



## Fatherhood Is God's Idea

Thanks be unto God the Father  
for His great work in creating man.  
God decided to reproduce Himself,  
So He formed man with His hand.

God crowned man with His glory  
and gave him dominion over the earth.  
He made man a little lower than the angels  
and honored him with great worth.

God endowed man with wisdom  
so great things he would be able to do.  
He made him in the likeness of Himself  
so man could become a father too.

Creating man was God's best work.  
He gave him authority and great might  
to provide for the needs of his family  
and courage to face the darkest night.

We honor God for His creation  
and for making man His masterpiece.  
He is to be an extension of Christ Jesus  
so God's kingdom work will not cease.

So we salute fatherhood everywhere.  
It is the highest position in the land.  
It's no greater honor than being called dad  
and no greater foundation on which to stand.

*Lenora McWhorter*

*June 20, 2021*

*Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

# *Happy Father's Day*

## *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](mailto:emailstmarksimd@gmail.com) | Pastor Matthews directly (**443.257.2730** | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto: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** ..... **Brothers Wayne \ David**

**Wayne:** O GOD relationships with some of our Fathers are complicated.

**David:** **For some, our Father's love is like God's love – so deep, so wide, too strong to measure.**

**Wayne:** Some of our Dads are here, some were never here.

**David:** **For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.**

**Wayne:** All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

**David: On this day we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us so they will maintain the love of God in all that they do. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise ..... “Faith of Our Fathers”**  
*(sing along with Youtube)*

1. Faith of our fathers! living still. In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword,  
O how our hearts beat high with joy. Whene’er we hear that glorious word!  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!
2. Faith of our fathers! we will strive. To win all nations unto thee,  
And thro’ the truth that comes from God, Mankind shall then be truly free:  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!
3. Faith of our fathers! we will love. Both friend and foe in all our strife,  
And preach thee, too, as love knows how, By kindly words and virtuous life;  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance ..... Brother Wayne**

Loving God, you who are our Father and Mother, we thank you that you have shown us how important it is to follow your example as we grow in faith. Teach us to be obedient to your will, respecting you as children ought. Thank you for your mercy despite our disobedience. Strengthen us to stand up against the challenges of this world, honoring your name and trusting your grace. In the name of your Son, we pray. **Amen.**

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

**The Invocation**

**Song of Meditation ..... “It’s Your Time”**  
*(featuring Luther Barnes)*

**The Prayer of Illumination ..... Brother Wayne**

Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and minds as we read the scripture today. Help us to hear them in a new way. May our meditations and actions be acceptable to God and may the peace of Christ speak to us through your Word. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1 ..... Mr. Gregg**  
*(1 Samuel 15: 34—16:13, Common English Bible)*

<sup>34</sup> Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah. <sup>35</sup> Samuel never saw Saul again before he died, but he grieved over Saul. However, the LORD regretted making Saul king over Israel.

## Samuel anoints David

**16** The LORD said to Samuel, “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I’m sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons.”

<sup>2</sup> “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “When Saul hears of it he’ll kill me!”

“Take a heifer with you,” the LORD replied, “and say, ‘I have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you.”

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. “Do you come in peace?” they asked.

<sup>5</sup> “Yes,” Samuel answered. “I’ve come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice.” Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the LORD’s anointed right in front.

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven’t selected him. God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the LORD sees into the heart.”

<sup>8</sup> Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, “The LORD hasn’t chosen this one either.” <sup>9</sup> So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “No, the LORD hasn’t chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup> Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD hasn’t picked any of these.”

<sup>11</sup> Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is that all of your boys?”

“There is still the youngest one,” Jesse answered, “but he’s out keeping the sheep.”

“Send for him,” Samuel told Jesse, “because we can’t proceed until he gets here.”

<sup>12</sup> So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, “That’s the one. Go anoint him.” <sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers.

The LORD’s spirit came over David from that point forward.

Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Larry**  
(*2 Corinthians 5:6–17, Common English Bible*)

<sup>6</sup> So we are always confident, because we know that while we are living in the body, we are away from our home with the Lord. <sup>7</sup> We live by faith and not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, and we would prefer to leave the body and to be at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So our goal is to be acceptable to him, whether we are at home or

away from home. <sup>10</sup> We all must appear before Christ in court so that each person can be paid back for the things that were done while in the body, whether they were good or bad.

### **Ministry of reconciliation**

<sup>11</sup> So we try to persuade people, since we know what it means to fear the Lord. We are well known by God, and I hope that in your heart we are well known by you as well. <sup>12</sup> We aren't trying to commend ourselves to you again. Instead, we are giving you an opportunity to be proud of us so that you could answer those who take pride in superficial appearance, and not in what is in the heart.

<sup>13</sup> If we are crazy, it's for God's sake. If we are rational, it's for your sake. <sup>14</sup> The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died. <sup>15</sup> He died for the sake of all so that those who are alive should live not for themselves but for the one who died for them and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. <sup>17</sup> So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **David**  
(*John 4:46–53, Common English Bible*)

### **Jesus' second miraculous sign in Galilee**

<sup>46</sup> He returned to Cana in Galilee where he had turned the water into wine. In Capernaum there was a certain royal official whose son was sick. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that Jesus was coming from Judea to Galilee, he went out to meet him and asked Jesus if he would come and heal his son, for his son was about to die. <sup>48</sup> Jesus said to him, "Unless you see miraculous signs and wonders, you won't believe."

<sup>49</sup> The royal official said to him, "Lord, come before my son dies."

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, "Go home. Your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and set out for his home.

<sup>51</sup> While he was on his way, his servants were already coming to meet him. They said, "Your son lives!" <sup>52</sup> So he asked them at what time his son had started to get better. And they said, "The fever left him yesterday at about one o'clock in the afternoon." <sup>53</sup> Then the father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son lives." And he and his entire household believed in Jesus.

**Doxology – "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" ..... Wayne**

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” ..... Wayne**

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” ..... Brother Wayne**

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 ..... “My Father Was/Is – Our Father”**  
*(featuring Fred Hammond & Radical for Christ)*

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

***“An Example of A Faithful Father”***

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection — “Father Can You Hear Me”**  
*(featuring Tamela Mann)*

**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.**

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

**Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Council Meeting.** Check your emails for Zoom information if you want to listen in.

**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](mailto: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, 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

**Laura Dotson**

7246 Guilford Road  
Clarksville MD 21029

**Ruth Miller**

1206 Peachwood Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Mrs. Edlin Chambers**

14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764