

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

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..... **Sister Cynthia**

Leader: God, you are the one who leads us.

People: Lead us, O God!

Leader: God you are the one who blesses us.

People: Bless, O God!

Leader: God, you are the one who lifts us when we call.

People: Lift us, O God.

All: God, you are the one we praise you, O God, Come Let us worship you.

Hymn of Praise **“Lift Him Up”**
(sing along with instrumental)

1 How to reach the masses, *men of ev’ry birth, for an answer Jesus gave the key: “and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

Refrain:

Lift him up, lift him up, still he speaks from eternity: “and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

2 Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread, Lift the Savior up for them to see; Trust him, and do not doubt the words that he said, “I’ll draw all men unto me.”
[Refrain]

3 Don’t exalt the preacher, don’t exalt the pew, preach the Gospel simple, full and free; prove him and you will find that promise is true, “I’ll draw all men unto me.” **[Refrain]**

4 Lift him up by living as a Christian ought, let the world in you the Savior see; then men will gladly follow him who once taught, “I’ll draw all men unto me.”
[Refrain]

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Lord of all, we get so focused on ourselves sometimes that we do not see the beauty and hope in front of us. We all face certain hardships in our lives, and we don't always ask for help and guidance from you. Immanuel, God be with us. Help us, and guide us in our hardships and selfish ways, O God, as only you can. Remind us that we are not alone in our fear or frustration, because you are our continued help and stronghold. Help us to receive your love and grace.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “**Never Would Have Made It**” (*song by Marvin Sapp*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

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

Scripture Reading #1Sandy

(*1 Samuel 1:4–20, Common English Bible*)

⁴ Whenever he sacrificed, Elkanah would give parts of the sacrifice to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But he would give only one part of it to Hannah, though he loved her, because the LORD had kept her from conceiving. ⁶ And because the LORD had kept Hannah from conceiving, her rival would make fun of her mercilessly, just to bother her. ⁷ So that is what took place year after year. Whenever Hannah went to the Lord's house, Peninnah would make fun of her. Then she would cry and wouldn't eat anything.

⁸ “Hannah, why are you crying?” her husband Elkanah would say to her. “Why won't you eat? Why are you so sad? Aren't I worth more to you than ten sons?”

⁹ One time, after eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah got up and presented herself before the LORD. (Now Eli the priest was sitting in the chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple.)

¹⁰ Hannah was very upset and couldn't stop crying as she prayed to the LORD. ¹¹ Then she made this promise: “LORD of heavenly forces, just look at your servant's pain and remember me! Don't forget your servant! Give her a boy! Then I'll give him to the LORD for his entire life. No razor will ever touch his head.”

¹² As she kept praying before the LORD, Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah was praying in her heart; her lips were moving, but her voice was silent, so Eli thought she was drunk.

¹⁴ “How long will you act like a drunk? Sober up!” Eli told her.

¹⁵ “No sir!” Hannah replied. “I'm just a very sad woman. I haven't had any wine or beer but have been pouring out my heart to the LORD. ¹⁶ Don't think your servant is some good-for-nothing woman. This whole time I've been praying out of my great worry and trouble!”

¹⁷ Eli responded, “Then go in peace. And may the God of Israel give you what you've asked from him.”

¹⁸ “Please think well of me, your servant,” Hannah said. Then the woman went on her way, ate some food, and wasn't sad any longer.

¹⁹ They got up early the next morning and worshipped the LORD. Then they went back home to Ramah. Elkanah had sex with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ So in the course of time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, which means “I asked the LORD for him.”

Scripture Reading #2 **Larry**

(Hebrews 10:11–18, Common English Bible)

¹¹ Every priest stands every day serving and offering the same sacrifices over and over, sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right side of God. ¹³ Since then, he’s waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for his feet, ¹⁴ because he perfected the people who are being made holy with one offering for all time.

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit affirms this when saying,

¹⁶ *This is the covenant that I will make with them. After these days, says the Lord, I will place my laws in their hearts and write them on their minds.* ¹⁷ *And I won’t remember their sins and their lawless behavior anymore.*

¹⁸ When there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Scripture Reading #3 **Gemma**

(Mark 13:1–8, 24–32, Common English Bible)

The temple’s fate

13 As Jesus left the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher, look! What awesome stones and buildings!”

² Jesus responded, “Do you see these enormous buildings? Not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.”

³ Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives across from the temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? What sign will show that all these things are about to come to an end?”

Keep Watch!

⁵ Jesus said, “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many people will come in my name, saying, ‘I’m the one!’ They will deceive many people. ⁷ When you hear of wars and reports of wars, don’t be alarmed. These things must happen, but this isn’t the end yet. ⁸ Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other, and there will be earthquakes and famines in all sorts of places. These things are just the beginning of the sufferings associated with the end.

²⁴ “In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won’t give its light. ²⁵ The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. ²⁷ Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

A Lesson from the Fig Tree

²⁸ “Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he’s near, at the door. ³⁰ I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until all these things happen. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

³² “But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (*recite in unison*)

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” (*recite in unison*)

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” (*Recite in unison*)

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 **Jaime Coffen**

Hymn of Preparation — “My Hope Is Built” (*sing along with Hasan Green*)

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]**

Inspirational Message **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

“Grief and Pain Are Real, But So is Hope”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

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

Selection — “The Battle Is Not Yours” (*sing along with Yolanda Adams*)

Announcements / Benediction

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)**

Friday, November 13th (7:00 p.m.) — Virtual Paint & Sip. Kits: \$20.

Saturday, November 14th (10:00 a.m.) — Virtual Prayer Breakfast. Our morning preacher will be **Rev. Vera Mitchell**, Retired Elder, Pastor, Mt. Washington-Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 15th — Annual Women's Day. Our morning preacher will be **Elder Paula Simms**, Deliverance Free Will Baptist Church. For unity, we are asking all women to wear Fall colors and to make a sacrificial offering of \$100.

Sunday, November 22nd — 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.

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/stmarksmd>)
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”*

*Condolence to Brother Wayne on the
passing of his sister, Brenda Coffen*

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)

Richard Cager, 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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