



1 a perfect love

Worship Series for Lent

based on

*A Perfect Love: Understanding John Wesley's
"A Plain Account of Christian Perfection"*



West Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 1, 2020, 9:30 am

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*You are invited to read aloud the **bold text**.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

CENTERING

*Quiet your minds and hearts,
focusing on God's presence with anticipation.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

Mark Hensler

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We praise you with joy, loving God,

For your grace is better than life itself.

You have sustained us through the darkness,

And you bless us with life in this new day.

In the shadow of your wings we sing for joy

And bless your holy name. (Worship & Song, #70)

*OPENING HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH 57

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, in mystery and silence you are present

in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction,

hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty.

**We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor
to make us whole.**

Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding

of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of

your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your

people. Amen. (UM Book of Worship, #459)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Peggy Smith

LIFE IN THE PARISH

Pastor Joe

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

HYMN

"Blessed Assurance" v. 1

UMH 369

WE HEAR THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.** (UM Hymnal, p. 6)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:38-48, Hebrews 6:1a
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "How Can Anything Be Perfect?"
Week One of Series, *Perfect Love*

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

HYMN "Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast" UMH 339

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS / THE 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.**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory "Cherish the Cross" Chancel 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

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

The table open to ALL.

WE TAKE THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN "Take My Life and Let It Be" v. 1 UMH 399

*BENEDICTION

*SONG

**May you run and not be weary,
May your heart be filled with song,
And may the love of God continue to give you hope
and keep you strong.
And may you run and not be weary,
May you life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel always lead you home.**

*POSTLUDE

Before you leave, be sure to pick up your copy of
A Perfect Love book, study guide, and daily reading
bookmark. One free per household.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET'S MAKE OUR GREAT CHURCH GREATER: TODAY, Pastor Joe holds a workshop on leadership and living based on systems thinking. Systems thinking can benefit all of us at St. Mark's, especially during anxious times. This is an introduction to a series of trainings that will be made available going forward. Training is for members of our administrative committees and current church leaders, plus anyone else who wishes to participate. **The 90 minute session will begin at 11 am in Fellowship Hall.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2020 Kickoff! Come one, come all! Join us to kick off 2020 VBS Planning, **Tuesday, March 3 at 7 pm** in the Choir Room.

NO CHOIR PRACTICE WEDNESDAY.

MATTHEW 25: Saturday, March 7th from 11:00-1:00, we are scheduled to volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries. No limit on how many can serve; so we can take a big team to represent St. Mark's! Sign-up on the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board - please indicate if you'll need a ride. See or talk to Julie Mislansky (505-4061) or Charlene Miller (844-6793) if you have questions.

BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. MARK'S: Get to know other St. Mark's folks as you explore the meaning, expectations and joy of church membership. Grab a donut and cup of coffee, and join Pastor Joe in the Heritage Room at **11 am on March 8, 15, 22, and April 5**. New members will be received April 19.

LUNCH BUNCH: If you like to have a good time, meet people and eat - the Lunch Bunch would like to invite you to join us for lunch and socializing once a month at various restaurants around the area. The Lunch Bunch is a group made up of 55 and older adults. We will be meeting at Olive Garden, 7179 Dixie Highway (Rt. 4) in Fairfield on **Wednesday, March 18th at noon**. Please see Bob or Carol Pittman or call 829-4548 for reservations by noon, Monday, March 16th.

FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY 5K: This year's 5K will be held on **Saturday, March 21st**. The race begins at 9:00 at Waterworks Park. For the 4th year in a row, St. Mark's will have a team of walkers! For more information, check out the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board or talk to Debbie Bryant.

Our next 5th SUNDAY MEAL is March 29. Mark your calendars!

FAMILY MINISTRY

Saturday, April 4th, 4 pm, St. Mark's Hoppin' Easter Egg Hunt.

For children through 5th grade. Plus, crafts and baked goods. Stay tuned for additional opportunities.

Faith Family - we need your help to fill eggs for our Hoppin' Easter Egg Hunt. **Plastic Eggs are in the Narthex** for you to take home and fill with candy (or stickers, and other trinkets for those with allergies) **and return to church by March 29th**. When returning, please note eggs fill with allergy-free trinkets. We are opening our hearts and doors for children in our congregation and community, so let's fill lots of Plastic eggs! Questions? See or call Jennie Marshall (515-1224) or Peggy Smith (307-4509).

SAVE THE DATE! Lenten Dinner, Sunday, April 5th from 5 - 7 pm. — A Walk with Jesus. After dinner, groups will journey through 5 stations to experience the sights and sounds of Holy Week. Experience the story of events through five multi-sensory stations.

News from the pews, as space permits:

For youth-serving professionals: The Heritage Village is offering free training from Lighthouse Youth and Family Services. The topic; Safe and Supported Youth: An LGBTQ Cultural Competency Training. This is offered to youth serving professionals in providing supportive and affirming care to LGBTQ young people. The date is March 9 from 9am-4pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Please call Bill Dichtl, 513-563-9484, by March 2.

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
- 11:00 am Workshop with Pastor Joe (F. Hall)

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- 10:30 am Bible Study (Heritage Rm.)
- 7:00 pm VBS Kickoff (Choir Rm.)
- 7:00 pm Scouts (F. Hall)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 am Prayer Group (Heritage Rm.)
- 6:00 pm Handbells (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 pm Bible Study (F. Hall)
- No Choir Practice

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

- 11:00 am Matthew 25 Volunteering

SUNDAY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Requests from 2/29 and this past week:

Pray for a safe school for students and teachers.

Praise God I am better from having the flu. Thanks to all for prayers and concerns. (Bud Aydlett)

Joy: 2 young children from Colombia have been adopted and are part of a family. Their names are Angie & Juan Carlas.

St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

Phyllis Tunning - Triplecreek

Virginia Shaw

Nancy & Bob Miracle

Dale Shreve - Birchwood, Rm. 201

Sue Webster

Sandy Ronningen - Chesterwood

Betsy Jones - Golden Yrs. Nursing Home

Eleanor McCollum

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

Cliff Klug 1/26

Nicholas Miller 1/26

John Wyatt 1/26

Karen Smith 2/2

Friend 2/2

Carr/Ramsey Family 2/2

Flo Moore 2/2

Mislansky Family 2/9

Kayla Carr 2/9

Jerry Miller 2/23

Dan 2/23

Debbie Flannery 2/23

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

Mitch Thomas

Lori Palmieri (Pat Coyle's
daughter)

Bryon Jones

Jean Stivers

Pastor Joe

Merianne Cardas

Kristy Theiss

Dick Brewer

Chet Hard

Charlene Pullem

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	Andy Shellman
Ushers	Bill & Julie Dichtl
	Denny & Sue Mullen
Greeter	Russ Carr

The Prayer Room is open for private quiet prayer.

THE ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

... are given in memory of Joe Boggs by Shelia Boggs.

... are given in celebration of the anniversary today of
Jim & Betsy Jones.

ATTENDANCE: Last week 145
Ash Wednesday service 79

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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