

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*

Third Sunday of Advent

Encounter Joy



Sunday, December 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, December 11, 2022

*Third Sunday of Advent:
Encounter Joy*

Ushers:

Thomas Matthews and Ralph Laquerre

Order of Service

Sister Erica Roy, Worship Leader

Prelude **Rev. Henry Tindel**

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: Lord, we come to you loaded down with the busyness of the season.

People: What then shall we do?

Leader: Lord, we come to you lonely for relationships broken and loved ones long gone.

People: What then shall we do?

Leader: Lord we come to you confessing our failing to do right.

People: What then shall we do?

Leader: Compassionate God, have mercy on us and give us eyes to see the advent of your coming with “Joy” in the presence of your Son.

ALL: We come into your Holy presence with joy.

Lighting of the Advent Candle — Encounter Joy
Erica Roy and Cynthia Whitfield

Hymn of Praise.....**St. Mark’s Choir/Congregation**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; **(Refrain)**
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Creative God, your presence is unfailing, and our perspective is limited we have sought our own answers instead of seeking your wisdom. We have bowed to the idols of wealth and materialism rather than answering to the invitation to participate in community service in your name. For the sake of your Son, help us to start anew; please close the gap between us through the cross of Christ. Forgive us and make us whole. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*

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

The Prayer of Illumination *(In 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**
(James 5:7–10, Common English Bible)

⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. ⁸ You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

Blessing of the Offering**Sister Erica Roy**
Offertory

Scripture Reading #2 (Gospel).....**Sister Erica Roy**
(Matthew 11:2–11, Common English Bible)

² Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, ³“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

⁴ Jesus responded, “Go, report to John what you hear and see.

⁵ *Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them.* ⁶ Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me.”

⁷ When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: “What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? ⁸ What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ He is the one of whom it is

written: *Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.*

¹¹ “I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (Hymnal, #71)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation..... St. Mark’s Choir

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“A Vision of Joy”

“The desert and the dry land will be glad, the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus. They will burst into bloom, and rejoice with joy and singing.”

Isaiah 35:1–2a, Common English Bible

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection — “Joy to the World”

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Erica Roy

Benediction

Announcements

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

Special thank you to everyone who participated in the LARS Family Giving project.



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:

December 12th – December 18th

Day 346 — 1 Timothy 6:3–21	Day 350 — Hebrews 10:19–39
Day 347 — 2 Timothy 1:1–18	Day 351 — Hebrews 11:1–40
Day 348 — 2 Timothy 3:1–17	Day 352 — Hebrews 12:1–13
Day 349 — Titus 3:1–11	

Tuesday, December 13th (6:30 p.m.) — **Women’s Roundtable**. Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>,

Meeting ID: 885 7118 4455; **Passcode:** 459563

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 88571184455#, *459563#

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, December 15th (6:30 p.m.) — **Special Choir** rehearsal. **The family of our beloved Ms. Sister has asked that any members in the church (or members outside the church), please join the St. Mark’s choir for combined voices at her Celebration of Life Service on Saturday, December 17th.**

Sunday, December 25th (9:00 a.m.) — **Christmas Morning service**

Saturday, December 31st (7:00 p.m.) — **Watch Night Service** will be held on Zoom. Zoom information will be forthcoming

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 needs 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
Mildred C. Awkward*

*Viewing: Friday, December 16th (6:00–8:00 p.m.)
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707*

*Celebration of Life: Saturday, December 17th
Viewing: 10:00 a.m.; Service: 11:00 a.m.
Queens Chapel United Methodist Church
7410 Old Muirkirk Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705*

Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, David Burley Sr., All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, 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

Grace Elaine Catchings
15505 Clayburn Drive
Laurel, MD 20707
301.490.8774
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)