

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, August 6, 2023

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers:

Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Cynthia Whitfield, Worship Leader

PreludeBrother Warren Campbell

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 Cynthia

Leader: Great is the Lord ! God is exalted above all nations.

People: Let all the people praise God's great and awesome name.

Leader: Great is the Lord ! God is Mighty, God loves justice and mercy.

People: Let all the people exalt and worship the Lord.

Leader: God has answered the prayers of Moses and Aaron.

People: God has also answered the prayers of our ancestors that has led to our freedom.

All: let us praise God for his goodness!

Hymn of PraiseSt. Mark's Choir / Congregation

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

- 1 Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burdens down!
- 2 Friends don't treat me like they used to
Since I laid my burdens down.
Friends don't treat me like they used to
Since I laid my burdens down!
- 3 I'm goin' home to live with Jesus
Since I laid my burdens down.
I'm goin' home to live with Jesus
Since I laid my burdens down!
- 4 I feel better, so much better
Since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better
Since I laid my burdens down!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(In Unison)*

Companion God, you have shown us through generations, what it means to be a faithful companion and true neighbors and brothers and sisters. We almost always intend to follow where you lead. We almost always mean well ... and sometimes we accomplish our intent. But there are times... many times... when we become self-absorbed, or angry, or afraid, or proud, or tempted by worldly messages of greed and entitlement. Beckon us to repent with our whole hearts. Forgive our broken choices so that, with you, we may reveal the beauty of a universe made holy with love and respect. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation **Sister Cynthia**

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

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, than purest honey. As we turn to the scriptures today, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace. May the good news of your love shine through each of us and extend to the entire family of God. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Sister Cynthia
(Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28, Common English Bible)

37 Jacob lived in the land of Canaan where his father was an immigrant. ² This is the account of Jacob’s descendants. Joseph was 17 years old and tended the flock with his brothers. While he was helping the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives, Joseph told their father unflattering things about them. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was born when Jacob was old. Jacob had made for him a long robe. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him and couldn’t even talk nicely to him.

¹² Joseph’s brothers went to tend their father’s flocks near Shechem. ¹³ Israel said to Joseph, “Aren’t your brothers tending the sheep near Shechem? Come, I’ll send you to them.”

And he said, “I’m ready.”

¹⁴ Jacob said to him, “Go! Find out how your brothers are and how the flock is, and report back to me.”

So Jacob sent him from the Hebron Valley. When he approached Shechem, ¹⁵ a man found him wandering in the field and asked him, “What are you looking for?”

¹⁶ Joseph said, “I’m looking for my brothers. Tell me, where are they tending the sheep?”

¹⁷ The man said, “They left here. I heard them saying, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

¹⁸ They saw Joseph in the distance before he got close to them, and they plotted to kill him. ¹⁹ The brothers said to each other, “Here comes the big dreamer. ²⁰ Come on now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns, and we’ll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams!”

²¹ When Reuben heard what they said, he saved him from them, telling them, “Let’s not take his life.” ²² Reuben said to them, “Don’t spill his blood! Throw him into this desert cistern, but don’t lay a hand on him.” He intended to save Joseph from them and take him back to his father.

²³ When Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped off Joseph’s long robe, ²⁴ took him, and threw him into the cistern, an empty cistern with no water in it. ²⁵ When they sat down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with camels carrying sweet resin, medicinal resin, and fragrant resin on their way down to Egypt. ²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, “What do we gain if we kill our brother and hide his blood? ²⁷ Come on, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites. Let’s not harm him because he’s our brother; he’s family.” His brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up out of the cistern. They

sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia
(Romans 10:5–15, Common English Bible)

⁵ Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: *The person who does these things will live by them.* ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: *Don't say in your heart, "Who will go up into heaven?"* (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ or *"Who will go down into the region below?"* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach). ⁹ Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won't be put to shame.* ¹² There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. ¹³ *All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.*

¹⁴ So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.*

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Cynthia

Blessing of the Offering Sister Cynthia
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Sister Cynthia
(Matthew 14:22–33, Common English Bible)

²² Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵ Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

²⁷ Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ And Jesus said, “Come.”

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, “Lord, rescue me!”

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, “You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

³³ Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, “You must be God’s Son!”

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 Minister Nena Hughes

Praise and Prayer Concerns Minister Nena Hughes

Invitation / Altar Call Minister Nena Hughes

Invitation Selection

Benediction Minister Nena Hughes

Announcements

Wearing a mask while in the sanctuary is at your discretion.

Worship Attendance — 08/06/2023

In-Person	41
Zoom	8
Total	49

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.) — **On hiatus**

Thursday, August 10th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Saturday, September 2nd — **Annual Emancipation Day** and **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 is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you are available to volunteer for the Emancipation Day celebration. **Volunteers will be needed for Friday, September 1st through the evening of Saturday, September 2nd.**

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.

Charles Gregg, Marken Smith (friend of Gemma), 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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