

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, September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Ushers:

Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas

Brother Charles Gregg, 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 Brother Charles Gregg

Leader:Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

People:From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee.

Leader:When my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

People:For thou have been a shelter in the time of storm.

Leader:Unto you, O my strength, will sing praises.

People:God is my defense, and the God of mercy in the midst of troubled times.

ALL: To you we sing to your glory.

Hymn of PraiseChoir/Congregation

“It’s Me It’s Me, O Lord”

*It’s me, it’s me, it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.*

*It’s me, it’s me, it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.*

Not my brother or my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my brother or my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my mother or my father, but it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my mother or my father, but it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my preacher or my teacher, but it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my preacher or my teacher, but it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Holy God your son walked the road to Calvary for each of us. For our sake, he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. Yet sometimes we find it hard to sacrifice even for the sake of him who gave so much for us. We hold back from the road he calls us to walk, because we know there might be a cross. Forgive us for our faltering faith and give us the courage to move farther in your name.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation Brother Charles Gregg

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 ...Brother Charles Gregg

(Isaiah 6:1–8 (King James Version))

6 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Scripture Reading #2 Brother Charles Gregg

(1 Corinthians 13:8–12, Common English Bible)

8 Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. **9** We know in part and we prophesy in part; **10** but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. **11** When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now

that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. ¹² Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known.

Tithes and Offering

Blessing of Offering **Brother Charles Gregg**

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

Scripture Reading #3 **Brother Charles Gregg**

(Luke 15:1–17 (King James Version))

15 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

² And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

³ And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

⁴ What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

⁵ And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

⁶ And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

⁷ I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

⁸ Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

⁹ And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

¹⁰ Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

¹¹ And he said, A certain man had two sons:

¹² And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

¹³ And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

¹⁴ And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

¹⁵ And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

¹⁶ And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

¹⁷ And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

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 PreparationSt. Mark’s Choir

Inspirational MessageRev. Eugene W. Matthews

“When He Came to Himself”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

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

Invitation SelectionSt. Mark’s Choir

Welcome of Visitors

Announcements

Pastor's Moment

Benediction

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.



The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

September 19th – September 25th

Day 262 — John 17:1–26

Day 265 — Matthew 26:57–75

Day 263 — Mark 14:26–52

Day 266 — Matthew 27:1–10

Day 264 — John 18:1–24

Day 267 — Luke 23:1–12

Day 268 — Mark 15:6–24

Ladies Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — **Tuesday, September 20th**. Zoom information forthcoming.

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 22nd (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir** rehearsal

Sunday, September 25th (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Homecoming** — “**God Is Not Through With Us Yet**”. Preacher of the hour, Rev. Dr. Sonia L. King. **Please be present and bring a family member or friend.** If possible, a sacrificial offering is requested.

Sunday, October 2nd — **World Communion Sunday** – United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This universal and inclusive connection is the foundation of the **special offering** for World Communion Sunday.

Tuesday, November 15th (6:00 p.m.) — **Annual Church Conference.** All reports are due in the Annapolis District office by October 1st.

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)

All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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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