



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 8, 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

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Joe

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is the Gardener, and God is planting something new;

In this time of worship, may we grow in Christ.

God is pruning us back so we may bear fruit;

**In this time of worship, may we repent, and know
God's forgiveness.**

God is nurturing us with water and Spirit, that we may blossom;

**In this time of worship, may we praise our Creator
and Sustainer!**

Come, let us join together in worship;

**Let us praise God, who is growing something new in
us.**

*OPENING HYMN "Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling" UMH 384

*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, remain here with us. Nurture us where we are not
growing. Encourage us to see the sun again. Remain here with us,
O God. Remain here. Remain in us. AMEN.**

LIFE IN THE PARISH

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

HYMN "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" v. 1 UMH 402

CHORAL ANTHEM "O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 5:1-7; John 15:1-8

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Benji Sayre

Week Two of Series, *Perfect Love*

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

HYMN "Lord, Speak to Me" vv. 1, 2, 5

UMH 463

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 "He Grew the Tree"

Chris Beiser

*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

WE TAKE THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN "O For a Heart to Praise My God"

UMH 417

*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

WELCOME, BENJI!



This morning we welcome our guest preacher, the Rev Benji Sayre, Executive Director of The Wesley Foundation. In addition to his work at the Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati, Benji also serves as the Associate Pastor at Clifton UMC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION CLASSES BEGIN TODAY at 11 am - 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 Rm. 108. Continued meetings on March 15, 22, and April 5. New members will be received April 19.

TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS: Please see the bulletin insert if you would like to order a flower for our Altar area on Easter Sunday. Deadline is Monday, March 29th.

CHILDREN, FAMILY & YOUTH MINISTRY MEETING: **Tuesday, March 17 at 7 pm.** Come and join us in planning our events for 2020.

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: 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 and we are a Bronze sponsor of the walk! So far, we have a team of ten! This is always such a fun time. For more information, check out the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board or talk to Debbie Bryant, 673-0412. Go to fairfieldfoodpantry.org to sign up.

UMCOR SUNDAY: We will collect our yearly special offering for UMCOR (**UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF**) on **March 22nd.** Since 1940, UMCOR has been providing relief, response and long-term recovery when events (famine, hurricane, war, flood, etc.) overwhelm a community. They are already responding to the victims of the tornados in Tennessee. There will be UMCOR envelopes, in the bulletin,

that Sunday for your UMCOR offering.

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. Questions? See or call Jennie Marshall, 515-1224, or Peggy Smith, 307-4509.

FIFTH SUNDAY BRUNCH/LUNCH: Join us on **Sunday, March 29** immediately following church in Fellowship Hall.

ST. MARK'S HOPPIN' EASTER EGG HUNT: Saturday, April 4th, 4 pm. For children through 5th grade. Crafts and baked goods.

LENTEN DINNER & PROGRAM: 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 Holy Week Story through five multi-sensory stations. Questions? Contact Peggy Smith (p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com).

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE: Thursday, April 9th at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. We begin in the Upper Room, as we listen to Jesus' New Commandment and participate in The Last Supper. We will then strip the Altar and reflect on the events of Good Friday via The Service of Darkness.

EASTER: TWO SERVICES - 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM.

This chancel choir will present the Easter Cantata at both services.

VBS 2020 - Rocky Railway - Save the date: June 14-18, 2020.

Faith Family, St. Mark's Children, Family & Youth Ministry's have kicked off planning for our 2020 Vacation Bible School, a fun way to share the love of God with the children of our community. **We need you!!**

Servant Leader Opportunities include:

Bible Adventures & Missions, Chew Chew Snacks, KidVidCinema, Crafts, Crew Leaders & Helpers, Advertising, Media, Set-up/Décor, Wrap up Festival volunteers. See or call Jennie Marshall, 515-1224, or Peggy Smith, 307-4509, with questions or to volunteer.

Next VBS meeting is April 7 at 7 pm.

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 Membership Class (Heritage Rm. 108)
- 6:00 pm Youth Group

MONDAY

- 10:00 am Craft Group (Rm. 104)
- 7:00 pm Mon. Nt. Study group (Heritage Rm. 108)

TUESDAY

- 10:30 am Bible Study (Heritage Rm. 108)
- 7:00 pm Administrative Council (Choir Rm. 109)
- 7:00 pm Scouts (F. Hall)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 am Prayer Group (Heritage Rm. 108)
- 6:00 pm Handbells (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 pm Bible Study (F. Hall)
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

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

We are happy to welcome our guest speaker today, Rev. Benji Sayre. He serves as the Associate Pastor at Clifton UMC and he is the Executive Director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Cincinnati. The Wesley Foundation is one of four new missions that St. Mark's Cares has planned to support this year, with our time and designated giving. We are excited to hear about how we can be more involved with this ministry. One way that is already planned is to prepare and serve a meal for the college students on Tuesday, March 24th. There is a sign-up on the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board and you can also talk to Kym Nguyen for more information about how to get involved. Welcome and thanks for being here, Benji!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Requests from 3/1 and this past week:

Bruce Rotroff, brother-in-law of Pam Guynes. He has just been diagnosed with Leukemia & begins Chemo Monday.

The Leyrer Family

Daughter, Tari Wolf, with health issues.

One of my students who is going through a very difficult time.
(Jenni Hensler)

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.*)

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 2/16

Dan 2/16

Debbie Flannery 2/16

Angie & Juan Carlas 2/23

Students & Teachers 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)

Byron 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

Sermon	Rev. Benji Sayre
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 Dan Hatton by Marlis Hatton.

... are given to The Glory of God.

ATTENDANCE: Last week 124

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Ave.

Fairfield, OH 45014

513.844.1818

Fairfieldstmarks.com