

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, June 25, 2023

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers: Ralph Laguerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Sister Jaime Coffen, 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 Jaime Coffen

Leader: We come as religious people, who have tried to follow the right path.

People: **Forgive us, Lord, when we have made religious rules our god.**

Leader: We come as religious people who have at times taken our own paths.

People: **Forgive us, lord, when we have made ourselves our god.**

Leader: We come as religious people who have taken wrong paths.

People: Forgive us Lord, when we have made the world our god.

All: We come as people, desiring to be made right with you.
Forgive us, Lord. Be our only God and make us new.

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"Ole Time Religion"

Refrain

Gimme dat ole-time religion, Gimme dat ole-time religion,
Gimme dat ole-time religion, It's good enough for me.

- 1 It was good for my ole father, It was good for my ole father,
It was good for my ole father, It's good enough for me. *[Refrain]*
- 2 It was good for my ole mother, It was good for my ole mother,
It was good for my ole mother, It's good enough for me. *[Refrain]*
- 3 It was good for Paul and Silas, It was good for Paul and Silas,
It was good for Paul and Silas, It's good enough for me. *[Refrain]*
- 4 Makes me love ev'rybody, Makes me love ev'rybody,
Makes me love ev'rybody, It's good enough for me. *[Refrain]*
- 5 It is good when I'm in trouble, It is good when I'm in trouble,
It is good when I'm in trouble, It's good enough for me. *[Refrain]*
- 6 It will do when I am dying, It will do when I am dying,
It will do when I am dying, It's good enough for me. *[Refrain]*
- 7 It will take us all to heaven, It will take us all to heaven,
It will take us all to heaven, It's good enough for me. *[Refrain]*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

When in our hearts, minds, and relationships there is no room for you, O Savior, may you open us to the simplicity, humility, and awe that you might be born in us anew. May we see your signs of new life, peace, justice, and righteousness that we might take hope, peace, joy and love as a means to follow you into the reign of a new creation. With Jesus as our Lord, we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation..... Sister Jaime Coffen
Song of Meditation.....St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have commanded. May we find the power and wisdom of God in the words we are about to hear today. Come Holy Spirit, come.

Scripture Reading #1 Sister Jaime Coffen
(*Genesis 21:8–21, Common English Bible*)

⁸ The boy grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. ⁹ Sarah saw Hagar's son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, "Send this servant away with her son! This servant's son won't share the inheritance with my son Isaac." ¹¹ This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. ¹² God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your servant. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. ¹³ But I will make of your servant's son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant." ¹⁴ Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away. She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. ¹⁵ Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. ¹⁶ She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, I can't bear to see the boy die. She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept. ¹⁷ God heard the boy's cries, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "Hagar! What's wrong? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy's cries over there. ¹⁸ Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation." ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer. ²¹ He lived in the Paran desert, and his mother found him an Egyptian wife.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Jaime Coffen

Blessing of the Offering Sister Jaime Coffen

Regular and Special Offering – Peace With Justice

Offertory

Scripture Reading #2 (Gospel) Sister Jaime Coffen

(Matthew 10:24–39, Common English Bible)

²⁴ “Disciples aren’t greater than their teacher, and slaves aren’t greater than their master. ²⁵ It’s enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it’s certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names. ²⁶ “Therefore, don’t be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won’t be revealed, and nothing secret that won’t be brought out into the open. ²⁷ What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. ²⁸ Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body but can’t kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. ²⁹ Aren’t two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. ³⁰ Even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows. ³² “Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. ³³ But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. ³⁴ “Don’t think that I’ve come to bring peace to the earth. I haven’t come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ I’ve come to turn a man *against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law*. ³⁶ *People’s enemies are members of their own households*. ³⁷ “Those who love father or mother more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren’t worthy of me. ³⁸ Those who don’t pick up their crosses and follow me aren’t worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.

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. Eugene W. Matthews

***“If We Had Known Then
What We Know Now”***

This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. God said to Abraham, “Don’t be upset about the boy and your servant. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. But I will make of your servant’s son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant.” (Genesis 21:11–13)

Praise and Prayer Concerns.....Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

Invitation Selection

BenedictionRev. Eugene W. Matthews

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 — 06/18/2023

In-Person	47
Zoom	12
Total	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.) — **On hiatus**

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, June 29th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Today, Sunday, June 25th (following service) — A presentation will be made by **Mr. Hilton Mills, On Air Applications.** Please answer and pray on the following questions below and share with anyone who may be interested.

1. Do you or someone you know have a passion or interest in working with audio visual equipment?
2. Do you or someone you know have a desire to learn new skills as it relates to audio visual and virtual platforms?
3. Are you or someone you know able to commit time to learn and execute skills for the betterment of the church?
4. Would you or someone you know like to problem solve while working with a team on a weekly basis in a Christian environment?
5. Would you or someone you know want to learn how and help our church reach the world on a virtual platform?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please submit your name to Pastor Matthews or Min. Nena Hughes for consideration as a member of this ministry.

Sunday, July 9th (morning service) — **Student Recognition.** We will be recognizing our children for the 2022/2023 school year. Please send all achievements to Jaime Whitfield-Coffen, through church email or 240.535.1336.

Registration for the 11th Annual St. Mark's Emancipation Day In-Person and Virtual Diabetes 5K Run/Walk/Fun Walk is open. To register or donate go to <https://bit.ly/stmarks5k>. There will also be a native plant giveaway at the finish line. For additional information, please contact Jackie Jones.



Note from Finance: First, 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/stmarks1md>)

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.

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., Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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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