

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, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

Ushers: Ralph Laguerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Min. Nena Hughes, 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 **Min. Nena Hughes**

Leader: On this Holy Day, we enter worship to declare our fealty.

People: **What does the Lord seek from us?**

Leader: The sacrifice of God are a broken spirit and a contrite heart.

People: **A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

ALL: O give thanks to the lord, who is good, and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn of Praise.....St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"The Old Rugged Cross"

- 1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

- So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.
- 2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. ***[Refrain]***
- 3 In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. ***[Refrain]***
- 4 To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. ***[Refrain]***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

God of Righteousness, we await you at the gates of your holy sanctuary. With our palm branches waving, we greet you as ruler over our lives. We thank you for this wonderful moment. Grant us strength and courage as we abandon this high place and prepare to descend into the shadow of death. Abide with us through the terrible hours of the passion of Christ, and also in our own times of abandonment and suffering. Make us ready to take up our cross and follow you, faithfully, and beyond, to the glory of the resurrection. **Amen.**

The Invocation.....Min. Nena Hughes
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and minds as we read the scriptures today. Help us to hear them in a New celebrative manner as we say Hosanna to the Son of David. May our meditations and actions be acceptable to God and may the peace of God be with us.

Scripture Reading #1Min. Nena Hughes
(*Isaiah 50:4–9a, Common English Bible*)

God's faithful servant

⁴The Lord God gave me an educated tongue
to know how to respond to the weary
with a word that will awaken them in the morning.
God awakens my ear in the morning to listen,
as educated people do.

⁵The Lord God opened my ear;
I didn't rebel; I didn't turn my back.

⁶Instead, I gave my body to attackers,
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.

I didn't hide my face
from insults and spitting.

⁷The Lord God will help me;
therefore, I haven't been insulted.

Therefore, I set my face like flint,
and knew I wouldn't be ashamed.

⁸The one who will declare me innocent is near.
Who will argue with me?

Let's stand up together.
Who will bring judgment against me?
Let him approach me.

⁹Look! The Lord God will help me.
Who will condemn me?

Look, they will wear out like clothing;
the moth will eat them.

Scripture Reading #2 **Min. Nena Hughes**
(*Philippians 2:5–11, Common English Bible*)

⁵ Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Though he was in the form of God,
he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.

⁷ But he emptied himself
by taking the form of a slave
and by becoming like human beings.

When he found himself in the form of a human,

⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God highly honored him
and gave him a name above all names,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus everyone
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow

¹¹ and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements **Min. Nena Hughes**

Blessing of the Offering **Min. Nena Hughes**
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) **Min. Nena Hughes**
(*Matthew 21:1–11, Common English Bible*)

21 When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. ² He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away. ⁴ Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, ⁵ *Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.”* ⁶ The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

⁸ Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “*Hosanna* to the Son of David! *Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna* in the highest!” ¹⁰ And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked. ¹¹ The crowds answered, “It’s the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

“The Lord Has Need of It – And You”

2 He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.”

Matthew 21:2–3 (Common English Bible)

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving for Later in Lent

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
In love you made us for yourself;
and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death,
your love remained steadfast.
You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the Easter feast,
that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments
and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy,
we may come to the fullness of grace
that you have prepared for those who love you.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
being born in our likeness.

He humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

He took upon himself our sin and death and offered himself,
a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for
ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray

The Lord's Prayer (*St. Mark's Choir*)

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we
all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing
in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of
Christ.

Giving the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Blessing and Distribution of the Palms

Selection **“O Magnify the Lord”**

Dismissal With Blessing

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Benediction



Happy Birthday and Anniversary April Members



Birthdays

<i>Alexandria Dustin – 2nd</i>	<i>Francis DeSouza – 14th</i>
<i>Robert Catchings (Mr. Bob) – 2nd</i>	<i>Alex Dustin – 18th</i>
<i>Thomas Matthews – 3rd</i>	<i>Patricia Mundell – 20th</i>
<i>Dwight Jackson – 3rd</i>	<i>Jaime Coffen – 21st</i>
<i>Isaiah Brooks – 4th</i>	<i>Tashana Johnson Frink – 23rd</i>
<i>Devin Roy – 6th</i>	<i>Maurice (Michael) Carey – 25th</i>
<i>Deidre Burley-Ballard – 9th</i>	<i>David E. Burley III – 27th</i>
<i>Danielle King – 13th</i>	<i>Janet Carey – 27th</i>

Anniversaries

<i>Joseph & Deidre Ballard – 8th</i> <i>(17 yrs.)</i>	<i>Tenaya & Camisha Gibson – 29th</i> <i>(2 yrs.)</i>
<i>Charles & Barbara Gregg – 12th</i> <i>(54 yrs.)</i>	

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 — 03/26/2023

In-Person	33
Zoom	12
Total	45

March Average Attendance: 59

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/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09>, **Meeting ID:** 885 7118 4455;
Passcode: 459563

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 88571184455#, *459563#

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — **No Class this week.**
This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.**

Thursday, April 6th (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.

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/stmarkslmd>)

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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