

St. Mark's United Methodist Church



100 Peachblossom Road, Easton, Maryland 21601
410-822-0001

www.stmarkseaston.org

church e-mail: churchoffice@stmarkseaston.org

December 8, 2019
9:30 Combined Worship Service



GATHERING.....*Please take time to pray*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ WE WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE.....*Marie Harrison, harp*
“In The Bleak Mid-Winter”*Traditional*

▲ THE OPENING HYMN

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*page 218*

▲ THE OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *John and Bonnie Bidwell*

Reader 1: O God, we light the second candle of Advent.

People: *We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.*

Reader 1: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People: *Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

MORNING 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 AND TITHES

Offertory Prayer and Voluntary..... Ms. Rane Reitz

▲ DOXOLOGY..... page 238 refrain

Glo- - - - ri-a, in excelsis Deo!

Glo- - - --ri-a, in excelsis Deo!

▲ WORDS OF THE PROPHET

Isaiah 11: 1-10page 836

This is the Word of the Lord.. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

MESSAGE

“SMALL, Dancing Light”

Terry W. York, Taylor Scott Davis

1. Small, Dancing Light

See, light dances,
see light dances on a thin vast horizon.
See, warmth shimmers,
see, warmth shimmers on the cold, cold edge of night

All earth awakes in strange anticipation;
darkness dispersed by a small, dancing light.

Light is dancing hope, peace, and love.
Warmth is spreading peace, love and joy.
Light is dawning peace, love, and joy.

Is there a word for this?!
There must be a word for this!
Yes, there's a word for this; the word is “dawn!”

2. Red Leaves Fall

Red leaves fall;
Can it be said the tree that loses leaves is dead?

The evergreen in that same scene says, “No, not at all.”
A redbird lands where leaves once grew, to ask, “Is this tree dead?”
Then falling snow says, “No, no, no, in time all will be new.”

Is there a word for this when red leaves fall and redbirds call?
Yes, there's a simple word for this; the word is “hope.”

3. O Little Town Of Bethlehem

v. 1 *Everyone*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

v. 2 *Women*

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

v. 3 *Men*

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

v. 4 *Everyone*

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

4. One Silent Melody

Seth Wagner, baritone

One straight path through teeming throngs,
one silent melody amid loud songs,
one small good surrounded by wrongs;
in this a child shall lead us.

One sure truth to measure claims,
one deep identity though many names,
one clear call 'midst meaningless games
in this a child shall lead us.

Is there a word for this?

There must be a word for this.

Yes, there's a word for this. The word is "peace."

5. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

v.1 *Everyone*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

v.2 *Women*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

v. 3 *Everyone*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

6. Someday

Someday fear will leave us.
Someday strangers will be welcomed.
Someday differences will be a thing of beauty.
Someday we will open hearts and hands to counter hate.
Someday.

Someday greed will leave us.
Someday poverty will call us.
Someday people's pain will touch our hearts and hurt us.
Someday we will all know suffering to be our own.
Someday

Someday pride will leave us.
Someday we'll embrace the world.
Someday we will live on earth, God's heavenly kingdom.
Someday we'll allow the coming child to shape our hearts.
Someday.

Is there a word for this? Give us a word for this!
And a word moves t'ward our prayer; the word is "love."

7. A Rising Fountain

We sense a fountain, a rising fountain,
welling up in our hearts.

We sense a stirring, a stubborn stirring,
a sense that God will come among us,
God will live within us,
will be there with us in the struggles of this life

Is there a word for this, the rising fountain,
this strange new knowing, this welling up inside?
Yes, there's a word for this!
The word is Joy!

8. Joy to the World!

v. 1. *Everyone*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n, and nature sing.

v. 2 *Women*

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

v. 3 *Men*

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

v. 4 *Everyone*

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

9. In Bethlehem

In Bethlehem a babe was born
and God's love and God's word became flesh.

Joy became flesh.
Peace became flesh.
Hope.
Peace.
Love.
Joy.

These words and God's Word became flesh,
and the baby's name was Jesus.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word became flesh,
and the Word dwelt among us.
In the beginning and in Bethlehem; Emmanuel!

These words became flesh when God became flesh.

He is hope,
he is peace and love and joy;
he is the Christ!

Orchestra

Gerri McGuire, Flute; Sarah Blecker, Oboe; Tracie Thomas, Clarinet; Micahla Hendrix,
Bassoon, Marie Harrison, Harp; Sachi Murasugi, violin; Anthony Shields, violin;
Meredith Buxton, viola; Carey Miller, cello; Carol and Matthew Craig, percussion;
Ranee Reitz, organ and piano;

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ Indicates Congregation standing as able.

*This morning's Cantata is offered to the Glory of God and in celebration of
God's wonderful advent gift of hope, peace, love, and joy: Jesus Christ. May the
peace of this season dwell in your hearts and lives.*

*We thank our Choir; our organist and accompanist, Ranee Reitz; our soloist,
Seth Wagner; and our guest instrumentalists
for this wonderful message in music.*

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S! Before the service begins, you are invited to
register your attendance (please print) in the attendance pad in the pew.

THE FLOWERS on the altar this morning are presented to the *Glory of God*,
in honor of our new organist, Ranee Reitz & in appreciation of all of those
involved with the music especially at this time of year by Sara Matthews
Crowder.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE Please see an usher.

THE NURSERY The Nursery will not be staffed during the Christmas Cantata. We invite all family members to join us in the Sanctuary for the Cantata Service. The Nursery, located upstairs in Room 212, will be available for parents to attend to their child's needs during this service use if needed. The speakers will be turned on in this room for your listening pleasure. Please see Wendy Avey, Director of Christian Education if you need any further assistance.

-Those Who Serve -

HEAD USHER: Raymond Harrison.

USHERS: Bob Thomas, Marie Jones & Wendy Cadell.

GREETERS: Linda Kuhling, Brad & Jodi Baker, Sarah Poole & Jim Shinn.

SOUND TECH: Shea Springer

COFFEE HOUR: Ethel Ann Milby, Joel Milby & Eva Reeley .

ALTAR GUILD: Sheila Scott & Claudia Knox.

BUS DRIVER Tripp Ewers. **BUS LEADER:** .

CHURCH OPENING: Jeff Morton. **CLOSING:** Frank Meyerle.

-Announcements-

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS There are a few brown bags that still need to be filled for the Christmas baskets. Please take ONE or two and fill them. We will be preparing 25 baskets for Christmas. They need to be back by Sunday, December 15th. By giving to others we show gratitude to God and show the love of our Heavenly Father. Thank you, Lee Royer, Missions

MR. FIX IT Members If you have nagging little things around the house that need fixing, why not call Mr. Fix-It who would be delighted to address your problem(s). Call the Church Office to arrange for this free service.

THE THRIFT SHOP 410-820-7106 The shop hours are Monday- 10:00am- 12:30 pm, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm. Scheduling of volunteers contact Becky VanGilder 410-822-6769 Thank you! Lee Royer 410-829-8189

UNITED METHODIST MEN If you are a man of faith and want to help us in our mission of serving Christ & others, we would love to have you join us. Send me an email to earecksonr@yahoo.com & I will put you on our United Methodist Men (UMM) email list. You don't have to attend our meetings to be involved. We are active & alive for Christ. Come & be a part of our group.

FOR MEMORIAL OR HONORARIUM monetary gifts please send to Karen Reed's attention. Please do not put in offering plate unless they are in regular envelope, marked with Karen's name. Letters are written to the family so they can be acknowledged.

WE NEED HELP! We need Panera pick-ups the first Saturdays of Jan, Feb, and March 2020. Volunteers need to pick up at 9:15pm from Panera and deliver to church by 7:30am the next morning. Please contact the church office if you can help with this important feeding ministry for these few Saturdays.

-This Week at St. Mark's-

Sunday, December 8, 2019

“Cantata Sunday” One Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 a.m. – Cantata. Sanctuary.

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Dinner. Fellowship hall.

6:30 p.m. – Mid Shore Community Band Concert. Sanctuary.

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

6:30 p.m. – United Methodist Men. Meeting Rm. 155.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

6:00 p.m. – Bell Choir. Music Rm.

Thursday, December 12, 2019

12:30 p.m. – Christian Doctrine & Apologetics. Meeting Rm. 155.

7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir. Choir Rm.

Sunday, December 15, 2019

8:15 a.m. – Worship Service. Chapel.

9:30 a.m. – Worship Service. Sanctuary.

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages.

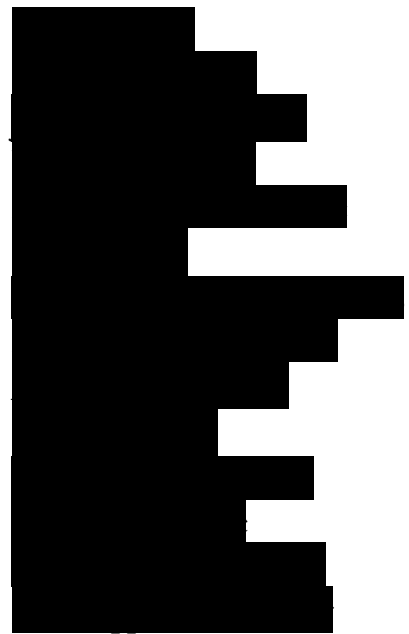
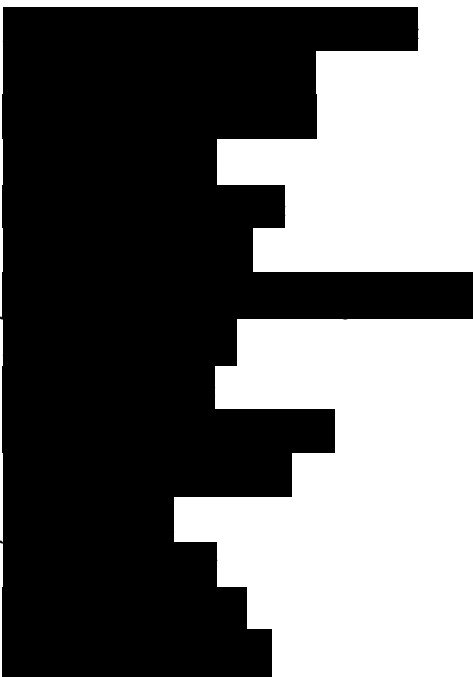
11:00 a.m. – Worship Service. Sanctuary.

-Let Us Pray For-

Prayer Focus:

For those in need and those shut in.

While we all know that being admitted into the hospital can be a stressful time, please contact the church office so that you can be visited. You are our family and are important to us! We would like your permission for your name to be listed if you are in the hospital.





January 10th – 12th

It's time to sign up for the 2020 Youth Rally in Ocean City!
You won't want to miss out on all the fun and fellowship with thousands of friends.

Save Money & receive a t-shirt by registering early!

This event is for Grades 6-12 only.

(Adult Chaperones must be at least 23 years old.)

Cost is \$105 by November 13th for Late Registration (includes t-shirt)
Price will increase to \$125 November 14th until December 18th (no t-shirt)

For registration forms & details, please contact: Wendy Avey,

christianed@stmarkseaston.com



Lunch after the 11:00 service on Sundays. Meet by the coffee pots in the gathering area.

Bible study in room 209 on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Follow the arrows from the front entrance.

Dancing on Saturday evenings at different locations on the Shore.

Additional events will be added as they come to our attention!

Contact Carolyn Hester with any questions or interest

Share the gift of Hospitality!

Having the congregation come together between services in the Gathering Area for light snacks & coffee has been a wonderful time of Fellowship at St. Mark's.

We are looking for hosts to cover the next several weeks. The coffee will be prepared; we need snacks & servers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area on the information table.

It's fun & easy. Please talk to some friends & come together to cover a Sunday or two. If you have any questions, contact the church office for the coordinators contact info.

St. Mark's Annual Christmas Dinner & Concert with Mid-Shore Community Band

Today, Sunday, December 8, 2019

St. Mark's family will gather together for fellowship, dinner & a concert by the Mid-Shore Community Band **today Sunday, December 8th**. We will gather in Fellowship hall at **5:00 p.m.** for a delicious meal provided by *Personal Touch Catering*. Our meal will be Chicken Casserole, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, dinner rolls, ice tea, lemonade & various desserts.

See you this evening!!

St. Mark's Mission is:

*To share the love of Jesus
with & through the people of Talbot County & beyond.*

<u>Our Worship:</u>	<u>11/24</u>	<u>12/1</u>
8:15 A.M. Worship	61	54
9:30 A.M. Worship	121	119
11:00 A.M. Worship	<u>119</u>	<u>95</u>
Total Worship Attendance	301	268
Sunday School Attendance	70	64

Our Tithes & Offerings (December 1, 2019)

Total Amount Received Last Week	\$	13,161.00
Total for Operations	\$	8,702.00
Total for Maintenance	\$	492.00
Total for Mortgage	\$	2,239.00
Missions Fund (YTD) *	\$	39,461.25
Other	\$	1,661.00
Sunday School Offering	\$	67.00

TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

The Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) is a temporary shelter serving homeless individuals from Talbot County & surrounding areas. The congregation of St. Mark's has supported TIS since its inception. Currently we provide morning (7am to 10am) & evening (7pm to 11pm) supervision as well as dinner on the 23rd & 24th of each month. Over these years our list of volunteers has declined.

TIS offers an onsite orientation one Saturday a month at their facility at 107 Goldsborough St. Easton, MD. If you are interested in volunteering or attending an orientation please contact Mary Ann Hicks (410-476-7228) or Barbara Friedman (410-763-7263). You can also view their website (talbotinterfaithshelter.org) for more information.

St. Mark's UMC Annual Christmas Ornament



New for 2019



2018

Once again this year, our Youth Group will be selling ceramic Christmas Ornaments as a fundraiser to help cover the costs of Youth Group activities for the upcoming year. The second in a series, this year's image is another section of the Christian Service Stained Glass Window located in our Chapel.

The new 2019 design will be unveiled & available in late November. For those of you who missed out in purchasing last year's ornament, we still have a few left to purchase to start your personal collection or to give as a gift.

The price for each individual ornament is \$15. Both will be available in the Gathering Space on Sunday mornings in late November.

Order your Poinsettias



We sometimes receive orders for more flowers than we really need & because there are other ways you can help enhance our worship services at Christmas, the form below will allow you to decide what you would like to do. All gifts will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

I/We _____ Phone _____

Wish to make the following gift to enhance the Christmas services at St. Mark's:

In honor of _____

(Name of living person)

In memory of _____

(Name of deceased person)

_____ No. of Poinsettias (at \$12.50 each, 6 inch pot)

\$_____ Donation Only, No poinsettia needed.

Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to:

St. Mark's UMC

100 Peachblossom Road

Easton, MD 21601

Memo line: Poinsettias

Orders must be received by Wednesday, December 11, 2019



Christmas Angel Salt Shaker Craft

Join us for a special Christmas Craft Night here at St. Mark's on Wednesday, December 11th from 5:00-7:00pm in Rm. 206.



**Samples are on display in the main lobby.
The cost is \$5 - \$7 depending on supplies.**

This craft is designed for adults or families with older children.

Younger children are welcome to attend, however an adult must accompany each child to assist them with their project. We will have an easier Christmas ornament craft for young children at no additional cost.

**Please sign-up in advance.
Proceeds support our Christian Education Division.**

Sunday, December 15th



Your help is needed!!

Homemade cookies needed! Once again we will be delivering cookie trays to our local police, fire stations, educators, hospital staff & post office. Let's show our appreciation again this year by providing homemade cookies. Please bring them to church on Sunday, December 15th. Our staff & Youth Group will deliver them to those who work so hard to help support our community during the year.



Our Advent Devotion book is complete.
Look for the pale purple booklet
throughout the church.
Enjoy as we enter into this special time.
This book can also be found online
on our web page
www.stmarkseaston.org/worship/seasonal-services