

MARCH 30TH

1 Service @10am

Potluck @11am



# St. Mark's United Methodist Church



Online Giving:



Thank you for  
spending your  
Sunday morning in  
worship with us

## Our Dedicated Church Staff:

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Eddie Rivera  
Business/Office Manager - Amy King  
Children's Ministry Director - Bianca Analla  
Director of Communications - Cathania Grau  
Praise Team Director - Lawrence Brown III  
Director Traditional Music - Stephen Jackson  
Bookkeeper - Rachel Avila  
Director of Facilities - Kendra White  
Lay Leader - Kristen Karam

11am Traditional Service  
March 23, 2025

# Order of Worship 11am Service

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## GATHERING

**Prelude** Sonata No. 4 from Hora Decima (Leipzig, 1670)  
by Johann Pezel, ed. Robert King

**Welcome & Announcements** Rev. Gorton Smith

## Opening Prayer

**Threshold Song** Your Word Brings Life to Weary Souls, Trad.  
American melody adapted by Stephen Jackson

**Peace & Reconciliation** Bob Gray

## \*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Liturgist: Come, let us hear the Word of Life,  
**People: That brings revival to weary hearts.**

L: As scripture was read in Jerusalem's streets,  
**P: So we gather to be transformed by truth.**

L: Our tears of repentance become shouts of joy,  
**P: For the joy of the Lord is our strength!**

L: Come, let us worship with renewed spirits,  
**All: For God is building something beautiful within us!**

## WORD

**Hymn** UMH 469 Revive Us Again vv 1-4

**\*Scripture** Nehemiah 7:73 & 8:1-12 (CEB) Bob Gray

**\*Anthem** Make Me a Channel of Your Peace by Sebastien Temple

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\*Standing if able

# March 23, 2025

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**Sermon** "Reviving Hearts" Rev. Gorton Smith

**\*Affirmation of Faith** Bob Gray

**\*Gloria Patri** (See Insert)

## RESPONSE

**Hymn** UMH 393 Spirit of the Living God

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer** Bob Gray  
Response: "Revive us again, O Lord."

**Offering** Rev. Gorton Smith

**Offertory** Song 13 from "The Hymnes and Songs of the Church"  
(1623) by Orlando Gibbons, arr. Todd Marchand

## Doxology

**Call to Discipleship** Rev. Gorton Smith

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.

## SENDING

**\*Closing Hymn** TFWS 2153 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me  
vv 1-4

**\*Benediction** Rev. Gorton Smith

**Postlude** Almand by William Brade, ed. Robert King

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\*Standing if able

# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Leader:** People of God, what do we believe?

**People:** We believe in God the Master Builder,  
who laid the foundation of creation with wisdom and love,  
who shapes order from chaos,  
and whose blueprints for justice and mercy span all time.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,  
rejected by the builders of worldly kingdoms,  
yet becoming the foundation of God's reign.

Through his life, death, and resurrection,  
he builds bridges between humanity and God,  
and teaches us to construct lives of grace and truth.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Divine Architect,  
who builds faith within our hearts,  
who mortars the bonds between believers,  
and who continues to construct Christ's Church  
through water, Word, and witness.

We believe the Church is God's ongoing construction,  
built not with mere bricks and mortar,  
but with living stones of every nation and tongue.  
Each disciple is called to be both worker and material,  
shaped by grace for holy purpose,  
joined together in the household of faith.

We believe God is not finished building,  
that each generation adds its layer to the holy work,  
and that we are called to labor alongside the Master Builder  
until that day when God's kingdom stands complete,  
and all creation finds its home in God's eternal design.

Together we build, together we serve,  
together we witness to the power of the Living God. Amen.

# SCRIPTURE READING

## Nehemiah 7:73 & 8:1-12 (CEB)

So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel settled in their towns.

When the seventh month came and the people of Israel were settled in their towns, all the people gathered together in the area in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Instruction scroll from Moses, according to which the Lord had instructed Israel.

So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Instruction before the assembly. This assembly was made up of both men and women and anyone who could understand what they heard. Facing the area in front of the Water Gate, he read it aloud, from early morning until the middle of the day. He read it in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and everyone listened attentively to the Instruction scroll.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for this purpose. And standing beside him were Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his righthand side; while Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam stood on his lefthand side.

Standing above all of the people, Ezra the scribe opened the scroll in the sight of all of the people. And as he opened it, all of the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all of the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" while raising their hands. Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah—helped the people to understand the Instruction while the people remained in their places. They read aloud from the scroll, the Instruction from God, explaining and interpreting it so the people could understand what they heard.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Don't mourn or weep." They said this because all the people wept when they heard the words of the Instruction.

"Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet," he said to them, "and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!"

The Levites also calmed all of the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy. Don't be sad!" Then all of the people went to eat and to drink, to send portions, and to have a great celebration, because they understood what had been said to them.