

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 | 443.257.2730 (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, April 17, 2022

Welcome

James Curtis Jr.,

*Candidate for Congress of the
Maryland's 4th Congressional District*

Second Sunday of Easter

Order of Service

Sister Venita Stratford, Worship Leader

PreludeRev. 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 Venita Stratford

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord for he is good..

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Out of distress I called on the Lord.

People: The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

Leader: I shall not die, but I shall live.

People: And I shall recount the deeds of the Lord.

All: We bless you, O Lord, from this house of the Lord.

“My Hope Is Built”

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

- On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**
 3. His oath, his covenant, his blood
supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**
 4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne! **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Gracious God, have mercy on us. Forgive us for wandering from you in self-sufficiency as if we could create a life filled with love, hope, joy, and peace all on our own. We are sorry for the ways we have turned away from you. Forgive us. Through the restoring power of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, bring us back to you and grant us forgiveness and new life. Through your spirit, hold us close to your grace, and lead us, that we may do your will and live in love with you and our neighbor. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation..... **Sister Venita Stratford**
Song of Meditation..... **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

O God, your word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, we do so in the afterglow of celebrating Resurrection Sunday. Send your Holy Spirit to infuse your word with truth and grace so that the good news of your love will shine before our eyes and delight our senses. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Venita Stratford**
(*Acts 5:27–32, Common English Bible*)

²⁷ The apostles were brought before the council where the high priest confronted them: ²⁸ “In no uncertain terms, we demanded that you not teach in this name. And look at you! You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. And you are determined to hold us responsible for this man’s death.”

²⁹ Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than humans! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God has exalted Jesus to his right side as leader and savior so that he could enable Israel to change its heart and life and to find forgiveness for sins. ³² We are witnesses of such things, as is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Venita Stratford**
(*Revelation 1:4–8, Common English Bible*)

⁴ John, to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace and peace to you from the one who is and was and is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before God’s throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ—the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To the one who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ who made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and always. Amen.

⁷ Look, he is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. This is so. Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the one who is and was and is coming, the Almighty.”

Blessing of Offering..... Sister Venita Stratford
Offertory

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Scripture Reading #3 Sister Venita Stratford
(John 20:19–31, Common English Bible)

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” ²² Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus,^[a] one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

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

"I Doubt It"

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:

April 24th – May 1st

Day 115 — 2 Kings 5:1–27	Day 119 — Nehemiah 2:1–20
Day 116 — 2 Kings 11:1–21	Day 120 — Nehemiah 5:1–19
Day 117 — 2 Kings 22:1–23:3	Day 121 — Nehemiah 8:1–18
Day 118 — Ezra 3:7–13	

Ladies Roundtable (Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09>; Meeting ID: 845 0034 5294;

Passcode: 538161. One tap mobile:

+13017158592,84500345294#,*538161#

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 28th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Today, Sunday, April 24th (following morning service) — Mr. James Curtis Jr., candidate for **Congress of the Maryland's 4th Congressional District** will provide a short presentation about his candidacy.

Sunday, May 1st — Native American Ministries Sunday. This offering is collected the third Sunday of Easter and funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and annual conference Native American ministries.

Sunday, May 8th (following service) — **Native Plant** pick up day.

Thursday, May 12th (6:00 p.m.) — **Diabetics Serving God (DSG)** will have an in-person support group meeting at St. Mark's. Topic: **"Snack Management"**.

Sunday, May 22nd (3:00 p.m.) — Rev. Matthews will be inducted into the Preachers Hall of Fame. This will be the **Fourteenth Induction Ceremony** via Zoom (*information forthcoming*). Rev. Matthews will also be the speaker/preacher for this service.



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/stmarkslmd>)

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)

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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