

# *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](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 27, 2023*

*Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

*Ushers:*

*Isaiah Brooks, Gemma DeSouza-Ottley, Thomas Matthews*

*Order of Service*

*Sister Cynthia Whitfield, 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 Cynthia**

**Leader:** Come let us walk together in the light of the Lord!

**People:** **May He teach us his ways that we may walk in His path.**

**Leader:** Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

**People:** **Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful.**

**Leader:** God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People:** **Come let us follow in the path of God.**

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

***Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

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

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sins. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Through your spirit open our hands and hearts and cleanse us from all our sins. Forgive us O GOD and forgive us of our failings. In your name we ask. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)**

**The Invocation ..... Sister Cynthia**  
**Song of Meditation.....St. Mark's Choir**

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

Guide us, O GOD, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Cynthia**  
(*Exodus 1:8—2:10, Common English Bible*)

<sup>8</sup> Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. <sup>10</sup> Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." <sup>11</sup> As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. <sup>13</sup> So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. <sup>14</sup> They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: <sup>16</sup> "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." <sup>17</sup> Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

<sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

<sup>19</sup> The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." <sup>20</sup> So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

**2** Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up

with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. <sup>4</sup> The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

<sup>7</sup> Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

<sup>8</sup> Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup> After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Cynthia**  
(*Romans 12:1–8, Common English Bible*)

**12** So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. <sup>2</sup> Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

<sup>3</sup> Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. <sup>4</sup> We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is

teaching, devote yourself to teaching. <sup>8</sup> If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

**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 16:13–20, Common English Bible)*

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

<sup>15</sup> He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. <sup>18</sup> I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. <sup>19</sup> I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

**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 .....Brother Anthony Latney**

**Praise and Prayer Concerns.....Brother Anthony Latney**

**Invitation / Altar Call.....Brother Anthony Latney**  
**Invitation Selection**

**Benediction .....Brother Anthony Latney**

# Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 08/20/2023	
In-Person	44
Zoom	13
Total	57

## 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**

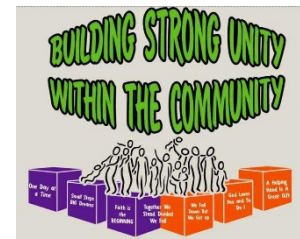
**Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal**

**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, **it may be too late**, but you can try. 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>.**

**Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Homecoming**

**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](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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