

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707
301.776.8885 | 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

Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

District Superintendent

for the Southern Annapolis Region

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Ushers:

Isaiah Brooks, Chandler and Christian Tindal

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, 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 WorshipSister Cynthia Whitfield

Leader: Praise the Lord! We gather and give thanks to God.

People:How incredible are the works of our God!

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful, faithful, and just.

People:Holy and awesome is God's name.

Leader: Wisdom begins with respect for the Lord.

People:May our praise go on forever.

All: We have come today to thank and praise God for Jesus.

Hymn of Praise Choir / Congregation

"My Hope Is Built"

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. ***(Refrain)***
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. ***(Refrain)***
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!
(Refrain)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Gracious God, what we must confess today is more obvious. We haven't always paid any attention to you when you called us to task. Even when we've heard you loud and clear, we like Jonah have said "NO". Thank you for believing in us beyond our failures. Thank you for giving us a chance now to say "YES". **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer.....St. Mark's Choir/Congregation

The Invocation.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Song of Meditation..... St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and minds as we read the scripture today. Help us to hear them in a new way. May our meditations and actions be acceptable to God and may the peace of Christ be with us. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Sister Cynthia Whitfield

(Micah 6:1-8, Common English Bible)

6 Hear what the Lord is saying:

Arise, lay out the lawsuit before the mountains;
let the hills hear your voice!

² Hear, mountains, the lawsuit of the Lord!
Hear, eternal foundations of the earth!

The Lord has a lawsuit against his people;
with Israel he will argue.

³ "My people, what did I ever do to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ I brought you up out of the land of Egypt;
I redeemed you from the house of slavery.
I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you.

⁵ My people, remember what Moab's King Balak had planned,
and how Balaam, Beor's son, answered him!

Remember everything^[a] from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you might learn to recognize the righteous acts of the Lord!”

⁶ With what should I approach the Lord
and bow down before God on high?
Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings,
with year-old calves?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with many torrents of oil?
Should I give my oldest child for my crime;
the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?

⁸ He has told you, human one, what is good and
what the Lord requires from you:
to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia Whitfield

(1 Corinthians 1:18–31, Common English Bible)

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. ¹⁹ It is written in scripture: *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent.* ²⁰ Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today’s debaters? Hasn’t God made the wisdom of the world foolish? ²¹ In God’s wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn’t come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. ²² Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. ²⁴ But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God’s power and God’s wisdom. ²⁵ This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. ²⁷ But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. ²⁸ And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. ²⁹ So no human being can brag in God’s presence. ³⁰ It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us. ³¹ This is consistent with what was written: *The one who brags should brag in the Lord!*

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Blessing of the Offering Sister Cynthia Whitfield
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Matthew 5:1–12, Common English Bible)

5 ¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ² He taught them, saying:

³ “Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

⁵ “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

⁷ “Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

⁹ “Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.

¹⁰ “Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. ¹² Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

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

“Walking Humbly With God”

“He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God”.

Micah 6:8, Common English Bible

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

Benediction

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 01/22/2023	
In-Person	59
Zoom	13
Total	72

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.



Yearly Contributions are ready for pick up in the Finance Room after Church

Today, Sunday, January 29th (following morning service) — Short presentation with members from **Sacred Gardens** — “What’s Growing Around the Marquee”.

Monday, January 30th (7:00 p.m.) — **Nomination Committee** meeting. Same Zoom information as Sunday service.

Tuesday Women’s Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — **On hiatus until February 7th.**

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 2nd (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Friday, February 17th (11:00 a.m.) — **Variety Dinner** sponsored by Emancipation Committee (call church to order – 301.776.8885).

Dinner: ½ Chicken (White/Dark meat or Fried Fish), Fresh Greens, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Bread, no substitutions). **Donation: \$18.50.** Side orders – \$2.00 each, desserts – \$2.00 and sodas – \$1.00. If you have additional questions, please talk with member of committee: Tommy, Tiara, Patricia, Larry or Tina). Thank you in advance for your participation.

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.

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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