

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 20, 2023*

## *Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost*

*Ushers:*

*Ralph Laquerre and Sharon Thomas*

### *Order of Service*

*Sister Jaime Coffen, Worship Leader*

**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 Worship ..... Sister Jaime Coffen**

Leader: God calls us, Come to me, on the mountain, in the forest, on the trail.

**People: Come to me, across the ocean, across the river, across the street.**

Leader: Come to me, at the kitchen table, in the grocery store, on the Web.

**People: Come to me on the overpass, in the shelter, on the soup line.**

Leader: God invites us, “Come. Be with me. Share the day with me.”

**People:** God invites us, “Share the week, the year, your whole life with me.”

**ALL:** We “COME” Lord to answer.

**Hymn of Praise** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir / Congregation**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*In Unison*)

God of Sinai, you gave us tablets with your covenantal hope for all creation. We confess that it was not only Moses who broke the tablets long ago in anger. We confess that we break your heart every day when we ignore your ways of love and choose our own way. We break your heart when we choose to hoard your abundance, creating scarcity for others. We break your heart when we choose to justify our personal comfort by pretending, we can only be who we are now. God of Sinai, give us the courage to offer ourselves to be transfigured, to be impowered, to be commissioned. Let it all be so. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (*sung*)

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

## **The Prayer of Illumination** *(In Unison)*

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path of faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope and love in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
*(Genesis 45:1–15, Common English Bible)*

**45** Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all his attendants, so he declared, “Everyone, leave now!” So no one stayed with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh’s household heard him. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I’m Joseph! Is my father really still alive?” His brothers couldn’t respond because they were terrified before him.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me,” and they moved closer. He said, “I’m your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Now, don’t be upset and don’t be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. <sup>6</sup> We’ve already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to make sure you’d survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. <sup>8</sup> You didn’t send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> “Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: ‘God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t delay. <sup>10</sup> You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. <sup>11</sup> I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won’t starve, since the famine will still last five years.’ <sup>12</sup> You and my brother Benjamin have seen with your own eyes that I’m speaking to you. <sup>13</sup> Tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you’ve seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup> He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. <sup>15</sup> He kissed all of his brothers

and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
(*Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32, Common English Bible*)

**11** So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I’m an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God hasn’t rejected his people, whom he knew in advance. Or don’t you know what the scripture says in the case of Elijah, when he pleads with God against Israel?

<sup>29</sup> God’s gifts and calling can’t be taken back. <sup>30</sup> Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. <sup>31</sup> In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy too. <sup>32</sup> God has locked up all people in disobedience, in order to have mercy on all of them.

**Selection** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**

**Blessing of the Offering** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
(*Matthew 15:21–28, Common English Bible*)

<sup>21</sup> From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.” <sup>23</sup> But he didn’t respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, “Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us.”

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, “I’ve been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel.”

<sup>25</sup> But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

<sup>26</sup> He replied, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and toss it to dogs.”

<sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters’ table.”

<sup>28</sup> Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.

**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. Dr. George F. DeFord**  
*Pastor Emeritus*

*Show Some Mercy*

*A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.”*

*(Matthew 15:22)*

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

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

**Invitation Selection**

**Benediction .....Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord**

# Announcements

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

**Worship Attendance — 08/13/2023**

**No information**

In-Person	
Zoom	
Total	

## 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.



**Today, August 20<sup>th</sup>** (2:00 p.m.) — **Sundresses and Sandals** at the Catchings Home (15505 Clayburn Drive | Laurel, MD)

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

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

**Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

**Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>** — **Annual Emancipation Day** and **11<sup>th</sup> 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>.

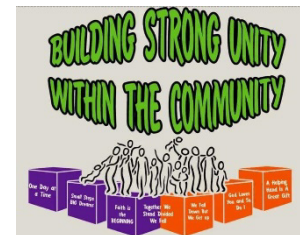
## T-Shirts available for Emancipation Day:

This year's shirt will be grey with the design seen below (2023 will be on the back).

Children All Sizes: \$15.00

Adult Sizes up to Extra Large: \$18.00

2X and Up: \$20.00



Please contact a member of the Emancipation Committee to place your order. As always, your support is very much appreciated!

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 from Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> through the evening of Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**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/stmarks/md>)

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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net).

Charles Gregg, Diane Gaskin Breedy (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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