed to you, please send a request to [smppoffice@discoverstmark.org](mailto:smppoffice@discoverstmark.org). Your financial commitment helps the church Session to plan faithfully for the coming year.



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

St. Mark Men Bible Study is inviting all men to gather weekly by ZOOM every Tuesday at 7 am to discuss the Gospel of John. We are using N.T.Wright's Book- John, 26 Studies For Individuals and Groups. It is ok to just drop in each week and listen in. If you are interested please email Bruce Cranston.

## TECHNOLOGY WANTS YOU

Are you looking for a fun and important way to volunteer at St. Mark during the pandemic and beyond? The Technology Committee is working overtime and could use your help. You can learn to be a videographer of the Sunday online Services. No experience is necessary. We will teach you everything you need to know. The Technology Committee is adhering to COVID guidelines of social distancing and mask wearing. Come for the fun, stay for the fellowship. For more information, contact the Technology Committee at [technology@discoverstmark.org](mailto:technology@discoverstmark.org) or Pastor Dave at [dburgess@discoverstmark.org](mailto:dburgess@discoverstmark.org).

## LITTLE DRESSES

Pick up a kit to make Little Dresses in the lobby Tuesday or Thursday between 10am – 2pm. No appointment is necessary if you are just picking up items or dropping a completed dress off. Contact Sherry Naylor for more information.

## ABC SALE RESULTS FOR 2020

Drum roll please..... over \$13,000 was raised for our local mission partners!!! This year, the ABC sale moved from the physical church building to two “digital” platforms. ONE: St. Mark members generously donated to the Virtual ABC Sale. TWO: Jackie Morgan selflessly gave her time and talents all year long to sell small items donated by members of our congregation, netting over \$6,000 in online sales. Your giving has meant that we have been able to continue to meet the financial needs of our mission partners during a most challenging year – thank you! Mission partners supported include: BBJ, Isaiah 58, Lafayette Industries, Mound Ridge, Peace Meal, Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services, and UKirk.

## THANK YOU! DECEMBER DROP-OFF. Christmas Alternatives – Our 20<sup>th</sup> Year!

Thank you for your continued support of Christmas Alternatives! Donations are in the process of being tabulated and results will be shared in early 2021.

## DONATION DRIVE DROP-OFFS

The St. Mark Mission Committee will continue to coordinate and host drive through donation drop-offs once a month in the St. Mark parking lot during 2021. Our mission partners are incredibly grateful for St. Mark’s ongoing generosity and have been good stewards of your donations. In our effort to keep everyone safe, we will continue to practice COVID-19 safety protocols for these contactless events. Behind our masks we are smiling with the joy of being in service to others and our gloved hands are warmed by your generosity!

## DONATION DRIVE - SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 1-3PM

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS - Oh my, the harsh weather and economic struggles make it incredibly challenging for many to afford basic personal care products. Did you know that SNAP/EBT/WIC/Food stamps *cannot* be used for personal care products? During January we will collect deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, lotion, and laundry detergent.



## Sunday, February 7, 1-3PM

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-inspired movement working across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. Mobilizing grassroots resources, The Souper Bowl of Caring has created over \$160 million worth of support that stays completely local. Once again, St. Mark Youth will be collecting food for our local mission partners, Circle of Concern, and Isaiah 58 Ministries. We look forward to seeing you before kickoff on Sunday, February 7th!