

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

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

*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 8, 2023*

## *Baptism of the Lord*

*Ushers:*

*Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews*

### *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: The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

**People: The voice breaks the cedars.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.

**People: The voice of the Lord causes oaks to whirl.**

Leader: And when Jesus was baptized, just as he came up from the water, the heavens opened and God's spirit descended.

**All: And a voice from heaven said, " This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased.**

## *“O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”*

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.
6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come,  
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

### **Baptismal Prayer** (*Unison*)

Holy God, we praise your name, we honor your presence as we come into this Holy Place. As the Holy Spirit descended upon our Savior so long ago at the River Jordan, may the same Spirit descend upon us this day. Lord, as we enter your water to bathe today, may we remember our baptism. Wash us with your grace, fill us with your spirit and renew our souls. May we leave this place today with the sure conviction that God goes with us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

**The Invocation.....Sister Cynthia Augustus**

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

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

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes, ears and minds afresh in this new year to the wonders of your Word. Transform us today in our renewal of Baptism that will enable us to go forward from this worship with a renewed experience of your Holy spirit. Now speak to each heart as we hear your Word. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1 .....Sister Cynthia Augustus**

*(Isaiah 42:1–9, Common English Bible)*

**42** But here is my servant, the one I uphold;  
my chosen, who brings me delight.

I've put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He won't cry out or shout aloud  
or make his voice heard in public.

<sup>3</sup> He won't break a bruised reed;  
he won't extinguish a faint wick,  
but he will surely bring justice.

<sup>4</sup> He won't be extinguished or broken  
until he has established justice in the land.

The coastlands await his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> God the Lord says—  
the one who created the heavens,  
the one who stretched them out,  
the one who spread out the earth and its offspring,  
the one who gave breath to its people  
and life to those who walk on it—

<sup>6</sup> I, the Lord, have called you for a good reason.  
I will grasp your hand and guard you,  
and give you as a covenant to the people,  
as a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison,  
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

- <sup>8</sup> I am the Lord;  
that is my name;  
I don't hand out my glory to others  
or my praise to idols.
- <sup>9</sup> The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened,  
but I'm declaring new things.  
Before they even appear,  
I tell you about them.

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
*(Acts 10:34–43, Common English Bible)*

<sup>34</sup> Peter said, “I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. <sup>35</sup> Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! <sup>37</sup> You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. <sup>38</sup> You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, <sup>41</sup> not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**

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

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
(Matthew 3:13–17, Common English Bible)

<sup>13</sup> At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. <sup>14</sup> John tried to stop him and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.”

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. <sup>16</sup> When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. <sup>17</sup> A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him.”

**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.**

*The Baptismal Covenant IV*  
*Congregational Reaffirmation of the*  
*Baptismal Covenant*

***Introduction to the Service***

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ’s holy church.

We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith

we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,

acknowledge what God is doing for us,

and affirm our commitment to Christ’s holy church.

***Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith***

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of this world,

and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,  
put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

According to the grace given to you,  
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

**I do.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith  
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
[the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.]**

## ***Thanksgiving Over the Water***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

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

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

### ***“Remembering Our Baptism”***

<sup>13</sup> At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. <sup>15</sup> Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness." So John agreed to baptize Jesus.

*Matthew 3:13, 15, Common English Bible*

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

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

**Invitation Selection — “Certainly Lord”**

**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 — 01/01/2023	
In-Person	31
Zoom	17
Total	48

## 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.



**Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Nomination Committee** meeting. An email was sent out to members of the committee. This will be a brief meeting, please be prompt. Use the morning service Zoom information for log in (**sent in email**). If you can't be present, let Rev. Matthews know. Thank you for your participation.

**Tuesday Women's Roundtable** (6:30 p.m.) — 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, January 12<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  
Brother John B. Catchings*

***Celebration of Life:*** Saturday, January 21, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.  
C.W. Morris – J.W. Henry Funeral Home  
12700 Hamilton Avenue \* Highland Park, MI 48203  
([www.morrishenryfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrishenryfuneralhome.com))

***Note:*** The service will be streamed live. There will be a viewing at the funeral home on Friday, January 20, 2023, from 1:00 pm–8:00 pm.

*Condolence to Rev. David and Beverly Shelton on the  
passing of their daughter, Monique*

*Expressions of Sympathy can be sent to:  
154 Goulding Avenue | Buffalo, NY 14208*

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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