



March 19, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome Home

*Whether this is your first time stepping into this sanctuary or the thousandth,
we celebrate this opportunity to be together with you today.*

*Kids Church for children ages 4 – 11 is now offered during worship.
Children are invited to meet their teachers in the Narthex following Children's Time to walk
together to the Social Hall, where they may be picked up by a parent following the service.
Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers in Room 1.*

*We thank you for continuing to extend generous grace to those who continue to seek physical
distance and mask on campus to protect against illness for themselves or others.*

Words of meditation: "If you want verification that God's promises are kept, you will not find that verification among the new atheists who have reduced everything to a tight little package of reasonableness that easily explains everything away. Nor will we find verification among the fundamentalists who have God in such a box that there can be no room for inexplicable gifts."
~Walter Brueggemann

Prelude

Le Bon Pasteur

Dom Paul Benoit

Welcome and Greetings

Rev. Darin Arntson

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you

*You are invited to turn to your neighbors and exchange greetings, share your name, or simply say,
'the peace of Christ be with you.'*

***Introit**

Lord Jesus Christ, be Present Now

J.S. Bach

***Opening Hymn**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

UMH 138, vv. 1-3, 6

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

***Prayer of Confession**

Kristin Vasquez

Trusting that God desires not our punishment but our contrition,
we bring our confession to God—
making what is hidden visible,
so the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

**Healing God, we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness,
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.
We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands,
and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow your holy way. Amen.**

***Words of Assurance**

Kristin Vasquez

Return to the Lord with joy and gladness—
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Ministry in Music

Guide Us, Lord

Mark Patterson

Guide us through these days, O, Lord; help us to seek your way,
Trusting as you lead us with love, teach us again to pray.

Cherub Choir

Refrain:

Help us know you more clearly, help us love you more dearly,
help us follow you more nearly day by day, day by day. Guide us Lord, we pray.

Guide us through these days, O, Lord; help us to seek your way,
Seeking wisdom from your word, strengthens our tender faith.

Refrain

When we stray and fall to sin, help us find your path again;
draw us closer in your fellowship of love.

Refrain

Children's Time

Ryan Silvia

First Reading

Psalm 23

Kristin Vasquez

Anthem

We are Not Alone

Pepper Choplin

We are not alone. We are not alone.
We are not alone. God is with us.
We are not alone. We are not alone.
We are not alone. God is with us.

And God will make us strong,
For God is with us.
We, we will press on,
For God is with us.

We are never alone,
For God is with us.
We, we are never alone
For God is with us.

Now, through all our days,
Always.
Forever and ever,
We are never alone.

Now, through all our days,
Always.
Forever and ever,
We are never alone.

We are not alone. God is with us.
We are not alone. We are not alone.
We are not alone. God is with us.
Our God is with us Now.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

Rev. Darin Arntson

Sermon

Between Doubt and Belief

Rev. Darin Arntson

**FWS indicates the Faith We Sing (black book), and UMH indicates the United Methodist Hymnal found in the pews.*

Call to Prayer

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.
Repeat

UMH 349

The Pastoral Prayer

Debbie Abbott

*To request or offer prayers for those within and connected to our congregation, or
to receive prayer chain updates, please email prayers@stmarksumcsd.org.*

Time of Silence

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.**

Invitation to Christian Stewardship

Rev. Darin Arntson

Offertory

Day by Day the Shepherd Leads

Arr. Ron Mallory
Glory Ringers

***Doxology**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Debbie Abbott

O God, for the mystery of your grace that heals us,
we give you thanks.
Grant us vision to see your kingdom,
and courage to share our experience of your love,
so that others may come to believe in your goodness
and hope in your promise for new life.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140, vv. 1 & 3

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

***Benediction**

Rev. Darin Arntson

***Benediction Response**

A Closing Prayer

Don Besig

The time has come, O Lord - for us to leave this place;
Guide us and protect us and lead us in thy Grace.
Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways,
Help us share with others the things we've shared today.

May the peace of God, the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son, Guide us in the days ahead and
strengthen us each one.

May the blessing of the spirit fill us from within;
God bless us and return us to the fellowship once again.
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

Postlude

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

Francis Jackson

Those seated in the socially distanced section who wish to may exit the sanctuary through the rear doors during the postlude. Those who are seated in the non-distanced section are invited to remain seated until the conclusion of the service.

St. Mark's Calendar At-a-Glance - March 19 – April 2, 2023

Sunday, March 19 – Plant It Again Collection

- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary & Online
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Courtyard
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation Session – Room 10
- 12:00 p.m. Tongan Fellowship
- 4:00 p.m. Concert Series: New City Sinfonia Concert – Sanctuary & Online, reception to follow
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group – Room 10

Monday, March 20

- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study – Zoom

Wednesday, March 22

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Darin – Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Laity Bible Study – New Room
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal – Social Hall

Thursday, March 23

- 4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Sunday, March 26 – Border Ministry Sunday, Plant It Again Collection, *Please note the following for this date:* *This is the last day of the Retrospective Art Show, Easter Lily Deadline, Last day to donate goods for the Egg Hunt*

- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary & Online
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Courtyard
- 12:00 p.m. Tongan Fellowship
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group – Room 10

Monday, March 27

- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study – Zoom

Wednesday, March 29

- 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Stuffing – Social Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Darin – Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Laity Bible Study – New Room
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal – Social Hall

Thursday, March 30

- 4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Saturday, April 1

- 8:30 a.m. Annual Bunny Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt – Social Hall/Courtyard (*ends at 10:30 a.m.*)

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary & Online
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Courtyard
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation Session – Room 10
- 12:00 p.m. Tongan Fellowship
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group – Room 10

Save the Date!

- April 6 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Service
- April 9 – Easter Sunday, 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Services

Announcements, March 19 – April 2, 2023

Today! St. Mark's Concert Series presents New City Sinfonia at 4:00 p.m. – Join us tonight for an exciting concert program! For over 30 seasons, the 40-member orchestra has performed free concerts for the San Diego Community. As part of the San Diego Continuing Education Program, the Sinfonia rehearses at San Diego Mesa College. This concert will be in the Sanctuary and livestreamed; a reception will follow in the Social Hall. Visit www.stmarksumcsd.org/concert-series to access the livestream and program details.

Spring is in the air - Plant It Again! St. Mark's will be collecting goods for Plant It Again **TODAY**, March 19 and Sunday, March 26. Plant It Again is a non-profit that provides valuable job training, meaningful employment and internships to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Items can be placed on tables set up in the courtyard on those two dates. Pick up a copy of the Messenger for requested items, or for more info, contact Diana Starnes (dstarnes@hotmail.com).

Easter Lily Orders – Orders for lilies for the April 9 Easter Worship Services will be accepted through March 26. The cost is \$11.00 for each lily. Order forms will be available in Sunday worship bulletins and in the church office. Completed forms can be placed in the offering plates in the church narthex or turned into the church office. *Please submit orders no later than March 26.*

Border Ministry Sunday: March 26, 2023 – March 26 is Border Ministry Sunday in the California Pacific Annual Conference. The funds collected for this outreach support the El Faro: Border Church which brings together a bi-national community at the U.S./Mexico border fence just south of us, celebrating that there is nothing that separates us from God's love. This is just one of the worshiping communities along the border that are supported by the Border Ministry special offering. Funds are also used to support advocacy for all immigrants and refugees crossing our border to the south. Please consider making a donation to help St. Mark's do its part in supporting these special worshiping communities and our immigrant/refugee brothers and sisters. Indicate Border Ministry Sunday on your check memo line or online donation.

Materials needed for stuffing Easter eggs – We are in need of individually wrapped candy and/or small toys for the April 1 Easter Egg Hunt. These items need to fit inside plastic eggs. No chocolate or nuts, please. All goodies may be brought to the church office through March 26. Thanks with Easter love from the Education and I/WE committees. **We will be stuffing eggs on March 29 at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall – volunteers are welcomed.**

You're Invited: the Annual Bunny Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt! Children of all ages are invited to the annual Bunny Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt coming April 1. Pancake breakfast, arts, music, and fun for all; and, the egg hunt for ages little to 10 years old. The Easter rabbit will be hopping about for Easter photos with the kids. Please **RSVP** to the church or school office, a count is helpful in planning. Scan the QR Code to register; Open your smart phone camera to capture the code, then click the link that appears, or visit: www.bit.ly/bunny-breakfast. All are welcome. Hippy hop!



Celebrating St. Mark's History – Each month, in 2023, leading up to our 70th Chartering Anniversary this November, we will be celebrating ministries and programs that have been central to the St. Mark's congregation and surrounding community throughout our history. Whether you come to share fond memories or learn more about the foundations of our church, we hope to celebrate our history and future with you!

- **The Retrospective Art Show will close on Sunday, March 26.** All works have been in past digital and Lenten shows. Some are owned by the church, and others are loaned for the show by church members or the original artists.
- **Save the Date: Sunday, April 23, Sharing Our History and Purpose as Members** – Join us for a congregational potluck to share our stories of joining and attending St. Mark's through the years!

New AED installed in church office – For anyone interested in learning how to operate the new defibrillator, there is an online resource available to view on YouTube: search "How to use the Lifepak CR2 Essential defibrillator" and click on the first video posted by AED Authority Australia.

Thank-You to those who joined us in our Spring Cleaning! We are so grateful for this community and all of your support in this effort this week.

Today's altar flowers were donated by Mac & Mary Alice McKinney
in memory of Leif & Cindy Peterson,
and
Marva Leigh Smith,
for Laura L. Keezell's birthday.

To make a donation to St. Mark's visit:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/YNGP/home>



Today's Worship:

Glory Ringers Director – Robin Tripp
Organist - Craig McIlwain
Director of Choral Ministries - Zlatoslav Sokolov
Sound and Video - Andy Guevara, Bob Hout, Robin & Elias Nuspl

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Rev. Darin Arntson, Pastor	darin@stmarksumcsd.org
Ryan Silvia, Director of Young People's Ministries	ryan@stmarksumcsd.org
Diane Moreno, Minister of Visitation	diane@stmarksumcsd.org
Michelle Solomon Gertes, Church Administrator	admin@stmarksumcsd.org
Mariana Jones, Office Assistant	assistant@stmarksumcsd.org

Stay Connected with our Messenger Newsletter and Weekly Enews

If you would like to receive the Messenger Newsletter in the mail each month, or our "What's Happening at St. Mark's" & "From the Pastor" emails, email help@stmarksumcsd.org, or visit our website www.stmarksumcsd.org and fill out the form on the homepage to subscribe.

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