



Sunday, April 25, 2021

Fourth 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 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..... **Kamille**

Kamille: You who are thirsty, come to the waters of life.

Eli: **O God, your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.**

Kamille: For all who are hungry, come to God's banquet of love.

Eli: **O God, your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.**

Kamille: You who are yearning for wholeness, come to God's pasture of love, peace, and unity.

Eli: **O God, your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.**

Hymn of Praise..... **"Jesus Is My Help"**
(featuring Hezekiah Walker and Love Fellowship Choir)

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

Beloved God, you continue to give with a generous hand even when we rent bigger and bigger storage lockers to house what we hoard. You love us with an expansive love even when we are busy measuring portions of abundance and wondering how little we get away with. Release our fear of scarcity and lift the burden of our possessions that we may know the blessing of giving not only what feels safe, but also what feels wonderful. In hope we ask all these things. **Amen.**

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

The Invocation **Cynthia**

Song of Meditation **“Loved Lifted Me”**
(*featuring Bishop Leonard Scott*)

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

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the scriptures are read, and the WORD is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts and let all else slip away. May there be one voice we hear today- the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Eli**
(*Acts 4:5–12, Common English Bible*)

⁵ The next day the leaders, elders, and legal experts gathered in Jerusalem, ⁶ along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others from the high priest’s family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and asked, “By what power or in what name did you do this?”

⁸ Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, “Leaders of the people and elders, ⁹ are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? ¹⁰ If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! ¹² Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved.”

Scripture Reading #2 **Jaylah & Jalani**
(*1 John 3:11–24, Common English Bible*)

¹¹ This is the message that you heard from the beginning: love each other. ¹² Don’t behave like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he kill him? He killed him because his own works were evil, but the works of his brother were righteous.

Loving each other

¹³ Don't be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have transferred from death to life, because we love the brothers and sisters. The person who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that murderers don't have eternal life residing in them. ¹⁶ This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?

¹⁸ Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. ¹⁹ This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. ²⁰ Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. ²² We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who keep his commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that he dwells in us, because of the Spirit he has given us.

Scripture Reading #3 **Isaiah**
(*John 10:11–18, Common English Bible*)

I am the good shepherd

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That's because he isn't the shepherd; the sheep aren't really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ He's only a hired hand and the sheep don't matter to him.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that don't belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

¹⁷ “This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father.”

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

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” Kamille

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” Kamille

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’s Moment Jaime

Hymn of Preparation — “I Love the Lord”
(featuring Whitney Houston)

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“What’s Love Got To Do With It?”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Never Would Have Made It”
(featuring Marvin Sapp)

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.**

Saturday, May 1st (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) — **Communion distribution** in the church parking lot. Please remember Covid protocols.



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 Bereaved Families —
Thomas, Singleton and Gibson*

Marvin Hebron, 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