

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, May 29, 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension of the Lord

Order of Service

Youth Ushers: Isaiah Brooks, Eli Coffen, Jeremiah Laguerre

Sister Erica Roy, 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 Erica Roy

Leader: Our Lord has created and rules the universe!

People: Our God is robed in majesty and strength.

Leader Our Lord's heavenly throne is of old.

People: Our God is ancient of days.

Leader: Our Lord's love covers the deep.

People: Your WORD is steadfast forever.

All: We come into your Holy presence with joy.

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall, let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, and crown him Lord of all.
2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, and crown him Lord of all.
3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall, the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, and crown him Lord of all.
4. Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball, on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, and crown him Lord of all.
5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call, who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, and crown him Lord of all.
6. O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall, we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, and crown him Lord of all.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

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

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Lord, God, may the hearing of your WORD today inspire us to see you high and lifted up so that our lights may shine brightly into the world around us. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1.....Sister Erica Roy
(*Acts 1:1–11, Common English Bible*)

1 Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, **2** right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. **4** While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: **5** John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

7 Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

9 After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. **11** They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

Scripture Reading #2**Sister Erica Roy**
(*Ephesians 1:15–23, Common English Bible*)

Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁵ Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, this is the reason that ¹⁶ I don’t stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God’s call, what is the richness of God’s glorious inheritance among believers, ¹⁹ and what is the overwhelming greatness of God’s power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God’s powerful strength. ²⁰ God’s power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God’s right side in the heavens, ²¹ far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. ²² God put everything under Christ’s feet and made him head of everything in the church, ²³ which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

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

Selection **St. Mark’s Choir**

Scripture Reading #3**Sister Erica Roy**
(*Luke 24:44–53, Common English Bible*)

⁴⁴ Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. ⁵² They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. ⁵³ And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

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

“Do Something”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Announcements

Pastor’s Special Moment

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.



THANKS!! Much thanks and appreciation for your support and for logging on to zoom for my Induction into **The Preacher's Hall of Fame 14th Induction Ceremony** on last Sunday. Also special thanks to Sister Jaime Coffen and Dr. George DeFord for their very kind words. Many thanks to the love that have been extended to me from the St. Mark's congregation.

May you all be Blessed, Pastor Matthews

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 30th – June 5th

Day 150 — Daniel 2:25–49

Day 154 — Jonah 1: 1—2:10

Day 151 — Daniel 3: 1–30

Day 155 — Jonah 3:1—4:11

Day 152 — Daniel 5:1–30

Day 156 — John 1:1–18

Day 153 — Daniel 6:1–28

Ladies Roundtable — On hiatus (*watch for start up date*)

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, June 2nd (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/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)

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

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