



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom); Hayden Harris (Gemma’s cousin), Floyd Hughes Sr., Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas
1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher
9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Laura Dotson
Autumn Lake Healthcare
9001 Cherry Lane
Laurel, MD 20708
301.498.8558

Ruth Miller
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Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Edlin Chambers
14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Phillip Reese
Patuxent River Health
and Rehabilitation Center
14200 Laurel Park Drive
Laurel, MD 20707
410.792.4717

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church
601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707
301.776.8885 | stmarksfmd@gmail.com

First Sunday of Advent: Hope



“We come together at St. Mark’s to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world.”

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor
401.379.0600 | 443.257.2730 (cell) | reveugene@comcast.net

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling
Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert
District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Order of Service

*Ushers: Joseph Daniels, Thomas Matthews,
Ralph Laquerre, Alexandra Dustin*

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, Worship Leader

Prelude **Brother Henry Tindal**

Lighting of the Candles **Usher**

Gathering Song..... **St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship..... **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

Leader: In this Advent season, we look not only to Bethlehem, but forward to the time when God shall reign over the earth in peace and righteousness.

People: **May the lord strengthen our hearts in holiness.**

Leader: O Lord, do not let those who wait on you be put to shame.

People: **Make us know your ways, O Lord.**

Leader: Remember us as your children, O Lord.

People: **We celebrate your faithfulness to us, O Lord!!**

worship service. If paying by check, please write checks to The Laurel Historical Society.



Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarks1md>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

Announcements

Pastor's Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)
Millicent Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



“A FRESH START (NOW)” — We desire to have many members as possible active in all the various areas of Ministry.

Tuesday, November 30th (7:00 p.m.) — Men's Bible Study.
Zoom information/call in: [Click Here To Join Zoom Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09).
Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09>; **Meeting ID:** 848 7608 7048,
Passcode: 803201; **Phone Option** — One tap mobile:
+13017158592,,84876087048#,,,,*803201# US (Washington DC)

Wednesday Night Experience (7:00 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room.
Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960

Thursday, December 2nd (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Saturday, December 11th (6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.) — **Ladies Night Out and Potluck.** The women of St. Mark's will gather for a potluck dinner and some fun and games. We will do the “Dirty Santa” gift exchange, if you would like to participate, please bring a gift of \$20 in value. Please let Cynthia Whitfield, Shimaine West or Carolyn Noel know if you plan to attend.

Christmas Tree Ornaments for Sale — The Laurel History Museum has unveiled its 2021 ornament of a famous tree in The Laurel Grove. The cost is \$20.00. Several years ago, the Laurel Museum featured a Christmas ornament displaying the image of our St. Mark's church. The cost is \$20.00. You may purchase both ornaments for \$35.00. Both ornaments are here and ready to be purchased. Please see Jackie Jones or Sandy Johnson after the

Hymn of Praise.....**St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**
“My Hope Is Built”

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(In Unison)*

Gracious Lord Jesus, you come to us with the good news of salvation, but we often fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence and your leadership and have lived as if we have no relationship with you. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Forgive us, merciful Lord. May we now live so that the world will know that you have come. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation.....**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
Song of Meditation..... **St. Mark's Choir**

Lighting of Advent Candle: Hope

Scripture Reading #1**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(Jeremiah 33:14–15), Common English Bible)

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵ In those

days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land.

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(1 Thessalonians 3:11–13, Common English Bible)

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide us on our way back to you. ¹² May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. ¹³ May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

Blessing of the Offering **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(Luke 21:25–36, Common English Bible)

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. ²⁶ The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. ²⁷ Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

A lesson from the fig tree

²⁹ Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. ³² I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

³⁴ “Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (Hymnal, #71)

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.

Hymn of Preparation **St. Mark's Choir**

Inspirational Message **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

“An Advent of Grace”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection

Special Presentation **Fire Chief Jim Codedpote**
Volunteer Fire Company #10

Acknowledgement of Visitors / Announcements

Benediction