

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarksfmd@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

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, February 19, 2023

Black History Month

Transfiguration Sunday



Ushers:

Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Tyrone Mundell

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: God calls us, “Come to me, on the mountain, in the forest, on the trail.”

People: **Come to me, across the ocean, across the river, across the street.**

Leader: “Come to me, at the kitchen table, in the grocery store, on the Web.”

People: **Come to me on the overpass, in the shelter, on the soup line.**

Leader: God invites us, "Come. Be with me. "Share the day with me."

People: God invites us, "Share the week, the year, your whole life with me."

All: We "COME," Lord to answer.

Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

God of Sinai, you gave us tablets with your covenantal hope for all creation. We confess that it was not only Moses who broke the tablets long ago in anger. We confess that we break your heart every day when we ignore your ways of love and choose our own way. We break your heart when we choose to hoard your abundance, creating scarcity for others. We break your heart when we choose to justify our personal comfort by pretending we can

only be who we are now. God of Sinai, give us the courage to offer ourselves to be transfigured, to be impowered, to be commissioned. Let it all be so. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*

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

Black History Moment **Brother Charles Gregg**

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path of faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope and love in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Brother Thomas Matthews**
(Exodus 24:12–18, Common English Bible)

¹² The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there. I’ll give you the stone tablets with the instructions and the commandments that I’ve written in order to teach them.”
¹³ So Moses and his assistant Joshua got up, and Moses went up God’s mountain. ¹⁴ Moses had said to the elders, “Wait for us here until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur will be here with you. Whoever has a legal dispute may go to them.”
¹⁵ Then Moses went up the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The Lord’s glorious presence settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from the cloud. ¹⁷ To the Israelites, the Lord’s glorious presence looked like a blazing fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up the mountain. Moses stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Scripture Reading #2 **Brother Thomas Matthews**
(2 Peter 1:16–21, Common English Bible)

¹⁶ We didn’t repeat crafty myths when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Quite the contrary, we witnessed his majesty with our own eyes. ¹⁷ He received honor and glory from God the Father when a voice came to him from the magnificent glory, saying, “This is my dearly loved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ In

addition, we have a most reliable prophetic word, and you would do well to pay attention to it, just as you would to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Most important, you must know that no prophecy of scripture represents the prophet's own understanding of things, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will. Instead, men and women led by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Brother Thomas Matthews

Blessing of the Offering Brother Thomas Matthews
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Brother Thomas Matthews
(Matthew 17:1-9, Common English Bible)

¹⁷ Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain. ² He was transformed in front of them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.

³ Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus. ⁴ Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, "Lord, it's good that we're here. If you want, I'll make three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁵ While he was still speaking, look, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!" ⁶ Hearing this, the disciples fell on their faces, filled with awe.

⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anybody about the vision until the Human One is raised from the dead."

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

“Glimpses of Glorious Possibilities”

“Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain. ² He was transformed in front of them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.”

Matthew 17:1–2, 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 — 02/12/2023

In-Person	38
Zoom	16
Total	54

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.) — Join Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>, **Meeting ID:** 885 7118 4455; **Passcode:** 459563
One tap mobile: +13017158592, 88571184455#, *459563#

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — **NO CLASS**. This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.**

Wednesday, February 22nd (7:00 p.m.) — **Ash Wednesday** service — this service will be held in church and on Zoom. If you are on Zoom, please have ashes available for blessing. **Use Sunday log-in for service.**

ATTENTION!! Among the ordinances that John Wesley advocated in addition to weekly worship, prayer, reading of scripture was/is Fasting. In preparation for the beginning of the Lenten Season, I am asking members to consider fasting on Ash Wednesday. There are various forms for fasting: Fast for part of the day, no food, only water during the daylight, fast from social media, etc. (I'm aware of dietary considerations), Use your best judgement.

Saturday, February 25th (10:00 a.m.) — **Trustee Meeting**

Saturday, March 8th (2:00 p.m.) — **“Shout Sister Shout”** — **Ford Theater, Washington, DC.** Donation: \$90 per person. Need 10 people to get this group rate. Contact Cynthia (301.776.2420). **Need to know by February 28th.**



Inspired by Gayle F. Wald's book *Shout, Sister, Shout!*, this new musical tells the story of Sister Rosetta Tharpe—one of America's most influential rock, R&B and gospel crossover singers and guitarists. Ambitious, courageous and uncompromisingly public, Tharpe became a pioneer of the women's movement for racial and sexual equality and musical legend who redefined the national and international music scene in the 1930s and 40s and beyond.

Sacred Grounds: Free Native Plants! Our Mother's Day Native Plant giveaway has been scheduled for **Sunday, May 14, 2023**. To receive plants, please register online at <https://www.nwf/NativePlantPledge>. If you have questions, please contact 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.

Shawn Settles, Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd and Barbara Hughes Sr., Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Phillip Reese, Leah Henry, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), 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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