

# *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](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, April 23, 2023*

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*Native American Ministries Sunday*

*Ushers: Thomas Matthews and Gemma Deso*

*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:** We give you thanks for the gift of this day.

**People:** For you alone are good.

**Leader:** Each day brings delight and new opportunities to live for you.

**People:** This is another day that the Lord has made.

**Leader:** We rejoice and are glad in it.

**People:** Guide our feet as we continue to walk in this race.

**ALL:** O for a closer walk with you, a calm and heavenly frame.

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

*"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"*

**Refrain:**

Just a closer walk with Thee;  
Grant it, Jesus, if you please,  
Daily walking close with Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

- 1 I am weak but Thou art strong,  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong,  
I'll be satisfied as long,  
as I walk, Let me walk close with Thee. *[Refrain]*
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. *[Refrain]*
- 3 When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me won't be no more,  
Guide me gently, safely o'er,  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. *[Refrain]*

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

O God, while the high and holy experiences of recent weeks are now memories, grant that this day our joy shall be that of the risen Lord as we walk this road of life. Sometimes the walk seems lonely. Often, we are tempted to abandon the journey, or take the path of least resistance. Forgive us when we have not lived up to the challenges you have given us in this life. Forgive us when we retreat from the difficult journeys in life. Remind us of your presence, remind us that all we need is to open our eyes, our hearts, and our spirits and that you are near to us, and we will see you walking beside us. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)

**The Invocation** ..... **Sister Erica Roy**  
**Song of Meditation** ..... **St. Mark's Choir**

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

O Master let me walk with thee in lonely paths of service free, help us to hear you in the words that we hear in scripture today. After hearing and ingesting your word, we can continue our walk in faith each day by day.

**Scripture Reading #1**..... **Sister Erica Roy**  
*(Acts 2:14a, 36–41, Common English Bible)*

<sup>14</sup> Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

<sup>37</sup> When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.” <sup>40</sup> With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them,

saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted Peter’s message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

**Scripture Reading #2.....Sister Erica Roy**  
*(1 Peter 1:17–23, Common English Bible)*

<sup>17</sup> Since you call upon a Father who judges all people according to their actions without favoritism, you should conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your dwelling in a strange land. <sup>18</sup> Live in this way, knowing that you were not liberated by perishable things like silver or gold from the empty lifestyle you inherited from your ancestors. <sup>19</sup> Instead, you were liberated by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a flawless, spotless lamb. <sup>20</sup> Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but was only revealed at the end of time. This was done for you, <sup>21</sup> who through Christ are faithful to the God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory. So now, your faith and hope should rest in God.

<sup>22</sup> As you set yourselves apart by your obedience to the truth so that you might have genuine affection for your fellow believers, love each other deeply and earnestly. <sup>23</sup> Do this because you have been given new birth—not from the type of seed that decays but from seed that doesn’t. This seed is God’s life-giving and enduring word.

**Selection.....St. Mark’s Choir**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**  
**Announcements .....Sister Erica Roy**

**Blessing of the Offering.....Sister Erica Roy**  
**Special Offering — Native American Ministries**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) .....Sister Erica Roy**  
*(Luke 24:13–35, Common English Bible)*

<sup>13</sup> On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. <sup>16</sup> They were prevented from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast.

<sup>18</sup> The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

<sup>19</sup> He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. <sup>20</sup> But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup> We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. <sup>22</sup> But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a

vision of angels who told them he is alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. <sup>26</sup> Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

<sup>28</sup> When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

<sup>33</sup> They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

**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**

*“Missing the Obvious”*

*While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.*  
*Luke 24:15–16 (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 — 04/16/2023	
In-Person	38
Zoom	11
Total	49

### 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.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.**

**Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

**Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Special Charge/ Church Conference.** The express purpose is to establish an endowment at St. Mark's. The presiding elder will be Rev. Sarah Schlieckert. Here is the ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88690483472>. **If you have any questions about the upcoming meeting, please speak to Rev. Matthews.**

**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](http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantPledge). If you have questions, please contact Jackie Jones.

**NOTE: Preparing for May Birthdays and Anniversaries. If May is your month, please email me.**

**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/stmarksimd>)

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).

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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