

# Heaven and Nature Sing!

300 Years of

# JOY

to the World

December 1: Advent 1 "PREPARE-HOPEFUL JOY"

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

## **TODAY: 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 22, 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                      "Carol of the Bells"                      Handbell Choir

OUR FOCUS ON PEACEFUL JOY  
    *"Heaven and Nature Sing"*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### \*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we await again the arrival of Your son,  
the Prince of Peace.

We long for the peaceful waters of joy  
that run deep and wide underneath all of life.

When we feel the chaos of life bearing down on us,  
Help us to remember that it doesn't have to be this way.

Help us to step into a slower rhythm that is your Peaceful Joy.

**Let truth and grace rule our hearts this day.**

**Let truth and grace rule our church this day.**

**Let truth and grace rule the world this day...**

**in the name of Peace.**

**Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN                      "Joy to the World"                      UMH 246

## WELCOME

## PEACE

"May you have Peaceful joy"

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

## RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP

Marlis Hatton, Don Jackson, Sue Mullen,  
Rich Turner, Karen Turner

## 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 7: 13-15 (CEB)

Matthew 1: 18-25 (The Message)

THE WORD IN MUSIC                      "God With Us"                      Chancel Choir

SUNG RESPONSE "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"  
*Complete poem is below. Sing the verses in red.*

## CHRISTMAS BELLS

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

### 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

**I heard the bells on  
 Christmas Day  
 Their old, familiar carols play  
 And wild and sweet  
 The words repeat  
 Of peace on earth,  
 goodwill to men!**

**And thought how, as the day  
 had come,  
 The belfries of all  
 Christendom  
 Had rolled along  
 The unbroken song  
 Of peace on earth,  
 goodwill to men!**

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
 The world revolved from night  
 to day,  
 A voice, a chime,  
 A chant sublime  
 Of peace on earth,  
 goodwill to men!

Then from each black, accursed  
 mouth  
 The cannon thundered in the  
 South,  
 And with the sound  
 The carols drowned

Of peace on earth,  
 good-will to men!  
 It was as if an earthquake rent  
 The hearthstones of a continent,

And made forlorn  
 The households born  
 Of peace on earth,  
 good-will to men!

**And in despair I bowed my  
 head  
 "There is no peace on earth,"  
 I said:  
 "For hate is strong,  
 And mocks the song  
 Of peace on earth,  
 good-will to men!"**

**Then pealed the bells more  
 loud and deep:  
 "God is not dead; nor doth  
 he sleep!  
 The Wrong shall fail,  
 The Right prevail,  
 With peace on earth,  
 good-will to men!"**

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

"Bring a Torch"

Handbell Choir

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.*

VIDEO

"Immanuel"

Michael Card

sung by school children from on the Day of Epiphany,  
Location: Chester Cathedral, in Chester, Cheshire, UK

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

**Immanuel, our God is with us!  
And if God is with us  
Who could stand against us?  
Our God is with us,  
Immanuel!**

POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:**

**6:30 pm** Family service

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

**5TH SUNDAY LUNCHEON:** The Nurture and Care Committee would like to announce that due to the holidays, there will not be a 5th Sunday luncheon at the end of December. We hope you are able to spend time and share a meal with those you love.

**ALTAR FLOWER CHART:** The 2020 Altar Flower chart is now available for you to get flowers in memory or honor of someone. The chart is on the wall next to the Narthex. 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.

**UPPER ROOMS:** The January/February Upper Rooms are available in the Narthex Literature rack and on the hall table by the Sanctuary. Feel free to take one home for your devotional reading.

**IRA GIVING:** Did you know that you can make a direct gift from your IRA to St. Mark's and avoid federal income taxes? The IRS rules allows people aged 70 1/2 or older to make direct charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRAs to charities, including churches, in a total amount up to \$100,000. These gifts are free from federal income taxation. In addition, the income tax laws of most states also allow tax-free treatment for these gifts.

Making gifts from IRA funds that would otherwise lead to increased taxes can be a wise choice for many. This is especially true for those who must take required minimum distributions each year.

For more information, see or contact Finance Chair, Tim Mislansky at 759-0581, your financial advisor, or your tax advisor.

## **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**

### **TUESDAY**

- 6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service  
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - Festival of Lessons & Carols

### **WEDNESDAY**

### **THURSDAY**

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

### **FRIDAY**

### **SATURDAY**

### **SUNDAY**

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

**The Church office will be closed between Christmas and New Years.**

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## Questions for Prayer Time Fourth Sunday in Advent—Peaceful Joy

What will help us choose peace and serenity instead of  
joining chaos when we encounter it?

How are we contributing to chaos instead of the reign of truth  
and grace?

Who in your life or community needs a “kiss” of peaceful joy and  
the Spirit of Christ?

### Requests from 12/15 and this past week:

Charlene Pullem is back in ICU at Bethesda Butler Hospital.

Friend's daughter & grandson. Kelsee gave birth to Crus at 24 wks.

### Hospital or Re-Hab

Max Stover - Tri-County Extended Care.

Eleanor McCollum - Home

### St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

Phyllis Tunning, Triplecreek

Virginia Shaw

Nancy Miracle

Dale Shreve, Birchwood, Rm. 201

Sue Webster

Betsy Jones - Jamestown

Sandy Ronningen - Chesterwood

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

Riley Hughes 11/24

Wes Flannery 11/24

Louise Watkins 11/24

Joys & Blessing for new grandson for

Sue & Larry Miller 11/24

Kym Nguyen 12/1

Lori Palmieri 12/1 (Pat Coyle's daughter)

Dan Hensler 12/8

Olson Family 12/8

Cousin, Michelle 12/8

Friend, Arlene 12/8

Linda Prohaska's nephew 12/9

### Continuing Prayers ,

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

All service Men & Women  
Country

United Methodist Church

Prayer & Bible St. Groups

Merianne Cardas

Dick Brewer

Kristy Theiss

Jean Stivers

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

Liturgist	Mark Hensler
Head Usher	Steve Nguyen
Usher	Dave & Cindy Booker
	Bill & Lynne Schumacker
Greeter	Russ Carr
Handbell Director	Dianne Aiken
Prayer Room	Gail Hartwig

The Prayer Room is open for private quiet prayer.

## THE ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

- ... are given in celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of George & Belinda Peters.
- ... are given to the Glory of God.

**ATTENDANCE:** 12/15 - 237

### St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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