



March 14, 2021
10:00 am Virtual Service

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you bring salvation to the world. Eph. 2: 10 Give us strength to believe in him that we may share in his victory over the power of death and fulfill the purpose for which you have made us, for he dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Passacaglia and Chorale on “Angel’s Story”

Fruedenburg

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship in the season of Lent,
a time to examine our hearts and our lives
and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.
Let us watch for the coming sign of God’s power,
a humble servant lifted up on a cross.
God has marked us as beloved dust
and called us together to worship.

† HYMN

“God is Here”

Hymnal #409

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

By the gift of your grace we are saved, O God, from all that separates us from you. Still, we would rather believe that we can earn your love. Still, we would rather believe that we are in ultimate control. Forgive us when we do not recognize the radical gift of your grace; have mercy when we fail or refuse to share that grace with another. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again. (Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-21

SERMON

“Backward Bicycles: *Knowledge Does Not Equal Understanding*”

Rev. MP Panco

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From a Brief Statement of Faith 11.1-11.6

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve**

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Take the World But Give Me Jesus
Patty Livesay, soloist

Schackley

† **THE DOXOLOGY**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

† **HYMN**

“Amazing Grace”

Hymnal #649

† CHARGE AND BLESSING

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Shalom to You”

Eslinger

POSTLUDE

My Song is Love Unknown

Ireland

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

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
Liturgist: Pam Ladley



St. Mark Presbyterian Church
601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

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.

Office Hours **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:**
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please call 636-394-2233 or email smppoffice@discoverstmark.org prior to your visit.

PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY
DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

We will have a **drive-in worship** experience on **Sunday, March 28** and **Sunday, April 4 at 9:00 AM** in the church's parking lot We will also have our regular online worship service both Sundays at 10:00 AM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

see below for more details

March 21 - Spring Sustenance Drive Through Gifts, 1pm – 3 pm

March 28 - Drive-In Worship, 9 am
- Outdoor Jerusalem Festival, 11 am – 1 pm

April - All Month – Newborns in Need Collection

April 3 - Troop 631 Lawnmower Tune-up, 9 am – 3 pm
- Outdoor Bunny Breakfast, 10 am – 12 pm

April 4 - Easter Sunday Drive-In Worship, 9 am

April 11 - Flag Retirement Ceremony, 2 pm

April 24 - St Mark Mulch & Cleanup, 8:30 am

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/>

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Presbyterian Hunger Program

The Presbyterian Hunger Program's mission is clear: alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. There is no one size fits all solution. PHP, using a holistic approach to the larger problem of poverty and hunger, complements the work of Presbyterian congregations through strategic partnership collaborations, and participatory programs so that Presbyterians Go, Join, and Act to end hunger for our neighbors next door and across the planet.



- Over 1,388 chicken, pigs, rabbits, goats shared with families
- 453 beehives in communities around the world
- 63,500 seedlings and over 63,000 kilograms of seeds distributed
- More than 42 farms created around the world

St. Mark participates in the One Great Hour of Sharing and also is a Certified Hunger Action Congregation, working within our community through Isaiah 58 and Circle of Concern to address the food needs of residents.



LENTEN WATER CHALLENGE

Unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation kills more people annually than all forms of violence, including war. In the world, 663 million people do not have access to clean water. About half of the world's population who lack clean water live in Africa.

Marion Medical Mission has played an active role in the fight against dirty water. Since 1990, they have built over 31,000 wells in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia providing over four million people with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. Without Christ, that would not have been possible! With Him, all is possible. And by His power, we believe that countless millions of others will receive life-giving water.

For the past 19 years, St. Mark has supported Marion Medical Mission through our Christmas Alternatives Gift Fair. During the past three years, St. Mark member donations have funded the construction of 30 wells.

We began our third annual Lenten Challenge on Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Dave has encouraged his congregations for the past 12 years to drink only clean tap water for the 40 days of Lent. Giving up the morning trip to Starbucks or the evening glass of wine might be a tall task for some, but it will help us comprehend how much money we spend on beverages.

Moreover, we can use the money we save to support more wells in Africa. We are blessed to have clean water in our community, and this challenge helps us to understand the needs of those who have less, and support groups who are working to provide living water for all God's children. -- Christine Polak, Mission Committee

FOUR GOSPEL READINGS IN 40 DAYS

We're reading through the four gospels over the next forty days, and we'd love for you to join us. Here is a handy guide for your convenience. We will also discuss these daily readings on the St. Mark Spark.

Four Gospel Readings in 40 Days

2/17 Day 1 – Matthew 1-2	3/05 Day 15 – Mark 6-7	3/22 Day 29 – Luke 22-24
2/18 Day 2 – Matthew 3-4	3/06 Day 16 – Mark 8-10	3/23 Day 30 – John 1-2
2/19 Day 3 – Matthew 5-7	3/08 Day 17 – Mark 11-13	3/24 Day 31 – John 3-4
2/20 Day 4 – Matthew 8-9	3/09 Day 18 – Mark 14-16	3/25 Day 32 – John 5-6
2/22 Day 5 – Matthew 10-12	3/10 Day 19 – Luke 1-2	3/26 Day 33 – John 7-8
2/23 Day 6 – Matthew 13-14	3/11 Day 20 – Luke 3-4	3/27 Day 34 – John 9-10
2/24 Day 7 – Matthew 15-16	3/12 Day 21 – Luke 5-6	3/29 Day 35 – John 11-12
2/25 Day 8 – Matthew 17-18	3/13 Day 22 – Luke 7	3/30 Day 36 – John 13-14
2/26 Day 9 – Matthew 19-20	3/15 Day 23 – Luke 8-9	3/31 Day 37 – John 15-16
2/27 Day 10 – Matthew 21-23	3/16 Day 24 – Luke 10-11	4/01 Day 38 – John 17
3/01 Day 11 – Matthew 24-25	3/17 Day 25 – Luke 12-13	4/02 Day 39 – John 18-19
3/02 Day 12 – Matthew 26-28	3/18 Day 26 – Luke 14-16	4/03 Day 40 – John 20-21



OUTDOOR JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

This year's Jerusalem Festival takes place on Sunday, March 28 and will be fully outdoors. We're excited to offer many things kids love best about the festival, while making it family friendly and socially distanced outdoors from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM – following the Palm Sunday drive in service!



OUTDOOR BUNNY BREAKFAST

This year we are having a “Bunny Breakfast Lite” event on **Saturday, April 3 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. We will have a fully outdoor event and have invited Daylight Donuts to come with Easter decorated donuts and box drinks. The Easter Bunny will be there for safe-distance selfies & the long-awaited Easter Egg Hunts (for Preschoolers and Elementary age) will take place. Can't wait to see you there!



UKIRK STUDENTS – SPRING SUSTENANCE DRIVE THROUGH GIFTS - MARCH 21, 1-3PM



- funds for DoorDash gift cards (\$25 each)
- microwave popcorn
- microwave mac-n-cheese

For any of you who have college students and teenagers, you know their food preferences are quite diverse and they really love selecting their food through DoorDash. Funding these gift cards are our top priority! **Checks should be made to St. Mark Presbyterian Church with “Ukirk” in the memo line.**

This timing is critical as students will not have a spring break this spring to minimize exposure to and transmission of Covid-19. On top of that, mid-terms quickly transition to finals. Our mission partners are incredibly grateful for St. Mark's ongoing generosity and have been good stewards of your donations. Please see the March edition of the Messenger for an update from Pastor Max on Ukirk activities during this academic year.



COLLECTION OF FLAGS FOR RETIREMENT AND FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

I am collecting unserviceable American flags that are ready to be retired. If you are in possession of worn-out flags, there is a collection box inside the St Mark front door – and can be accessed when the Church is open. There is also a collection box on the front porch You are also invited to a public Flag Retirement Ceremony that will be held on Sun., April 11, 2021 at 2 pm on the upper St Mark parking lot (weather- and Covid-permitting). Please bring a folding chair

and wear a mask. We will require family units to remain socially distant from others.

Sincerely,

Jack W., member of Boy Scout Troop 631 and St. Mark



HELP KEEP ST. MARK BEAUTIFUL

Please join us on **April 24** at 8:30 am
to maintain, mulch and beautify
the grounds of St. Mark!

TROOP 631



Get ready for spring and let Boy Scout Troop 631 tune up your lawnmower!

When: Saturday, April 3rd from 9AM—3PM

Where: Parking Lot of Rick's Ace Hardware—Ellisville
(15870 Clayton Road at the Intersection of Clayton and Clarkson)



Cost: FREE! (Donations Gladly Accepted)

Services Included: Oil change, spark plug service (cleaning, re-gapping; replacement if necessary), air filter service (cleaning, replacement if necessary), blade sharpening, mower deck cleaning. Walk behind mowers only (no riders or zero-turns). Mower must start at the time of check-in.

All proceeds to offset the cost of summer camp.

CLAYMONT PRESCHOOL AT ST. MARK FALL 2021 REGISTRATION

It's time for parents and grandparents of St. Mark preschool aged children to start planning for Fall. St. Mark families are offered priority registration. Half-day classes are available for children who will be 2 years old before October 1, 2021, through pre-kindergarten. Classes meet 9:00 to 12:00 with extended day until 1:30 for older children. Currently, during COVID, there are 37 children attending Claymont Preschool. We expect this number will double before school returns in August. The Preschool enjoys a wonderful reputation for excellent caring teachers and superb kindergarten readiness, causing some classes to fill quickly, so we hope St. Mark members will take advantage of this early registration period.

Please call Lynne Dauve, 636-386-5437 (KIDS) or email ldauve@Discoverstmark.org for more information. Our registration form and other Missouri State required forms are available at DiscoverStMark.org.

We have a very limited number of openings in our Pre-K and 3 year old classes currently, so if you have a new neighbor or know of someone looking for a fabulous preschool, please recommend us to them!

PRAYER GROUP

Copies of the church Prayer List are available in the church office in the Prayer Circle mailbox. If you would like prayers for someone or to receive the Prayer List by email, please notify the church office or email Pat Marshall.

NEWBORNS IN NEED

PW IS COLLECTING BABY ITEMS FOR NEWBORNS IN NEED DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.



Newborns in Need is a charity that specializes in the needs of babies facing health or economic crisis in St. Louis. It is a local and national nonprofit organization. New and gently used baby items such as bibs, booties, burp cloths, hats, onsies, socks, sweaters, and undershirts (clothing sizes up to 6 months) are appreciated. Donations of Sleepers, blankets, baby wash, wipes, and diapers are especially needed and may be placed in the Pack n Play in the Church foyer during office hours.

Essential baby care items are donated to hospitals, homeless shelters, family crisis centers, county health units, police offices and any other organization that provide for the needs of premature and newborn babies that are sick or in crisis. **Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.** Make checks out to Newborns In Need and ask for a tax receipt. Mail to: **Newborns in Need** c/o Judy Giovanoni, 461 Bluff Meadow Dr., Ellisville, MO 63021 **For more information, call Shirley Boeker or Louise Grothe**

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.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

This serves as a reminder that the Circle of Concern is accepting curbside drop-off donations at their Headquarters at 112 St. Louis Avenue, Valley Park, MO 63088. Food donations are accepted on Monday and Tuesday from 9 am to 3 pm, and Thursday from 9 am to noon. Cash contributions may be made through St. Mark by designating Circle of Concern on the memo line.

Current needs include:

- Snack Items
- Canned Fruit
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Women's Incontinence Briefs, Size L/XL
- Cereal
- Canned Pasta
- Dinner Helpers
- Peanut Butter