# Sunday, January 23, 2022 Third Sunday After the Epiphany Order of Service

# Cynthia Whitfield, Liturgist

#### 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 | <a href="mailstmarkslmd@gmail.com">emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com</a> | Pastor Matthews directly (443.257.2730 | <a href="mailstmarkslmd@gmail.com">reveugene@comcast.net</a>). Our doors are always open, welcome.

**Note:** As we continue with our virtual services, please consider turning on your cameras and using the chat to engage in the service.

Gathering Song......"Sweet, Sweet Spirit" (Hymnal, #334)

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 Spirt, 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: We have gathered to exalt the name of the Lord.

Gemma: Great is the Lord and worthy of our praise.

Leader: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in love.

Gemma: The Lord upholds all who fall and lift up the bowed down.

Leader: The eyes of all look to you, for you provide all that we need.

Gemma: Together, we proclaim the abundant goodness of you, O God. Let

everyone praise God's Holy name, forever and ever!

Hymn of Praise ...... "Bless the Wonderful Name of Jesus" (sing along)

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God, you promised that you are always present with us and by the cross we are identified as your children. For all that we have received from your bounty, we confess that we have been drawn away from you through selfish wants and allures of this world. We come seeking your forgiveness and your guidance in how we are to live as your children. Restore and renew us, O God, that we may be made whole and serve you in all we say and do. **Amen.** 

The Lord's Prayer (song by Andrea Bocelli)

#### The Invocation

**Song of Meditation** — "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (featuring Whitney Houston w/Sissy Houston)

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Draw us close to you, O God as these scriptures are read today you will speak to us in the manner as you opened the Word when Jesus read from the book of Isaiah to his congregation. May there be one vice, the voice of Jesus, that we hear today.

Amen.

#### Ezra reads the Instruction aloud

**8** When the seventh month came and the people of Israel were settled in their towns, all the people gathered together in the area in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Instruction scroll from Moses, according to which the Lord had instructed Israel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Instruction before the assembly. This assembly was made up of both men and women and anyone who could understand what they heard. <sup>3</sup> Facing the area in front of the Water Gate, he read it aloud, from early morning until the middle of the day. He read it in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and everyone listened attentively to the Instruction scroll.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Standing above all of the people, Ezra the scribe opened the scroll in the sight of all of the people. And as he opened it, all of the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all of the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" while raising their hands. Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup> They read aloud from the scroll, the Instruction from God, explaining and interpreting it so the people could understand what they heard.

<sup>9</sup> Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Don't mourn or weep." They said this because all the people wept when they heard the words of the Instruction.

<sup>10</sup> "Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet," he said to them, "and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!"

<sup>12</sup> Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. <sup>13</sup> We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Certainly the body isn't one part but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? <sup>16</sup> If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. <sup>19</sup> If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? <sup>20</sup> But as it is, there are many parts but one body. <sup>21</sup> So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." <sup>22</sup> Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. <sup>23</sup> The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. <sup>24</sup> The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor <sup>25</sup> so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. <sup>27</sup> You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. <sup>28</sup> In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets, are they? All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they? <sup>30</sup> All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they? <sup>31</sup> Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts. And I'm going to show you an even better way.

(Luke 4:14–21, Common English Bible) Jesus announces good news to the poor <sup>14</sup> Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup> Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. <sup>20</sup> He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it." Doxology - "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" ...... Cynthia 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. 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 Preaching of Jesus"

**Praise and Prayer Concerns** 

**Invitation / Altar Call** 

Invitation Selection — "I'm Looking for A Miracle" (featuring Alfred Street Baptist Men's Choir)

**Announcements** 

Benediction

# 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.



Note: We are fast approaching February, if you have a birthday or anniversary, please let Cynthia know.

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

# January 24th thru January 30th

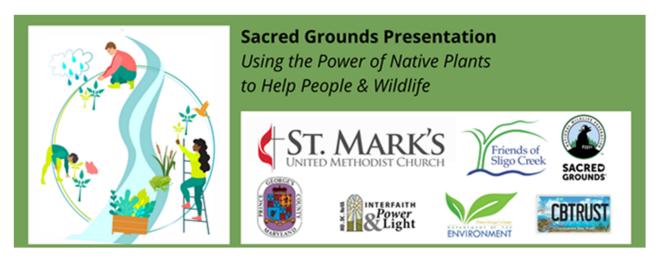
<b>Day 24</b> – Genesis 41:1–36	<b>Day 28</b> – Genesis 44:1–34
<b>Day 25</b> – Genesis 41:37–57	<b>Day 29</b> – Genesis 45:1–28
<b>Day 26</b> – Genesis 42:1–38	<b>Day 30</b> – Genesis 49:1–33
<b>Day 27</b> – Genesis 43:1–34	-

**Tuesday Men's Bible Study** (7:00 p.m.) — Zoom information/call in: <u>Click Here</u> <u>To Join Zoom Meeting.</u> Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL 0d0QT09; Meeting ID: 848 7608 7048, Passcode: 803201; Phone Option — One tap mobile: +13017158592,,84876087048#,,,,\*803201# US (Washington DC)

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960

Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> (following morning service) — Join our St. Mark's community as we learn to put our values into practice, nurturing native plants around our homes alongside congregations across our shared watershed. We'll hear from Naomi Edelson of the National Wildlife Federation and Kit Gage from the Friends of Sligo Creek.



What brings you joy? This year St. Mark's is participating in an exciting new program to encourage congregants to plant native plants at home. To kick off the program, Sacred Grounds MD conducted focus groups with our congregants and members of other area churches, mosques and synagogues. We learned that gardening brings joy, as well as being an expression of appreciation for the gifts of nature shared by God. The purpose of Sacred Grounds is to help people and wildlife by planting native plants on our congregation grounds and at our members' homes. Native plants protect people and wildlife because they are suited to the soil and rainfall of Maryland. They provide food and homes for local wildlife and help the soil to filter water which protects our local streams and Chesapeake Bay from pollution and flooding. Join us for an educational and inspirational presentation about the power of native plants, and how you can plant them at home in your yard or in pots.

Also joining us in service will be members of The Laurel Police Department and other community leaders.

# ST. MARK'S, IT'S TIME TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!!

Because of COVID 19, the 2022 Winter Shelter is being held at the Comfort Inn in Beltsville. Men, women, and children are being housed in the shelter. Below is a Donations List of items that are needed for the shelter residents. Since we are not worshipping in the Sanctuary, the items can be brought to St. Mark's on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. The final drop-off will be **Saturday**, **February 19**<sup>th</sup> (11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.). Please remember how God has blessed you, and now it is time for you to bless others in need!!

# **DONATIONS LIST** for Winter Shelter

Non-Perishable Food

Juice Boxes Individual Cereal

Snack Items (Bulk - Popcorn, Chips, Cookies, Crackers, Candy Bars,

etc.)

Cleaning Supplies:

Disinfectant Wipes Fabric Softener' Dryer Sheets Lysol Spray

Cleaning Solutions (Spray Bottles) Laundry Detergent (Pods)

Clorox Bleach

**Baby Supplies:** 

Baby Food (Size 4,5,6 & Pull-ups)

Baby wipes Pampers

Baby lotion, soaps, powder Baby Tylenol/pain relief

**Baby Lotion** 

Children's underwear boys and girls

Toddler (2T-6T) Little Kid (4-6X) Big Kid or Tween (7-16) Hygiene Kits (Male & Female)

Deodorant Razors Shaving Cream Comb-Brush

Toothpaste / Toothbrush Axe Body Spray

Liquid Soap Shampoo Lotion

Feminine Hygiene pads

**Transportation** 

Uber / Lyft

Smartrip Metro Cards

**Retail Gift Cards** 

Walmart Target Macy's Big Lots Best Buy Gift Cards Visa Master

Amex

Discover

**Food Gift Cards** 

McDonald's, Wendy's, Subway Popeye's KFC Chipotle Duncan Donuts

**Grocery Store Gift Cards** 

Sam's Club Costco Bj's

Olive Garden

**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.



# "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), <a href="mailto:reveugene@comcast.net">reveugene@comcast.net</a>)

# Condolence to the Matthews and Cager Families on the passing of the their Loved Ones Pamela Matthews Veronica Bailey

James Wilson Sr., Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, 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, 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

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