

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@gmail.com

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace



"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 | 443.257.2730 (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, December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Order of Service

Ushers: Cynthia Burley, Andrea Gibson, Patricia Mundell

Sister Erica Roy, Worship Leader

Prelude Brother Henry Tindal

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 Sister Erica Roy

Leader: Lift up your heads, O you gates!

People: Lift them up, you everlasting doors!

Leader: And the King of Glory shall come in!

People: Who is the King of Glory?

Leader: The Lord strong and Mighty, the Lord Mighty in battle!

All: The Lord of Host, He Is the King of Glory!!



"Proclaiming Christ to the generations...

Equipping disciples to transform the world"

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that needs 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 families of
Tracy Valle*

Celebration of Life

Viewing: Friday, December 10th (6:00—9:00 pm)

*Howell Funeral Home * 10220 Guilford Rd, Jessup, MD 20794*

Final Viewing: Saturday, December 11th (10:00 a.m.)

Funeral Service: 11:00 a.m.

*Queens Chapel UMC * 7410 Old Muirkirk Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705*

Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom); Hayden Harris (Gemma's cousin), Floyd Hughes Sr., Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas
1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher
9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Laura Dotson
Autumn Lake Healthcare
9001 Cherry Lane
Laurel, MD 20708
301.498.8558

Ruth Miller
1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Edlin Chambers
14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Wednesday Night Experience (7:00 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room.
Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960

Thursday, December 9th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Saturday, December 11th (6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.) — **Ladies Night Out and Potluck. (CANCELLED).** Will be scheduled after the New Year

Fingers and Toes Initiative — Eli Coffen is participating in a Fingers and Toes Initiative. Over the next couple of Sundays if you could please, in a gallon bag, put a six-pack of socks (babies thru teenagers) and a pair of gloves to share with the less fortunate.

Christmas Tree Ornaments for Sale — The Laurel History Museum has unveiled its 2021 ornament of a famous tree in The Laurel Grove. The cost is \$20.00. Several years ago, the Laurel Museum featured a Christmas ornament displaying the image of our St. Mark's church. The cost is \$20.00. You may purchase both ornaments for \$35.00. Both ornaments are here and ready to be purchased. Please see Jackie Jones, Sandy Johnson or Millicent George after the worship service. If paying by check, please write checks to The Laurel Historical Society.



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 and place it in church mailbox
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>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

Hymn of Praise.....St. Mark's Choir/Congregation
"I've Got Peace Like A River"

- 1 I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
- 2 I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul.
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul
- 3 I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*In Unison*)

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of All. Help us live into our baptisms. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and empower us to be the continuation of that Good News. **Amen.**

The Invocation.....Sister Erica Roy
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

Lighting of Advent Candle: Peace

Scripture Reading #1Sister Erica Roy
(*Malachi 3:1–4*), *Common English Bible*)

3 Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me;

suddenly the Lord whom you are seeking will come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming,
says the Lord of heavenly forces.

² Who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can withstand his appearance?

He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap.

³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.

He will purify the Levites

and refine them like gold and silver.

They will belong to the Lord,

presenting a righteous offering.

⁴ The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord
as in ancient days and in former years.

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Erica Roy**
(Luke 1:68–79, Common English Bible)

⁶⁸ “Bless the Lord God of Israel

because he has come to help and has delivered his people.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house,

⁷⁰ just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.

⁷¹ He has brought salvation from our enemies

and from the power of all those who hate us.

⁷² He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³ the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.

He has granted ⁷⁴ that we would be rescued

from the power of our enemies

so that we could serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes,

for as long as we live.

⁷⁶ You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to be saved

through the forgiveness of their sins.

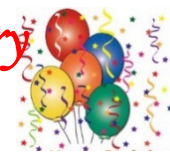
⁷⁸ Because of our God's deep compassion,

the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

⁷⁹ to give light to those who are sitting in darkness



Happy Birthday and Anniversary December Members



Birthday

Sandra Johnson – 4th

Jane Matthews – 8th

Reginald Matthews – 14th

Tenaya Gibson – 23rd

Starr Kenney – 24th

LáAngel Hall – 25th

Eugenia Matthews – 26th

Sylvia Kenney – 27th

Erica Roy (50th) – 27th

Ellen Hall – 29th

Joyce Gibson – 30th

Anniversary

Horace & Tasman Allen – 31st *Michael & Janet Carey – 14th (38 yrs.)*



Heavenly Birthdays

Tracy Valle – 5th

Melva (Peaches) King – 9th

Announcements

Pastor's Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Millicent Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

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)” — We desire to have many members as possible active in all the various areas of Ministry.

Tuesday, December 7th (7:00 p.m.) — Men's Bible Study.

Zoom information/call in: [Click Here To Join Zoom Meeting.](#)

Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmpl](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09)

[MFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09); **Meeting ID:** 848 7608 7048,

Passcode: 803201; **Phone Option** — One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,84876087048#,,, *803201# US (Washington DC)

The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being exchanged:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The congregation sings hymns while the bread and cup are given.

When all have received, the Lord's table is put in order.

The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

and in the shadow of death,
to guide us on the path of peace.”

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Blessing of the OfferingSister Erica Roy
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3Sister Erica Roy
(Luke 3:1–6, Common English Bible)

John the Baptist's message

3 In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁴ This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

*“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.*

⁵ *Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight
and the rough places made smooth.*

⁶ *All humanity will see God's salvation.”*

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

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“Finding Peace in a Troubled World”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection

Holy Communion

Thanksgiving and Communion

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

The pastor takes the bread and cup, and the bread and wine are prepared for the meal.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth, And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Choir, #270*)

BREAKING THE BREAD

The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.