

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*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Encounter Love



Sunday, December 18, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, December 11, 2022

*Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Encounter Love*

Ushers:

Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas

Order of Service

Brother Thomas Matthews, 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 Brother Thomas Matthews

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: **And be lifted up, O ancient doors!**

Leader: The King of glory may come in.

People: **Who is the King of Glory?**

Leader: The Lord, strong and mighty, The Lord, mighty in battle.

People: **Lift up your heads, O gates and be lifted up O ancient doors.**

Leader: That the King of glory shall come in and who is the King of Glory?

All: **THE LORD OF HOST, He is the King of Glory.**

*Lighting of the Advent Candle — Encounter Love
Coffen Family*

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

Jesus the Light of the World

1 Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

2 Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. ***[Refrain]***

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world. ***[Refrain]***

4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. ***[Refrain]***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Loving God, you have made us the reason for the season. You sent Jesus into the world so that you truly would be with us. You sent

him because we had gone so utterly astray. Forgive us when we put ultimate trust in people, ideas, visions and things other than you. Forgive us, merciful God. Open our eyes and ears, our minds and hearts to trust you today and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**
Song of Meditation..... **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the scriptures are read, and your WORD proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace Come Holy Spirit, come. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Brother Thomas Matthews**
(*Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Common English Bible*)

80 Shepherd of Israel, listen!

You, the one who leads Joseph as if he were a sheep.

You, who are enthroned upon the winged heavenly creatures.

Show yourself ² before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh!

Wake up your power!

Come to save us!

³ Restore us, God!

Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

⁴ Lord God of heavenly forces,

how long will you fume against your people's prayer?

⁵ You've fed them bread made of tears;

you've given them tears to drink three times over!

⁶ You've put us at odds with our neighbors;

our enemies make fun of us.

⁷ Restore us, God of heavenly forces!

Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

¹⁷ Let your hand be with the one on your right side—

with the one whom you secured as your own—

¹⁸ then we will not turn away from you!

Revive us so that we can call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, Lord God of heavenly forces!

Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Blessing of the Offering Brother Thomas Matthews
Offertory

Scripture Reading #2 (Gospel)..... Brother Thomas Matthews
(Romans 1:1–7, Common English Bible)

1 From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for God's good news. **2-3** God promised this good news about his Son ahead of time through his prophets in the holy scriptures. His Son was descended from David. **4** He was publicly identified as God's Son with power through his resurrection from the dead, which was based on the Spirit of holiness. This Son is Jesus Christ our Lord. **5** Through him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be apostles. This was to bring all Gentiles to faithful obedience for his name's sake. **6** You who are called by Jesus Christ are also included among these Gentiles.

7 To those in Rome who are dearly loved by God and called to be God's people.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

“The Love Vision”

“Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14, Common English Bible

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /
Announcements Brother Thomas Matthews**

Benediction

Announcements

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

Church Office will be closed from December 24th thru December 31st

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 19th – December 25th

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Day 353 — James 1: 2–27 | Day 357 — 1 Peter 3:1–22 |
| Day 354 — James 2:1–13 | Day 358 — 2 Peter 1:2–21 |
| Day 355 — James 3:1–12 | Day 359 — 1 John 1:1–10 |
| Day 356 — 1 Peter 2: 1–25 | |

**Tuesday Women’s Roundtable and Wednesday Night Experience —
On hiatus until January 3 and 4, 2023, respectively.**

Thursday, December 22nd (6:30 p.m.) — Choir rehearsal

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
Sister Joan Moore*

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, 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)