

# *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***

*401.379.0600 | 443.257.2730 (cell) | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto: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, May 1, 2022*

*Third Sunday of Easter*

*Holy Communion*

***Order of Service***

*Sister Cynthia Whitfield, 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 Cynthia Whitfield**

Leader: For making us as your creatures,

**People: we thank you, our God.**

Leader: For calling us as your servants,

**People: we obey you, our Lord.**

Leader: For adopting us, as your children,

**People: we love you, our Creator.**

**All: We honor you as our Lord and Savior.**

*“Amazing Grace”*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.         | 4. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.                   |
| 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. | 5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.       |
| 3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. | 6. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun. |

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

Loving and merciful God, forgive us, we pray, for being ruled by the powerful appetites and instincts by which we survive in this world. Grant us instead the mind and will to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus through whose resurrection we have life in the world to come. **Amen.**

**The Invocation**.....**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**  
**Song of Meditation**.....**St. Mark's Choir**

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

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the scriptures are read, and the WORD is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts and let all else slip away. May there be one voice we hear today – the voice of truth and grace. May the WORD burn in our hearts as the Bread of life continue to feed our souls daily. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**  
(*Acts 9:1–20, New International Version*)

**Saul's Conversion**

<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

<sup>5</sup> "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. <sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

<sup>7</sup> The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

<sup>13</sup> "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to

you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”<sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,<sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

### **Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem**

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.<sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

### **Scripture Reading #2 .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield (Revelation 5:11–14, New International Version)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### **Blessing of Offering.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield Native American Ministries Sunday Offertory**

### **Selection ..... St. Mark’s Choir**

### **Scripture Reading #3 .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield Luke 24:25–35 (New International Version)**

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

**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**

***“Burning Hearts, Broken Bread”***

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

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

*Holy Communion*  
*Rev. George F. DeFord, Celebrant*  
*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 May Members



## Birthdays

*Andre Wright – May 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Kai Frink – May 22<sup>nd</sup>\**

*Lisa Wright – May 12<sup>th</sup>*

*Gillian Brooks Henry – May 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*David Burley Sr. – May 13<sup>th</sup>*

*Kia Settles – May 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Courtney West – May 13<sup>th</sup>*

*Christian Allen Tindal – May 31<sup>st</sup>*

*\* Sandy's Grandson*

## Anniversary

*Jerry and Jannette Reeves – 23 years*

# 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:

### May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>

Day 122 — Esther 1:1–22

Day 126 — Esther 5:1–14

Day 123 — Esther 2:1–23

Day 127 — Esther 6:1–7:10

Day 124 — Esther 3:1–15

Day 128 — Job 1:1–22

Day 125 — Esther 4:1–17

**Special Note:** The Outreach ministry is seeking volunteers to either Chair or assist with Emancipation Day. If you are interested, please contact Sisters Jacqueline Jones or Millicent George, no later than **May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**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, May 5<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) —**Choir** rehearsal

**Today, Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** — **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 8<sup>th</sup>** (following service) — **Native Plant** pick up day.

**Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** (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 22<sup>nd</sup>** (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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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

**Eunice Dumas**

1909 Sheffield Court  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**

9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Ruth Miller**

1206 Peachwood Ln.  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Edlin Chambers**

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