

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

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"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, August 21, 2022

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Ushers: Sharon Thomas and Gemma DeSouza-Ottley

Cynthia Whitfield, 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 Cynthia Whitfield

Leader: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

People: In your righteousness deliver and rescue me.

Leader: Incline your ear to me and save me.

People: For you are my rock and my fortress.

Leader: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked.

People: And from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

All: For you O Lord, are my hope and my praise is continually for you.

Hymn of Praise..... Choir/Congregation

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

- 1 Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Refrain:

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

- 2 Let me at a throne of mercy find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. ***[Refrain]***
- 3 Trusting only in Thy merit, would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by Thy grace.
[Refrain]
- 4 Thou the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me,
Whom have I on earth beside Thee? Whom in heav’n but
Thee? ***[Refrain]***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

O God, who loves us with a love that will never release us: help us understand why our doubts can be so troubling to us. Forgive us when we criticize another’s doubt, remembering that doubt and faith can be two sides of one coin. Allow us penance by giving other persons a secure location in which they may share their honest convictions. God of leniency and mercy, we seek your penance, your will, and your way for our lives. Lord , we believe. Help our unbelief. In Jesus Name we ask. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)* **St. Mark’s Choir**

The Invocation.....**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

Song of Meditation **St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination *(Unison)*

O Lord, pour out on us the spirit and understanding as the scriptures are read today. And may that understanding open our hearts and minds to what it is you are communicating to us this day. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Jeremiah 1:4–10, Common English Bible)

⁴ The Lord’s word came to me: ⁵ “Before I created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ “Ah, Lord God,” I said, “I don’t know how to speak because I’m only a child.” ⁷ The Lord responded, “Don’t say, ‘I’m only a child.’ Where I send you, you must go; what I tell you, you must say. ⁸ Don’t be afraid of them, because I’m with you to rescue you,” declares the Lord. ⁹ Then the Lord stretched out his hand, touched my mouth, and said to me, “I’m putting my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ This very day I appoint you over nations and empires, to dig up and pull down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant.”

Scripture Reading #2Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Hebrews 12:18–29, Common English Bible)

Priestly service in heavenly Jerusalem

¹⁸ You haven’t drawn near to something that can be touched: a burning fire, darkness, shadow, a whirlwind, ¹⁹ a blast of a trumpet, and a sound of words that made the ones who heard it beg that there wouldn’t be one more word. ²⁰ They couldn’t stand the command, *If even a wild animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.* ²¹ The sight was so frightening that Moses said, “I’m terrified and shaking!”

²² But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering, ²³ to the assembly of God’s firstborn children who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel’s blood.

²⁵ See to it that you don’t resist the one who is speaking. If the people didn’t escape when they refused to listen to the one who warned them on earth, how will we escape if we reject the one who is warning from heaven? ²⁶ His voice shook the earth then, but now he has made a promise: *Still once more I will shake not only the earth but heaven also.* ²⁷ The words “still once more” reveal the removal of what is shaken—the things that are part of this creation—so that what isn’t shaken will remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can’t be shaken, let’s continue to

express our gratitude. With this gratitude, let's serve in a way that is pleasing to God with respect and awe, ²⁹ because our God really is a consuming fire.

Tithes and Offering

Blessing of Offering.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Scripture Reading #3Sister Cynthia Whitfield

(Luke 13:10–17, Common English Bible)

Healing on a Sabbath

¹⁰ Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn't stand up straight. ¹² When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, "Woman, you are set free from your sickness." ¹³ He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God.

¹⁴ The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, "There are six days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day."

¹⁵ The Lord replied, "Hypocrites! Don't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink?

¹⁶ Then isn't it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

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..... Dr. Rev. George F. DeFord

Pastor Emeritus

"Bent Over"

Invitation / Altar Call Dr. Rev. George F. DeFord
Invitation Selection St. Mark's Choir

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Welcome of Visitors

Announcements

Pastor's Moment

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.



Rev. Matthews on vacation through **September 3rd**

Reminder from Pastor Matthews: With the new variants of Covid, please remember to wear your mask while you are in the sanctuary.

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

August 22nd – August 28th

Day 234 — Luke 18:1–14	Day 237 — Matthew 20:1–19
Day 235 — Mark 10:1–16	Day 238 — Mark 10:35–52
Day 236 — Mark 10:17–31	Day 239 — Luke 19:1–27
	Day 240 — John 12:1–11

Ladies Roundtable — On hiatus (*watch for startup date*)

Wednesday Night Experience — On hiatus, *classes resume September 7th*

Thursday, August 25th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir** rehearsal



Saturday, September 3rd (8:00 a.m., Rain or Shine) — **10th Annual In-Person & Virtual Diabetes 5K Run/Walk/Fun Walk** at **Alice B. McCullough Field** (Montgomery & Eighth Street, Laurel,

MD). USATF Certified Course professionally timed by **Blue Cheetah Sports Timing, LLC**. For Online Registration/ Additional Information go to **RunsSignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5k**.

Saturday, September 3, 2022 — Emancipation Day 2022. A fun-filled day for the family. Free and for sale activities.

Shirts are available for this event, order by **August 26th**. Price: **\$10** (youth); **\$15** (adult small to XL); **\$17** (2X); **\$20** (3X). To place your order contact: Tina Thomas-Matthews.

There are **Volunteer** sheets in the Fellowship Hall, please sign up or reach out to Millicent on Tuesday or Thursday to fill you in.



Group Outing — I have reserved 20 orchestra seats to see **“Tina – The Musical”** at the National Theater (Washington, DC) on **Saturday, October 15th** at 2:00 pm. **Tickets: \$115 per ticket**. Reserve your ticket, you can make payments with all money being due by **September 11th**. As usual, we will try to provide transportation.

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/stmarksmd>)

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)

All branches of the Military, Lafayette Harvey, Anthony Latney, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

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