

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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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

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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, September 4, 2022

*Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Communion*

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Augustus, 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 Augustus

Leader: In you, O LORD, I take refuge, let me not be put to shame.

People: In your righteousness deliver and rescue me.

Leader: Incline your ear to me and save me.

People: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me.

Leader: For you are my rock and my fortress.

People: Rescue me, o my God, from the hand of the wicked.

Leader: My trust, O Lord, has been from my youth.

People: My praise is continually lifted up to you.

Hymn of Praise..... Choir/Congregation

“Lift Him Up”

- 1 How to reach the masses, men of ev'ry birth,
For an answer Jesus gave the key:
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.”

Refrain:

Lift Him up (*Lift the Savior up*),
Lift Him up (*Lift the Savior up*),
Still He speaks from eternity:
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.”

- 2 Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread,
Lift the Savior up for them to see;
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said,
“I'll draw all men unto Me.” ***[Refrain]***
- 3 Don't exalt the preacher, don't exalt the pew,
Preach the Gospel simple, full and free;
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true,
“I'll draw all men unto Me.” ***[Refrain]***
- 4 Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,
Let the world in you the Savior see;
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught,
“I'll draw all men unto Me.” ***[Refrain]***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Forgive us, O God, when your words and ways seem difficult.
Softens us when we harden our views about you and about others
into rigid opinions inflexible to the spirit's movement. Refresh us
when we parch ourselves and others dry with formulas instead of
relationships, with offense taken instead of understanding granted.
Remind us through your spirit that even when we stumble, you are
there to renew our spirits, to enlighten our minds to cast away that
which deadens us and others, and to take on that which leads to
Christ. **Amen.**

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

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed and do what you have commanded. May we find the power and wisdom of God in the words we hear today.

Scripture Reading #1.....Sister Cynthia Augustus
(*Jeremiah 18:1–11, Common English Bible*)

God the potter

18 Jeremiah received the Lord's word: ² Go down to the potter's house, and I'll give you instructions about what to do there. ³ So I went down to the potter's house; he was working on the potter's wheel. ⁴ But the piece he was making was flawed while still in his hands, so the potter started on another, as seemed best to him. ⁵ Then the Lord's word came to me: ⁶ House of Israel, can't I deal with you like this potter, declares the Lord? Like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in mine, house of Israel! ⁷ At any time I may announce that I will dig up, pull down, and destroy a nation or kingdom; ⁸ but if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I'll relent and not carry out the harm I intended for it. ⁹ At the same time, I may announce that I will build and plant a nation or kingdom; ¹⁰ but if that nation displeases and disobeys me, then I'll relent and not carry out the good I intended for it. ¹¹ Now say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem: This is what the Lord says: I am a potter preparing a disaster for you; I'm working out a plan against you. So each one of you, turn from your evil ways; reform your ways and your actions.

Scripture Reading #2.....Sister Cynthia Augustus
(*Philemon 1:1–7, Common English Bible*)

Greeting

¹ From Paul, who is a prisoner for the cause of Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy.

To Philemon our dearly loved coworker, ² Apphia our sister, Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church that meets in your house.

³ May the grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Paul's prayer for Philemon

⁴ Philemon, I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers ⁵ because I've heard of your love and faithfulness, which you have both for the Lord Jesus and for all God's people. ⁶ I pray that your partnership in the faith might become effective by an understanding of all that is good among us in Christ. ⁷ I have great joy and encouragement because of your love, since the hearts of God's people are refreshed by your actions, my brother.

Tithes and Offering

Blessing of Offering.....Sister Cynthia Augustus

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Scripture Reading #3Sister Cynthia Augustus
(Luke 14:25–33, Common English Bible)

Discipleship's demands

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. ³⁰ They will say, ‘Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!’ ³¹ Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? ³² And if he didn't think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. ³³ In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

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

“Letting Go and Taking On”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Holy Communion

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Celebrant

Thanksgiving and Communion

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

The pastor takes the bread and cup, and the bread and wine are prepared for the meal.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth, 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. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

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.”

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.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

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 (*sung by choir*)

BREAKING THE BREAD

The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:

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 pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being exchanged:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The congregation sings hymns while the bread and cup are given.

When all have received, the Lord's table is put in order.

The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:

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.**

Welcome of Visitors

Announcements

Pastor's Special Moment

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 September Members

*Brenda Jackson — 1st
Chandler Tindal — 3rd
Shimaine West — 10th*

*Elizabeth Day — 15th (99 yrs.)
Cynthia Augustus — 18th
Adrienne Hall — 24th*



Anniversary

*Wayne and Jaime Coffen — 9th (22 yrs.)
Adrian and LáAngel — 13th (25 yrs.)
Carlton and Shimaine — 18th (23 yrs.)
Toney and Marchel Ellis — 30th (33 yrs.)*



Heavenly Birthday

*Jamal Medina — 8th
Harold Awkward Sr. — 13th
Jam Chris DeFord — 24th*

Announcements

Reminder from Pastor Matthews: With the new variants of Covid, please remember to wear your mask while you are in the sanctuary.

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.



KUDOS to all the volunteers who helped with the Walk/Run and Emancipation Day

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

September 5th – September 11th

Day 248 — Mark 12:28–37	Day 251 — Luke 21:25–38
Day 249 — Matthew 23:1–39	Day 252 — Matthew 25:1–30
Day 250 — Luke 21:1–24	Day 253 — Matthew 25:31–46
	Day 254 — Luke 22:1–13

Ladies Roundtable — **On hiatus** (*watch for startup 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, September 8th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir** rehearsal

Sunday, September 11th (following morning service) — Ms. Cynthia would like to have a brief meeting with the **women of St. Mark's**.

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/stmarksmd>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

To My St. Mark's Family



5:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.



*"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
Rev. Patricia (Pat) Pride, former pastor
Arrangements pending*

All branches of the Military, 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, 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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