

Heaven and Nature Sing!

300 Years of

JOY

to the World

December 1: Advent 1

"PREPARE—HOPEFUL JOY"

TODAY: 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 8, 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.

CENTERING PRELUDE

OUR FOCUS ON LOVING JOY "Heaven and Nature Sing"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
Ray & Karen Smith, with grandchildren Dari and Ellie Sanchez

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you are the source of love.
You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life.
You are the One that helps us reach out in love,
especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love.
Help us when our fear gets in the way of joining the
chorus of joy.

**Let us repeat the sounding joy in our hearts this day.
Let us repeat the sounding joy in our church this day.
Let us repeat the sounding joy in the world this day...
in the name of Love. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH 213

WELCOME

PEACE
"May you have Loving joy"

"I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, 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.*

SCRIPTURE
Isaiah 11:1-10 (CEB)
Matthew 3:1-15

THE WORD IN MUSIC
"Will We Know Him?" Chancel Choir

SERMON
"Loving Joy"
Rev. Benji Sayre, special guest preacher

SUNG RESPONSE
"Love Has Come"

**Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

**Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come, He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!**

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

**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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY
"Ding Dong Merrily On High"
Mark Hensler, Euphonium

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

Offertory Prayer

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

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 1 UMH 211

BENEDICTION

**"O Come, O Come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

POSTLUDE

Today we welcome the **Reverend Benji Sayre** as our guest preacher. Benji is an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church and has been in full time ministry since 2001. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Wesley Foundation at UC, and is one of the pastors at Clifton United Methodist Church. His previous work includes outdoor education and leadership training at Camp Joy, as well as youth ministry work at Lebanon UMC and Groesbeck UMC. Benji's work focuses on connecting the Wesley Foundation to the church, and the church to the university community, primarily through the SERVE team and GROW ministries. Welcome, Benji!

Pastor Joe continues to recover from his stroke and plans to resume preaching on December 22nd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS ANGELS: Thank you to all who purchased items to make a child's Christmas brighter! All items are **due at the church today**. If you have questions or couldn't get them here today, please see Karen Smith or Julie Mislansky. We will be taking all the gifts to the Salvation Army tomorrow.

CHOIR CANTATA: Next 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

11:00 pm Traditional service with Carols, Candlelight and Communion.

SCOUTS POINSETTIAS:

If you ordered a poinsettia from the Boy Scouts, they are now available in Fellowship Hall.

Marlis Hatton (2), Brenda Smoot (1), Lynne Schmacker (1 plus Porch pot), Kym Nguyen (1 plus Porch pot), Terrill Broshear (Porch pot), Shirley Aydlett (2), Julie Dichtl (4), Edith Davis (1 - 6 1/2), Karen Smith (2).

ALTAR FLOWER CHART:

The 2020 Altar Flower chart is now available for you to get flowers in memory or honor of someone. The price for one Altar vase is \$14.50. You may take the flowers home after the service. Flower inserts should be left in the kitchen.

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

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

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)

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

- 6:15 pm NA Meeting (F. Hall)

FRIDAY

- 7:00 pm Scouts overnight

SATURDAY

Cantata Rehearsal

SUNDAY

- 8:30 am Fellowship, Donuts, Coffee, Juice and Milk. (Fellowship Hall and the Narthex)
9:30 am Worship Celebration / Cantata
6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Questions for Prayer Time Second Sunday in Advent—Loving Joy

*Who needs a message of love in your life? In the world?
Why do we ration love as if it isn't never-ending, ever-green?
Like the tree adorned with ornaments, with what outward messages
do we adorn our own lives?*

Requests from 12/1 and this past week:

Lori Palmieri—Lung cancer. (Pat Coyle's daughter)
Charlene Pullem—ICU Fairfield Mercy.
Kym Nguyen—Cataract surgery
Sympathy to Ann & family in the death of John on Fri., Nov. 29.
(services were last Thursday).
Nancy Miracle—surgery on Thursday

Hospital or Re-Hab

Betsy Jones - Jamestown Therapy
Max Stover - Tri-County Extended Care.
Eleanor McCollum - Home

St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

Phyllis Tunning, Triplecreek
Virginia Shaw
Nancy Miracle
Don Olson

Dale Shreve, Birchwood, Rm. 201
Sue Webster

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

Chez & Jason, Aydlett's grandsons
11/10
Freida's niece's triplets 11/17
Riley Hughes 11/24
Wes Flannery 11/24
Louise Watkins, 11/24

Lori Palmieri 11/24
Joys & Blessing for new grandson for
Sue & Larry Miller 11/24

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
United Methodist Church
Prayer & Bible St. Groups
Merianne Cardas

Dick Brewer
Kristy Theiss
Sandy Ronningen
Jean Stivers
Nancy Bumpus

Jack Cook
Mitch Thomas
Bryon Jones

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

Sermon	Rev. Benji Sayre
Liturgist	Mark Hensler
Head Usher	Steve Nguyen
Usher	Dave & Cindy Booker
	Bill & Lynne Schumacker
Greeter	Russ Carr
Prayer Room	Bud Aydlett

The Prayer Room is open for private quiet prayer.

THE ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

- ... are given in memory of Paul Ritenbaugh.
- ... are given to the Glory of God.

ATTENDANCE: 12/01 - 133

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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