

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

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"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

Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus

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 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Augustus Worship Leader

PreludeRev. 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 WorshipSister Cynthia Augustus

Leader: O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: **God satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.**

Leader: God shatters the doors of prisons, and cuts in two the bars of iron.

People: **We give thanks to God for his steadfast love and for his wonderful works.**

Leader: God sent forth his word to heal us and to deliver us from destruction.

People: **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

All: **Let us offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of God’s deeds with joyous songs.**

“I Am Thine, O Lord”

1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died. Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

2. Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine; let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine. **(Refrain)**
3. O the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend! **(Refrain)**
4. There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with thee. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

God forgive us for the times we have not trusted you. Forgive us for the times rather than to take responsibility for our actions or inactions, we instead blame anyone else, including you, for the mess we have made. Remind us Lord that no matter how rough life becomes or how bad we have made things, you are still there for us. Thank you for your unfailing forgiving spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation..... **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
Song of Meditation **Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination *(Unison)*

Dear Lord as we listen to your “WORD” this Third Sunday in Lent, please teach us again the meaning of Humbleness. May we be assured that the meek has the capacity of inheriting the Kingdom of God in the here and now. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Sister Cynthia Augustus
(*Joshua 5:9–12, New International Version*)

⁹ Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. ¹¹ The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. ¹² The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia Augustus
(*2 Corinthians 5:16–21, New International Version*)

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Blessing of Offering..... Sister Cynthia Augustus
Offertory

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Scripture Reading #3 Sister Cynthia Augustus
(*Matthew 5:1–12, New International Version*)

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

⁵ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

- ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice
and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were 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.**

Hymn of Preparation St. Mark’s Choir

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews
(Beatitude Series)

“‘Meek’ (Humble)”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Announcements

Benediction

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.



The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

March 21st – March 27th

Day 80 – 1 Samuel 8:1–5	Day 84 – 1 Samuel 14:1–23
Day 81 – 1 Samuel 8:6–22	Day 85 – 1 Samuel 16:1–13
Day 82 – 1 Samuel 9:1–21	Day 86 – 1 Samuel 17:1–31
Day 83 – 1 Samuel 10:1–27	

Men's Bible Study — On Hiatus until mid-April

Ladies Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74122974055?pwd=db7DT0wcA1ZTb1b8vQo0I5me-pDunW.1>; ID: 741 2297 4055; Passcode: rN38QY

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 24th (7:00 p.m.) — **Men's Choir** rehearsal

Sunday, March 27th (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Men's Day** — **"God in Search of Men"**. Our guest pastor will be Rev. Levone Ward, McKendree-Simms-Brookland UMC. Sacrificial donations: \$150 men; \$75 women. Seeking men for the choir.

Thursday, March 31st (7:00 p.m.) — **FREE Virtual Gardening Workshop** — *"Sacred Grounds Caring for Creation in Prince George's County"* (*Non-residents welcome*). **Register and receive the Zoom link here:** bit.ly/regPGgarden. **Topics include:**

(1) What are the best native plants for my yard? (2) Where can I buy them? (3) How will they help with flooding and pollution into our local streams and Chesapeake Bay? (4) Designing a garden with native plants. (5) Other features to help birds and butterflies thrive at our homes. (6) County financial aid application/rebate

information. (7) How to be an ambassador for wildlife and answers to your other questions!

Sunday, April 3rd — Special offering for UMCOR — As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the ministry of **The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**—the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church—we are able to work alongside those in need to make a difference in communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change.

Link for **Sacred Grounds Pledge**:

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



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.



*“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)

*Condolence to the Gregg's on the passing of
Brother Michael Wayne Jones
(Mrs. Barbara's brother)*

Gail Edwards (Gemma's cousin), James Wilson Sr. (Shimaine's grandfather), Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom); Floyd Hughes Sr., Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, 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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