



Second Sunday of Advent

“I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship”

 **ST. MARK'S**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 6, 2020, 9:30 am

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Sue Combs

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

WELCOME

Pastor Joe Payne

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Linda Payne

I believe in love, I believe in love,
even when, even when I don't feel it.

Chris Beiser

**I believe in love, I believe in love,
even when, even when I don't feel it.**

The Advent Wreath

Erin, Casey, and Morgan Theodor

The emptiness of loneliness

The emptiness of loneliness

The wounds inflicted

The wounds inflicted

The fear of the "other"

The fear of the "other"

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of daring love. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—even when we cannot yet see a better day when we will act like the human family we are, ignite the flame of love within us,

**that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates" vv. 1-3 UMH 213

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WE PROCLAIM

CHILDREN'S TIME TO SHINE

Peggy Smith

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine

2. Don't Let anything blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine.

Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 7:1-14 (paraphrase)

THE WITNESS OF MUSIC

"Love Has Broken Down the Walls"

Chris Beiser

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 1:1-25

SERMON

Pastor Joe

"I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship"

WE RESPOND

LITANY OF BELIEF

In times when humanity disappoints, perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint, it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the consequences of our wrongs. And in times of distress it is a prophetic act to call out, name and claim, our belief that daring to love each other as God loves us is a faithful response.

Hear these statements of belief:

I believe that we have been taught to fear one another
AND

I believe that we are capable of learning to love.

I believe that our society is built on a foundation of oppression of some over others AND

I believe that we can speak this truth and move to act in ways that balance this inequity.

I believe that we are afraid AND

I believe that we can lean on each other and God for courage to face anything.

We believe, even when we are discouraged.

We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will bring about more love in the world!

CAROL OF RESISTANCE

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear "

UMH 218

With added verse:

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;**

**beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease the strife,
and hear the angels sing.**

PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER
(using "sins" and "...sin against us."

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *Responses on screen*

WE GO FORTH

OFFERING MOMENT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Today at 2 pm, we will be having a **zoom** G.L.O.W. for all ages. This will be a fun 20-30 minutes of connect time. All children should have received a zoom invite via email on how to get in the meeting.

We hope to begin meeting again **in person next Sunday, December 13th during worship.**

ZOOM MOVIE NIGHT—December 18 at 7 pm. Let's grab a snack and gather around our devices to watch Charlie Brown and his friends discover the true meaning of Christmas. Zooming the movie together allows us to see one another as we watch together.

CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECT: We are excited to announce that we will be supporting the **children at One Way Farm** this year. This recently re-opened children's home is at capacity and we are partnering with them to make it a great Christmas for all.

We will be collecting donations of anything a child, ages 8-18, might want or need! Be creative! Buy any items you like or have access to-any price range-all donations are important and needed. All items should be new.

Ideas! Clothing, shoes, coats, toys, games, arts and crafts, books, journals and scrapbooking supplies, jewelry and hair accessories, sports equipment.

All donations need to be at church by Thursday, Dec. 17th. There is a collection bin, in Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

SMALL GROUP STUDY - Join Pastor Joe in this 6 session study: FAITHFUL and INCLUSIVE.

The Bible, Sexuality and the United Methodist Church.

**Six Sessions 6:30 - 7:30 pm Thursdays
January 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11**

This video-based study, facilitated by Pastor Joe, will explore how we can be completely faithful to the authority of Scripture and fully inclusive of LGBTQ people. The video features author-presenter Rev. Rob Fuquay, pastor of St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis . Rev. Fuquay will lead us in a study of the seven biblical passages most commonly cited on this topic. A goal during this study will be to nurture a climate of trust, listening, and grace.

At this time, registration will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up early.

Call Brenda at the office, 513-844-1818.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: There will not be a Christmas card set up this year. Cards will have to be mailed if you want to remember someone.

Please remember our shut-ins.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE LIVESTREAMED AT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sunday Requests and Updates:

After 8 months, Dale & others at Birchwood have tested positive for Covid. (Elaine Shreve)

Prayer for Doug in the loss of his Mother on Thanksgiving Day. (Patty Coyle)

Mary Lou Nguyen, sister-in-law of Steve Nguyen, whose Mother Sally passed away Wednesday morning.

Thanksgiving for Dad, Bob Grammel who is now home from Jamestown. Prayers for Brother & nephew who tested positive for Covid. (Tari Randall)

Paul Schutte is now at Birchwood.

Bob Sudbrink is having complications with Chemo while he waits marrow transplant for Blood cancer. (Friend of the Marshalls & Mullens)

My Uncle Charles Kemp is ill and awaiting his Covid test results. (Jennie Marshall)

Kenny Hobson is hospital with Covid. (From a friend)

Prayers for Dr. Macy. (Pat Pitman)

Prayers for friends who haven't had it easy lately. (Willa)

Sister-in-law, Kelly, who is having surgery Mon. and Mom Wanda in assisted living with health issues. (Jennie M.)

Ruth Stanifer's Aunt Iva.

Aiken's family in Hillard are doing fine now.

Joys:

Prayer of thanksgiving for new grandson, J. Thomas Hannah born Nov. 17. (Jennie & Rick Marshall)

New from last Sunday:

George Peters passed away on Tues. Dec. 1st. Funeral service is Mon. at Rose Hill Funeral Home.

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 | Prayer & Bible Study Groups | Byron Jones Merianne Cardas |
| Our Country | Jean Stivers | Dick Brewer |
| First Responders | Mitch Thomas | Mike Kinnard - |
| United Methodist Church | Lori Palmieri (Pat Coyle's daughter) | Bethesda North Therapy unit. |

St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Phyllis Tunning - Triplecreek | Sandy Ronningen -Chesterwood |
| Virginia Shaw | Eleanor McCollum |
| Nancy & Bob Miracle | Paul Schutte - Birchwood |
| Dale Shreve - Birchwood, 201 | Sue Webster |
| Bob Netherland in Hospice Care | Bob Grammel |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Don Bond 11/8 | Mark Hensler's brother 11/22 |
| Friend, Jon 11/8 | Christian Jngle 11/22 |
| Friend, Rena 11/8 | Daughter Missy, husband, Dave |
| Danny Thomas 11/8 | granddaughter, Kailyn 11/22 |
| Josh Goodman 11/8 | Family of Clara Roederer 11/22 |
| Megan Riley 11/8 | All Shut-ins & those in Nursing |
| Chris Murray 11/15 | homes 11/22 |
| Carol Kinross 11/15 | All those with Covid 11/22 |
| Daughter, Chrissy 11/15 | All families grieving a loved one |
| Jim Ruhl 11/15 | lost to Covid 11/22 |
| Friend, Terri Fischer 11/15 | Patty Froelke 11/22 |
| Judy Miller 11/15 | Neal Menninger 11/22 |
| | Tara McDonald 11/22 |

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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

STAFF

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Joseph M. Payne |
| Administrative Assistant | Brenda Smoot |
| Director of Music | Chris Beiser |
| Organist | Sue Combs |
| Director of Children & Family Ministries | Peggy Smith |
| Director of Youth Ministries | Julie Mislansky |
| Pastor Emeritus | Bob Klingel |

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Liturgist | Linda Payne |
| Sound | Rick Kiefer |
| Camera | Mark Hensler |
| Screen | Jennie Marshall |

ALTAR FLOWERS ...

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Ave.
Fairfield, OH 45014
513.844.1818
Fairfieldstmarks.com