

## *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkslmd@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, May 21, 2023*

## *Ascension of the Lord*

*Ushers: Sharon Thomas and Ralph Laguerre*

### *Order of Service*

*Sister Cynthia Whitfield, 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 Cynthia Whitfield**

Leader: Clap your hands and shout for joy.

**People:For the Lord God is an awesome God. God rules over heaven and earth.**

Leader: God rules to bring new life.

**People:God sends the Spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Lord, make us bold in our witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People:Teach us your ways and give us wisdom.**

**All: OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!**

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

### *"Lift Him Up"*

- 1 How to reach the masses, those of ev'ry birth,  
For an answer Jesus gave the key;

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,  
Will draw all men unto Me.”

***Refrain:***

Lift Him up, Lift Him up,  
Still He speaks from eternity:  
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,  
Will draw all men unto Me.”

- 2 Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread,  
Lift the Savior up for them to see;  
Trust Him and do not doubt the words that He said,  
“I’ll draw all men unto Me.” ***[Refrain]***
- 3 Don’t exalt the preacher, don’t exalt the pew,  
Preach the Gospel simple, full and free;  
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true,  
“I’ll draw all men unto Me.” ***[Refrain]***
- 4 Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,  
Let the world in you the Savior see;  
Then all will gladly follow Him who once taught,  
“I’ll draw all men unto Me.” ***[Refrain]***

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

O God, so often we are short-sighted in our thinking and serving. We focus only on our own needs, hopes and plans. We are content to just wait; wait for our prayers to be answered and wait for your second coming. Shake us up by the power of your Holy Spirit. Correct our limited vision with your unlimited grace in Jesus Christ. Lead us, empower us, for our deeds and witness. Help us to trust in your ever-present power and grace, so that as we move into the world we may bring healing in body and spirit. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (*sung*)

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

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

Calm us, O Lord, into the quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope in your resurrection witness.

**Scripture Reading #1 .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**  
(*Acts 1:1–11, Common English Bible*)

**The risen Jesus with his disciples**

<sup>1</sup> Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, <sup>2</sup> right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God’s kingdom. <sup>4</sup> While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, “This is what you heard from me: <sup>5</sup> John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

**Scripture Reading #2 .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**  
(*Ephesians 1:15–23, Common English Bible*)

**Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians**

<sup>15</sup> Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, this is the reason that <sup>16</sup> I don’t stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God’s call, what is the richness of God’s glorious inheritance among believers, <sup>19</sup> and what is the overwhelming greatness of God’s power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God’s powerful strength. <sup>20</sup> God’s power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God’s right side in the heavens, <sup>21</sup> far above every ruler and

authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. <sup>22</sup> God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

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

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

**Blessing of the Offering .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

*(Luke 24:44–53, Common English Bible)*

<sup>44</sup> Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

**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**

## *“Living Out in God's World”*

*“After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight.”*

*Acts 1:9 (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 — 05/14/2023	
In-Person	78
Zoom	16
Total	94

## 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.



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

**Tuesday Women's Roundtable** (6:30 p.m.) — **No Class this week** Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09>, Meeting ID: 885 7118 4455; Passcode: 459563 One tap mobile: +13017158592, 88571184455#, \*459563#

**Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **SPECIAL** Church Council Meeting. **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85241368305?pwd=Ync2Rm54Y2VxREc5RFZLMGMvMkYzdz09>; Meeting ID: 852 4136 8305; Passcode: Church; One tap mobile: +13017158592,,85241368305#,,, \*493183# US

**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, May 25<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>** (3:00 p.m.) — **Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary** for **Rev. Dr. William E Butler** (Queens Chapel UMC). *For additional information, please see the invitation on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.*

**NOTE: Preparing for June Birthdays and Anniversaries. If June 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).

Carol Quick, Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette and Elaine 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 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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