



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

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

Alfred Hall, Gail Edwards (Gemma’s cousin), Millicent George, James Wilson Sr. (Shimaine’s grandfather), 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

**Ruth Miller**

1206 Peachwood Ln.  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Umbrenda Fisher**

9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Edlin Chambers**

14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764

**St. Mark’s United Methodist Church**

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707  
301.776.8885 | [stmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkslmd@gmail.com)



*“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 | 443.257.2710 (cell) | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto: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, March 6, 2022*

*First Sunday in Lent*

## *Order of Service*

*Sister Erica Roy, Worship Leader*

**Prelude** .....**Rev. Henry Tindal**

**Lighting of the Candles** ..... **Usher**

**Gathering Song**..... **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 Erica Roy**

**Leader:** Come let us walk together in the light of the Lord!

**People:** **May he teach us his ways that we may walk in his path.**

**Leader:** Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

**People:** **Return to the Lord, Your God for he is gracious and merciful.**

**Leader:** God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All:** **Come, let us follow in the path of the Savior during these forty days of lent.**



Exhibition Opened at **The Laurel Museum**,  
817 Main Street, Laurel  
Hours 12:00–4:00 p.m. Saturday/Sunday

**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.

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

**March 7<sup>th</sup> – March 13<sup>th</sup>**

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Day 66</b> – Judges 4:4–24  | <b>Day 70</b> – Judges 14:1–20 |
| <b>Day 67</b> – Judges 6:1–40  | <b>Day 71</b> – Judges 15:1–20 |
| <b>Day 68</b> – Judges 7:1–25  | <b>Day 72</b> – Judges 16:1–21 |
| <b>Day 69</b> – Judges 13:1–25 |                                |

**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) **Men’s Bible Study (ALL MEN INVITED)** — 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=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09](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)

**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Ladies Roundtable**. New ministry for women of the congregation to discuss issues of the heart. Join us for this opening session to discuss how you would like to see this ministry move forward.

**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.**

**Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.**

**Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — The **Committee on Nominations** will meet via conference call: **267-807-9611; Access Code: 331960.**

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Men’s Day**. Additional information forthcoming. Sacrificial donations: \$150 men; \$75 women. Seeking men for the choir.

Link for **Sacred Grounds Pledge**: <https://support.nwf.org/page/37119/survey/1>. The deadline to register for the plants are **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Flowers will be distributed on Mother’s Day.

**Hymn of Praise..... Choir/Congregation**

**“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”**

- 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

**Refrain:**

In the cross, in the cross Be my glory ever,  
Till my ransomed soul shall find Rest beyond the river.

- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star Shed His beams around me.

**[Refrain]**

- 3 Near the cross! O lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day With its shadow o'er me.

**[Refrain]**

- 4 Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever;  
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river. **[Refrain]**

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance (Unison)**

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions, wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. (*Adaptation of Psalm 51*) Through your spirit open our hands and hearts and cleanse us from our sins. Forgive us, O God and forgive our failings. In your name we ask. **Amen.**

**The Invocation.....Sister Erica Roy**

**Song of Meditation.....Choir**

**Blessing of Offering.....Sister Erica Roy**

**Offertory**

**The Prayer of Illumination (Unison)**

As we turn to your Holy Scripture today, send your Holy spirit to teach us the lessons of being Happy in you, O Lord. May we learn today of happiness that can be found in the poorest of our spirits. May we respond to you in wonder and praise. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** .....**Sister Erica Roy**  
(Deuteronomy 26:1–11, Common English Bible)

### The ceremony upon entering the land

**26** Once you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and are settled there, <sup>2</sup>take some of the early produce of the fertile ground that you have harvested from the land the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket. Then go to the location the Lord your God selects for his name to reside. <sup>3</sup>Go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him: “I am declaring right now before the Lord my God that I have indeed arrived in the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”

<sup>4</sup>The priest will then take the basket from you and place it before the Lord your God’s altar. <sup>5</sup>Then you should solemnly state before the Lord your God:

“My father was a starving Aramean. He went down to Egypt, living as an immigrant there with few family members, but that is where he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. <sup>6</sup>The Egyptians treated us terribly, oppressing us and forcing hard labor on us. <sup>7</sup>So we cried out for help to the Lord, our ancestors’ God. The Lord heard our call. God saw our misery, our trouble, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with awesome power, and with signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup>He brought us to this place and gave us this land—a land full of milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I am bringing the early produce of the fertile ground that you, Lord, have given me.”

Set the produce before the Lord your God, bowing down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup>Then celebrate all the good things the Lord your God has done for you and your family—each one of you along with the Levites and the immigrants who are among you.

**Scripture Reading #2** .....**Sister Erica Roy**  
(Romans 10:8b–13, Common English Bible)

<sup>8</sup>But what does it say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach). <sup>9</sup>Because if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and

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.**



### Birthdays

*Eli Coffen – 7<sup>th</sup>*                      *Barbara Gregg – 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*Ryan Stratford – 10<sup>th</sup>*                *Gemma DeSouza — 15<sup>th</sup>*  
*Adrian Hall – 13<sup>th</sup>*                    *Vauné Jones — 17<sup>th</sup>*  
*Millicent George – 22<sup>nd</sup>*

### Anniversaries

*Rev. & Mrs. Jane Matthews – 31<sup>st</sup> (60)*    *George & Ernestine – 10<sup>th</sup> (60)*  
*Edwin Ottley & Gemma DeSouza – 14<sup>th</sup> (3)*

### Heavenly Birthdays



*Martha Landrum – 14<sup>th</sup>*                *Rev. John Jennings – 16<sup>th</sup>*  
*Mae Hill – 14<sup>th</sup>*                         *Rev. Shirley Pulley – 20<sup>th</sup>*  
*Lena Thomas – 25<sup>th</sup>*

## Announcements

### 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.





**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** *(Recite)*

**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

confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won’t be put to shame.* <sup>12</sup> There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> *All who call on the Lord’s name will be saved.*

**Scripture Reading #3** .....**Sister Erica Roy**  
*(Matthew 5:1–12, Common English Bible)*

**5** <sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> He taught them, saying:

**Happy people**

<sup>3</sup> “Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup> “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

<sup>5</sup> “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

<sup>7</sup> “Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.

<sup>10</sup> “Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> “Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. <sup>12</sup> Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

**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”

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” (Hymnal, #70)

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  
(*Beatitude Series*)

## *“Poor in Spirit” (Hopeless)”*

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection ..... St. Mark’s Choir

## *Holy Communion* *Thanksgiving and Communion*

### TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*The pastor takes the bread and cup, and the bread and wine are  
prepared for the meal.*

## 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.