



Sunday, November 22, 2020

*Christ the King Sunday
Thanksgiving Sunday*

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..... **Cynthia**

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, “let us go to the house of the Lord”.

People: **We have come to the house of the Lord to worship together.**

Leader: Come, let us give thanks to God for all he has done!

People: **We have come to give thanks for what God has done for us.**

Leader: You have crowned the year with your bounty.

People: **It is God who has made us, and we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.**

ALL: **Let us enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and the holy courts with praise!!**

Hymn of Praise..... **“For the Beauty of the Earth”**
(sing along with Piano Accompaniment)

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;

Refrain:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light; **(Refrain)**

3. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild; **(Refrain)**

4. For thy church, that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love; **(Refrain)**

5. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven: **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Loving God, you have given us so much to be grateful for: home, loved ones, freedom, our faith. Yet so often, we take it all for granted or, failing to trust your provisions, hoard what you call us to share, quenching your Spirit at work in and through us. Forgive us, Lord, for hearts grown selfish or fearful. Restore in us gratitude for all of your gifts. Help us offer thanks to you for your great bounty and inspire us to share our abundance. We pray this in Jesus' name who taught us the joy of giving. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “xxx” (*song by xxx*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read, and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace. **Amen!**

Scripture Reading #1

(*Deuteronomy 8:7–18, Common English Bible*)

⁷because the LORD your God is bringing you to a wonderful land, a land with streams of water, springs, and wells that gush up in the valleys and on the hills; ⁸a land of wheat and barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where you will eat food without any shortage—you won't lack a thing there—a land where stone is hard as iron and where you will mine copper from the hills. ¹⁰You will eat, you will be satisfied, and you will bless the LORD your God in the wonderful land that he's given you.

Against wealth and overconfidence

¹¹But watch yourself! Don't forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commands or his case laws or his regulations that I am commanding you right now. ¹²When you eat, get full, build nice houses, and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and your flocks are growing large, your silver and gold are multiplying, and everything you have is thriving, ¹⁴don't become arrogant, forgetting the LORD your God:

the one who rescued you from Egypt, from the house of slavery;

¹⁵the one who led you through this vast and terrifying desert of poisonous snakes and scorpions, of cracked ground with no water;

the one who made water flow for you out of a hard rock;

¹⁶the one who fed you manna in the wilderness, which your ancestors had never experienced, in order to humble and test you, but in order to do good to you in the end.

¹⁷Don't think to yourself, My own strength and abilities have produced all this prosperity for me. ¹⁸Remember the LORD your God! He's the one who gives you the strength to be prosperous

in order to establish the covenant he made with your ancestors—and that’s how things stand right now.

Scripture Reading #2

(2 Corinthians 9:6–15, Common English Bible)

⁶ What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

⁷ Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn’t give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. ⁹ As it is written, *He scattered everywhere; he gave to the needy; his righteousness remains forever.*

¹⁰ The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. ¹² Your ministry of this service to God’s people isn’t only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. ¹³ They will give honor to God for your obedience to your confession of Christ’s gospel. They will do this because this service provides evidence of your obedience, and because of your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. ¹⁴ They will also pray for you, and they will care deeply for you because of the outstanding grace that God has given to you. ¹⁵ Thank God for his gift that words can’t describe!

Scripture Reading #3

(Luke 17:11–19, Common English Bible)

Jesus heals a Samaritan

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with skin diseases approached him. Keeping their distance from him, ¹³ they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, show us mercy!”

¹⁴ When Jesus saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” As they left, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Weren’t ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ No one returned to praise God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.”

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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”

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”

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 Moment **Sister Jaime Coffen**

Introduction of Speaker **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

Hymn of Preparation — “Your Grace and Mercy” (*The Mississippi Mass Choir*)

Inspirational Message **Rabbi Josh Jacob-Velde**
Oseh Shalom

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Selection

1 When upon life's billows you are tempest
tossed, When you are discouraged,
thinking all is lost, Count your many
blessings, name them one by one, And it
will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by
one; Count your blessings, see what God
hath done; Count your blessings, name
them one by one; Count your many
blessings, see what God hath done.

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called
to bear? Count your many blessings, ev'ry
doubt will fly, And you will be singing as
the days go by. ***[Refrain]***

3 When you look at others with their lands
and gold, Think that Christ has promised
you His wealth untold; Count your many
blessings, money cannot buy Your reward
in heaven, nor your home on high.
[Refrain]

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or
small, Do not be discouraged, God is over
all; Count your many blessings, angels will
attend, Help and comfort give you to your
journey's end. ***[Refrain]***

Announcements

Benediction

Rabbi Josh Jacobs-Velde

I grew up in St. Louis, MO in an intermarried family and graduated from the University of California-Santa Cruz with a BA in Cultural Anthropology. Alienated from Judaism during my adolescent years, I re-engaged with Judaism after a spiritual search that led me through other paths, including Zen Buddhism.

Prior to rabbinical school, I worked for the Reconstructionist movement doing synagogue social justice work, studied in ulpanim and yeshivot in Jerusalem, spent time working with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists and completed an MA in Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. After rabbinical school at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Daria and I served as co-rabbis at Congregation Ohev Tzedek in Ohio and founded Zmanim (Seasons), which built nature-connected, spiritual Jewish community in Sonoma County, CA. I am a member of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association as well as Ohalah, the Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal.



I have a wide range of interests, including conscious parenting, hiking/backpacking, qigong, playing acoustic guitar, yoga, ecological healing and sustainability, practicing and teaching meditation and contemplative Jewish prayer, Jewish-Muslim dialogue, and learning about local wild edible and medicinal plants. To reach Rabbi Josh, call the office at 301.498.5151 or email: RabbiJosh@oseh-shalom.org.

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)



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.

PUBLISHED BY THE LAUREL HISTORY BOYS, INC. | LAURELHISTORY.COM





*“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

Eunice Dumas

1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Mrs. Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Diane Cobb

410.802.1427