

# *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*

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*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 3, 2023*

*Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

*Holy Communion*

*Ushers:*

*Jacqueline Vaughan and Ralph Laguerre*

*Order of Service*

*Sister Cynthia Augustus, 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 Augustus**

**Leader:** Lord, who may dwell in your place of refuge.

**People:** Those who are blameless, who does what is right.

**Leader:** Lord, what sort of people do you favor?

**People:** Those who speak truth from their heart.

**Leader:** O Lord, we want to be like you and follow in your ways.

**People:** Neither speaking nor doing your will but being people who think about our words and deed; and most of all, being people who worship.

**All:** And now O, God we come to worship you in spirit and truth.

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

## *Holy, Holy, Holy*

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

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

Loving Creator, we are often confused people. In a world that so often seems to turn into a blur we can get caught up in the craziness of day-to-day living. We often lose sight of who we really are and where we are going. When this happens, forgive us. When we are tempted to blame others for our missteps, stop us. Intervene in our lives and guide us to renew our lives with you. Assure us that even in those moments when we turn from you, still you seek us out and forgive us. **Amen.**

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

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

O Lord, pour out on us the spirit and understanding as the scriptures are read today. And may that understanding open our hearts and minds to what it is you are communicating to us this day. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1 ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
(*Exodus 3:1–15, Common English Bible*)

**3** Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. <sup>2</sup> The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

<sup>5</sup> Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. <sup>8</sup> I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. <sup>9</sup> Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. <sup>10</sup> So get going.

I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
(*Romans 12:9–21, Common English Bible*)

<sup>9</sup> Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. <sup>11</sup> Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! <sup>12</sup> Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. <sup>14</sup> Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. <sup>15</sup> Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. <sup>16</sup> Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. <sup>17</sup> Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

<sup>18</sup> If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. <sup>19</sup> Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, *Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord.* <sup>20</sup> Instead, *If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.* <sup>21</sup> Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

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

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**

**Blessing of the Offering ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
*(Matthew 16:21–28, Common English Bible)*

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup> All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. <sup>26</sup> Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? <sup>27</sup> For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. <sup>28</sup> I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom."

**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**

***“God Knows Your Name***

*“I am the God of your father, Abraham’s God, Isaac’s God, and Jacob’s God.”  
(Exodus 3:6a)*

**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.**

**Benediction** ..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**



## ***Happy Birthday September Members***



*Brenda Jackson — 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Chandler Tindal — 3<sup>rd</sup>*

*Shimaine West — 10<sup>th</sup>*

*Joseph Ballard — 18<sup>th</sup>*

*Cynthia Augustus — 18<sup>th</sup>*

*Tina Thomas-Matthews — 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Adrienne Hall — 24<sup>th</sup>*

*Olivia Ann Burley — 25<sup>th</sup>*

## ***Anniversary***

*Wayne and Jaime Coffen — 9<sup>th</sup> (23 yrs.)*

*Adrian and LáAngel — 13<sup>th</sup> (26 yrs.)*



*Carlton and Shimaine — 18<sup>th</sup> (24 yrs.)*  
*Toney and Marchel Ellis — 30<sup>th</sup> (34 yrs.)*

### *Heavenly Birthday*

*Sybil Wallace — 7<sup>th</sup>*  
*Jamal Medina — 8<sup>th</sup>*  
*Harold Awkward Sr. —*  
*13<sup>th</sup>*

*Elizabeth Day — 15<sup>th</sup>*  
*Chris DeFord — 24<sup>th</sup>*

# *Announcements*

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

#### **Worship Attendance — 08/27/2023**

In-Person	43
Zoom	11
Total	54

### **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.) — Resuming September 12<sup>th</sup>.** Zoom information is forthcoming

**Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — Resuming September 6<sup>th</sup>.** This study is based on the Upper Room reading for Wednesday.  
**Call in info:** 267.807.9611, **Access Code:** 301960

**Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> — Kicking off Football Season,** wear your favorite jersey or team attire

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

**Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** (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. Any doubt: Rev. Matthews, Shimaine, Floyd, Judith, Cynthia, Desiree, Vaune, and Anthony

**Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** (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.**

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** — **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 21<sup>st</sup>** (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 11<sup>th</sup>.** 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](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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