



Third Sunday of Advent

**“I Believe in God: Ode to Joy”**



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

**December 13, 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 God, I believe in God,  
even when, even when God is silent

Chris Beiser

**I believe in God, I believe in God,  
even when, even when God is silent**

THE ADVENT WREATH

Dichtl Family

The loneliness of fear

**The loneliness of fear**

The invisibility of the next step

**The invisibility of the next step**

The yearning for presence

**The yearning for presence**

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of the depths of joy. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—even when we are not sure of your presence, ignite the flame of joy within us,

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

HYMN

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

UMH 203

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.
3. Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine.

Old Testament Reading    Isaiah 57: 14-19 (NRSV)

THE WITNESS OF MUSIC  
"The Jesus Gift"

Chris Beiser

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-56

SERMON

Pastor Joe

*"I Believe in God: Ode to Joy"*

## **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 in the promise of joy.

Hear these statements of belief:

I believe that we have sometimes been silent in the face of injustice AND

**I believe that we are capable of raising our voices and insisting on goodness for all.**

I believe that we have been afraid of feeling deeply, making our joy small AND

**I believe that the deep joy of community can always be present, even in hard times.**

I believe that sometimes we wonder if we can make a difference AND

**I believe that small acts of kindness and help do make a real difference.**

We believe, even when we are discouraged.

**We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer us joy!**

PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS

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

## **WE GO FORTH**

HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful"

UMC 89

OFFERING MOMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY (Closing Song)

**Believe, with a joyful heart!**

**Believe, and shine your light!**

**Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"**

**let the poor say, "I am rich**

**because of what our God has done for us."**

**Believe!**

POSTLUDE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECT: Donations are due Thursday, December 17th.**

We are excited to announce that we will be supporting the **children at One Way Farm in Fairfield** 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 are 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.

**There is a collection bin, in Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. Thank you for your support!**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:**

### **ZOOM MOVIE NIGHT—FRIDAY, 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.

### **OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE CAN BE VIEWED ANYTIME 12/24 BEGINNING AT 7PM.**

### **ONLINE 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**

**ON ZOOM—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.

**UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS:** The Jan./Feb. Upper Rooms are available, in a box, outside the kitchen door. Please pick up a copy for your devotional reading.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## **Sunday Requests and Updates:**

Sympathy to Belinda Peters and family in the death of George on December 1st.

Gale Goodman's mom, Rose Townsend, is in Fairfield Mercy Hospital.

Sue Beckett is having Knee Replacement surgery on Monday, Dec. 7th. (Surgery was successful and Sue is now home for healing and therapy.)

Dr. Maly serious health issues. Pat Pitman's nephew

Continued prayers for Dale Shreve ill with Covid-19.

Lainey and Levi, twins, got into an indoor swimming pool. Lainey has recovered but brother, Levi, needs a miracle. (Debbie Flannery)

Beth Halterman, a friend, in danger of losing her eyesight. (Susan Bunte)

Athena is still sick and will have a biopsy. (Dee Dee Edmundson)

Roger Roark's brother having surgery.

Praise that Sarah Luken finally got her sense of taste back after 30 days.

Debbie, daughter-in-law of Zedith Pottenger, is having Chemo and isn't doing well.

## **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
Our Country	Jean Stivers	Merianne Cardas
First Responders	Mitch Thomas	Dick Brewer
United Methodist Church	Lori Palmieri (Pat Coyle's daughter)	Mike Kinnard - 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
	Greg Pullem

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

Mark Hensler's brother 11/22	Bob Sudbrink 11/29
Christian Jngle 11/22	Uncle Charles Kemp 11/29
Daughter Missy, husband, Dave granddaughter, Kailyn 11/22	Kenny Hobson 11/29
Family of Clara Roederer 11/22	Sister-in-law, Kelly & her mom, Wanda 11/29
All Shut-ins & those in Nursing homes 11/22	Ruth Stanifer's Aunt Iva 11/29
All those with Covid 11/22	Mary Lou Nguyen 11/29
All families grieving a loved one lost to Covid 11/22	Bob Grammel's brother & nephew 11/29
Patty Froelke 11/22	Doug 11/29
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

### St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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