

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarksmd@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 30, 2023*

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*Ushers:*

*Jalani Robinson, Isaiah Brooks, Jeremiah Laguerre*

*Order of Service*

*Brother Charles Gregg, 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** Brother Charles Gregg

**Leader:** Shepherd us, O God.

**People:** Lead us in paths of righteousness.

**Leader:** Heal our blindness so that we may follow the Good Shepherd.

**People:** Comfort us with your goodness and mercy.

**Leader:** Christ is risen and reigns in humble majesty.

**People:** Shepherd us, Lord Jesus, that we may be the sheep of your pasture.

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

## *“Lead Me Guide Me”*

### ***Refrain:***

Lead me, guide me along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power  
To help me over my weakest hour;  
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***[Refrain]***
2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***[Refrain]***
3. I am lost, if You take your hand from me;  
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;  
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***[Refrain]***

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

Loving God, we confess that we would like to be great. Even more, we would like to be known for our greatness. Forgive our foolish pride, and our appearing small in the eyes of others, and in our own eyes. Cleanse our hearts by faith that we might joyfully follow thee, Lord Jesus in lives of and love, that your name might be honored, and all creation may be blessed. **Amen.**

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

**The Invocation** ..... **Brother Charles Gregg**  
**Song of Meditation**..... **St. Mark's Choir**

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

O God, may you instill in us the power and graciousness of the words of scripture we hear today. Allow the spirit of our ancestors to speak to us through the readings and the proclamation. Above all, on this celebrative day, speak to our hearts through your WORD today.

### **Scripture Reading #1**..... **Brother Charles Gregg** (*Acts 2:42–47, Common English Bible*)

<sup>42</sup> The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. <sup>43</sup> A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were united and shared everything. <sup>45</sup> They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. <sup>46</sup> Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. <sup>47</sup> They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

### **Scripture Reading #2**..... **Brother Charles Gregg** (*Psalms 84, Common English Bible*)

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord of heavenly forces!

<sup>2</sup> My very being longs, even yearns,  
for the Lord's courtyards.

My heart and my body  
will rejoice out loud to the living God!

<sup>3</sup> Yes, the sparrow too has found a home there;  
the swallow has found herself a nest  
where she can lay her young beside your altars,  
Lord of heavenly forces, my king, my God!

<sup>4</sup> Those who live in your house are truly happy;  
they praise you constantly. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup> Those who put their strength in you are truly happy;  
pilgrimage is in their hearts.

<sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Baca Valley,  
they make it a spring of water.  
Yes, the early rain covers it with blessings.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength,  
until they see the supreme God in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> Lord God of heavenly forces,  
hear my prayer;  
listen closely, Jacob's God! *Selah*

<sup>9</sup> Look at our shield, God;  
pay close attention to the face of your anointed one!

<sup>10</sup> Better is a single day in your courtyards  
than a thousand days anywhere else!

I would prefer to stand outside the entrance of my God's house  
than live comfortably in the tents of the wicked!

<sup>11</sup> The Lord is a sun and shield;  
God is favor and glory.

The Lord gives—doesn't withhold!—good things  
to those who walk with integrity.

<sup>12</sup> Lord of heavenly forces,  
those who trust in you are truly happy!

**Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements ..... Brother Charles Gregg**

**Blessing of the Offering..... Brother Charles Gregg**

**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) ..... Brother Charles Gregg**

*(John 10:1–10, Common English Bible)*

<sup>1</sup> I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they

know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." <sup>6</sup> Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

**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**

***“What's On Your Bucket List?”***

*How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of heavenly forces! My very being longs, even yearns, for the Lord's courtyards. My heart and my body will rejoice out loud to the living God!*

*Psalm 84:1-2 (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 — 04/23/2023	
In-Person	50
Zoom	11
Total	61

## 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.**

**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.**

**Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

**Special Note:** All ladies are being asked to wear a Crown on Mother's Day.

**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.



**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** (following morning service) — **Class Leader** meeting in the Fellowship Hall

**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/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](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

**Eunice Dumas**

1909 Sheffield Court  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**

9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Edlin Chambers**

14904 4<sup>th</sup> 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