



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Our Mission**

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*

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**DECEMBER 7, 2022**

**ADVENT MIDWEEK**

**SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER**

**7:00 PM**

*This year's Advent Midweek "Service of Word and Prayer" is adapted from All Creation Sings, a new worship resource of the ELCA. The theme of this year's Advent series, is "Holy Interruptions, Holy In-dwellings," a reminder that God often interrupts our plans and encounters us in the midst of life's busyness, dwelling in us with grace and peace so that, transformed, we might live with hope and joy.*

*Advent offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.  
**Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.***

**Prelude**

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

Tune WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT by George Neumark  
Organ setting by J. Bert Carlson

**Welcome**

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as you are able*

**Greeting**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
the love of Christ ✦ that guards our hearts and minds,  
and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Opening Prayer**

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your Christ.  
By his coming speak peace to your people and turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and splendid glory may dwell in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Silence**

*Use this brief time of silence to let go of the busy-ness of this time of the year and its stress. The beginning and the end of this period of silence will be marked with the sound of a bell.*

## Opening Song

*The assembly joins together in the song below.*

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You” ELW 769

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Text & Music: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. Composite; Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection and song.*

### First Reading

### Ephesians 4:25-32

<sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 146:5-10

*Read responsively.*

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**  
<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**<sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**Second Reading                    1 Peter 5:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Advent Reflection**

“Cast your anxiety on him”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

**Song**

“Wait for the Lord” ELW 262, Sing three times

**WAIT FOR THE LORD**

Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; T&M © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Wait for the Lord". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign. The second system has the lyrics "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" and ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

**Prayers**

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

*The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.*

In Romans Paul tells us, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” Let us pray.

Creating God, You made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and you faithfully watch over all things forever. Bless this world with your love so that all people might know your faithfulness. Savior, we wait for you;

**Hear us as we pray.**

Eternal God, You execute justice for the oppressed, provide food for the hungry and set the captives free. Bless us to be your hands, voices and feet in this world so that the love of your Son Jesus for all people might continue to be incarnated through our lives. Savior, we wait for you;

**Hear us as we pray.**

Healing God, You restore, support, and strengthen those who suffer. Bless all your children at this time of the year who suffer in any way, granting healing and hope. Give sight to the blind, lift up those who are bowed down, watch over the stranger, and uphold the widow and the orphan. Savior, we wait for you;

**Hear us as we pray.**

Loving God, You forgive us our sins and call us to eternal glory with Christ. Bless us always to cast all our anxieties and burdens upon Christ, finding release and freedom that lead to lives of kindness, mercy and eternal life with you. Savior, we wait for you;

**Hear us as we pray.**

Abundant God, receive the gifts of our offerings and of our lives, always recreating us in your image to reflect your glory. Walk with us this Advent, that we may rediscover the grace of Christ in-dwelling in our humanity. Savior, we wait for you;

**Hear us as we pray.**

God, you search the human heart, giving knowledge of the Spirit; intercede, we pray for these prayers of the faithful. This we pray in Jesus' holy name.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus teaches us.*

**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 and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **SENDING BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us  
with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus † for whom we watch and wait.

**Amen.**

## Postlude

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND by Johann Walter

Organ setting by Paul O. Manz

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This service adapted/reprinted from *All Creation Sings*, “Service of Word and Prayer”, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; musician: Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

### **Worship and Congregational Life**

**Advent Midweek Holy Communion** every Wednesday (12/7 & 12/14) during Advent, 7 pm in person and online on Facebook (SaintMarksCharlotte).

### **Advent Schedule**

12/11 Advent 3: **Service of Lessons and Carols**, 10:30 am  
St. Mark's Choir, String Quartet, Vocal Soloists, and Organ  
**Queen City Ringers Concert** “All Is Calm, All Is Bright”, 5 pm

12/18 Advent 4: St. Mark's Choir, St. Mark's Handbells, and Organ 10:30  
*During Advent, prepare your heart with prayer and song.*

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

12/24 at 8 pm at St. Mark's and live on Facebook at SaintMarksCharlotte.  
St. Mark's Choir, Brass Quintet, Vocal Soloists, and Organ

### **12/25 Christmas Day & 1/1/23 First Sunday of Christmas, 10:30 am service only**

**“A Time for Stories!” 2023 Fall Stewardship Appeal** Faithfully and joyfully consider your pledge of support for St. Mark's in the coming year. The pledge form is included in the “A Time for Stories!” brochure, available in the Gathering Place. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. An online pledge option is available from our webpage, or you may use the QR code (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page.



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## St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Paul Davis, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Jon McKenzie, Betty Lentz, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, and Sam Temple.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests ([pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com))



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim ([pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com))



## *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**  
[pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

**Lester Ackerman,**  
**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**  
[lackerman2@aol.com](mailto:lackerman2@aol.com)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**  
[stmarkselca1001@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkselca1001@gmail.com)

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