

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | 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

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, July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers:

Sharon Thomas and Jacqueline Vaughn

Order of Service

Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Kamille Quick

Worship Leaders

Prelude Rev. Henry Tindal

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 WorshipSister Gemma DeSouza

Leader: Jesus invites us to rest in God's love.

People: We will heed Christ's call to rest.

Leader: Jesus calls us to rest in God's grace.

People: We will heed Christ's call to rest.

Leader: Jesus says to come all you who labor.

People: Jesus is our rock in a weary land and a shelter in the time of storms.

ALL: The Lord of host is with us, and the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. ***(Refrain)***

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. ***(Refrain)***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(In Unison)*

God, we confess that sometimes we neglect not realizing that you are alive through the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts. Where we have been lax, steady us. Where we have chosen badly, give us another chance. Where we have settled for the mundane and earthly, forgive us, remind us that to live with bitterness, strife and malice are ways of resisting your breathing of life in us through Jesus. Empower us to choose to honor your breath and live as those expecting the seeds of your kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Invocation.....Sister Gemma DeSouza
Song of Meditation.....St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, allow us to hear these words in order that we may become strong and active servants for you. As you have used many servants for your ministry in this world, so may we be used for your Glory and Honor. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Ms. Kamille Quick
(*Genesis 25:19–34, Common English Bible*)

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham became the father of Isaac. ²⁰ Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean and the sister of Laban the Aramean, from Paddan-aram. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, since she was unable to have children. The Lord was moved by his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² But the boys pushed against each other inside of her, and she said, "If this is what it's like, why did it happen to me?"

So she went to ask the Lord. ²³ And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb;
two different peoples will emerge from your body.
One people will be stronger than the other;
the older will serve the younger."

²⁴ When she reached the end of her pregnancy, she discovered that she had twins. ²⁵ The first came out red all over, clothed with hair, and she named him Esau. ²⁶ Immediately afterward, his brother came out gripping Esau's heel, and she named him Jacob. Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.

²⁷ When the young men grew up, Esau became an outdoorsman who knew how to hunt, and Jacob became a quiet man who stayed at home. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was boiling stew, Esau came in from the field hungry ³⁰ and said to Jacob, "I'm starving! Let me devour some of this red stuff." That's why his name is Edom.

³¹ Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright today.”

³² Esau said, “Since I’m going to die anyway, what good is my birthright to me?”

³³ Jacob said, “Give me your word today.” And he did. He sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ So Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. He ate, drank, got up, and left, showing just how little he thought of his birthright.

Scripture Reading #2Ms. Kamille Quick
(*Romans 8:1–11, Common English Bible*)

8 So now there isn’t any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. ⁴ He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. ⁵ People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. ⁶ The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. ⁷ So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn’t submit to God’s Law, because it can’t. ⁸ People who are self-centered aren’t able to please God.

⁹ But you aren’t self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God’s Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn’t have the Spirit of Christ, they don’t belong to him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God’s righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. ¹¹ If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

SelectionSt. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Gemma DeSouza

Blessing of the OfferingSister Gemma DeSouza
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Ms. Kamille Quick
(Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23, Common English Bible)

13 That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

³ He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴ As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t deep. ⁶ But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸ Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹ Everyone who has ears should pay attention.”

¹⁸ “Consider then the parable of the farmer. ¹⁹ Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don’t understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. ²¹ Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. ²² As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. ²³ As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

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

“Sowing Kingdom Seeds”

“As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

Matthew 13:23, CEB

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 —

07/09/2023

In-Person	77
Zoom	10
Total	87

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.



Kudos and many thanks to Principal Jamie Coffen for coordinating **Students, Educators and School Support Personnel Recognition Day**. The sanctuary was spirited and joyful as recognition of students from early childhood through college age were recognized. The culmination of Recognition Day concluded with those who serve as School Support personnel. Finally, those who were recognized were feted with refreshments, prepared by the culinary ministry, in the fellowship space. Many thanks to Jamie Coffen, Andrea Gibson, Larry Powell and Tina Thomas-Matthews. **“THIS WAS A GREAT DAY”**

Tuesday Women’s Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — **On hiatus**

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — **On hiatus**

Thursday, July 20th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

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/stmarkslmd>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

St. Mark's UMC Emancipation Day

REV. EUGENE W. MATTHEWS, PASTOR

11TH Annual In-Person and Virtual
Diabetes 5k Run/ Walk/ Fun Walk

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023



8:00 AM Rain or Shine

Alice B. McCullough Field
Montgomery & Eighth Street
Laurel, MD

USATF Certified Course Professionally
Timed by Blue Cheetah Sports Timing, LLC

Register here: <https://bit.ly/stmarks5k>

Native plant
Giveaway at finish
line



CRAB FEAST

**RIDGELY RUN
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

**8400 MISSION
ROAD
JESSUP, MD 20794**

**\$75
PER PERSON**

Contacts for Tickets:
Tina Thomas-Matthews (301) 775-0837
Patricia Mundell (410) 227-3156
Larry Powell (443) 422-1274

MENU

- * CHICKEN
- * ROAST BEEF
- * COLE SLAW
- * TOSSED SALAD
- * CORN ON THE COB
- * CHESAPEAKE CHIPS
- * CAKE
- * WATERMELON
- * SODAS + WATER

**AUGUST 13 2023
2PM
UNTIL
6PM**

MUSIC PROVIDED
BY GUEST
DJ

To benefit
EMANCIPATION DAY
Saturday, September 2, 2023



***“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., 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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