

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

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"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, March 26, 2023

Women History Month

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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: Let us pause and take a deep breath (*Pause*).

People: **Feel the power of air that is within you.**

Leader: Take another deep breath, Imagine it's the breath of God.

People: **As we take our next breath, feel the strength and love of God entering into your being.**

Leader: Our Lord's word declares the presence of the spirit as we gather.

People: **Come now, let us worship God in spirit and in truth.**

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Refrain

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray. Yes,
every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

- 1 Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire
and smoke. When all around me looks so shine, I ask my Lord
if all was mine. ***(Refrain)***
- 2 'Ol Jordan River, chilly and cold, it chills the body, but not the
soul. There ain't but one train that's on this track, it runs to
heaven and runs right back. ***(Refrain)***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Loving God, we know there are times we feel surrounded by
hopelessness. We don't know where to turn. We feel life has left us
and those we love and find ourselves longing for endings. Yet,
you, O God, come to us even in those times. You challenge us.
You remind us that we are not forgotten. You breathe new life, and
your holy spirit makes us come alive. So be with us now, forgive
us for our doubts and renew our spirits. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that
we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have
commanded. May we find the power and wisdom of God in the
words we hear today.

Scripture Reading #1Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Ezekiel 37:1-14, Common English Bible)

37 The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's
spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain
valley. It was full of bones. ² He led me through them all around,
and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor,
and they were very dry.

³ He asked me, “Human one, can these bones live again?”

I said, “Lord God, only you know.”

⁴ He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord’s word! ⁵ The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. ⁶ I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. ⁸ When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

⁹ He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live.”

¹⁰ I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

¹¹ He said to me, “Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.’ ¹² So now, prophecy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land. ¹³ You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. ¹⁴ I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I’ve spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says.”

Scripture Reading #2Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(*Romans 8:8–11, Common English Bible*)

⁸ People who are self-centered aren’t able to please God.

⁹ But you aren’t self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God’s Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn’t have the Spirit of Christ, they don’t belong to him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God’s righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. ¹¹ If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the

dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Cynthia Whitfield

Blessing of the OfferingSister Cynthia Whitfield
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(John 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33–45, Common English Bible)

³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, “Lord, the one whom you love is ill.”

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, “This illness isn’t fatal. It’s for the glory of God so that God’s Son can be glorified through it.” ⁵ Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶ When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, ⁷ he said to his disciples, “Let’s return to Judea again.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you.”

²³ Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. ²⁶ Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ She replied, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God’s Son, the one who is coming into the world.”

³³ When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. ³⁴ He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

They replied, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Jesus began to cry. ³⁶ The Jews said, “See how much he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Remove the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, “Lord, the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days.”

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed 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.**

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

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

“Remedies for Dry Situations”

⁴ He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord’s word! ⁵ The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again.

Ezekiel 37:4–5 (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 — 03/19/2023

In-Person	46
Zoom	14
Total	60

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=UmpvVERkcjkyVFV0VHR1YlJxK284Zz09>, **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, March 30th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Friday, April 7th (Noon) — **In-Person Good Friday** service.
Additional information forthcoming.

Friday, April 7th (1:00–6:00 p.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 – \$3.00 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.

The **Laurel TV** conducted an interview with **Mr. Gregg** about his **Stamp Collection**. Below is the Youtube link for your viewing: <https://youtu.be/Szc9nEICGIM>.

Special Note: Our members, Jerral and Umbrenda Fisher's niece had a fire in the Pennsylvania area and has been displaced with 6 children. Below is a link to a GoFundMe page with her story: [Fundraiser by Mori Barksdale : Recovering from Fire \(gofundme.com\)](#). I'm sure they will appreciate whatever you can do to help.

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 www.nwf.org/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/stmarks/md>)

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.

Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Shawn Settles, Floyd Hughes Sr., 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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