

**Saint Mark United Methodist Church
The Parables of Jesus**

September 17, 2023

Prelude

Breathe

Diane Stewart

Welcome and Announcements

Cindy Moore

***Call to Worship and Opening Prayer**

Cindy Moore

What does the Holy One require of us?

To be just, kind, and humble before God.

Give thanks to God with your whole heart.

Great are the works of the Lord.

Now faith, hope, and love abide;

And the greatest of these is love.

Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to You with hearts full of faith. God, continue to plant Your Word in our hearts that we might grow to know and love You more. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

UMH No. 57

vv. 1,2,3,4,5

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Children's Time

Becky King

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lauren Christenberry

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.

Hymn of Preparation

Spirit Song

UMH No. 347

United Women in Faith Moment

Rita Bonin

Offertory Prayer

Cindy Moore

Offering

Faithfulness

Chancel Choir

***The Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Christenberry

Mark 4:30-32

The Mustard Seed

***Affirmation of Faith**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

UMH No. 883

***Glory Be to the Father**

UMH No. 70

Invitation

Rev. Christenberry

Invitation to Christian Response and Witness

As we sing, an invitation is extended to all who desire membership in this church on Profession of Faith or by transfer of membership from another church. During the singing of the hymn, please come to the altar and be warmly greeted by the pastor and congregation.

***Hymn of Commitment**

FWS No. 2129

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

***Benediction**

Rev. Christenberry

In Preparation for next week:

Matthew 20:1-16

**All able are invited to stand*

Today's Scripture Lesson

Mark 4:30-32

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Sermon Notes

Weekly Happenings...

Prayer Group meets in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m.

W.O.W. (Worship on Wednesday) is our mid-week program for children ages 4-5th grade and youth in grades 6-12th. A light meal is served at 5:30 p.m. followed by music and activities.

Pastor's Bible Study—Join Pastor Lauren on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Fidelis Classroom for Bible study.

Chancel Choir - Our Chancel Choir rehearses each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. This is a lively group that is dedicated to enhancing our morning worship through song. They always welcome new voices.

Breadbasket - Our food ministry is open first and third Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Volunteers are always needed to help with the food distribution. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office.

Agape Groups meet with a group leader each week at the times below. Groups are a time of fellowship and sharing. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the group of their choice. We are open to adding additional groups if these times do not work for you. Please contact the church office or the group leader on how to join a group.

- Monday 12:00 noon
- Friday 9:30 a.m.—Becky King

The Monday group is open to anyone and meets for lunch at Sunrise Grill. The Friday morning group is a ladies group.

Sunday School Classes are available for all age groups. We will be happy to help you find the class that is right for you.

This Week at Saint Mark

- Sunday, September 17**
 9:00 a.m. Donut Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Monday, September 18**
 12 Noon Lunch Agape at Sunrise Café
- Tuesday, September 19**
 1-3 p.m. Breadbasket
- Wednesday, September 20**
 7:00 a.m. Prayer Group
 11:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study
 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. and Youth
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Friday, Sept. 22**
 9:30 a.m. Ladies Agape Group

Please be praying for:

If you have a prayer need, please let us know and we will pass the information on to our Prayer Chain.

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|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sandra Arnold | West Bennett | Virginia Booth |
| David Cantrell | DeAnn Davis | Teresa Everett |
| Bennie Jewett | Vickie Robert | Sam Samuels |
| Jerry Rives | Sue Whitacre | Donovan |
| Melissa Cole | Amy Thomas | Gloria Anderson |
| Charles Beasley | Morgan Schott | Kay Fenn |
| Micki Story | Roger/Janet Smith | Marty Whitehead |
| Guy Galan | Josette Ray | Lindsey Lee |
| Clarence McLain | Kay Howe | Zae Maldonado |
| Catherine Rangel & family | | Springer Family |

WORSHIP SERVANTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Worship Leader | Cindy Moore |
| Ushers | Offering Stewards |
| Chris Snider | Eric Bonin |
| Josh Turner | Perry Gott |

Ministers: The People of St. Mark UMC
 Pastor: Rev. Lauren Christenberry
 Children's Ministry Coordinator: Becky King
 Accompanist: Diane Stewart

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| Church
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Cleburne, TX 76033 | Website
www.stmarkcleburne.com |
| Church Office
1111 W. Chambers
817-641-3311 | Email
Office: office@stmarkcleburne.com
Pastor: pastorlaurenc@gmail.com |



**SAINT MARK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

"Making disciples of Jesus Christ by reaching upward to God and outward to God's people."

September 17, 2023

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

WE SEEK TO CONNECT AND NURTURE WOMEN THROUGH CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP AND EDUCATION SO THAT THEY CAN INSPIRE, INFLUENCE AND IMPACT LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.