

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkslmd@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*

*443.257.2730 | [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*

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*

*Sunday, January 1, 2023*

# *Epiphany of the Lord*

## *Holy Communion*

*Ushers:*

*Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas*

### *Order of Service*

*Brother Thomas Matthews, 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 ..... Brother Thomas Matthews**

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations,

**People: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

Leader: We have come to sing of your goodness as we begin this new year.

**People: You are greatly to be praised for our past and for the future.**

Leader: Thank you for your extravagant generosity in bringing us to the beginning of 2023 and to this Epiphany Day of our Lord.

**People: We your people have come to praise you.**

**All: Thine is the Kingdom, Power and the Glory!!**

**Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation**

## ***“Holy, Holy, Holy”***

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

### **A Prayer for the New Year (*Unison*)**

Creator God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in this new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise; we have come into your presence with gladness and with a joyful noise, and above all, we have come to serve and bless you name. **Amen.**

**The Invocation..... Brother Thomas Matthews**  
**Song of Meditation ..... St. Mark’s Choir**

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

Almighty God, in you are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes, ears, minds, and spirits, in new and fresh ways in this new year that we may fully understand your way and wisdom for us as we hear your written word. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews** *(Isaiah 60:1–6, Common English Bible)*

- 60** Arise! Shine! Your light has come;  
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> Though darkness covers the earth  
and gloom the nations,  
the Lord will shine upon you;  
God's glory will appear over you.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light  
and kings to your dawning radiance.
- <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look all around:  
they are all gathered; they have come to you.  
Your sons will come from far away,  
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you will see and be radiant;  
your heart will tremble and open wide,  
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;  
the nations' wealth will come to you.
- <sup>6</sup> Countless camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
They will all come from Sheba,  
carrying gold and incense,  
proclaiming the Lord's praises.

### **Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews** *(Hebrews 2:10–18, Common English Bible)*

- <sup>10</sup> It was appropriate for God, for whom and through whom everything exists, to use experiences of suffering to make perfect the pioneer of salvation. This salvation belongs to many sons and daughters whom he's leading to glory. <sup>11</sup> This is because the one who makes people holy and the people who are being made holy all come from one source. That is why Jesus isn't ashamed to call them brothers and sisters when he says,

<sup>12</sup> *I will publicly announce your name to my brothers and sisters.  
I will praise you in the middle of the assembly.*

<sup>13</sup> He also says,  
*I will rely on him.*

And also,  
*Here I am with the children whom God has given to me.*

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he also shared the same things in the same way. He did this to destroy the one who holds the power over death—the devil—by dying. <sup>15</sup> He set free those who were held in slavery their entire lives by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> Of course, he isn't trying to help angels, but rather he's helping Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every way. This was so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to wipe away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> He's able to help those who are being tempted, since he himself experienced suffering when he was tempted.

**Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir**

**Blessing of the Offering ..... Brother Thomas Matthews**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Brother Thomas Matthews**  
*(Matthew 2:13–23, Common English Bible)*

<sup>13</sup> When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him.” <sup>14</sup> Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. <sup>15</sup> He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I have called my son out of Egypt.*

<sup>16</sup> When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>18</sup> *A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and much grieving.  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she did not want to be comforted,  
because they were no more.*

<sup>19</sup> After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> “Get up,” the angel said, “and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

**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**

***“A New Year’s Resolution”***

“Arise! Shine! Your Light has come, the Lord’s glory has shone upon you”

*Isaiah 60:1, Common English Bible*

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

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

**Invitation Selection — “I Need Thee Every Hour”**

# *The Great Thanksgiving for New Year, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, or Covenant Reaffirmation*

*The pastor stands behind the Lord's table.*

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 (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

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,  
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

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.

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.

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 (*God*),  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements ..... Brother Thomas Matthews**

### **Benediction**

### **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*

*Gail Gibson – 11<sup>th</sup>*  
*Troy Gibson (TJ) — 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Desiree Vanloo – 16<sup>th</sup>*  
*Floyd Hughes, Jr. – 23<sup>rd</sup>*



### *Anniversary*

*Floyd & Nena Hughes – 7<sup>th</sup>*



### *Heavenly Birthdays*

*Frances Davis – 5<sup>th</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.



**Tuesday Women's Roundtable** (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHRlYlJxK284Zz09>,

**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, January 5<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> — Human Relations Sunday.** Special giving Sunday, see flyer below.



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

*Condolence to the family of  
Sister Joan Moore*

*Celebration of Life: Friday, January 6, 2023*

*Viewing: 9:00 a.m.; Service: 11:00 a.m.*

*Queens Chapel United Methodist Church  
7410 Old Muirkirk Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705*

Elizabeth Day, 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, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

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