



Sunday, April 18, 2021

Third 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: I love the Lord because he hears my voice.

Larry: **Gracious is our God.**

Leader: When I was in in despair, God saved me.

Larry: **Gracious is our God.**

Leader: I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Larry: **Gracious is our God. Blessed are we, servants of God. Let us now call upon God’s name and give God thanks!**

Hymn of Praise **“Blessed Assurance”**
(sing along with CeCe Winans)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

The road of life sometimes seems lonely, God. Often, we are tempted to abandon the journey, or to take a path of least resistance. Forgive us when we have not lived up to the challenges you have given us in this life. Forgive us when we have retreated from the difficult journeys in life. Remind us, O God, that you hear our voices, that you notice our despair, and that you never leave us. Remind us, God, that when we feel alone on our journey, all we need do is to open our eyes and our hearts, and we will see you there walking beside us. **Amen.**

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

The Invocation

Song of Meditation **“Jesus Is My Help”**
(featuring Hezekiah Walker and Love Fellowship Choir)

The Prayer of Illumination *(Unison)*

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses. So that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust on our journey. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Larry**
(Acts 3:12–19, Common English Bible)

¹² Seeing this, Peter addressed the people: “You Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us as if we made him walk by our own power or piety? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our ancestors—has glorified his servant Jesus. This is the one you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence, even though he had already decided to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released to you instead. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, the very one whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ His name itself has made this man strong. That is, because of faith in Jesus’ name, God has strengthened this man whom you see and know. The faith that comes through Jesus gave him complete health right before your eyes.

¹⁷“Brothers and sisters, I know you acted in ignorance. So did your rulers. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he foretold through all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹ Change your hearts and lives! Turn back to God so that your sins may be wiped away.

Scripture Reading #2 **Charlotte**
(*1 John 3:1–7, Common English Bible*)

3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God’s children, and that is what we are! Because the world didn’t recognize him, it doesn’t recognize us.

² Dear friends, now we are God’s children, and it hasn’t yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we’ll see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure. ⁴ Every person who practices sin commits an act of rebellion, and sin is rebellion. ⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and there is no sin in him. ⁶ Every person who remains in relationship to him does not sin. Any person who sins has not seen him or known him.

Practicing sin or righteousness

⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you. The person who practices righteousness is righteous, in the same way that Jesus is righteous.

Scripture Reading #3 **Venita**
(*Luke 24:36b–48, Common English Bible*)

Jesus appears to the disciples

³⁶ While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ³⁷ They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” ⁴⁰ As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of baked fish. ⁴³ Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

⁴⁴ Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

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 — “It’s A Highway to Heaven”
(featuring Dorothy Norwood)

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

“On The Road Again”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Lift Him Up”
(featuring St. James Mass Choir)

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.



“A FRESH START (NOW)” — Any person who would like to participate or discuss further the Ministry areas presented last week, please contact either Jaime, Nena or Rev. Matthews. **We desire to have many members as possible active in all of the various areas of Ministry.**

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 (today is the last day)**

MAY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES — If you have a birthday or anniversary coming up during the month of May, could you please send me an email with your name and date. Thank you.

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

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

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