

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

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 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Order of Service

Ushers: Joseph Daniels and Ralph Laguerre

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, 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 WorshipSister Cynthia Whitfield

Leader: We ask, Lord, for your mercy and blessing.

People: Look on us with favor and grant us with your grace.

Leader: Show us your wisdom; visit us with your peace.

People: Accept our praise and prayers.

Leader: Let our nation strive to live by your justice.

People: Accept our praise and prayer.

All: We come to worship you with confidence and hope.

“Just A Closer Walk”

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. **[Refrain]**

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. **[Refrain]**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Dear Lord, we know you to be our all, but there are times when the all of life can become too much. In such moments, we are tempted to give up. Yet, we know too that you impart strength and courage. Do for us what we have not done for others, and in our undeserved soul, help us to see that life does not have to be what it is at this moment in time. Give us strength and courage and we will never forget to praise and thank you. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

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

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path toward faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(*Job 1:6–12, 42:12–16, Common English Bible*)

Job’s Motives Questioned

⁶ One day the divine beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Adversary also came among them. ⁷ The Lord said to the Adversary, “Where did you come from?”

The Adversary answered the Lord, “From wandering throughout the earth.”

⁸ The Lord said to the Adversary, “Have you thought about my servant Job; surely there is no one like him on earth, a man who is honest, who is of absolute integrity, who reveres God and avoids evil?”

⁹ The Adversary answered the Lord, “Does Job revere God for nothing? ¹⁰ Haven’t you fenced him in—his house and all he has—and blessed the work of his hands so that his possessions extend throughout the earth? ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike all he has. He will certainly curse you to your face.”

¹² The Lord said to the Adversary, “Look, all he has is within your power; only don’t stretch out your hand against him.” So the Adversary left the Lord’s presence.

Job 42:12–16

¹² Then the Lord blessed Job’s latter days more than his former ones. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. ¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ He named one Jemimah, a second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵ No women in all the land were as beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave an inheritance to them along with their brothers.

¹⁶ After this, Job lived 140 years and saw four generations of his children.

Scripture Reading #2Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(*Acts 16:9–15, Common English Bible*)

⁹ A vision of a man from Macedonia came to Paul during the night. He stood urging Paul, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” ¹⁰ Immediately after he saw the vision, we prepared to leave

for the province of Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We sailed from Troas straight for Samothrace and came to Neapolis the following day. ¹² From there we went to Philippi, a city of Macedonia's first district and a Roman colony. We stayed in that city several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the riverbank, where we thought there might be a place for prayer. We sat down and began to talk with the women who had gathered. ¹⁴ One of those women was Lydia, a Gentile God-worshipper from the city of Thyatira, a dealer in purple cloth. As she listened, the Lord enabled her to embrace Paul's message. ¹⁵ Once she and her household were baptized, she urged, "Now that you have decided that I am a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded us.

Blessing of Offering.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Scripture Reading #3Sister Cynthia Whitfield

(John 14:23–29, Common English Bible)

²³ Jesus answered, "Whoever loves me will keep my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever doesn't love me doesn't keep my words. The word that you hear isn't mine. It is the word of the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. ²⁶ The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you.

²⁷ "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid. ²⁸ You have heard me tell you, 'I'm going away and returning to you.' If you loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than me. ²⁹ I have told you before it happens so that when it happens you will believe.

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**

“Seeking God’s Direction”

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 and Liturgist 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 23rd – May 29th

Day 143 — Isaiah 53:1–12

Day 147 — Ezekiel 37:1–14

Day 144 — Jeremiah 1:1–9

Day 148 — Daniel 1:1–21

Day 145 — Jeremiah 36:1–32

Day 149 — Daniel 2:1–24

Day 146 — Jeremiah 38:1–13

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

<https://umcom.zoom.us/j/8026673541>, Dial-in +1 301 715 8592, Meeting ID:802 667 3541

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 26th (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

Group Outing — I have reserved 20 orchestra seats to see “**Tina – The Musical**” at the National Theater (Washington, DC) on Saturday, October 15th at 2:00 pm. **Tickets: \$115 per ticket.** Reserve your ticket, you can make payments with all money being due by **September 11th**. As usual, we will try to provide transportation.

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/stmarks1md>)

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 family of Kurt Johnson
(Sandy's Brother-in-law)

Ascension Catholic Church

12700 Lanham Severn Road | Bowie, MD 20720

Viewing: Monday, May 23rd (4:00–7:00 pm), Church Hall

Viewing: Tuesday, May 24th (10:30 am–Noon), Church

Funeral Mass: Noon

Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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 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 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764