

# *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](mailto: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, April 9, 2023*

## *Easter Sunday*

*Ushers: Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Joseph Daniels*

### *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: In both mystery and flesh He arose.

**People: We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief.**

Leader: Breaking the veil between heaven and earth, he releases us from the fear of death.

**People: We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief.**

Leader: We gather today in joy and celebration!

**People: We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief.**

Leader: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**ALL: Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen Indeed. AMEN!!  
ALLELUIA!**

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

## *"He Rose"*

- 1 They crucified my Savior and nailed him to the tree,  
they crucified my Savior and nailed him to the tree,  
they crucified my Savior and nailed him to the tree  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.

***Refrain:***

He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead!  
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead!  
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead,  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.

- 2 Then Joseph begged his body and laid it in the tomb,  
then Joseph begged his body and laid it in the tomb,  
then Joseph begged his body, and laid it in the tomb,  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home. ***(Refrain)***
- 3 Sister Mary she came running, a-looking for my Lord,  
Sister Mary she came running, a-looking for my Lord,  
Sister Mary she came running, a-looking for my Lord,  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home. ***(Refrain)***
- 4 An angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away,  
an angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away,  
an angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away,  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home. ***(Refrain)***

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** *(Unison)*

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)

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

**The Prayer of Illumination** (*In Unison*)

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every WORD that comes from your mouth, make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, who is our risen Lord. Lord, today of all days we've come to hear about the Resurrection of our Lord.

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**  
(*Acts 10:34–43, Common English Bible*)

<sup>34</sup> Peter said, “I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. <sup>35</sup> Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! <sup>37</sup> You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. <sup>38</sup> You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, <sup>41</sup> not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**  
(*Colossians 3:1–4, Common English Bible*)

**3** Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God's right side. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things above and not things on earth. <sup>3</sup> You died, and your life is

hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**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 28:1–10, Common English Bible)*

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you.”

<sup>8</sup> With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there.”

**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**

## ***“Something Exciting Happened”***

*<sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him.*

*Matthew 28:5–6 (Common English Bible)*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

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

## ***The Baptismal Covenant III***

*Holy Baptism for Those Who Can Answer for Themselves  
Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Faith, Reception into the United  
Methodist Church, Reception into a Local Congregation*

### **Introduction to the Service**

The Church is of God,  
and will be preserved to the end of time,  
for the conduct of worship  
and the due administration of God’s Word and Sacraments,  
the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline,  
the edification of believers,  
and the conversion of the world.  
All, of every age and station,  
stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

### **Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith**

Do you in the presence of God and this congregation  
renew the solemn vow and promise  
made at your baptism?

**I do.**

Do you truly and earnestly repent of your sins?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
[the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.]**

Do you receive and process the Christian faith  
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**I do.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you,  
to keep God's holy will and commandments  
and walk in the same all the days of your life  
as *faithful members* of Christ's holy Church?

**I do.**

**Baptism**

Do you desire to be baptized in this faith?

**I do.**

**Jacqueline Vaughn**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and  
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Laying On of Hands / Confirmation / Reaffirmation of A Faith**

**Jacqueline Vaughn**, the Lord defend you with his heavenly grace and by his Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Reception into The United Methodist Church**

Let those persons who are members of other communions  
in Christ's holy Church,  
and who now desire to enter  
into the fellowship of this congregation,  
present themselves  
to be received into the membership  
of The United Methodist Church.

Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church,  
and uphold it by your prayers, your presence,  
your gifts, and your service?

**I will.**

## **Reception into the Local Congregation**

Let those who are members of other congregations  
of The United Methodist Church,  
and who now desire to enter  
into the fellowship of this congregation,  
present themselves to be welcomed.

## **Commendation and Welcome**

Brothers and sisters,  
I commend to your love and care  
**Jacqueline Vaughn** who we this day receive  
into the membership of this congregation.  
Do all in your power to increase her faith,  
confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

**We rejoice to recognize you  
as a member of Christ's holy Church,  
and bid you welcome to this congregation  
of The United Methodist Church,  
With you we renew our vows to uphold it  
by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, and our service.**



**With God's help we will so order our lives  
after the example of Christ  
that, surrounded by steadfast love,  
you may be established in the faith,  
and confirmed and strengthened in the way  
that leads to life eternal.**

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit  
bless, preserve, and keep you,  
now and evermore. **Amen.**

**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 — 03/26/2023	
In-Person	43
Zoom	10
Total	53

## 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.



**Kudos** to all the preparers and supporters of the Variety Dinner on Friday. **Special kudos** to the Emancipation Day Committee.

**Tuesday Women's Roundtable** (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09>, **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, April 13<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) — **Native American Ministries Sunday** serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm

the sacredness of American Indian people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.

An **offering** is taken on this Special Sunday to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities and allow The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans.

**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 [www.nwf.org/NativePlantPledge](http://www.nwf.org/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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net).

Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Shawn Settles, Floyd Hughes Sr., 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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