Sunday, February 20, 2022 Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany Black History Month Order of Service

Erica Roy, 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 | emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com | Pastor Matthews directly (443.257.2730 | reveugene@comcast.net). 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 Erica

Leader: We come today celebrating the gifts of people of color.

Sandy: We are celebrating our African Roots.

Leader: We come celebrating our spirituality brought with us to these shores.

Sandy: We come to celebrate our African Roots.

Leader: We come celebrating our contributions to the wider church.

Sandy: We have come to celebrate our African Roots.

Hymn of Praise
Prayer of Thanksgiving for Black Literature Erica
Loving God, often we are unfaithful people. You created us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. We sometimes have marred your image and done deeds of death to ourselves and others. In the name of our ancestors, have mercy upon us, blot out our sins and forgive us. Grant unto us a new and right spirit, we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.
The Lord's Prayer (song by Yolanda Adams)
The Invocation
Song of Meditation — "That's When You Bless Me" (featuring LA Mass Choir)
The Prayer of Illumination Erica
Guide us, O God, in the way that you have guided our Foremothers and Forefathers,

that the words we hear this day will saturate us with the same spirit as our African Ancestors. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Sandy (Genesis 26:15–22, New International Version)

¹⁵ So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.

¹⁶ Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."

¹⁷ So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. ¹⁸ Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

¹⁹ Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there.
²⁰ But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. ²¹ Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. ²² He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land."

Scripture Reading #2 Cindy (1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50, New International Version)

The Resurrection Body

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" ³⁶ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Scripture Reading #3 Cynthia (Luke 6:27–38, New International Version)

Love for Enemies

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Doxology - "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Erica

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"...... Erica

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" Erica

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 — "You Know My Name" (featuring Tasha Cobbs Leonard featuring Jimi Cravity)

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

"Digging Deeper Wells"

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — "Your Spirit" (featuring Tasha Cobbs Leonard featuring Kierra Sheard)

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: Rev. Matthews in consultation with the District Superintendent, Board of Trustees, SPRC Chair and Church Council Chair, wish to announce that on **Sunday, March 6, 2022**, St. Mark's congregation will return to the sanctuary for in-person worship. However, the service will also be available via Zoom. As we re-enter the protocols previously observed will continue until further notice. We are continuing to follow the guidelines of the State, County and Baltimore–Washington Conference.

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

February 21st – February 27th

Day 52 – Numbers 21:4–9
Day 53 – Numbers 22:5–38
Day 54 – Deuteronomy 29:1–29
Day 55 – Deuteronomy 30:1–20
Day 55 – Deuteronomy 30:1–20

Tuesday Men's Bible Study (7:00 p.m.) **ON HIATUS** — Zoom information/call in: <u>Click Here 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.

Thursday, February 24th and March 3rd (7:00 p.m.) — Choir rehearsal.

Sunday, February 27th (during morning service) — Service of Songs — With music being such an important part of our heritage, in this service we would like you to request favorite hymns or gospel songs to be played or sung. Min. Tindal has agreed to help us out with this service, if you have a song or a group would like to

perform a song, he's willing to meet you at the church to do a recording. If there is a special message behind your request, you can also share that with us. If you are recording a song, please forward your recording to either Jaime or myself. We will honor as many requests as possible. All requests need to be made by **Friday**, **February 25**th to be included in the service.

Wednesday, March 2nd (7:00 p.m.) — Ash Wednesday service. This service will be held on Zoom (same as Sunday morning service). Please have your ashes available for the blessing.

Link for Sacred Grounds Pledge: https://support.nwf.org/page/37119/survey/1



Exhibition Opened **Friday, February 18th** at **The Laurel Museum,** 817 Main Street, Laurel, MD; Hours 12:00–4:00 p.m. Saturday/Sunday

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), reveugene@comcast.net)

Gail Edwards (Gemma's cousin), Millicent George, James Wilson Sr. (Shimaine's grandfather), 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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