



*“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)

Special prayers for Sister Laura Dotson who suffered a stroke this week. She is in Johns Hopkins, Baltimore ICU.

Mary Taylor (LáAngel’s Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Joyce Gibson, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Eunice Harding (Gemma’s Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

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Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

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Laura Dotson
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Ruth Miller
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Bowie, MD 20716
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Mrs. Edlin Chambers
14904 4th St.
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Patricia Briggs
(Cindy’s Sister)
Largo Nursing and
Rehabilitation Center
600 Largo Road
Largo, MD 20774

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707
301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@gmail.com*



“We come together at St. Mark’s to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world.”

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

401.379.0600 | 443.257.2710 (cell) | reveugene@comcast.net

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Anthony Latney, Worship Leader

Prelude **Rev. Dr. Fernando Allen**

Lighting of the Candles **Usher**

Gathering Song.....**St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

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 **Brother Anthony Latney**

Leader: In you, O LORD, I take refuge, let me not be put to shame.

People: **In your righteousness deliver and rescue me.**

Leader: Incline your ear to me and save me.

People: **Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me.**

Leader: For you are my rock and my fortress.

People: **Rescue me, o my God, from the hand of the wicked.**

Leader: My trust, O Lord, has been from my youth.

People: **My praise is continually lifted up to you.**

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.



Note: Rev. Matthews is on vacation for a couple of Sundays.

"A FRESH START (NOW)" — We desire to have many members as possible active in all of the various areas of Ministry.

Tuesday, August 31st (6:30 p.m.) — **Nomination's Committee** will meet in a conference call. Call in: 712-770-4010 Access code: 331960.

Wednesday Night Experience. **On hiatus until September 8th.**

Thursday, September 2nd (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Annual 5K Walk/Run (Saturday, September 4th – 8:00 a.m.)

Sunday September 26th (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Homecoming Sunday.** Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord will be our morning preacher.

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/stmarks/md>)
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.

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote,

*This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far away from me.*

⁷ *Their worship of me is empty
since they teach instructions that are human words.*^[a]

⁸ You ignore God’s commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you.”

¹⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd again and said, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God’s sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person.

²¹ “It’s from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, ²² adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God’s sight.”

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (Hymnal, #71)

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..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

Blessing of the Offering **Brother Anthony Latney**

Inspirational Message.....**Sister LáAngel Hall**

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection

Announcements

Benediction

Hymn of Praise.....**St. Mark’s Choir/Congregation**

“Lift Him Up”

1 How to reach the masses, men of ev’ry birth,
For an answer Jesus gave the key:
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.”

Refrain:

Lift Him up, (Lift the precious Savior up),
Lift Him up, (Lift the precious Savior up),
Still He speaks from eternity:
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.”

2 Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread,
Lift the Savior up for them to see;
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said,
“I’ll draw all men unto Me.” **[Refrain]**

3 Don’t exalt the preacher, don’t exalt the pew,
Preach the Gospel simple, full and free;
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true,
“I’ll draw all men unto Me.” **[Refrain]**

4 Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,
Let the world in you the Savior see;
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught,
“I’ll draw all men unto Me.” **[Refrain]**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Forgive us, O God, when your words and ways seem difficult.
Soften us when we harden our views about you and about others
into rigid opinions inflexible to the spirits movement. Refresh us
when we parch ourselves and others dry with formulas instead of
relationships, with offense taken instead of understanding granted.
Remind us through your spirit that even when we stumble, you are
there to renew our spirits, to enlighten our minds to cast away that
which deadens us and others, and to take on that which leads to
Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation..... **Brother Anthony Latney**
Song of Meditation..... **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed and do what you have commanded. May we find the power and wisdom of God in the words we hear today. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Brother Anthony Latney**
(*Song of Solomon 2:8–13, Common English Bible*)

⁸ Listen! It's my lover: here he comes now,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹ My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Here he stands now,
outside our wall,
peering through the windows,
peeking through the lattices.

¹⁰ My lover spoke and said to me,
"Rise up, my dearest,
my fairest, and go.

¹¹ Here, the winter is past;
the rains have come and gone.

¹² Blossoms have appeared in the land;
the season of singing has arrived,
and the sound of the turtledove is heard in our land.

¹³ The green fruit is on the fig tree,
and the grapevines in bloom are fragrant.
Rise up, my dearest,

Scripture Reading #2 **Brother Anthony Latney**
(*James 1:17–27, Common English Bible*)

¹⁷ Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth by his true word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything he created.

Welcoming and doing the word

¹⁹ Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. ²⁰ This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness.

²¹ Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.

²² You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. ²³ Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. ²⁴ They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.

²⁶ If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. ²⁷ True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

Scripture Reading #3 **Brother Anthony Latney**
(*Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23, Common English Bible*)

What contaminates a life?

⁷ The Pharisees and some legal experts from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. ² They saw some of his disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were eating without first ritually purifying their hands through washing. ³ The Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a way of observing the rules handed down by the elders. ⁴ Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't eat without first immersing themselves. They observe many other rules that have been handed down, such as the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?"