

Celebrating Pentecost



May 23, 2021

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: Come, O Holy Spirit come.

Ms. Cynthia: Holy Spirit come, come.

Leader: Come Almighty Spirit come.

Ms. Cynthia: Almighty Spirit come, come.

Leader: Holy Spirit renew our spirits and fill our hearts with the peace of Christ.

Ms. Cynthia: Come, bring healing and joy.

Leader: O Holy Spirit Come, Come

Hymn of Praise **"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"**
(sing along with Nat King Cole & First Church of Deliverance Choir)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Spirit of life, we confess that we often fail to honor you. Blow your life-giving breath through us. Spirit of love, we confess that lovelessness prevails in our lives. Shower upon us the grace of your Son. Spirit of truth, we confess that our truths often are placed before your truth. Open our hearts to Jesus Christ, the word and wisdom of this world. Whisper new imaginations, new dreams into our minds. Spirit of unity, we confess our disunity in the church, community and world. Bind us together and heal our divisions. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. **Amen.**

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

The Invocation

Song of Meditation **“For Your Glory”**
(*featuring Tasha Cobbs*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace, through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Ms. Cynthia**
(*Acts 2:1–21, Common English Bible*)

Pentecost

2 When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. **4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

5 There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. **7** They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? **8** How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language?”

9 Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), **11** Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” **12** They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” **13** Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

¹⁴ Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! ¹⁵ These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! ¹⁶ Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ *In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

¹⁹ *I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

²⁰ *The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.*

²¹ *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Scripture Reading #2 **Charlotte**
(*Romans 8:22–27, Common English Bible*)

²² We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. ²³ And it’s not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. ²⁴ We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn’t hope. Who hopes for what they already see? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we don’t see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don’t know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God’s will.

Scripture Reading #3 **Deidre**
(*John 15:26–27; John 16:4b–15, Common English Bible*)

²⁶ “When the Companion comes, whom I will send from the Father—the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

16⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them.

I Go Away

“I didn’t say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ Yet because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. ⁷ I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don’t go away, the Companion won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. ⁹ He will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don’t believe in me. ¹⁰ He will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I’m going to the Father and you won’t see me anymore. ¹¹ He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world’s ruler stands condemned.

I Still Have Many Things to Say

¹² “I have much more to say to you, but you can’t handle it now. ¹³ However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won’t speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. ¹⁵ Everything that the Father has is mine. That’s why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

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 — “Your Spirit”

(Tasha Cobbs Leonard featuring Kierra Sheard)

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

“Living in the Power of the Spirit”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Holy Ghost” *(featuring Georgia Mass Choir)*

Announcements

Benediction

In Loving Memory
Christopher G. DeFord
“Chris”

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
(Matthew 3:17, KJV)



Its only been 3 years and
“We Still Miss You”

Happy Heavenly Birthday

Love,
Ma, Dad & Family

*In Loving Memory
Charlene Thomas*



*You slipped away on this Sunday a year ago,
the year has gone by so fast*

*Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasurer
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measures*



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.



CHOIR MEMBERS: In preparation for our outdoor service on Sunday, June 6th, we will be having choir rehearsal at **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27th**.

“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.**

ATTENTION: Plans are being made to hold our first in-person **OUT-DOOR** Worship Service at St. Mark’s UMC on **Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**, barring inclement weather. Members are requested to call or e-mail the church office to register in preparation for the service. Communion elements will be distributed on Saturday, June 5, 2021 (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) for those not planning to attend the service. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed. Feel free to bring your own lawn chairs, but chairs will be provided.

Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience. Call-in Information: **712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960).** This week **Dr. J. LaVon Kincaid**, Pittsburgh, PA, will lead the discussion.

“MIRACULOUS — Pastor and Wife’s Account of Illness and Recovery from COVID-19” – order your copy today: Email or text your name and address to Sandy Johnson (sandra7767@msn.com or 410.530.0399). This information will be forwarded to Rev. DeFord. The book will be mailed to you, upon receiving, you should send your payment of **\$18.00** (cost of book, sales tax, and shipping fee) to Rev. George F. DeFord.

Thinking Ahead: If you have a birthday / anniversary in June, please email Cynthia.

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)

Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Noble (BeBe) Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, 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, 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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