



Sunday, November 15, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Annual Women's Day

Seasons May Change, but ...

Our Love for God Remains the Same

Order of Service

Gathering Song..... “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” (Hymnal, #334)

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 Spirt, 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 Cynthia Augustus

Cynthia: Now this I know:

Erica: The Lord gives victory to his anointed.

Cynthia: He answers from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand.

Erica: Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Together: God, we proclaim our faith in you as we worship you today.

Hymn of Praise “Wonderful Is Your Name”

(sing along with Korean Soul Covers by Hezekiah Walker & LFC (Melvin Crispell))

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (Unison) Sister Cynthia Augustus

O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailiness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom. Holy God, in the daily round

from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer.....Solo by **Andrea Bocelli**

The Invocation.....**Sister Jacqueline Jones**

Song of Meditation — “New Season” (*song by Martha Munizzi*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)**Sister Cynthia Augustus**

Gracious God, as we prepare to hear your word to us, quiet other voices that would draw us away from attentive listening and faithful responding. Grant us new understanding and insights to help us follow you more faithfully. We pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen!**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Danielle King**
(*1 Thessalonians 5:1–11, New International Version*)

The Day of the Lord

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2** for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. **5** You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **6** So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **9** For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10** He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Scripture Reading #2 **Miss Jaylah Robertson**
(*Jeremiah 17:7–8, New International Version*)

7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. **8** They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Scripture Reading #3**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(*Matthew 25:14-30, New International Version*)

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. **15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. **16** The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. **17** So also,

the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”Sister Cynthia Augustus

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed”Sister Cynthia Augustus

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried:
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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. **Amen.**

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father”Sister Cynthia Augustus

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.**

Children / Youth MomentSister Jaime Coffen

Introduction of SpeakerSister Courtney West

Hymn of Preparation — “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”Solo — Sister Dorthea Taylor

**Inspirational MessageElder Paula Simms
A Sister’s Healing Ministries**

“Trusting God in Every Season”

(Numbers 14:24; Jeremiah 17:7)

Praise and Prayer ConcernsSister Cynthia Augustus

Invitation / Altar CallElder Paula Simms

SelectionSolo — Sister Lori Jemison

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. Degree in Business Administration in July of 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

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.



Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience. Call-in Information: 712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960)

Sunday, November 22nd — Thanksgiving Sunday, Rabbi Josh Jacobs-Velde and his congregation, Oseh Shalom, to worship with us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—

As we approach the holiday season, we will need persons to participate in the lighting of the Advent candles (starting November 29th). All the details have not been finalized, but we would like to get the volunteers. Please notify Cynthia or Rev. Matthews if you are interested.

We are also trying to put together a Virtual Christmas Program for Sunday, December 20th. If this is something you would be interested in please contact Cynthia. Not sure of the title, but it will be a virtual reading service.

LARS 2020 Holiday Program!

Prayerfully, members of St. Mark's will partner with LARS (Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.) this holiday season to support local families in need. It is our opportunity to be a blessing to others. Because of pandemic job layoffs, the need for assistance has increased. **To reduce the cost, divide the children's wish lists among your friends and family.** Adopt-a-Family Christmas wish lists will be sent out to donors who **fill out the Holiday Program Donor Interest Form at the LARS website: <https://www.laureladvocacy.org/volunteer-holiday.html>.** When you complete the interest form, you will request the family with the number of children you can sponsor (Example: 1 family that has 2 children). Please ensure that ALL your labeled packages/gifts are delivered to LARS starting **Monday, November 30th by 5:00 p.m.** The last day to deliver is **Friday, December 11th by 5:00 p.m.**

Please MARK EACH PACKAGE CLEARLY with the recipient family's assigned number (written in the top right corner of the wish list). PLEASE INCLUDE the initials, age, and gender of the intended recipient for each individual package. If possible, please group the items for each individual or for each family into one LARGE labeled bag so that nothing gets lost! *If any of your packages include gift cards, please put them in a separate envelope labeled with the family number and recipient's initials. When making your delivery, please ensure that any gift cards are handed to a LARS staff member to be locked up.

Karina Valenzuela, Coordinator (301.776.0442, ext. 103). LARS is located at 311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707 just a few blocks south of Main St. off Route 1. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday, generally from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (9:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m. on Mondays).

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, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
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>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

Holiday Food Drive for LARS

LARS will provide holiday meal baskets to over 200 families and seniors in need this holiday season. Please help keep the food pantry full by donating any unwanted food in your own pantry or by filling up a basket for LARS next time you do your grocery shopping. Grocery gift cards can also be donated to LARS families.

Helpful Holiday Items:

Canned vegetables
Canned yams
Cornbread mix
Cranberry sauce

Fresh or canned fruit
Frozen hams/turkeys
Gravy
Instant potatoes

Oil/ Cooking spray
Pie filling/crust
Rice
Stuffing

Gift cards to your local grocery stores



Please remember to check expiration dates!

Donations can also be dropped off at LARS
Mon, Wed, Fri 9-2pm & Monday 5-7:30pm

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.
311 Laurel Avenue
Laurel, MD 20707
301-776-0442
www.laureladvocacy.org

For information on volunteering at LARS, contact Jazmin Haley-Warren
301-776-0442 ext. 1032 or jwarren@laureladvocacy.org

For information about LARS' Holiday Program, contact Karina Valenzuela
301-776-0442 ext. 1030 or kvalenzuela@laureladvocacy.org

**Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.
2020 Holiday Program**

What is LARS' Holiday Program?

LARS' Holiday Program is an opportunity for individuals, families, community groups, congregations, and businesses to assist Laurel residents who are in need of support during the upcoming holiday season.

About the Holiday Program:

LARS' Holiday Program has three components:

Adopt –A- Family Program: Each family participating in the Adopt-A-Family program will complete a wish list for each child in the home. This wish list will include the child's interests, wants, and needs. Donors can adopt a particular number of children and provide gifts for those children based on the information included on their wish list. We do allow parents to include personal and household needs, but it is up to the donor to decide whether or not they would like to provide anything from that list. The gifts are delivered by the donor to LARS and distributed to the adopted families on our December distribution day.

Giving Week: In order to extend support to as many families as possible, those who are not able to participate in the Adopt-A-Family program are encouraged to visit LARS during Giving Week to receive gifts for their children. In order to make Giving Week happen, we are looking for individuals to provide loose/unwrapped gifts and gift cards. These gifts can include (but are not limited to) books, games, or toys for children birth to 18 years of age. This enables case managers to provide children with gifts suitable for their age/interest.

Holiday Food Help: In November and December, LARS will be providing holiday food to the families participating in LARS' Adopt-A-Family program and to seniors who request holiday food assistance. On the Monday and Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving and during Giving Week, LARS will extend holiday food assistance to as many additional individuals and families in the Laurel community as supplies will allow. Donations of food and grocery store gift cards allow us to provide holiday food to more and more families each year.



2019 Program Impact:

This past holiday season, LARS was able to provide gifts to about 402 Children through the Adopt-A-Family program and through loose gifts and gift cards donated by generous members of the Laurel community and beyond. Over 194 families and seniors were able to cook a holiday meal, thanks to donations of turkeys, hams, chickens, fresh produce, and other essentials to LARS' food pantry.

Ways to participate:

1. Support a family through the Adopt-A-Family program
2. Donate loose gifts & gift cards to be distributed during Giving Week
3. Donate holiday food or gift cards to local grocery stores
4. Volunteer during the holiday season

Partner with LARS this holiday season!

In the coming months, Laurel families will be requesting holiday assistance from LARS. Please, consider how you can partner with LARS this holiday season. To sign up or request more information, visit our website and complete a quick survey: <https://www.laureladvocacy.org/volunteer-holiday.html>

Contact:

Karina Valenzuela, Bilingual Case Manager
Phone: (301) 776-0442 Ext. 1030
Fax: 301-604-7076
E-mail: kvalenzuela@laureladvocacy.org

VOICES OF LAUREL

A JOURNALISTIC COLLECTIVE FOR LAUREL, MARYLAND

Info for Contributors

The Laurel History Boys are preparing to produce a quarterly newspaper all about Laurel. Each of the History Boys will be contributing content but what makes this paper different are contributions from people who have a story to tell, photos or artifacts to share, or anything else that applies to Laurel. The paper is called *Voices of Laurel* to reflect everyone's voice, not just the Laurel History Boys'. We hope to have enough different contributors to reflect the diversity of the area. If you know anyone who would want to become a contributor, please have them contact us.

Your subject matter: What you contribute is up to you, but there must be some connection to Laurel. We would prefer something of an historical nature but that's not required. Not everyone wants to write, so photos, collections, whatever, are also fine.

Publication timeline:

ISSUE	ARTICLES DUE
Winter	Dec. 15
Spring	Mar. 15
Summer	Jun. 15
Fall	Sep. 15

Format & distribution: The paper, which is free, will be electronically distributed as a PDF file. That allows us to include live links to anything we feel is relevant, including video. A link to the paper will be on our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#), and we encourage all contributors to post it as well. The initial reach alone will be in the thousands.

Submitting articles: Articles should be created in Microsoft Word or simply typed into the body of an email and sent to Kevin via email (theleonardgroup7@gmail.com). Do not feel constrained for space. As an online paper that's not an issue. We will edit the contributions for grammar only. We want these to be in your voice. If we have questions about content, we will talk to you before making any changes.

Also, please send us a head shot of yourself to use next your articles.

Photos: Feel free to include photos or images within your article to help us with placement, but please also attach the images separately as jpegs. It makes laying out the paper much easier. Send credits along with your photos. If you own them, say so. If not, tell us who does. You cannot use a photo from the Internet if you don't know who owns it. If you need personal photos or images scanned, let us know. We will help with that.

Commitment: Think about how often you'd like to contribute. Once a year, every issue, or in between. We're not trying to make this too corporate, but we do need a sense of how often you will contribute so we can map out issues in advance. If you want to contribute to every issue, we can talk about a column with a name. Let us know before the December 15th Winter issue deadline. We're very flexible.

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*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, Marva Thomas, Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma’s Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley’s brothers), Charles Burley, Richard Cager, Jr., Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

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