



May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
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*)
(sing along with 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 **Cynthia**

Leader: We gather in the name of God, our Creator and Sanctifier.

Ms. Cynthia: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Leader: With all creation, we rejoice in God's abundant care and mercy.

Ms. Cynthia: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Leader: Befriended by hearts, we open our hearts to God's love.

Ms. Cynthia: Let us sing to the Lord a new song.

Hymn of Praise **“Glory to His Name”**
(sing along with Alfred Street Baptist Church)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

O God, we confess that we have not lived up to your calling to live as your friends and to continue to work in your world as you would have us to do. We have often failed to love others as you first have loved us. Forgive us for the ways that we have not trusted in you or lived according to your will. Yet, in all of our failures, help us to know the power of your love that you continue to support us, giving us the assurance of your pardon. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

The Invocation

Song of Meditation **“Psalm 34”**
(featuring The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir)

The Prayer of Illumination *(Unison)*

Calm us, O Lord, into the quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope in your resurrection witness. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Ms. Cynthia**
(Acts 8:26–49, Common English Bible)

Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

²⁶ An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) ²⁸ He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Approach this carriage and stay with it.”

³⁰ Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you really understand what you are reading?”

³¹ The man replied, “Without someone to guide me, how could I?” Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. ³² This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.*

*Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

Scripture Reading #2 **Tina**
(1 John 4:7–21, Common English Bible)

Love and God

⁷ Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ⁸ The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. ¹³ This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. ¹⁵ If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. ¹⁶ We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. ¹⁷ This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in

love. ¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, “I love God” and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don’t love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! ²¹ This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

Scripture Reading #3 **Erica**
(*John 15:1–8, Common English Bible*)

I am the true vine

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. ² He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. ³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything. ⁶ If you don’t remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

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 — “Love” (*featuring God's Property and Kirk Franklin*)

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

“O Perfect Love”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “My Life, My Love, My All” (*featuring God's Property and Kirk Franklin*)

Holy Communion
Thanksgiving and Communion

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

The pastor takes the bread and cup, and the bread and wine are prepared for the meal.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Pastor will Lead, Cynthia will respond)

The musical settings on pages 17-25 may be used if desired.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
You have made from one every nation and people
to live on all the face of the earth,

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth
and to make disciples of all nations,
and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world,
and strengthen it in every nation and among every people
to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(song this morning by Andrea Bocelli)*

BREAKING THE BREAD

The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being exchanged:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The congregation sings hymns while the bread and cup are given.

When all have received, the Lord's table is put in order.

The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Announcements

Benediction

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. **Amen.**



Happy Birthday and Anniversary May Members



*Gillian Henry — May 23rd
Shaun & Kia Settles — May 28th*

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.**

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

“MIRACULOUS — Pastor and Wife’s Account of Illness and Recovery from COVID-19” – order your copy today:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1735653969/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_awdb_imm_8RGX6XC4D7TGJV_R2KHDD or brownbay67@gmail.com

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)

Celebration of Life for Bria Wilson

*Howell Funeral Home
10220 Guilford Road, Jessup, MD*

Viewing: Friday, May 7th (6:00–9:00 pm)

Celebration of Life: Saturday, May 8th (Viewing: 10:00 a.m., Funeral: 11:00 a.m.)

Sonja Smith, Noble (BeBe) Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Marvin Hebron, Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, 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