


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/stmarkslmd>)

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

*“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)

Charles Gregg, Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, 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, 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
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Ruth Miller 1206 Peachwood Ln. Bowie, MD 20716 240.245.4560	Edlin Chambers 14904 4 th Street Laurel, MD 347.423.2764
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St. Mark’s United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707
301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love



“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, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

Order of Service

Ushers: Thomas Matthews and Sharon Thomas

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, 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.

Lighting of Advent Candle: Love

Lighting of Christ Candle

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir/Congregation

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest: **[Refrain]**

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

Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study (7:00 p.m.) — On hiatus until January 2022

Wednesday Night Experience (7:00 p.m.) — On hiatus until January 2022

No Choir Rehearsal this week, choir members please be present at church at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 26th.

Fingers and Toes Initiative — Eli Coffen is participating in a **Fingers and Toes Initiative. Last day.**

Friday, December 31st (7:00 p.m.) — Zoom New Year's Eve service. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85241368305?pwd=Ync2Rm54Y2VxREc5RFZLMGMvMkYzdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 4136 8305

Passcode: Church

Dial In:

+13017158592

Meeting ID: 852 4136 8305

Password: 493183

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, Sandy Johnson or Millicent George after the worship service. If paying by check, please write checks to The Laurel Historical Society.

Jaylah & Jalani, Troop 23015 are selling Girl Scout Cookies, orders will be collected until January 9th, monies are not due until the cookies are received. You can contact Tiara (202.603.9800), or Tina will take orders on Sundays.



Refrain:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Oh, shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.

2 Joyful, all ye nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world. Join the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world.

[Refrain]

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored. Jesus, the light of the world. Christ, the everlasting Lord, Jesus, the light of the world. **[Refrain]**

4 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace. Jesus, the light of the world. Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world.

[Refrain]

Acknowledgement of Visitors

Presentations

Announcements

Dismissal with Blessing..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Pastor: Go forth in peace and joy.

People: Thanks be to God, Alleluia!!

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.



3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

[Refrain]

Bidding Prayer Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Beloved in Christ, this Sunday before Christmas, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Blessing..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

The almighty God bless us with divine grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

First Lesson — Genesis 3:8–15, 17–19 Thomas Matthews

God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve’s punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

SoloLáAngel Hall
Mary Did You Know

Second Lesson — Genesis 22: 15–18 Thomas Matthews

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

Selection Tina Thomas-Matthews (Soloist) w/Choir
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Third Lesson — Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 Thomas Matthews

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Solo Larry Powell
We Shall Behold Him

Fourth Lesson — Isaiah 11:1–4a, 6–9 Cynthia Augustus

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God’s creation.

Selection Patricia Mundell (Soloist) w/Choir
Jesus, Jesus, O What A Wonderful Child

Fifth Lesson — Luke 1:26–35, 38 Cynthia Augustus

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God’s promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

SelectionChoir
Come Let Us Adore Him

Sixth Lesson — Luke 2:1–7 Cynthia Augustus

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

SoloSandra Johnson
Away in a Manger

Blessing of the Offering Rev. Eugene W. Matthews
Offertory

Seventh Lesson — Luke 2:8–16 Jaime Whitfield-Coffen

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

Solo Larry Powell
Silent Night

Eighth Lesson — Matthew 2:1–11 Jaime Whitfield-Coffen

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

SoloCynthia Whitfield
O Holy Night

Ninth Lesson — John 1:1–14 Jaime Whitfield-Coffen

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Selection Choir/Congregation
Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let ev’ry heart prepare him room and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature
sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding
joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far
as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations
prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and
wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection (“Jesus the Light of the World”)

1 Hark the herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the new-born King. Jesus, the light of the world.