

# ADVENT

*Sunday, November 29, 2020*

## *First Sunday of Advent*

*Week One: Hope*

### *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 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**..... **Cynthia**

**Leader:** In this Advent season, we look not only to Bethlehem, but forward to the time when God shall reign over the earth in peace and righteousness.

**Person:** **May the Lord strengthen our hearts in holiness.**

**Leader:** O Lord, do not let those who wait on you be put to shame.

**Person:** **Come, quickly Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:** Make us to know your ways, O Lord!

**Person:** **The paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

**Leader:** Remember us as your children, O Lord.

**Person:** **Lord, we come in hope that you remember not the sins of our youth.**

**Hymn of Praise**..... **“My Hope Is Built”**

*(sing along with Piano Accompaniment)*

1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**Refrain:**

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. **[Refrain]**

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. **[Refrain]**

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. **[Refrain]**

**Lighting of the Candle — Candle of Hope .....Sister Angie**

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

We are captive, exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from you. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for yours. We are lost, in need of guidance. Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us. Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us. Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus. God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us. God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!

**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 — "I Love the Lord"** (*song by Whitney Houston*)

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

Gracious God give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. May we find HOPE in the words we hear today. **Amen!**

**Scripture Reading #1 ..... Sister Chantel**  
(*Isaiah 64:1–9, Common English Bible*)

**64** If only you would tear open the heavens and come down! Mountains would quake before you<sup>2</sup> like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence.

<sup>3</sup>When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked before you. <sup>4</sup>From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him! <sup>5</sup>You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for your ways. But you were angry when we sinned; you hid yourself when we did wrong. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag. All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away. <sup>7</sup>No one calls on your name; no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin.

<sup>8</sup>But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Don't rage so fiercely, LORD; don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on your people, all of us:

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Sister Charlotte**

*(1 Corinthians 1:3–9, Common English Bible)*

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thanksgiving for the Corinthians**

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always for you, because of God’s grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, <sup>6</sup> in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. <sup>7</sup> The result is that you aren’t missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Sister Gemma**

*(Luke 1:26–38, Common English Bible)*

**Jesus’ birth foretold**

<sup>26</sup> When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. <sup>31</sup> Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. <sup>33</sup> He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. <sup>36</sup> Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. <sup>37</sup> Nothing is impossible for God.”

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

**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**

**Hymn of Preparation — “Jesus the Light of the World”** (*sing along with instrumental*)

1 Hark the herald angels sing.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the new-born King.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

**Refrain:**

We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine  
bright.  
Oh, shine all around us by day and by  
night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

2 Joyful, all ye nations, rise.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
Jesus, the light of the world. [*Refrain*]

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Jesus, the light of the world. [*Refrain*]

4 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus, the light of the world. [*Refrain*]

**Inspirational Message** ..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

*“The Hope of the World”*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection — Great is Thy Faithfulness** (*song by CeCe Winans*)

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

# Announcements

## St. Mark's Family,

Much thanks and appreciation for the many expressions we have received over the Thanksgiving season. May God continue to bless each of you.

*The Matthews, Rev. Eugene, Mrs. Jane, and Eugenia*



For all the members who reached out this week to help the young lady and her 2 daughters, this is her message to you: “Thank you from the bottom of my heart, my children are so happy today and I know this was possible due to the blessings we received from you and all the church members that assisted. Highly appreciative and humbly thankful ... May God’s blessings be returned 10-fold. Thank you.”

## 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, December 20<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Christmas Service.** Join us for a virtual play — “**Light Before Christmas**”

If you are still interested, please let Cynthia know. We want to get started this week and make this the **BEST CHRISTMAS PLAY EVER** (who has been watching Hallmark) 🎅



## 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 30<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 p.m.** The last day to deliver is **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.laureladvocacy.org)

For information on volunteering at LARS, contact Jazmin Haley-Warren  
301-776-0442 ext. 1032 or [jwarren@laureladvocacy.org](mailto:jwarren@laureladvocacy.org)

For information about LARS' Holiday Program, contact Karina Valenzuela  
301-776-0442 ext. 1030 or [kvalenzuela@laureladvocacy.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, 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, 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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