

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | 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

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, February 26, 2023

Black History Month

First Sunday in Lent



Ushers:

Ralph Laguerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Sister Erica Roy, 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 Erica Roy

Leader: Come let us walk together in the light of the Lord!

People: May he teach us his ways that we may walk in his path.

Leader: Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

People: Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful.

Leader: God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: Come let us follow in the path of God during these
forty days of “LENT”.

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

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain, free to
all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary’s mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my raptured
soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

(Refrain)

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me.

(Refrain)

4. Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I
reach the golden strand just beyond the river. ***(Refrain)***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my
sins. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right
spirit within me. Through your spirit open our hands and hearts
and cleanse us from all our sins. Forgive us O GOD and forgive us
of our failings. In your name we ask. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation.....**Sister Erica Roy**

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

Black History Moment**Kamille Quick & Isaiah Brooks**

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

Guide us, O GOD, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light
we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will
discover your peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Sister Erica Roy
(*Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7, Common English Bible*)

¹⁵ The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. ¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the human, “Eat your fill from all of the garden’s trees; ¹⁷ but don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!”

Knowledge, not eternal life

3 The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say that you shouldn’t eat from any tree in the garden?”

² The woman said to the snake, “We may eat the fruit of the garden’s trees ³ but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, ‘Don’t eat from it, and don’t touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ The snake said to the woman, “You won’t die! ⁵ God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

Scripture Reading #2Sister Erica Roy
(*Romans 5:12–19, Common English Bible*)

Grace now rules

¹² Just as through one human being sin came into the world, and death came through sin, so death has come to everyone, since everyone has sinned. ¹³ Although sin was in the world, since there was no Law, it wasn’t taken into account until the Law came. ¹⁴ But death ruled from Adam until Moses, even over those who didn’t sin in the same way Adam did—Adam was a type of the one who was coming.

¹⁵ But the free gift of Christ isn’t like Adam’s failure. If many people died through what one person did wrong, God’s grace is multiplied even more for many people with the gift—of the one person Jesus Christ—that comes through grace. ¹⁶ The gift isn’t

like the consequences of one person’s sin. The judgment that came from one person’s sin led to punishment, but the free gift that came out of many failures led to the verdict of acquittal. ¹⁷ If death ruled because of one person’s failure, those who receive the multiplied grace and the gift of righteousness will even more certainly rule in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ So now the righteous requirements necessary for life are met for everyone through the righteous act of one person, just as judgment fell on everyone through the failure of one person. ¹⁹ Many people were made righteous through the obedience of one person, just as many people were made sinners through the disobedience of one person.

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Erica Roy

Blessing of the OfferingSister Erica Roy
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Erica Roy
(Matthew 4:1–11, Common English Bible)

Temptation of Jesus

⁴ Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. ² After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “Since you are God’s Son, command these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus replied, “It’s written, *People won’t live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*”

⁵ After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, ⁶“Since you are God’s Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won’t hit your foot on a stone.*”

⁷ Jesus replied, “Again it’s written, *Don’t test the Lord your God.*”

⁸ Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ He said, “I’ll give you all these if you bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus responded, “Go away, Satan, because it’s written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*” ¹¹ The devil left him, and angels came and took care of 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.**

Black History Moment Thomas Matthews & Cynthia Whitfield

Hymn of Preparation..... St. Mark’s Choir

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

“Provisions in the Wilderness”

“Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him”

Matthew 4:1, 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		
	02/19/2023	Ash Wednesday
In-Person	47	26
Zoom	15	15
Total	62	41
Week Total: 103		

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.**

Saturday, April 15th (2:00 p.m.) — **“Shout Sister Shout” — Ford Theater, Washington, DC.** Donation: \$90 per person. Need 10 people to get this group rate. Contact Cynthia (301.776.2420). **Need to know by February 28th.**



Inspired by Gayle F. Wald's book *Shout, Sister, Shout!*, this new musical tells the story of Sister Rosetta Tharpe—one of America's most influential rock, R&B and gospel crossover singers and guitarists. Ambitious, courageous and uncompromisingly public, Tharpe became a pioneer of the women's movement for racial and sexual equality and musical legend who redefined the national and international music scene in the 1930s and 40s and beyond.

Sacred Grounds: Free Native Plants! Our Mother's Day Native Plant giveaway has been scheduled for **Sunday, May 14, 2023**. To receive plants, please register online at <https://www.nwf/NativePlantPledge>. If you have questions, please contact Jackie Jones.

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.

Shawn Settles, Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd and Barbara Hughes Sr., Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Phillip Reese, Leah Henry, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), 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

Edlin Chambers
14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

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

Ruth Miller
1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560