

# *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***

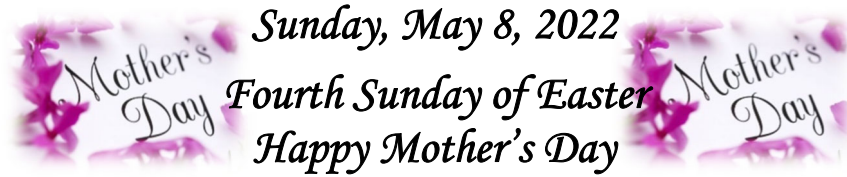
***Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling***

*Baltimore/Washington Conference*

***Rev. Sarah Schlieckert***

*District Superintendent  
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*



## *Order of Service*

*Ushers: Thomas Matthews, Joseph Daniels, Elaine Harvey*

*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:** We pray for black mothers everywhere.

**People:** **They give us life and hold our families together. We remember mothers young and old, single mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and surrogate mothers.**

**Leader:** We pray for mothers who suffer due to unemployment and violence.

**People:** **Divine Nurturer; fortify our mothers and may they find refuge in you.**

**Leader:** God empower black mothers to enrich the lives of their families.

**People:** We cherish our mothers who have birthed us and continue to nurture us.

**All:** Today we give mothers bouquets of gratitude and honor. Gentle Savior ever blesses them.

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

### *“Faith of Our Mothers”*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Faith of our mothers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word! | 2. Faith of our mothers, we will strive to win all nations unto thee; and through the truth that comes from God, we all shall then be truly free.<br><b>[Refrain]</b>    |
| <b>Refrain:</b><br>Faith of our mothers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.  | 3. Faith of our mothers, we will love both friend and foe in all our strife; and preach thee, too, as love knows how by kindly words and virtuous life. <b>[Refrain]</b> |

#### **A Tribute to Mothers and All Women** (*Unison*)

Today, O Lord, we honor mothers and women—carriers and cultivators of culture. In a lush African garden, your hands fashioned them as mother creation. Bless them now as they continue to pass their culture to future generations. We thank you especially for our black women; their descendants have blessed the earth. We remember the famous ones such as: Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Michele Obama, Sojourner Truth, Ketanji Brown Jackson and the ones we know intimately, and we now shout out their names (*Congregation can shout out names of mothers and women*). We rejoice, O God, with women and mothers everywhere. Thank you, Lord, for their work has blessed this earth. **Amen.**

#### **The Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)

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

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

Calm us, O Lord, into the quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope in your resurrection witness. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** .....**Sister Erica Roy**

*(Acts 9:36–43, New International Version)*

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

<sup>37</sup> About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

<sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived, he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

**Scripture Reading #2** .....**Sister Erica Roy**

*(Revelation 7:9–17, New International Version)*

**The Great Multitude in White Robes**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:

“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

<sup>14</sup> I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

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

**Recognition of Mothers ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Selection ..... St. Mark’s Choir**

**Scripture Reading #3 .....Sister Erica Roy**

*John 10:22–30 (New International Version)*

### **Further Conflict Over Jesus’ Claims**

<sup>22</sup> Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all;

no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

**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** ..... **Minister Nena Hughes**

*“Mothers Are Super Heros Too!”*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

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

**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.



**Ushers Needed:** To current ushers, if you can't be on-duty on your Sunday, please notify Gemma DeSouza

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Day 129 — Job 2:1–13

Day 130 — Job 38:1–41

Day 131 — Job 42:1–17

Day 132 — Psalm 1:1–6

Day 133 — Psalm 8:1–9

Day 134 — Psalm 23:1–6

Day 135 — Psalm 51:1–19

**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.**

**Today, 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”**.

**Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir** rehearsal

**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))

Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Shawn Settles, Gail Edwards (Gemma’s cousin), Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom); 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