

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarksmd@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 | 443.257.2730 (cell) | reveugene@comcast.net

Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus

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, May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Order of Service

Ushers: Sharon Thomas and Gemma Desouza

Sister Charlotte Thomas, Worship Leader

PreludeRev. 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 WorshipSister Charlotte Thomas

Leader: Gather, Easter People, raise your voice in praise!

People: Let all creation praise our God and Creator!

Leader: Stars and planets, suns, and moon – all shine forth with joy!

People: Our God grants life and salvation, rebirth and a future!

Leader: Fire and hail, blizzard and flood cannot overpower our Lord's hand.

People: Even death holds no sway any longer.

Leader: Gather, Easter people sing praise to honor our Risen Savior.

People: We fear nothing, for our God will never leave us.

All: We come into your Holy presence with joy.

Hymn of Praise..... Choir/Congregation

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Lord, we are your Easter people. And yet, we so often fail to recognize the new life you have granted to those who seem different from us. We are prone to drawing circles of belonging around the people with whom we are comfortable, leaving out those whose ways of appearance are unfamiliar. Forgive our fear and bigotry and doubt. Open our eyes and hearts, so that we recognize Jesus in everyone we encounter. Replace our cautious hearts with ones of graced – filled welcome, that living in the

promises of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we may confidently reflect your love to all the world. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation.....**Sister Charlotte Thomas**
Song of Meditation **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination *Unison*)

Calm us now, O LORD, into a quietness that heals and listens.
Open wounded hearts to the balm of your WORD. Speak to us in
clear tones that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with
hope as your resurrected witnesses. We ask this as the people
renewed by the power of the resurrected Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1**Sister Charlotte Thomas**
(*Esther 4:9–17, Common English Bible*)

⁹ Hathach came back and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

¹⁰ In reply Esther ordered Hathach to tell Mordecai: ¹¹ “All the king’s officials and the people in his provinces know that there’s a single law in a case like this. Any man or woman who comes to the king in the inner courtyard without being called is to be put to death. Only the person to whom the king holds out the gold scepter may live. In my case, I haven’t been called to come to the king for the past thirty days.”

¹² When they told Mordecai Esther’s words, ¹³ he had them respond to Esther: “Don’t think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you’ll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. ¹⁴ In fact, if you don’t speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family.”

¹⁵ Esther sent back this word to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather all the Jews who are in Susa and tell them to give up eating to help me be brave. They aren’t to eat or drink anything for three whole days, and I myself will do the same, along with my female servants. Then, even though it’s against the law, I will go to the king; and if I am to die, then die I will.” ¹⁷ So Mordecai left where he was and did exactly what Esther had ordered him.

Scripture Reading #2Sister Charlotte Thomas
(*Revelation 21:1–6, Common English Bible*)

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “Look! God’s dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look! I’m making all things new.” He also said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.

Blessing of Offering.....Sister Charlotte Thomas

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Scripture Reading #3Sister Charlotte Thomas
(*John 13:31–35, Common English Bible*)

³¹ When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself and will glorify him immediately. ³³ Little children, I’m with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—‘Where I’m going, you can’t come.’

³⁴ “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. ³⁵ This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

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.**

Hymn of Preparation..... St. Mark's Choir

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

"Maybe It's Your Moment"

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection St. Mark's 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.



Ushers and Liturgist Needed: To current ushers, if you can't be on-duty on your Sunday, please notify Gemma DeSouza

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

May 16th – May 22nd

Day 136 — Psalm 103:1–22	Day 140 — Proverbs 5:1–23
Day 137 — Psalm 139:1–24	Day 141 — Ecclesiastes 12:1–14
Day 138 — Psalm 145:1–21	Day 142 — Isaiah 6:1–13
Day 139 — Proverbs 4:1–27	

Ladies Roundtable (Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09>; **Meeting ID:** 845 0034 5294;

Passcode: 538161. **One tap mobile:**

+13017158592,84500345294#,*538161#

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, May 19th (7:00 p.m.) —**Choir** rehearsal

Sunday, May 22nd (3:00 p.m.) — Rev. Matthews will be inducted into the Preachers Hall of Fame. This will be the **Fourteenth Induction Ceremony** via Zoom (*information forthcoming*). Rev. Matthews will also be the speaker/preacher for this service.



Exhibition Opened at **The Laurel Museum**,
817 Main Street, Laurel
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/stmarks1md>)

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)

Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Shawn Settles, Gail Edwards (Gemma's cousin), Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom); Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, 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, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas
1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher
9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Ruth Miller
1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Edlin Chambers
14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764