

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

443.257.2730 | 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, January 22, 2023

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

Ushers:

Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Jaime and Eli Coffen, 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 Eli Coffen

Leader: We have come to worship our Creator God.

People: **Our week has been challenging as we strived to serve you.**

Leader: We live with expectations from others and ourselves.

People: **However, today we find peace in the one who has created us.**

Leader: Come, may your steps be steady and purposeful.

People: **We are precious in the Lord's sight.**

ALL: **We have come to bless you and to hear your promises!!**

Hymn of Praise Choir / Congregation

"What A Fellowship"

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. **(Refrain)**

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (Unison)

Holy God, your truth challenges us to see the reality of who we are in our sinfulness. Our thoughts are not your thoughts, nor our ways your ways. Because we fail to keep clear the difference between being loyal citizens of an earthly nation and citizens of your realm, we easily lose the perspective of Jesus. But you call us to be salt and leaven, to speak and live the gospel in the society in which we live and to give what is due to Caesar but to God what is to be given to God. Forgive, O God, for all of our failures and cleanse us of our sins. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer.....St. Mark’s Choir/Congregation

The Invocation.....Jaime Coffen

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

The Prayer of Illumination (In Unison)

Almighty God, in you are the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, open our ears, hearts, and mind afresh to the wonders of your Word. Give us grace in this time of worship to freely choose the way of your wisdom, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Eli Coffen

(Isaiah 9:1–4, Common English Bible)

9 Nonetheless, those who were in distress won’t be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later he glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. ³ You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. ⁴ As on the day of Midian, you’ve shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

Scripture Reading #2Jaime Coffen
(1 Corinthians 1:10–18, Common English Bible)

¹⁰ Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, Chloe's people gave me some information about you, that you're fighting with each other. ¹² What I mean is this: that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," "I belong to Apollos," "I belong to Cephas," "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you, or were you baptized in Paul's name? ¹⁴ Thank God that I didn't baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that nobody can say that you were baptized in my name! ¹⁶ Oh, I baptized the house of Stephanas too. Otherwise, I don't know if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the good news. And Christ didn't send me to preach the good news with clever words so that Christ's cross won't be emptied of its meaning. ¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsJaime Coffen

Blessing of the Offering Eli Coffen
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Jaime Coffen
(Matthew 4:12–23, Common English Bible)

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

¹⁵ *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,* ¹⁶ *the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.*

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" ¹⁸ As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." ²⁰ Right away, they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and ²² immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues.

He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

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.**

*An Order for the Installation or
Recognition of Leaders in the Church*

Dear friends,

you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us. In love we thank you for accepting your obligation and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to this people, and to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ and make him known in your witness and your work.

Today we install:

Nena Hughes—Church Council Chair

Millicent George—Church Council Secretary

Desiree Vanloo—Church Lay Leader

Andrea Gibson—Finance Chair

Cynthia Burley—Church Treasurer

Deidre Burley-Ballard—Church Financial Secretary

Jaime Whitfield-Coffen—Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair

David Burley, Sr.—Trustee Chair

Sandra Johnson—Church Historian

Cynthia Whitfield—Nurture Coordinator/Worship Coordinator

Jacqueline Jones, Millicent George—Outreach Coordinators

Desiree Vanloo—Witness Coordinator

Charles Gregg—United Methodist Men (UMM)

Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ? **(I do.)**

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world? **(I will.)**

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace? **(I will.)**

Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen? **(I will.)**

Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service. Keep before them the example of our

Lord, who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all. Let them share his ministry and consecration, that they may enter into his joy. Guide them in their work. Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge that through them your purposes are accomplished; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The pastor addresses the congregation: Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards. Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers?

The congregation responds: **We will.**

Hymn of Preparation St. Mark's Choir

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“United in Mind and Purpose”

Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose.

1 Corinthian 1:10, Common English Bible

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection

Benediction

Announcements

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

| Worship Attendance — 01/15/2023 | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| In-Person | 41 |
| Zoom | 19 |
| Total | 60 |

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.



Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — **On hiatus until February 7th.**

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, January 26th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Sunday, January 29th (following morning service) — Conversation with members from **Sacred Gardens**. Need additional information, please speak with Jackie Jones.

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), reveugene@comcast.net.

Elizabeth Day, 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

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