

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

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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*



Annual Women's Day

*“Women in Seasonal
Shades of God's Garden”*

³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

1 Peter 3:3–4

*Sunday, November 20, 2022
10:00 a.m.*

Co-Chairs

*Cynthia Augustus
Charlotte Thomas
Sharon Thomas*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, November 20, 2022

Christ the King Sunday

Ushers:

Gemma Desouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas

Order of Service

Sister Tiara Matthews, Worship Leader

Prelude **Brother Warren Campbell**

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 Tiara Matthews**

Leader: We pray for black women everywhere.

People: **They give us life and hold our families together.**

Leader: We remember women, young and old, single women, grandmothers, godmothers, and surrogate mothers.

People: **We pray for women who suffer due to unemployment and violence.**

Leader: Divine Nurturer, fortify our women and may they find refuge in you.

People: God empower black women to enrich the lives of their families.

Leader: We cherish our women who have birthed us and continue to nurture us.

People: Today we give women bouquets of gratitude and honor. Gentle Savior ever blesses the women of the world and especially St. Mark's Women.

Hymn of Praise.....St. Mark's Choir/Congregation

"It's Your Season"

Verse 1

It's your season, to be blessed
God made you a promise, you stood the test
He's gonna open the windows and pour you out a blessing
it's your season, to be blessed

It's your season, to be blessed
God made you a promise, you stood the test
He's gonna open the windows and pour you out a blessing
it's your season, to be blessed

Verse 2

I'm blessed in the city, I'm blessed in the field
I'm blessed going out, I'm blessed coming in
He's gonna open the windows and pour you out a blessing
It's your season, to be blessed

It's your season, to be blessed
God made you a promise, you stood the test
He's gonna open the windows and pour you out a blessing
it's your season, to be blessed

Verse 3

I've been through the fire, I've been through the flood
But I'm standing here, because of His blood
He's gonna open the windows, and pour you out a blessing
it's your season, to be blessed

It's your season, to be blessed
God made you a promise, you stood the test
He's gonna open the windows and pour you out a blessing
it's your season, to be blessed

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

O Divine Lover, your life pulses in each of our hearts, and your love permeates each of our lives. We, your daughters and sons, praise you. Your care sustains us in each moment, and your compassion guides us in each situation. We, your daughters and sons, praise you. When we fall, you lift us, when we fail you restore us, when we are wounded, you nurse us, when we grieve, you weep with us. We, your daughters and sons, praise you. But we have failed to love as you do, we have abused our bodies and those of others, we have filled our minds with selfish dreams, and violent plans, we have made our hearts cold and empty of compassion, we have forgotten our spirits, and distorted your image within us. As a mother disciplines her children, we ask you to discipline us; As a mother forgives the sons and daughters who hurt her, we ask you to forgive us; As a mother calls her children to be reconciled with their siblings, we ask you to lead us to reconciliation with one another. In Christ's Name. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation..... **Sister Tiara Matthews**

Song of Meditation **St. Mark’s Choir**

Lighting of Memorial Candle **Sister Cynthia Augustus**

Special Presentations **Sister Cynthia Augustus**

Selection **St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Tiara Matthews**

(*Jeremiah 23:1–6, New International Version*)

The Righteous Branch

23 “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. ²Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them

away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the Lord. ³“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the Lord.

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Tiara Matthews
(*Colossians 1:10–20, New International Version*)

¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of the Son of God

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all

things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Blessing of the Offering Sister Tiara Matthews
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 Sister Tiara Matthews
(Luke 23:33–43, New International Version)

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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.

Introduction of Speaker Sister Shimaine West

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

**Inspirational Message.....Elder Paula Simms
A Sister's Healing Ministries**

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection

Acknowledgement of Visitors / Announcements

Benediction

Elder Paula Simms

Elder Paula Simms was born in Washington, D.C. She is affectionately known by her nickname “Angel”. She received her education in the public schools of Washington D.C., where she graduated from H.D. Woodson Senior High School. Upon graduation, she received a four-year scholarship to play basketball at Virginia State University. She earned her B.S. in Business Administration in July 1986.

In the summer of 1982, Elder Paula accepted Jesus Christ and was baptized by Bishop Dixon and Reverend Peterson at Friendship Baptist Church. Upon returning home from college, Elder Paula attended St. John Free Will Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Dixon. Around the summer of 1993, she began attending Deliverance Free Will Baptist Church. With a strong desire and passion to do the Will of God, she was led by God to teach Sunday school. Under the spiritual direction of Dr. William E. Peterson, she began to spiritually grow in the grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.

God called her to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in the summer of 2006. She preached her initial sermon in October of 2006 at Deliverance Free Will Baptist Church. She received her minister credentials in November of 2006. She was ordained an Elder in the winter of 2008 by the United Free Will Baptist Denomination under the leadership of Presiding Bishop J.E. Reddick.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in the winter of 2005, God allow her to launch A Sister’s Healing Ministries in April of 2007. This ministry was birth from what she thought was a burden in her life. God has used A Sister’s Healing Ministries to uplift, encourage, and empower those who have been bruised, wounded, and hurt through the teaching of God’s Word. This ministry also assists with helping the elderly and homeless through various campaigns and donation drives.

Elder Paula is married with two lovely daughters.

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.



Advent Season will begin on **Sunday, November 27th**. We would need 4 persons or families to participate in this service each week. We will be using the liturgies from the Upper Room, if you don't have one available, I can provide you with a copy of the service for your week. We are asking that you be willing to do a 2- or 3-minute reflection on the questions. If interested, please contact Cynthia (via email or phone).

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

November 21st – November 27th

Day 325 — Romans 8:1–18 Day 328 — 1 Corinthians 13:1–13
Day 326 — Romans 8:19–39 Day 329 — 1 Corinthians 15:1–20
Day 327 — Romans 12:1–21 Day 330 — 1 Corinthians 15:42–58
Day 331 — 2 Corinthians 4:1–18

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — **No study on November 23rd, will resume November 30th**. This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.**

Thursday, November 24th (7:00 p.m.) — **No rehearsal. Please be in sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 27th for rehearsal.**

Sunday, November 27th — **United Methodist Student Day** — A Special Sunday offering supports scholarships and low-interest loans that help young leaders achieve their dreams.

Tuesday, November 29th (6:30 p.m.) — **Women's Roundtable.**

Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHRlYlJxK284Zz09>,

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

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

LARS “Adopt-A-Family” Christmas Program

We are sponsoring 4 children. Please select the item(s) you would like to donate from the attached Wishlist sheet. Then let Sandy Johnson (cell: 410-530-0399, sandra7767@msn.com) or Millicent George (stmarkslmd@gmail.com) know the items you are donating. The items should be wrapped or placed in gift bags. **PLEASE write the Family Number, Child's Initials, age, and gender on each individual gift.** Bring the gifts to St. Mark's on Sunday, December 4th, Tuesday, December 6th or Thursday, December 8th (**last day**) between 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. We're praying every St. Mark's member will participate. Thank you for being a blessing to these children.

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.

Church Directory Update

It's that time again. We are asking for additional information, so even if your information is the same, please fill out and return to me. People are requesting updated directory for the upcoming holidays, **so if I can get responses back by December 1st** it will be much appreciated. Thank you in advance.

If you are printing, please do so legibility and use black/blue ink

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email: _____

Birthday: _____

Anniversary: _____

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

FAMILY #3 - WISHLISTS

JM

Age: 7 Gender: Male
Favorite Color: Blue

~~Shirt Size 7 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Pants Size 7 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Jacket/Coat Size 7/8 Kids~~ —
TAKEN

~~Shoes Size 13 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Bicycle~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Skateboard~~ — **TAKEN**

Historic Event Books

~~Anime/Comic Books~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Walmart Gift Card~~ — **TAKEN**

KY

Age: 12 Gender: Male
Favorite Color: Black

~~Shirt Size 16 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Pants Size 16 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Jacket/Coat Size 16/18 Kids~~ —
TAKEN

~~Tennis Shoes Size 10 Adult~~ —
TAKEN

Bicycle

~~Karaoke Machine~~ — **TAKEN**

History/Art History Books

~~Comic Books~~ — **TAKEN**

Information About The Family

I am a single mother of 2 who has passed through very difficult times. I divorced my ex-husband due to domestic violence and was placed in a shelter for 2 months. COVID-19 has presented many challenges for my family.

HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

- ~~1. Queen Bed Sheets~~ — **TAKEN**
2. Dresser
- ~~3. Winter Bed Sheets Queen~~ — **TAKEN**

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

FAMILY #7 - WISHLISTS

JL

Age: 16 Months
Gender: Female
Favorite Color: Red

~~Shirt - Size 3T Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Pants - Size 3T Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Jacket/Coat - Size 3T Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Shoes - Size 7 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Pampers: Size 6~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Wipes~~ — **TAKEN**

Tablet

Amazon Gift Card

Likes Cocomelon and Bartolito

MR

Age: 14 Gender: Female
Favorite Colors: Black, Red,
White

~~Shirt - Size 14/16 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Pants - Size 14 Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Jacket/Coat - Size 14L Kids~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Shoes - Size 7½ Adult~~

~~Air Force 1's White or Black cats~~

~~Jordan 4~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Nintendo Switch Tablet for~~

~~Homework~~ — **TAKEN**

Mouth Guard and Soccer Cleats

Harry Potter Books

Ed and Lorraine Warren Books

~~Amazon Gift Card~~ — **TAKEN**

~~Google Play Gift Card~~ — **TAKEN**

Information About The Family

Right now challenges we are going through is the rent payments. This is a big help for my family, and hope God multiplies your blessings for all the good you are doing.

HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

~~1. Blender~~ — **TAKEN**

~~2. TV~~ — **TAKEN**

~~3. Set of pots and pans~~ — **TAKEN**



*"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)

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

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