



Sunday, February 6, 2022
Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
Black History Month
Order of Service

Cynthia Whitfield, Liturgist

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.

Note: *As we continue with our virtual services, please consider turning on your cameras and using the chat to engage in the service.*

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 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 **Cynthia**

Leader: O God, you have heard the anguished cries of our ancestors.

Erica: Stony the road we trod.

Leader: O God, you have seen the legacy of the African American family decimated by racism.

Erica: Bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Leader: O God, you have ignited the sparks within us to into a blazing demand for freedom.

Erica: Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed.

Leader: O God, you have seen our tears.

Erica: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears.

Leader: O God, you answered us during our exodus from Africa:

Erica: Lest our feet stray from the places our God, where we met thee.

Leader: Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand. True to our God, true to our native land.

Hymn of Praise **“Lift Every Voice and Sing”**
(sing along with African American Voices Gospel Choir)

- 1 Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won
- 2 Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast
- 3 God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land
Our native land

Prayer of Assurance..... Cynthia

Our ancestors' hard work, their courage, their convictions, and their belief in you have paved the way for our emancipation and education. But it is clear, you have liberated us. You have set us free. "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at a last". **Amen.**

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — "In Jesus Name" (featuring BeBe Winans)

The Prayer of Illumination Cynthia

O Lord, may the words we read and hear today let some drops of the Holy Spirit's freedom fall on us. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Venita

(Daniel 3:8–18, Common English Bible)

Plot against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

⁸ At that moment some Chaldeans came forward, seizing a chance to attack the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar:

"Long live the king! ¹⁰ Your Majesty, you gave a command that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, lyre, harp, flute, and every kind of instrument should bow down and worship the gold statue. ¹¹ Anyone who wouldn't bow and worship would be thrown into a furnace of flaming fire. ¹² Now there are some Jews, ones you appointed to administer the province of Babylon—specifically, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—who have ignored your command. They don't serve your gods, and they don't worship the gold statue you've set up."

¹³ In a violent rage Nebuchadnezzar ordered them to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were brought before the king.

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Is it true that you don't serve my gods or worship the gold statue I've set up? ¹⁵ If you are now ready to do so, bow down and worship the gold statue I've made when you hear the sound of horn, pipe, zither, lyre, harp, flute, and every kind of instrument. But if you won't worship it, you will be thrown straight into the furnace of flaming fire. Then what god will rescue you from my power?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar: "We don't need to answer your question. ¹⁷ If our God—the one we serve—is able to rescue us from the furnace of flaming fire and from your power, Your Majesty, then let him rescue us. ¹⁸ But if he doesn't, know this for certain, Your Majesty: we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you've set up."

Scripture Reading #2 Pat

(1 Corinthians 15:1–11, New International Version)

The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Scripture Reading #3 Erica

(Luke 5:1–11, Common English Bible)

Jesus calls disciples

5 One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God’s word. ² Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. ³ Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, “Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon replied, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.”

⁶ So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting.

⁷ They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!” ⁹ Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. ¹⁰ James and John, Zebedee’s sons, were Simon’s partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.”¹¹ As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Cynthia

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 — “Worth” (featuring Anthony Brown & group therAPy)

**Inspirational Message Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord
Pastor Emeritus**

“Black Hands Matter”

13 The church at Antioch included prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon (nicknamed Niger), Lucius from Cyrene, Manaen (a childhood friend of Herod the ruler), and Saul.² As they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul to the work I have called them to undertake.”

³ After they fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on these two and sent them off.

(Acts 13:1–3, CEB)

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “If You Come to Him”

(featuring Tri State Mass Choir)

Holy Communion

Thanksgiving and Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth, And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union
with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the
body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in
every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to
all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor
and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*song by Andrea Bocelli*)

BREAKING THE BREAD

The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the
one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being
exchanged:*

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The congregation sings hymns while the bread and cup are given.

When all have received, the Lord's table is put in order.

The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given
yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**



Happy Birthday February Members

Birthday

Nena Hughes — 16th

Charles Gregg — 27th

Charlotte Thomas — 29th



Heavenly Birthdays

Ellen Gibson — 8th

William Gibson — 14th

Eleanora Davis — 14th

Elva Wesley — 17th

Ellen Brooks — 20th

Bessie Matthews — 25th

William & Ellen's Anniversary — 17th



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.



Note: Your 2021 Contributions have been mailed, if you have not received it, please contact Deidre Burley-Ballard

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

February 7th – February 13th

Day 38 – Exodus 7:15–9:7

Day 42 – Exodus 15:22–27; 17:1–7

Day 39 – Exodus 9:8–10:29

Day 43 – Exodus 16:1–36

Day 40 – Exodus 11:1–10; 12:29–36

Day 44 – Exodus 18:1–27

Day 41 – Exodus 13:17–14:31

Tuesday Men's Bible Study (7:00 p.m.) **ON HIATUS** — Zoom information/call in: [Click Here To Join Zoom Meeting](#). Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmpIMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09>; **Meeting ID:** 848 7608 7048, **Passcode:** 803201; **Phone Option** — One tap mobile: +13017158592,,84876087048#,,, *803201# US (Washington DC)

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.**

Sunday, February 27th (during morning service) — **Service of Songs** — With music being such an important part of our heritage, in this service we would like you to request favorite hymns or gospel songs to be played or sung. If there is a special message behind your request, you can also share that with us. If you are recording a song, please forward your recording to either Jaime or myself. We will honor as many requests as possible.

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.

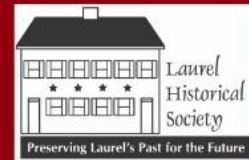
BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION

The Laurel Historical Society's Black History Month presentation is entitled, ***"Food and Faith at St. Mark's Church and The Grove"***. The virtual (ZOOM) program will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Ten members from St. Mark's will discuss the importance of food and community cooking in the Grove. Please support our members by viewing this Webinar.

Registration is required:

1. Go to the website www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org
2. Click the **HOME** tab
3. At the bottom of the Laurel Historical Society Virtual Program for Thursday, **February 10, 2022** picture, click **Register today!**
4. You will then get to the **Webinar Registration** page
5. After registering for the Webinar, attendees will receive an email prior to the program with instructions to connect via ZOOM.

Laurel Historical Society Virtual Program



Thursday, February 10, 2022- 7:00 pm **Food and Faith at St. Mark's Church and The Grove**

Cooking and good eating have always been important to the African Americans of the Laurel Grove. Whether you were celebrating Emancipation Day or purchasing food at St. Mark's dinners, you knew you would be eating delicious food!

Celebrate Black History Month and the opening of the Laurel Museum's new exhibit, *What's Cookin, Laurel?* with parishioners from St. Mark's United Methodist Church to discuss the importance of food and community cooking in The Grove.

This virtual program is free and open to the public, but registration is required using the link in the post or on our website.

After registering for the webinar, attendees will receive an email prior to the program with instructions to connect via Zoom.

Donations are accepted through our online shop:

https://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/store/p120/Virtual_Program_Donation.html



ST. MARK'S, IT'S TIME TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!!

Because of COVID 19, the 2022 Winter Shelter is being held at the Comfort Inn in Beltsville. Men, women, and children are being housed in the shelter. Below is a Donations List of items that are needed for the shelter residents. Since we are not worshipping in the Sanctuary, the items can be brought to St. Mark's on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from **11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.** The final drop-off will be **Saturday, February 19th** (11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.). Please remember how God has blessed you, and now it is time for you to bless others in need!!

DONATIONS LIST for Winter Shelter

Non-Perishable Food

Juice Boxes
Individual Cereal
Snack Items (Bulk - Popcorn, Chips, Cookies, Crackers, Candy Bars, etc.)

Cleaning Supplies:

Disinfectant Wipes
Fabric Softener'
Dryer Sheets
Lysol Spray
Cleaning Solutions (Spray Bottles)
Laundry Detergent (Pods)
Clorox Bleach

Baby Supplies:

Baby Food (Size 4,5,6 & Pull-ups)
Baby wipes
Pampers
Baby lotion, soaps, powder
Baby Tylenol/pain relief
Baby Lotion
Children's underwear boys and girls
 Toddler (2T-6T)
 Little Kid (4-6X)
 Big Kid or Tween (7-16)

Hygiene Kits (Male & Female)

Deodorant
Razors
Shaving Cream
Comb-Brush
Toothpaste / Toothbrush
Axe Body Spray
Liquid Soap
Shampoo
Lotion
Feminine Hygiene pads

Transportation

Uber / Lyft
Smartrip Metro Cards

Retail Gift Cards

Walmart
Target
Macy's
Big Lots
Best Buy
Gift Cards
Visa
Master
Amex
Discover

Food Gift Cards

McDonald's,
Wendy's,
Subway
Popeye's
KFC
Chipotle
Duncan Donuts
Olive Garden

Grocery Store Gift Cards

Sam's Club
Costco
Bj's



*“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)

Millicent George, James Wilson Sr., 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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