

Order of Worship 11 am Service

**PRELUDE** Jesus Loves Me! This I Know by W.B. Bradbury  
arr. Todd Marchand

**GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER** Pastor Gorton Smith

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together in the presence of our God who sets us free.**

Congregation: We come, seeking the freedom found in Christ, who calls us to live in love.

**Leader: For freedom, Christ has set us free. Let us stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

Congregation: We stand in the liberty of grace, bound to one another in love.

**Leader: In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female. For we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Congregation: We celebrate the unity found in Christ, embracing all as beloved children of God.

**\* OPENING HYMN** Where the Spirit of the Lord Is (TFWS 2119)

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (See Insert)** Misty Duke

**\* GLORY BE TO THE FATHER**

**\* PEACE AND RECONCILIATION** Bill Wilkson

Before we share the peace of Christ with one another, let us remember these words:

In the love of Christ, we are called to be agents of peace and reconciliation in the world.

Let us seek forgiveness and offer reconciliation to one another, reflecting the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the peace of Christ dwell richly within us, binding us together as one body.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Bill Wilkson

**\* Standing if able**

April 28, 2024

**CALL TO OFFERING** Pastor Gorton Smith

**OFFERTORY** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (Hymn To Joy)  
by Ludwig van Beethoven  
arr. Larry Moore

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER HYMN** Make Me a Servant (TFWS 2176)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**ANTHEM** Joy is Like the Rain by Sister Therese Winter  
arr. by Joseph Roff

**\* SCRIPTURE READING (See Insert)** Misty Duke

**SERMON** Alive and Free! Pastor Gordon Smith

**CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP**

The Call to Discipleship offers the chance to proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, to

seek God's guidance in deepening our faith and journey with Christ, to request

baptism for those who have not yet been baptized, to dedicate ourselves to serving

others, and/or to join St. Mark's UMC as members.

**\* CLOSING HYMN** Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service verses 1-4  
(UMH 581)

**\* BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**POSTLUDE** London, 1599 Air. by Anthony Holborne  
ed. Robert King

**\* Standing if able**

Keep our United Methodist Denomination in your prayers

**GENERAL CONFERENCE:  
BY THE NUMBERS**

The Postponed 2020 General Conference will take place April 23-May 3 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina

**133** annual conferences represented

**862** voting delegates, half clergy and half laypeople

**1,099** valid petitions submitted

**Delegates:**  
55.9% from the U.S.  
32% from Africa  
6% from the Philippines  
4.6% from Europe

**5** continents represented

**26** plenary sessions

**18** worship services

**4** official written languages: English, French, Kiswahili and Portuguese

**14** legislative committees

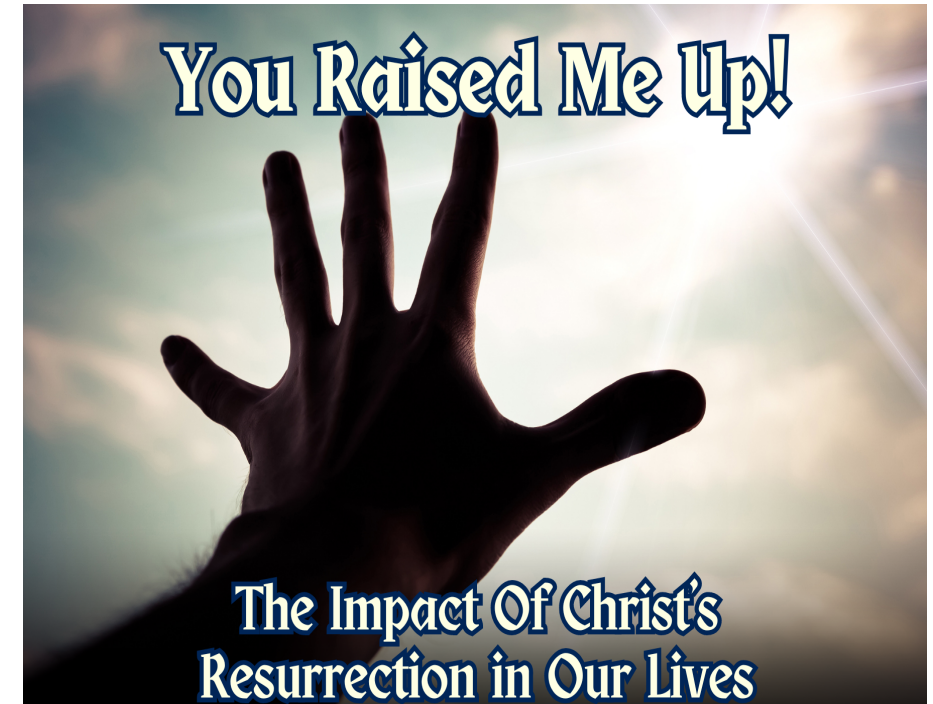
**9** special addresses and celebrations

**10** languages spoken via interpreters on site

Learn more about General Conference at [ResourceUMC.org/UMCGC](https://ResourceUMC.org/UMCGC)

**...and KNOW that GOD**

*St. Mark's  
United Methodist Church*



**CHURCH STAFF**  
Rev. Dr. Eddie Rivera - Senior Pastor  
Maggie Tidwell - Office Assistant  
Bianca Analla - Children's Ministry Director  
Lawrence Brown III - Praise Team Director  
Stephen Jackson - Traditional Music Director  
Cat Grau- Communications Director  
Seantelle Plummer- Connections Director  
Rachel Avila - Bookkeeper  
Kendra White - Facilities  
Miguel Guillen- Chef and Kitchen Manager  
Mary Albert - Lay Leader  
5005 Love Road  
915-581-4444



To give on-line please scan QR code  
Or text @loveroad give to 52014

*April 21, 2024  
11:00 am Service*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**For Eastertide**

I believe in God, the Creator of all,  
whose love knows no bounds,  
whose grace redeems,  
and whose presence sustains us in every season.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord,  
who triumphed over death,  
bringing hope to the world,  
and inviting us into a new life of joy and purpose.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the divine guide and comforter,  
who empowers us to live out our faith,  
and binds us together as one body in Christ.

I believe in the community of believers,  
united in fellowship and mission,  
bearing witness to the resurrection,  
and sharing the good news of God's love.

I believe in the forgiveness of sins,  
the promise of eternal life,  
and the assurance of God's abiding presence,  
now and forevermore.

**Amen**

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**SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 5:1, 13-15 (CEB)**

5:1 Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again.

<sup>13</sup> You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. <sup>14</sup> All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.[a] <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH 895)**

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.**

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