

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, September 10, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Grandparents Day

Remembering 911

Ushers:

Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Sister Erica Roy, Worship Leader



Prelude..... Rev. Henry Tindal

Lighting of the Candles Usher

Gathering SongSt. 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 Erica Roy

Leader:Come, dare to leave yesterday behind.

People:But yesterday was comfortable and familiar, we want to stay.

Leader:God calls us to set comfort aside, with promises of a tomorrow that shines brighter than you can imagine.

People:We will follow, then and trust God to lead us.

ALL: Lead us O Lord, and we will follow you.

Hymn of PraiseSt. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"This is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day. That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. I will rejoice, I will rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made. *(repeat)*

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter his courts with praise. I will say "this is the day that the Lord has made I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad, oh he has made me glad I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad, oh he has made me glad I will rejoice for he has made me glad. *(repeat)*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(In Unison)*

God of all time and space, we like yesterday. It is familiar, and comfortable, and we know it well. If we try hard enough, we can seemingly forget all the negative things of the past and only remember the good things. Yet even that often fails. When we want to go backward instead of forward, forgive us. Most of all, do not give up on us, O Lord, even when we want to give up on ourselves. God gently and patiently lead us into a new tomorrow. **Amen.**

The Invocation Sister Erica Roy

Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the scriptures are read, and the Word proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Sister Erica Roy

(Exodus 12:1–14, Common English Bible)

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. ⁴ If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in

proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. ⁵ Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. ⁷ They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. ⁸ That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Don't eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. ¹⁰ Don't let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. ¹¹ This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹² I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ "This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the Lord. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

Scripture Reading #2..... Sister Erica Roy
(*Romans 13:8–14, Common English Bible*)

⁸ Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. ⁹ The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself*. ¹⁰ Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

¹¹ As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. ¹² The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³ Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and

obsession. ¹⁴ Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

Selection..... St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements..... Sister Erica Roy

Blessing of the Offering..... Sister Erica Roy

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Sister Erica Roy

(Matthew 18:15–20, Common English Bible)

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶ But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses*. ¹⁷ But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸ I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

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

“Celebrating Every Day”

“This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the Lord. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time (Exodus 12:14)

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection

Benediction

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 09/03/2023

In-Person	None
Zoom	Reported
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.



Sunday, September 10th — Following morning service there will be a meeting of the Women of St. Mark's. Topic: **Women's Day**

Monday, September 11th (6:30 p.m.) — **Lay Leadership Development** (aka Nominations Committee) meeting. Zoom information will be forthcoming. If you know you are a member of this committee, please plan to attend the meeting. Committee members: Rev. Matthews, Shimaine, Floyd, Judith, Cynthia, Desiree, Vaune, and Anthony. **As a member of the congregation if there is a committee that you would like to participate in, please let one of the members of the committee know, there is room and much work to be done. No contribution is too small.** Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88356438558?pwd=RFJJTFI0RFNiWUZDME52MkRHWURsZz09>; Meeting ID: **883 5643 8558**; Passcode: **563867**. Thank you in advance.

Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>; Meeting ID: **885 7118 4455**; Passcode: **459563**

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This study is based on the Upper Room reading for Wednesday. **Call in info:** 267.807.9611, **Access Code:** 331960.

Thursday, September 14th (6:30 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 17th (following service) — quarterly Class Leader Meeting

Sunday, September 24th (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Homecoming — “God Is Not Through With Us Yet” (*“I’m sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 1:6 (CEB)). Preacher: **Rev. Robert Morgan**, First Bethel Baptist Church, Kettering MD. A **special sacrificial offering** will be taken during the service. **Please invite a family member or friends to join us in the sanctuary. Box lunches will be available following service.**

Saturday, September 30th — Nena’s Cold Oven Pound Cake Challenge is back in memory of Mrs. Mildred Awkward. If you would like to participate, please see Jackie Jones for details and a recipe.

Saturday, October 21st (11:00 a.m.) — Annual Church Conference, Nichols Bethel UMC (1239 Murray Road, Odenton, MD). **Asking all reports to be given to the church office to meet the District deadline of October 11th.** All members of the congregation are invited to be present with authorization to have their voice and vote.

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.

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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