

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, July 2, 2023

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers:

Sharon Thomas and Jacqueline Vaughn

Order of Service

Sister Erica Roy, 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 WorshipSister Erica Roy

Leader: Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is steadfast love.

People: **With God there is the great power of redemption.**

Leader: This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope in God.

People: **The Hope in God, never ceases , his mercies never come to an end.**

Leader: Those mercies are new every morning , great is your faithfulness.

People: **The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him.**

All: **THINE IS THE KINGDOM, Power and the GLORY!!**

Hymn of PraiseSt. Mark's Choir / Congregation

“My Hope Is Built”

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. ***(Refrain)***
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. ***(Refrain)***
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!
(Refrain)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Healing one, we admit that many of our ills are because we are not listening to hear from you. We need to know that we are vulnerable, and we need your strength and power to help us over our weakest hour. Help us to hear your words of assurance that says if we confess our sin, God will abundantly pardon them. This truth has become a reality in the life, death, and resurrection for us in Jesus Christ. We can trust it and began to live in accord with God’s will and purpose. **Amen.**

The Invocation **Sister Erica Roy**
Song of Meditation **St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

Almighty God, in you are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes, ears, minds, and spirits, in new and fresh ways in this new year that we may fully understand your way and wisdom for us as we hear your written word.
Through Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Erica Roy**
(Genesis 22:1–14, Common English Bible)

22 After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!”

Abraham answered, “I’m here.”

² God said, “Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you.” ³ Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed

his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him.

⁴ On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. ⁵ Abraham said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father?”

Abraham said, “I’m here, my son.”

Isaac said, “Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?”

⁸ Abraham said, “The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son.” The two of them walked on together.

⁹ They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ But the Lord’s messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, “Abraham? Abraham?”

Abraham said, “I’m here.”

¹² The messenger said, “Don’t stretch out your hand against the young man, and don’t do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn’t hold back your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham named that place “the Lord sees.” That is the reason people today say, “On this mountain the Lord is seen.”

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Erica Roy

Blessing of the OfferingSister Erica Roy
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Erica Roy
(*Matthew 10:40–42, Common English Bible*)

⁴⁰ "Those who receive you are also receiving me, and those who receive me are receiving the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Those who receive a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. Those who receive a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded."

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

“Heard “IT” Through the Grapevine”

But the Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, “Abraham? Abraham?” Abraham said, “I'm here.”

Genesis 22:11 (Common English Bible)

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection

Holy Communion

Thanksgiving and Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth, 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. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

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."

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.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

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 Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung by 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.

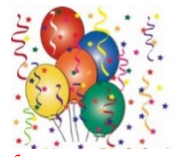
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

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.**



Happy Birthday July Members



Ernestine Gibson – 1st
Kamille Quick – 3rd
Gertrude Curry – 8th
Jalani Robertson – 10th
Sukuline Gbeh Kumeh Kortu – 10th

Umbrenda Fisher – 13th
Kai Jones – 16th
Charles Gregg – 27th
Barbara Hughes – 29th
Kwesi Desouza – 30th

Heavenly Birthdays

Charles Burley – 14th

Jackie Garnett – 25th

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 — 06/25/2023

In-Person	42
Zoom	12
Total	54
June Average Attendance: 63	

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, July 6th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

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 no later than Thursday, July 6th.**

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.

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



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.



***“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.

***Condolence to the family of
Brother Eric F. Moore***

9455 Lanham Severn Rd | Lanham, MD

Visitation: Friday, July 14, 2023 (10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.)

Funeral: 11:00 a.m.

***Condolence to the family of
Sylvia Mohammad (sister of Eunice Harding)
Gemma's DeSouza's family***

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

Eunice Dumas

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