

Heaven and Nature Sing!

300 Years of

JOY

to the World

TODAY: ADVENT 1

"PREPARE—HOPEFUL JOY"

4:00 p.m.: Advent Celebration

December 8: Advent 2

"Repeat the Sounding Joy—Loving Joy"

December 15: Advent 3

"Make the Blessings Known—Unabashed Joy"

Choir Cantata—Messiah: Heaven & Glory

December 22: Advent 4

"Make the Nations Prove—Peaceful Joy"

December 24: Christmas Eve

"The Lord is Come—Incarnate Joy"

Candlelight Services

6:30 Family Service

11:00 Festival of Carols

December 29: First Sunday of Christmas

"Wonders of God's Love—Compassionate Joy"



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 1, 2019, 9:30 am

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

We gather together to worship the One Who Is Joy. As we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

Please read / sing aloud the bold text.

CENTERING

PRELUDE

FOCUSING ON HOPEFUL JOY
"Heaven and Nature Sing"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you are our joy.
You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life.
This is our hope, that You are ever-present and constantly
shifting our fear to compassion,
and grinding our swords into plows.

**Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.
Let us prepare him room in our church this day.
Let us prepare him room in the world this day...
for Hope.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," UMH 89

WELCOME

PEACE

"May you have hopeful joy"

RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD

As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it for, we have the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts."

THE CHILDREN'S TIME TO LEAD US
"I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy"

SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 2: 1-5 (CEB)
Romans 13: 11-14 (The Message)*

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"Is Your Heart Prepared For A King?"

SERMON
"Prepare - Hopeful Joy" Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen

SUNG RESPONSE
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH 196

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER

Symbol from Heaven and Nature: The Wreath

You are invited to take home the insert in the worship guide as we collaborate with nature to bring more joy to the world.

Consider making a wreath with friends and family this week.

QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER TIME

Please see the questions on page six of this Worship Bulletin. You are invited to take this home and keep it where you can contemplate these questions this week.

OFFERING / DOXOLOGY

HOLY COMMUNION

COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place "with passion" (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope, and joy to the world.

CLOSING HYMN

"We're Gonna Bring Joy to the World"
Words will be projected.

BENEDICTION

**We're gonna bring joy to the world,
hope to the people.
We're gonna give love that's for everyone—
unconditionally!
We're gonna make peace in our world,
God's voice through us be heard.
As we look to one another,
a glimpse of holy we might see!**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: ADVENT CELEBRATION - 4 pm.

There will be Crafts, Pot-Luck Dinner, Children's Program, and closing by gathering around the Outdoor Nativity and singing "Away in a Manger". Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Questions, see or call Peggy Smith (307-4509).

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS ANGELS: The angels are here!

We still have 10 left at the Welcome Center! This year they are asking us to buy a coat, a pair of shoes or boots, and a requested toy, at an estimated cost of \$100. This might be a great opportunity for two or three individuals, couples or families to join together and provide the items for one child. **All items need to be returned to church by next Sunday, December 8th;** no need to wrap the gifts, simply place all the items in one bag with the tag attached to the outside **and place them inside the Choir Room.** Please see or call Karen Smith (382-7316) or Julie Mislansky (505-4061) with questions.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT: Friday, December 6th - 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

Drop your kids off at the church and we'll take care of the rest - dinner, crafts, games, and a movie. Don't have kids? Sign-up to help! Donations will benefit St. Mark's Student Ministries. See or contact Erin Theodor (748-1085) for any questions.

CHURCH LaCOMEDIA OUTING: All those that have made reservations for the outing on Friday, December 6th, should be at LaComedia by 11 am. Questions, see or call Brenda Smoot (844-1818).

SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: Saturday, December 7th at 1 pm

in Fellowship Hall. All senior adults are invited. Bring a covered dish to share. This is a wonderful time to have fellowship with your St. Mark's family. Questions, see or call Shirley Aydlett (894-5209).

CHOIR CANTATA: Sunday, December 15th.

Invite your friends to come and hear the message in music by our choir.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY: Sunday, December 15th, 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's. Questions, see or call Erin Theodor (748-1085).

RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS MEETING: Friday, December 20 at Noon. This will be a covered dish luncheon. Bring a \$1.00 Grab bag gift. All women are invited to attend. Any questions, see or call Pam Guynes (779-9162) or Charlene Miller (844-6793).

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

6:30 pm Family service for all ages. Carols and Candlelight.

11:00 pm Traditional Lessons & Carols
Chancel Choir, Candlelight and Communion.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS need to be submitted to the office by Wednesday each week. Send to b.smoot@fairfieldstmarks.com

UPPER ROOMS: The November/December Upper Rooms are now available in the Narthex literature rack. The booklets provide a daily meditation and are available for everyone. Please take one home for your devotional reading.

ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

TODAY

- 8:30 am Fellowship, Donuts, Coffee, Juice and Milk. (Fellowship Hall and the Narthex)
- 9:30 am Worship Celebration
- 4:00 pm Advent Celebration - Crafts, Pot-luck Dinner, Children's Program, Gathering at the Nativity

MONDAY

- 10:00 am Craft Group (Rm. 104)
- 7:00 pm Advent Study (Heritage Rm.)

TUESDAY

- 10:30 am Bible Study (Heritage Rm.)
- 7:00 pm Scouts (F. Hall)
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee (Heritage Rm.)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 am Prayer Group (Heritage Rm.)
- 6:00 pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 pm Bible Study (F.Hall)
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY

- 1:00 pm Community Newcomer's Club-Book Club (F. Hall)
- 6:15 pm NA Meeting (F. Hall)
- 7:00 pm Sm Group Study (Heritage Rm.)
- 7:00 pm Trustees (Choir Rm.)

FRIDAY

- 11:00 am Church Group to LaComedia
- 5:00 pm Parent's Night Out

SATURDAY

- 1:00 pm Senior's Christmas Party (F. Hall)

SUNDAY

- 8:30 am Fellowship, Donuts, Coffee, Juice and Milk. (Fellowship Hall and the Narthex)
- 9:30 am Worship Celebration

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Questions for Prayer Time

First Sunday in Advent—Hopeful Joy

*What, or who, needs to be lifted up in hope this day?
Where have we fallen down in celebrating the beauty of each being?
How can we find a unity where all are included, like the
circle of the wreath?
What keeps us from "making room" in our lives for God?
What perspective needs to be shifted in order to embrace hope?
Are we contributing a voice of hope or a voice of negativity?*

Requests of 11/27 - Lori, daughter of Patty Coyle in hospital.

Continued prayers for Riley Hughes.

Hospital or Re-Hab

Betsy Jones - Jamestown Therapy

Max Stover - Tri-County Extended Care.

Eleanor McCollum - Home

John McWilliam - Jamestown Therapy (Will be moving to Berkley)

Ann McWilliam - Home

Joys / Concerns (*listed in the order received, and kept for four weeks unless requested to remain on our "Continuing Prayers" list.*)

Mitch Thomas

Jack Cook

Knoll Family 11/3

Chez & Jason, Aydlett's grandsons 11/1

Katy 11/3

Ray Smith 11/3

Patti 11/3

Virginia's son's father-in-law 11/3

Continuing Prayers ,

*(Help us keep this list current. Email or call the church office
(b.smoot@fairfieldstmarks.com / 844-1818) with any updates.)*

All service Men & Women
Country

Merianne Cardas
Dick Brewer

Jean Stivers
Nancy Bumpus
Pastor Joe & Linda

United Methodist Church
Prayer & Bible St. Groups

Kristy Theiss
Byron Jones

St. Mark's Shut-ins

Phyllis Tunning, Triplecreek

Virginia Shaw

Nancy Mirade

Don Olson

Dale Shreve, Birchwood, Rm. 201

Sue Webster

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S!

Our Mission is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.

STAFF

Pastor	Joe Payne
Administrative Assistant	Brenda Smoot
Director of Music	Chris Beiser
Organist	Sue Combs
Director of Children & Family Ministries	Peggy Smith
Youth Director	Erin Theodor
Nursery Director	Lauren Dichtl
Pastor Emeritus	Bob Klingel

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Liturgist	Mark Hensler
Head Usher	Steve Nguyen
Ushers	Dave & Cindy Booker
	Bill & Lynne Schumacker
Greeter	Russ Carr
Prayer Room	Alethea LaMar

The Prayer Room is open for private quiet prayer.

THE ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

- ... are given in celebration of the birthday of Pastor Joe.
- ... are given to the Glory of God.

ATTENDANCE: 11/24 – 125

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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