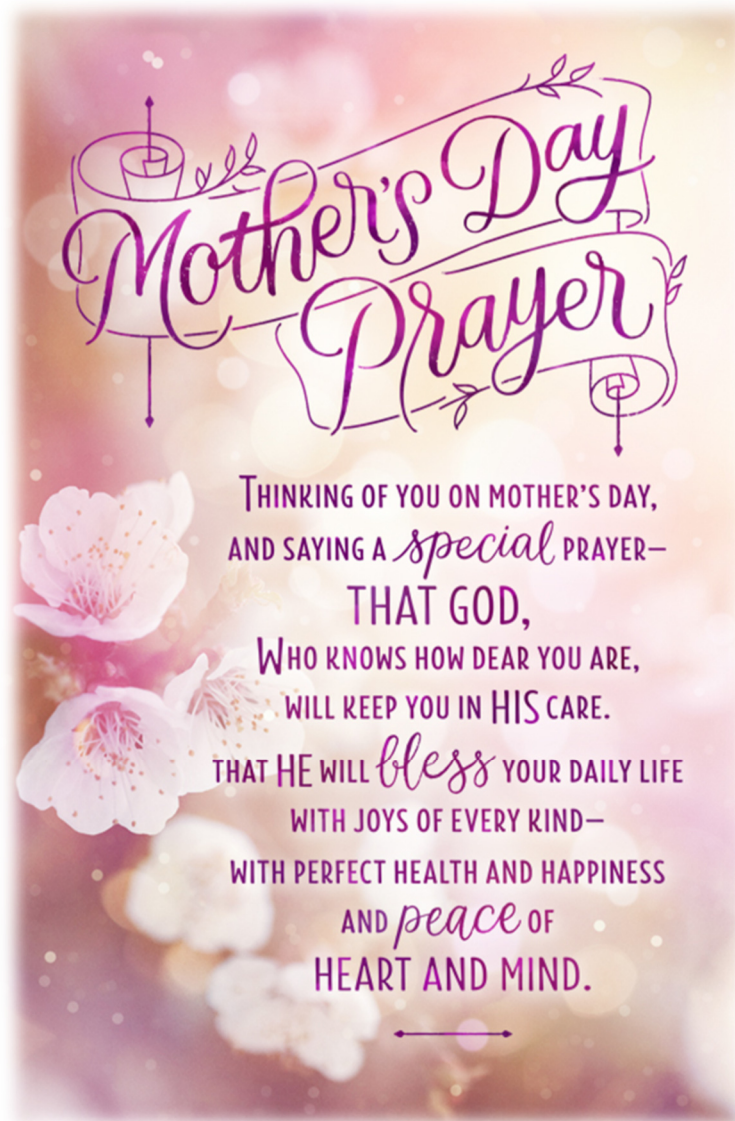


May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Festival of the Christian Home¹
Happy Mother's Day



¹ A day to celebrate the gift of home and those who share it with us, in our immediate families, our communities, and within the church itself.

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: Mothers come in many forms and today we celebrate all MOTHERS.

Larry: Thank God for MOTHERS

Leader: Everyone is either a son or daughter of a MOTHER.

Larry: Thank God for MOTHERS.

Leader: Thank God for existing MOTHERS and Expectant MOTHERS.

Larry: Thank God for expectant Mothers or MOTHERS via Adoption.

Leader: Thank God for Mothers who have lost a child through death.

Larry: Thank God for strong MOTHERS.

Leader: Thank God for all women and especially those who have influenced our lives in many ways and today we honor all of them.

Larry: Thank God for Motherhood.

Hymn of Praise **“Thank You God for My Mother”**
(sing along with Aquanette Chinnery)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*“A Mother’s Day Prayer”*)

In you, O GOD every family on earth receives its name. Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage for those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family members, and wisdom to those in fearful time of change. We thank you for gifts of love that we have received from mother, father, spouse child or companion. Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your church. Bless we pray all the women and mothers in our lives that they may be strengthened as Christian Mothers. Finally, grant that we their sons, daughters, spouses and friends honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

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

The Invocation

Song of Meditation **“Better Days”**
(featuring Dianne Reeves)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

O Wisdom Divine, just as you inspired the mothers of our faith grant us your knowledge and discernment so that we can learn how to be clever in our compassion and courageous in our faith, through Christ and in the Spirit. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Eli**
(Acts 10:44–48, Common English Bible)

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, ⁴⁷ “These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?” ⁴⁸ He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

Scripture Reading #2 **Larry**
(1 John 5:1–6, Common English Bible)

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God’s commandments. ³ This is the love of God: we keep God’s commandments. God’s commandments are not difficult, ⁴ because everyone who is born from God defeats

the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. ⁵ Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?

Testimony about Jesus

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water only but by water and blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Scripture Reading #3 **Wayne**
(*John 15:9–17, Common English Bible*)

Love each other

⁹ “As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷ I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

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 — “A Song for Mama” (*featuring Boyz II Men*)

Inspirational Message **Sister Desiree Vanloo**
Mother and Church Lay Leader

“Remember, Give Thanks, Reconnect”

John 19:26–27

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Never Be Another Mother Like My Mother”
(featuring Melvin Crouch)

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.**

ATTENTION: Plans are being made to hold our first in-person **OUT-DOOR** Worship Service at St. Mark’s UMC on **June 6, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**, baring inclement weather. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed, and additional details will be announced later.

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: 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.

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)

Condolence to the family of Diane Cobb

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Celebration of Life for Bria Wilson

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

Viewing: Sunday, May 16th (2:00–6:00 pm)

Celebration of Life: Monday, May 17th (Viewing: 10:00 a.m., Funeral: 11:00 a.m.)

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

Eunice Dumas

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