



Sunday, March 14, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Order of Service

Welcome

Whether you regularly worship at St. Mark’s United Methodist or whether you’re visiting with us, we encourage you to open your hearts and minds to what says the Lord. If you are a visitor, interested in becoming a member of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church feel free to contact the church at **301.776.8885** | emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com | Pastor Matthews directly (**443.257.2730** | reveugene@comcast.net). Our doors are always open, welcome.

Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)
(being sung this morning by Doris Akers)

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: When anxiety takes over our communities, and there doesn’t seem to be much we can do

Angie: **We’ll still serve you, God.**

Leader: When we see clouds of fear gathering to pour out sorrow, and all we can do is brace ourselves for what’s to come

Angie: **We’ll still serve you, God.**

Leader: Even if bills – rent, insurance, and loan payments – should pile up, and we’re not sure what else we can take

Angie: **We’ll still serve you, God.**

Leader: When human providers of families need provisions made for them, and it doesn’t look too bright

Angie: **We’ll still serve you, God.**

Leader: When the assignment you’ve called us to, doesn’t seem worth our years of preparation

Angie: **We’ll still serve you, God.**

Leader: Knowing what it takes to get to our victories, doesn’t stop the trauma of our battles

Angie: **We’ll still serve you, God.**

Leader: Lord, no matter how dark it may get, we will trust you. No matter how many emotional journeys life takes us on, we choose to ride life's rollercoasters with you. And no matter how deep the anxiety of the assignment, we'll still serve you, God!

Hymn of Praise **“Great is Thy Faithfulness”**
(sing along with Marvin Winans)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance **Cynthia**

Have mercy on me O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. (*Psalm 51*). Thanks be to God we have been forgiven. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*featuring Andrea Bocelli*)

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “Here In Our Praise” (*United Tenors (featuring Fred Hammond)*)

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

Hope of the world, Hope of all hearts, our hope remains in you especially when hope seems hard. Speak to us through your word. Come to us at your table. And sustain us in the hope of the covenant you have written on our hearts. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Tina**
(Jeremiah 31:31–34, Common English Bible)

³¹ The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ They will no longer need to teach each other to say, “Know the LORD!” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Gemma**
(Hebrews 5:5–10, Common English Bible)

⁵ In the same way Christ also didn't promote himself to become high priest. Instead, it was the one who said to him,

*You are my Son.
Today I have become your Father,*

⁶ as he also says in another place,

*You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.*

⁷ During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears as his sacrifices to the one who was able to save him from death. He was heard because of his godly devotion. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. ⁹ After he had been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him. ¹⁰ He was appointed by God to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Scripture Reading #3 **Sister Angie**
(*John 12:20–33, Common English Bible*)

Jesus teaches about his death

²⁰ Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²² Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The time has come for the Human One^[a] to be glorified. ²⁴ I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

²⁷ “Now *I am deeply troubled*. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

²⁹ The crowd standing there heard and said, “It’s thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to him.”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “This voice wasn’t for my benefit but for yours. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world’s ruler will be thrown out. ³² When I am lifted up^[a] from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” (³³ He said this to show how he was going to die.)

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

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” **Cynthia**

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”Cynthia

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 — “Jesus is Love” (*featuring Lionel Ritchie & Commodores*)

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

“The Means Clarifies the Ends”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Glory to His Name” (*featuring Alfred Street Baptist Church*)

Announcements.....Cynthia

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.



Note from Pastor Matthews: There are many pending changes that will occur in the United Methodist Church over the next year.

Therefore, you are encouraged as members to review the STATE OF THE CHURCH” Webinar featuring our Bishop Latrelle Easterling by logging on to the conference website: www.bwcumc.org and click on the Webinar. We will be in discussion later as a Church Council and eventually a congregation as we prepare for the future church.

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

Sunday, March 21st — If you are able, please make a special donation to UMCOR— the United Methodist Committee on Relief (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) – is the disaster relief arm of The United Methodist Church. Your gift ensures UMCOR’s response in times of crisis so that 100% of gifts to UMCOR help those who need it most.

Saturday, March 27th (11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.) — **Distribution of Palms** at the church.

Friday, April 2nd (7:00 p.m.) — **Good Friday** service. Rev. DeFord will be delivering the Word.

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.



*"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)

*Condolence to the family of
Vernal I. Watkins (Tack)*

Monday, March 22, 2021

*Viewing: 10:00 * Funeral 11:00 a.m.*

New Community Church of God in Christ

3480 Catterton Place, Suite 101

Waldorf, MD 20602

Eric Smith, 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), 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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