

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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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, May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Ushers:

Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas

Order of Service

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, 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 **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

Leader: Let us come together and bless the Lord.

People: **You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you!**

Leader: Let us keep the Lord always before us.

People: **You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you!**

Leader: Let our hearts be glad and rejoice in the Lord!

People: **You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.**

All: **Show us the path of life and the joy of your presence.**

"There is a Fountain Filled With Blood"

1. There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.
2. The dying thief rejoiced to see
that fountain in his day;
and there may I, though vile as he,
wash all my sins away.
Wash all my sins away, wash all my sins away;
and there may I, though vile as he,
wash all my sins away.
3. Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood
shall never lose its power
till all the ransomed church of God
be saved, to sin no more.
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more;
till all the ransomed church of God
be saved, to sin no more.
4. E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
thy flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme,
and shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
redeeming love has been my theme,
and shall be till I die.
5. Then in a nobler, sweeter song,
I'll sing thy power to save,
when this poor lisping, stammering tongue
lies silent in the grave.
Lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave;
when this poor lisping, stammering tongue
lies silent in the grave.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

God, we are people full of doubts, worries, and concerns. We constantly see evidence that sometimes testifies against the salvation that Christ brought into this world. The violence and death we witness on a daily basis leave us doubtful that a peaceful kingdom can ever come to pass. Forgive our doubts, Holy God, and help us to use those doubts to deepen our faith. Thank you for our doubts, God, and help us use them to deepen our faith and deepen our commitment to being your servants in this world. **Amen.**

The Invocation **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

Song of Meditation **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

O God, your word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, we do so in the afterglow of celebrating Resurrection Sunday. Send your Holy Spirit to infuse your word with truth and grace so that the good news of your love will shine before our eyes and delight our senses.

Scripture Reading #1 **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

(*Acts 7:55–60, Common English Bible*)

⁵⁵ But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side. ⁵⁶ He exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God's right side!" ⁵⁷ At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, ⁵⁸ threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" ⁶⁰ Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died.

Scripture Reading #2 **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

(*1 Peter 2:2–10, Common English Bible*)

² Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, ³ since you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. ⁵ You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Thus it is written in scripture, *Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be shamed.* ⁷ So God honors you who believe. For those who refuse to believe, though, the stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone. ⁸ This is a stone that makes people

stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Because they refuse to believe in the word, they stumble. Indeed, this is the end to which they were appointed. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. ¹⁰ Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

SelectionSt. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsRev. Eugene W. Matthews

Blessing of the OfferingRev. Eugene W. Matthews
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Rev. Eugene W. Matthews
(John 14:1–14, Common English Bible)

14 “Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. ² My Father’s house has room to spare. If that weren’t the case, would I have told you that I’m going to prepare a place for you? ³ When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. ⁴ You know the way to the place I’m going.”

⁵ Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus replied, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don’t speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. ¹² I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

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 PreparationSt. Mark’s Choir

Inspirational MessageRev. Dr. George F. DeFord

“Follow the Way”

“Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. My Father’s house has room to spare. If that weren’t the case, would I have told you that I’m going to prepare a place for you? When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. You know the way to the place I’m going.” Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him.”

John 14:1–7 (Common English Bible)

Praise and Prayer Concerns.....Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord

Invitation / Altar Call.....Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord

Invitation Selection

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving for Easter Day or Season

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Celebrant

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,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey,
and set before us the way of life.

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.
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.

By your great mercy we have been born anew
to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
Once we were no people, but now we are your people,
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,
who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy 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.”

On the day you raised him from the dead
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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 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.**

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 May Members



Birthday

Andre Wright – 1st *Kai Frink – 22nd*
Lisa Wright – 12th *Gillian Brooks Henry – 23rd*
David Burley Sr. – 13th *Kia Settles – 30th*
Courtney West – 13th *Christian Tindal – 31st*

Anniversary

Jerry and Jannette Reeves – 1st (24 years)



Heavenly Birthday

James Wilson Sr. – 11th

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 — 04/30/2023

In-Person	51
Zoom	16
Total	67

April Average Attendance: 64

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, May 11th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Saturday, May 13th (9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) — **Car Wash** (601 Eighth Street, Laurel). **Food on sale.**



Special Note: All ladies are being asked to wear a **HAT** on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 14th).



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.

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

Sunday, July 16th (3:00 p.m.) — **Celebrating the 40th 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 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/stmarksmd>)

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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