



Sunday, April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

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** | emailstmarksimd@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: O give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

Sandy: His steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Out of distress I called on the Lord.

Sandy: The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

Leader: I shall not die, but I shall live

Sandy: And recount the deeds of the Lord. Lord, we bless you from house to house!!

Hymn of Praise **“My Hope Is Built”**
(sing along with Virtual Choir)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Lord God, you made the hearts of the disciples glad with the knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus, your Son. Forgive us because, like them, we find the truth of Easter so hard to believe; forgive us that we are so easily downcast, and given to despair; forgive us that, although we claim to live by the resurrection faith, we so often appear to believe that suffering is simply a tragedy and that death is the end; forgive us that we take so much convincing of the hope that you give to the world. Come to us, Lord God, in the power of the risen Christ. Take away our crippling doubts and fears, and through your Holy Spirit bring us to life in your service; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(song by Andrea Bocelli)*

The Invocation

Song of Meditation **“Give Me A Clean Heart”**
(featuring Fred Hammond and Radical for Christ)

The Prayer of Illumination *(Unison)*

Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and minds as we read the scriptures today. Help us to hear them in a “NEW” way. May our meditations and actions be acceptable to God and may the peace of Christ be with us. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Pat**
(Acts 4:32–35, New International Version)

The Believers Share Their Possessions

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Scripture Reading #2 **Cindy**
(1 John 1:1—2:2, Common English Bible)

Announcement about the word of life

1 We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen, and our hands handled, about the word of life. ² The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. ³ What we have seen and heard; we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

The message: God is light

⁵ This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: “God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.” ⁶ If we claim, “We have fellowship with him,” and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. ⁷ But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. ⁸ If we claim, “We don’t have any sin,” we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we have done wrong. ¹⁰ If we claim, “We have never sinned,” we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

Living in the light

2 My little children, I’m writing these things to you so that you don’t sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. ² He is God’s way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

Scripture Reading #3 **Sandy**
(John 20:19–31, Common English Bible)

Jesus appears to the disciples

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” ²² Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

Jesus appears to Thomas and the disciples

²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

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.**

Hymn of Preparation — “Where Is Your Faith in God”

(featuring James Cleveland)

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

“A Fresh Start (Now)”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Jesus Is Real to Me”

(featuring New Life Community Choir with John P. Kee)

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.



April is National Minority Health Month (NMHM).

This year the theme is **#VaccineReady!** If you are looking for health resources or ways to enhance or begin your Wellness Journey, check out the NBC4 Health and Fitness Virtual Expo. Registration is FREE! Go to NBC4Expo.com. Virtual event is open through **April 18, 2021**.



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

Sunday, April 11th — All members are being asked to remain in place following service for a conversation regarding preparation for re-entry into the church building for ministry.

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/stmarks/md>)
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
Sister Eunice Parker*

Going Home Service

Vaughn C. Green Funeral Home

8728 Liberty Road | Randallstown, MD 21133

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Viewing: 10:00–11:00 a.m. | Funeral: 11:00 a.m.

(Daughter Kim: 410.982.3611; 443.559.5474)

Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), 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, 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