

# *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, October 1, 2023*

*Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
World Communion Sunday*



*Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month*



## *Order of Service*

*Ushers:*

*Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas*

*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:** Today we gather around God's Table from near and far.

**People:** **We are the people of God!**

**Leader:** Though we differ in language, custom and tradition.

**People:** **We are brothers and sisters in Christ!**

**Leader:** For there is one God, one faith, and one baptism.

**People:** **We are one in God's spirit.**

**Leader:** We are one and together we remember our Lord Jesus.

**People:** **He gave himself up for us, so we could be reconciled to God.**

**ALL:** **Come, let us worship the God of our Salvation.**

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

### ***"Come Ye Disconsolate"***

1. Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish,  
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.  
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;  
earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.
2. Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,  
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!  
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure."
3. Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing  
forth from the throne of God, pure from above.  
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing  
earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.

### **World Communion Prayer** *(In Unison)*

Almighty God, from the ends of the earth you have gathered us around Christ's Holy Table. We join today with our brothers and sisters around the world in remembering Christ's sacrifice for us. For the opportunity to eat and drink together and for the life we have received. We give you thanks and praise, in the abundance of your many gifts, grant us grace to fill one another's lives with love. Redeem, restore, and remold us until we are made new. Transform our daily bread into the bread of life, and the cup that we drink into the cup of salvation. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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

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

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us, and all who eat and drink with us around the world today, in ways that we lead us all in the ways of eternal life. Nourish us with the scriptures this day, through Jesus Christ the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Cynthia**  
*(Exodus 17:1–7, Common English Bible)*

**17** The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the Lord commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

<sup>2</sup> The people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the Lord?”

<sup>3</sup> But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?”

<sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me.”

<sup>5</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. <sup>6</sup> I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the Lord, asking, “Is the Lord really with us or not?”

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Cynthia**  
(*1 Corinthians 11:17–27, 33, Common English Bible*)

<sup>17</sup> Now I don’t praise you as I give the following instruction because when you meet together, it does more harm than good. <sup>18</sup> First of all, when you meet together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and I partly believe it. <sup>19</sup> It’s necessary that there are groups among you, to make it clear who is genuine. <sup>20</sup> So when you get together in one place, it isn’t to eat the Lord’s meal. <sup>21</sup> Each of you goes ahead and eats a private meal. One person goes hungry while another is drunk. <sup>22</sup> Don’t you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you look down on God’s churches and humiliate those who have nothing? What can I say to you? Will I praise you? No, I don’t praise you in this.

<sup>23</sup> I received a tradition from the Lord, which I also handed on to you: on the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. <sup>24</sup> After giving thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this to remember me.” <sup>25</sup> He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do this to remember me.” <sup>26</sup> Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you broadcast the death of the Lord until he comes.

<sup>27</sup> This is why those who eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord inappropriately will be guilty of the Lord’s body and blood.

<sup>33</sup> For these reasons, my brothers and sisters, when you get together to eat, wait for each other.

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

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

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

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

**Special Offering — World Communion Sunday  
Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) ..... Sister Cynthia**  
*(Matthew 26:20–30, Common English Bible)*

<sup>20</sup> That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. <sup>21</sup> As they were eating he said, “I assure you that one of you will betray me.”

<sup>22</sup> Deeply saddened, each one said to him, “I’m not the one, am I, Lord?”

<sup>23</sup> He replied, “The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. <sup>24</sup> The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born.”

<sup>25</sup> Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, “It’s not me, is it, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You said it.”

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take and eat. This is my body.” <sup>27</sup> He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from this, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <sup>30</sup> Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

**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**

***“The Community Meal”?***

*“For these reasons, my brothers and sisters, when you get together to eat, wait for each other.”*

*1 Corinthians 11:33 (CEB).*

**Invitation / Praise and Concerns**

**Altar Call .....Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Invitation Selection**

***The Great Thanksgiving  
for World Communion Sunday***

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** (*Song, #270*)

#### **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**

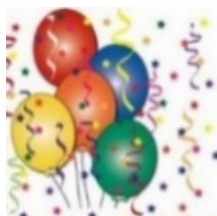
Go forth in peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all. **Amen.**



## *Happy Birthday October Members*



<i>Jaraya Wilson – 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Tyrik Smith – 7<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Floyd Hughes, Sr. – 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Jerral Fisher – 12<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Kinsley Thomas – 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Carolyn Noel – 17<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Deborah Carey – 7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Barbara Jones – 21<sup>st</sup></i>
<i>Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord – 7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Lila DeFord – 23<sup>rd</sup></i>
<i>Judith James – 7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Jaden Coffen – 28<sup>th</sup></i>

## *Anniversary*

*Thomas and Tina Matthews – 1<sup>st</sup> (29 yrs.)*  
*Arthur and Andre Wright – 11<sup>th</sup> (31 yrs.)*  
*Ralph and Eva Laguerre – 13<sup>th</sup> (16 yrs.)*



## *Heavenly Birthday*

*Lanette Wilson – 22<sup>nd</sup>*

*James (Wit) Thomas – 22<sup>nd</sup>*

# *Announcements*

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

### **Worship Attendance —**

**09/24/2023**

**(Numbers are  
approximate)**

<b>In-Person</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>YouTube</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

## 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, our youth and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**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, October 5<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** — The Laurel Police Department will be joining us for worship and share information about **Faith & Blue**. Law enforcement and faith institutions are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive. There will be coffee and donuts following the service, compliments of the Police Department.



**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) — **133<sup>rd</sup> Church Anniversary** — **“God Is Not Through With Us Yet”**. **Preacher: Rev. Terry McCain, Pastor**, Hopkins/Mt. Gregory Charge UMC. **If possible, a sacrificial offering is \$1 for each year is requested.**

**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.

**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> (10:00 a.m.) — Laity Sunday. Speaker:**  
**Sister Darlene Washington, Lay Leader,** Franklin United Methodist Church, Churchton, Maryland.

**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/stmarksmd>)

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).

Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, 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., Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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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