

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | 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***

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***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!*

*Welcome Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley*

*Sunday, April 3, 2022*

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

***Order of Service***

*Sister Erica Roy, Worship Leader*

**Prelude .....Rev. 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.

**Greeting/Call to Worship .....Sister Erica Roy**

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant.

**People: It will not be like the covenant they broke.**

Leader: I will put my law within them, and I will write it in their hearts.

**People: And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Leader: No longer will they say to each other, “Know the Lord”.

**All: For thy shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest says the Lord.**

*“O How I Love Jesus”*

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| <p>1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.</p> <p><b>Refrain:</b><br/> O how I love Jesus,<br/> O how I love Jesus,<br/> O how I love Jesus,<br/> because he first loved me!</p> | <p>2 It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free; it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. <b>[Refrain]</b></p> <p>3 It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe; who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. <b>[Refrain]</b></p> |
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**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** *(Unison)*

O God, forgive us when we do not fully trust you. Forgive us when we are not honest about what we believe and what we doubt. Help us to be willing to trust that our relationship with you is important enough and strong enough that we can be honest with our feelings, our frustrations, our doubts, and our fears. Help us not to just walk away, but to find a way to share and to grow with you in our relationships. **Amen.**

**The Invocation**.....**Sister Erica Roy**  
**Song of Meditation** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

**The Prayer of Illumination** *(Unison)*

Dear master as we approach the hearing of your Word on this fifth Sunday in lent, may your Word feed us until we will truly hunger and thirst no more for righteousness. As we learn more of your teachings inspire us to be Happy in spreading the news that ‘You satisfy the Hungry hearts of your followers. In Jesus Name we pray. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** .....**Sister Erica Roy**  
*(Isaiah 43:16–21, Common English Bible)*

- <sup>16</sup> The Lord says—who makes a way in the sea  
and a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and battalion;

they will lie down together and will not rise;  
they will be extinguished, extinguished like a wick.  
<sup>18</sup> Don't remember the prior things;  
don't ponder ancient history.  
<sup>19</sup> Look! I'm doing a new thing;  
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?  
I'm making a way in the desert,  
paths in the wilderness.  
<sup>20</sup> The beasts of the field,  
the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,  
because I have put water in the desert  
and streams in the wilderness  
to give water to my people,  
my chosen ones,  
<sup>21</sup> this people whom I formed for myself,  
who will recount my praise.

**Scripture Reading #2** .....**Sister Erica Roy**  
(*Philippians 3:4b-14, Common English Bible*)

<sup>4</sup> though I have good reason to have this kind of confidence. If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more:

<sup>5</sup> I was circumcised on the eighth day.

I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin.

I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews.

With respect to observing the Law, I'm a Pharisee.

<sup>6</sup> With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church.

With respect to righteousness under the Law, I'm blameless.

<sup>7</sup> These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. <sup>10</sup> The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death <sup>11</sup> so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

<sup>12</sup> It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. <sup>14</sup> The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

**Blessing of Offering.....Sister Erica Roy**  
**Special Offering for UMCOR**  
**Offertory**

**Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir**

**Scripture Reading #3 .....Sister Erica Roy**  
*(John 12:1-8, Common English Bible)*

**Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet**

**12** Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, home of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Lazarus and his sisters hosted a dinner for him. Martha served and Lazarus was among those who joined him at the table. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took an extraordinary amount, almost three-quarters of a pound, of very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She anointed Jesus' feet with it, then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house was filled with the aroma of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), complained, <sup>5</sup> "This perfume was worth a year's wages! Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?" (<sup>6</sup> He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would take what was in it.)

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus said, "Leave her alone. This perfume was to be used in preparation for my burial, and this is how she has used it. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you won't always have me."

**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. Dr. Louis Shockley

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call ..... Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley

    Invitation Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir

*Holy Communion*  
*The Great Thanksgiving for*  
*Easter Day or Season*

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 formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us on the way of life.

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. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of

your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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.

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** *(St. Mark's Choir)*

## **Breaking the Bread**

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

## **Giving the Bread and Cup**

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

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 and Anniversary April Members



## Birthdays

<i>Alexandria Dustin – 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Alex Dustin – 18<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Robert Catchings (Mr. Bob) – 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Patricia Mundell – 20<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Thomas Matthews – 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Helen Crutchfield – 20<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Isaiah Brooks – 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Jaime Coffen – 21<sup>st</sup></i>
<i>Devin Roy – 6<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Tashana Johnson Frink – 23<sup>rd</sup></i>
<i>Deidre Burley-Ballard – 9<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Maurice (Michael) Carey – 25<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Danielle King – 13<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>David E. Burley III – 27<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Francis DeSouza – 14<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Janet Carey – 27<sup>th</sup></i>

## Anniversaries

<i>Joseph &amp; Deidre Ballard – 8<sup>th</sup></i> <i>(16 yrs.)</i>	<i>Francis &amp; Lorein DeSouza – 23<sup>rd</sup></i> <i>(6 yrs.)</i>
<i>Charles &amp; Barbara Gregg – 12<sup>th</sup></i> <i>(53 yrs.)</i>	<i>Tenaya &amp; Camisha Gibson – 29<sup>th</sup></i> <i>(1 yr.)</i>

## 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.



**Much thanks** and appreciation to the men of St. Mark's UMC for a "Marvelous and SPIRITUAL" MEN'S DAY. Special appreciation is extended to the men for the special gifts presented along with the Box treats from the Culinary Ministry. We also are most appreciative of the Men's Choir under the leadership of Rev. Tindal. Finally, kudos also to Brothers Wayne Coffen and Larry Powell for their leadership. —*Pastor Matthews*

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

**March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Day 94** – 2 Samuel 9:1–13

**Day 98** – 2 Samuel 13:20–39

**Day 95** – 2 Samuel 11:1–27

**Day 99** – 2 Samuel 15:1–37

**Day 96** – 2 Samuel 12:1–25

**Day 100** – 2 Samuel 18:1–18

**Day 97** – 2 Samuel 13:1–19

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

**Ladies Roundtable (Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.)** — New Zoom information will be sent out before meeting.

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



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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

*Condolence to the family of  
Brother Hugh Awkard*

*Celebration of Life*

**Viewing:** Friday, April 8, 2022 | 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

**Service:** Saturday, April 9, 2022 | 11:00 a.m.

Howell Funeral Home  
10220 Guilford Road, Jessup, MD

*Condolence to the family of  
James Wilson Sr.*

*Celebration of Life*

Friday, April 8, 2022

**Viewing:** 9:00–11 a.m. | **Service:** 11 a.m.

The Kroc Center  
1865 Harrison Avenue, Camden, NJ

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Shawn Settles, Gail Edwards (Gemma's cousin), 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, Hannah Polk

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