

# *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](mailto: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*

# *Second Sunday of Advent*

## *Encounter Peace*



*Sunday, December 4, 2022*  
*10:00 a.m.*

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*

*Sunday, December 4, 2022*

## *Second Sunday of Advent: Encounter Peace*

*Ushers:*

*Sharon Thomas, Chandler and Christian Tindal*

### *Order of Service*

*Sister Cynthia Augustus, Worship Leader*

**Prelude .....Rev. Henry Tindel**

**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 Cynthia Augustus**

**Leader:** Welcome to this advent of worship, this time of preparation.

**People:** We have come to worship in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

**People:** All are welcome in the name of the root of Jesse.

Leader: May the God of hope and peace fill you in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: Let us rejoice and praise the Lord!

All: "LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME"

*Lighting of the Advent Candle — Encounter Peace*  
*Deborah Ford and Sandra Johnson*

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 joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.
- 3 I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

Isaiah has given us a vision of hope and peace, of a time when enemies will play together as friends. This is only possible through the love of God. God forgive us when we do not love, when we seek revenge instead of reconciliation, when we misuse our power to rule over the powerless instead of offering a helping hand. Show us how to live so that the lamb will be able to lie down with the

lion, so that warring factions can finally live in peace. Forgive our unbelief evidenced in our unwillingness to live in peace. **Amen.**

**The Invocation.....Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
**Song of Meditation ..... St. Mark’s Choir**

**The Prayer of Illumination** *(In Unison)*

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path toward faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1 .....Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
*(Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19, Common English Bible)*

- 72** God, give your judgments to the king.  
Give your righteousness to the king’s son.  
<sup>2</sup> Let him judge your people with righteousness  
and your poor ones with justice.  
<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bring peace to the people;  
let the hills bring righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> Let the king bring justice to people who are poor;  
let him save the children of those who are needy,  
but let him crush oppressors!  
<sup>5</sup> Let the king live as long as the sun,  
as long as the moon,  
generation to generation.  
<sup>6</sup> Let him fall like rain upon fresh-cut grass,  
like showers that water the earth.  
<sup>7</sup> Let the righteous flourish throughout their lives,  
and let peace prosper until the moon is no more.  
  
<sup>18</sup> Bless the Lord God, the God of Israel—  
the only one who does wondrous things!  
<sup>19</sup> Bless God’s glorious name forever;  
let his glory fill all the earth!  
Amen and Amen!

**Selection ..... St. Mark’s Choir**

**Blessing of the Offering .....Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #2 (Gospel).....Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
(Matthew 3:1–12, Common English Bible)

**3** In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, <sup>2</sup>“Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” <sup>3</sup> He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

*The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.”*

<sup>4</sup> John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup> People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. <sup>6</sup> As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. <sup>7</sup> Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. <sup>9</sup> And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I’m not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

**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**

## ***“The Vision of Hope and Peace”***

“The wolf will live with the lamb; and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them”

*Isaiah 11:6, Common English Bible*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Invitation / Altar Call ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**  
**Invitation Selection**

## ***Holy Communion***

*Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Celebrant*

## ***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** *(sung by choir)*

**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.

*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.**

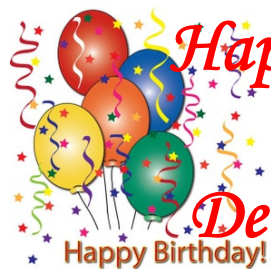
**Welcome of Visitors**

**Announcements**

**Pastor's Special Moment**

**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.**



# *Happy Birthday and Anniversary December Members*



## *Birthday*

<i>Sandra Johnson – 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>LáAngel Hall – 25<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Jane Matthews – 8<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Eugenia Matthews – 26<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Reginald Matthews – 14<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Sylvia Kenney – 27<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Dwayne Simms – 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Erica Roy – 27<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Lynn Jennrich – 22<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Ellen Hall – 29<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Tenaya Gibson – 23<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Joyce Gibson – 30<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Starr Kenney – 24<sup>th</sup></i>	

## *Anniversary*

<i>Michael &amp; Janet Carey – 14<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Horace &amp; Tasman Allen – 31<sup>st</sup></i>
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## *Heavenly Birthdays*

*Tracy Valle – 5<sup>th</sup>*  
*Melva (Peaches) King – 9<sup>th</sup>*  
*Ancil Harding – 23<sup>rd</sup>*

## *Announcements*

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

### **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.



The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

**December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Day 339 — Colossians 2:1–15  
Day 340 — Colossians 3:1–17  
Day 341 — 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10  
Day 342 — 1 Thessalonians 4:1–18  
Day 343 — 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12  
Day 344 — 2 Thessalonians 3:1–18  
Day 345 — 1 Timothy 4:1–16

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Women's Roundtable**. Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>,

**Meeting ID:** 885 7118 4455; **Passcode:** 459563

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 88571184455#, \*459563#

**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, December 8<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir** rehearsal

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** (9:00 a.m.) — **Christmas Morning service**

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Watch Night Service** will be held on Zoom. Zoom information will be forthcoming

**LARS “Adopt-A-Family” Christmas Program**

Gifts are due today, **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you need a little more time, you can also drop off items **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** or **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (last day)** between 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Gift cards are also being accepted if you didn't get to choose an item. Remember to **PLEASE** write the Family Number, Child's Initials, age, and gender on each individual gift.

**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 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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

*Condolence to the family of  
Mildred C. Awkward*

*Viewing: Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> (6:00–8:00 p.m.)  
St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707*

*Celebration of Life: Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Viewing: 10:00 a.m.; Service: 11:00 a.m.  
Queens Chapel United Methodist Church  
7410 Old Muirkirk Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705*

Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, David Burley Sr., All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

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