

Sunday, December 26, 2021
First Sunday After Christmas
Order of Service



Welcome

Whether you regularly worship at St. Mark’s United Methodist or whether you’re visiting with us, we encourage you to open your hearts and minds to what says the Lord. If you are a visitor, interested in becoming a member of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church feel free to contact the church at **301.776.8885** | emailstmarksimd@gmail.com | Pastor Matthews directly (**443.257.2730** | reveugene@comcast.net). Our doors are always open, welcome.

Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)

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 Spirt, 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..... **Cynthia**

Leader: Come let us gather to recount the Lord’s faithfulness to us this year.

People: **Let us sing praises for his goodness, despite our challenges.**

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us even when we have been unfaithful.

People: **God has claimed us, even in our distress.**

Leader: We are God’s people and the sheep of his pasture.

People: **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

All: **God lifts us and carries us in all our times, thank you for your goodness.**

Hymn of Praise **“Just Think of His Goodness to You”**
(sing along with Providence Baptist Church Choir)

- 1 When waves of affliction sweep over the soul and sunlight is hidden from view, If ever you're tempted to fret or complain, Just think of His goodness to you.
- 2 The world may forsake you, and those whom you trust may prove to be false and untrue; There's One you can trust even unto the end; Just think of His goodness to you.

Refrain:

Just think of His goodness to you; Yes, think of His goodness to you;
Though storms o'er you sweep, He is able to keep; O think of His goodness to you.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

ALL WISE AND compassionate God, you dared to create the world as part of yourself. You breathed into life your very spirit of creativity. Moreover, you sent your Son, as a baby to enter into this world and live among us. Your abounding mercy and grace come to us in the form of this Jesus the Christ, who lived our life and who now reigns with you. Forgive us of our sins in whatever form we committed them and remember them no more. In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(song by Andrea Bocelli)*

The Invocation

Song of Meditation **“Still”**
(featuring Brian Courtney Wilson)

The Prayer of Illumination **Cynthia**

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have commanded. May we find the power and wisdom of God in the words we are about to hear today. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1

(1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26, Common English Bible)

¹⁸ Now Samuel was serving the LORD. He was a young boy, clothed in a linen priestly vest. ¹⁹ His mother would make a small robe for him and take it to him every year when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife: “May the LORD replace the child of this woman that you gave back to the LORD.” Then they would return home.

²⁶ Meanwhile, the boy Samuel kept growing up and was more and more liked by both the LORD and the people.

Scripture Reading #2

(Colossians 3:12–17, Common English Bible)

¹² Therefore, as God’s choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. ¹⁴ And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful people. ¹⁶ The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.

Scripture Reading #3

(Luke 2:41–52, Common English Bible)

Jesus in the temple at Passover

⁴¹ Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴² When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn’t know it. ⁴⁴ Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. ⁴⁵ When they didn’t find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We’ve been looking for you!”

⁴⁹ Jesus replied, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰ But they didn’t understand what he said to them.

⁵¹ Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. ⁵² Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed” Cynthia

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried:
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” Cynthia

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 **“My Life is in Your Hands”**
(featuring Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir)

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

“Being About Our Father’s Business”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Lord Help Me to Hold Out”
(featuring Detroit Mass Choir)

Announcements

Benediction

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.



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

“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 4, 2022

Wednesday Night Experience (7:00 p.m.) — On hiatus until January 5, 2022

Jayah & 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).



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/stmarks/md>)

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)

*Condolences to
Family of Sister Laura Dotson,
Family of Brother Shawn Jones,
and
Family of Sister Patricia Wallace*

Note: As information becomes available about their Celebration of Life services, we will forward to the congregation.

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

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