

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

410.379.0600 | 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*

Christmas Day
Encounter Emmanuel



Sunday, December 25, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day: Encounter Emmanuel

Ushers:

Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, Worship Leader

PreludeRev. 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: The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Leader: The Lord has made his salvation widely known.

People: He has revealed his righteousness in the eyes of all the nations.

Leader: "A child has been born to us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;

People: **and he is named "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

Lighting of Christ Candle

All: **Let Us Rejoice Out Loud and Sing Praises!!**

Instrumental Solo.....Sister Jacqueline Jones

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

The Invocation.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield
The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that
we may receive what you have commanded. May we find the
power and wisdom of God in the words we are about to hear today.
Come Holy Spirit, come. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Isaiah 9:2–7, Common English Bible)

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those
living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. ³ You have made the
nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you
as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. ⁴ As
on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened

them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.
⁵ Because every boot of the thundering warriors, and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire. ⁶ A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be vast authority and endless peace for David’s throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Blessing of the OfferingSister Cynthia Whitfield
Offertory

Scripture Reading #2 (Gospel).....Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Luke 2:1–20, Common English Bible)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened.

Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

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 Promise Realized”

“⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.”

Luke 2:6–7, Common English Bible

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection — “Joy to the World”

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Benediction

Announcements

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

Church Office will be closed from December 24th thru December 31st

To our St. Mark's Family:

May All the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of The Season Be Yours.
We also thank you for the many cards, gifts and well wishes that
have been extended to us during this Holy Season.



*From The Matthews Family
Pastor Matthews, Miss Jane and Eugenia*

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.



January Birthdays and Anniversaries, please send to me this week.

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

December 26th – December 30th

Day 360 — 1 John 3:1–24

Day 361 — 1 John 5:1–21

Day 362 — Jude 1:17–25

Day 363 — Revelation 1:1–20

Day 364 — Revelation 21:1–27

Day 365 — Revelation 22:1–21

**Tuesday Women's Roundtable and Wednesday Night Experience —
On hiatus until January 3 and 4, 2023, respectively.**

Choir — No rehearsal this week, but please be in sanctuary at 9:15 on
January 1, 2023

Saturday, December 31st (7:00 p.m.) — Watch Night Service will be
held on Zoom. Program and Zoom information will be forthcoming

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)

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

Eunice Dumas

1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Grace Elaine Catchings

15505 Clayburn Drive
Laurel, MD 20707
301.490.8774
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)