

July 25, 2021

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

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 / Gemma**

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord!!

Gemma: Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Leader: Sing to the Lord; tell of all God's wonderful works.

Gemma: Glory to God's Holy Name.

Leader: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Gemma: Seek the Lord's strength and presence continually.

Leader: GLORY! GLORY! To God's Holy Name"

Hymn of Praise..... **“Glory, Glory Hallelujah”**
(sing along with Mass Choir)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance Cynthia

God of Grace, we live in a world that rewards the strong and violates the weak. Forgive us for the ways in which we have adopted the values of this world and trusted inhuman strength, only to be tripped by our own weakness. Teach us to welcome our weakness as an opportunity to rest in your spirit. Teach us to be still enough to find the powerful hope that lies in your love, shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. **Amen.**

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

The Invocation

Song of Meditation "Still"

(featuring Brian Courtney Wilson)

The Prayer of Illumination Cynthia

O God, your word is more precious than fine gold, than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace so that the good news of your love would shine through us to others. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Gemma

(2 Samuel 11:1-15, Common English Bible)

David and Bathsheba

11 In the spring, when kings go off to war, David sent Joab, along with his servants and all the Israelites, and they destroyed the Ammonites, attacking the city of Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

² One evening, David got up from his couch and was pacing back and forth on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone and inquired about the woman. The report came back: "Isn't this Eliam's daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers to take her. When she came to him, he had sex with her. (Now she had been purifying herself after her monthly period.) Then she returned home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David.

"I'm pregnant," she said.

⁶ Then David sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked about the welfare of Joab and the army and how the battle was going. ⁸ Then David told Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet."

Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ However, Uriah slept at the palace entrance with all his master's servants. He didn't go down to his own house. ¹⁰ David was told, "Uriah didn't go down to his own house," so David

asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just returned from a journey? Why didn’t you go home?”

¹¹ “The chest and Israel and Judah are all living in tents,” Uriah told David. “And my master Joab and my master’s troops are camping in the open field. How could I go home and eat, drink, and have sex with my wife? I swear on your very life, I will not do that!”

¹² Then David told Uriah, “Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I’ll send you back.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. The next day ¹³ David called for him, and he ate and drank, and David got him drunk. In the evening Uriah went out to sleep in the same place, alongside his master’s servants, but he did not go down to his own home.

¹⁴ The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ He wrote in the letter, “Place Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle, and then pull back from him so that he will be struck down and die.”

Scripture Reading #2**Danielle**
(*Ephesians 3:14–21, Common English Bible*)

Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ This is why I kneel before the Father. ¹⁵ Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. ¹⁶ I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. ¹⁷ I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, ¹⁸ I ask that you’ll have the power to grasp love’s width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. ¹⁹ I ask that you’ll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.

²⁰ Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; ²¹ glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

Scripture Reading #3**Jackie**
(*John 6:1–21, Common English Bible*)

Feeding of the five thousand

6 After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). ² A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. ³ Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. ⁴ It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

⁵ Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, “Where will we buy food to feed these people?” ⁶ Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, “More than a half year’s salary^[a] worth of food wouldn’t be enough for each person to have even a little bit.”

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, ⁹ “A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. ¹² When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, “This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

Jesus walks on water

¹⁶ When evening came, Jesus’ disciples went down to the lake. ¹⁷ They got into a boat and were crossing the lake to Capernaum. It was already getting dark and Jesus hadn’t come to them yet. ¹⁸ The water was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When the wind had driven them out for about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He was approaching the boat and they were afraid. ²⁰ He said to them, “I Am.^[b] Don’t be afraid.” ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and just then the boat reached the land where they had been heading.

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” Cynthia

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” Cynthia

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 Life is in Your Hands”
(featuring Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir)

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“Don’t Panic”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Lord Help Me to Hold Out”
(featuring Detroit Mass Choir)

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).** Note: The group will meet through July, hiatus until September 8th.

Thursday, July 29th (7:00 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, July 31st (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) — If you don't plan to join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, communion elements will be distributed at the church during this time frame. Zoom information will remain the same.

Sunday, August 1st (10:00 a.m.) — We will be re-entering the sanctuary for morning service. Please remember that all Covid-19 protocols will be in place. All members who can, are being asked to enter the sanctuary through the front doors. The bulletin, communion elements and the giving basket will be there. These precautions are being taken to eliminate physical contact.

Thursday, August 12th (6:00 p.m.) — Nomination's Committee will meet in person at the church. Please notify Rev. Matthews if you can't be present.

Moving Forward

The **Annual Emancipation Day** observance **will not be held this year.** However, the **Annual 5K Walk/Run (Saturday, September 4th – 8:00 a.m., see flyer attached (link change).**

Sunday September 26th (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Homecoming Sunday including fellowship and other activities will take place.

(Additional update and information relative these announcements will be forthcoming at a later date.)

Monday, October 11th (6:00 p.m.) — Annual Church Conference (details will be forthcoming)

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, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

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St. Mark's UMC Emancipation Day
Rev. Eugene Matthews, Pastor

9th Annual In-Person & Virtual Diabetes
— 5K Run/Walk/Fun Walk



Saturday, September 4, 2021
8:00 AM Rain or Shine

Alice B. McCullough Field
Montgomery & Eighth Street, Laurel, MD

USATF Certified Course Professionally Timed by
Blue Cheetah Sports Timing, LLC

5K Run/Walk—\$25 (timed) | Fun Walk—\$20 (untimed) |
Virtual 5K—\$30 (to cover postage for Running Bib &
Finisher Medal)

For Online Registration/Additional Information go to
[Runsignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5K)

Note: All registered participants will be notified if there are modifications due to COVID-19. **If you have questions, please contact Jacqueline Jones.**