

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, October 29, 2023

Twenty–Second Sunday After Pentecost



*Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month*



Order of Service

Ushers:

Jaylah and Jalani Robertson, Kamille Quick

Sister Charlotte Thomas, 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 Spirt, 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 Charlotte Thomas

Leader: We give you thanks for the gift of this day.

People: **For you alone are good.**

Leader: Each day brings delight and new opportunities to live for you.

People: **This is another day that the Lord has made.**

Leader: We rejoice and are glad in it.

People: **Guide our feet as we continue to walk in this race.**

ALL: **May Our Walk Be a Christian Walk.**

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

“Loved Lifted Me”

1 I was sinking deep in sin, Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me – Now safe am I.

Refrain:

Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me;
Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.

2 All my heart to Him I give, Ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live, Ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true Merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service, too, To Him belongs. ***[Refrain]***

3 Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love Out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea, Billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be – Be saved today. ***[Refrain]***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*In Unison*)

O God, while the high and holy experiences of recent weeks are now memories, grant that this day our joy shall be that of the risen Lord as we walk this road of life. Sometimes the walk seems lonely. Often, we are tempted to abandon the journey, or take the path of least resistance. Forgive us if we have not lived up to the challenges you have given us in this life . Forgive us when we retreat from the difficult journeys in life. Remind us of your presence, remind us that all we need is to open our eyes, our hearts, and our spirits and that you are near to us, and we will see you walking beside us. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*Sung*)

The Invocation **Sister Charlotte Thomas**
Song of Meditation..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

O Master let me walk with thee in lonely paths of service free, help us to hear you in the words that we hear in scripture today. After hearing and ingesting your word, we can continue our walk in faith each day by day. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Charlotte Thomas**
(*Deuteronomy 34:1–12, Common English Bible*)

34 Then Moses hiked up from the Moabite plains to Mount Nebo, the peak of the Pisgah slope, which faces Jericho. The Lord showed him the whole land: the Gilead region as far as Dan’s territory; ² all the parts belonging to Naphtali along with the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, as well as the entirety of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea; ³ also the arid southern plain, and the plain—including the Jericho Valley, Palm City—as far as Zoar.

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses: “This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have shown it to you with your own eyes; however, you will not cross over into it.”

⁵ Then Moses, the Lord's servant, died—right there in the land of Moab, according to the Lord's command. ⁶ The Lord buried him in a valley in Moabite country across from Beth-peor. Even now, no one knows where Moses' grave is.

⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn't impaired, and his vigor hadn't diminished a bit.

⁸ Back down in the Moabite plains, the Israelites mourned Moses' death for thirty days. At that point, the time for weeping and for mourning Moses was over.

⁹ Joshua, Nun's son, was filled with wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to Joshua, and they did exactly what the Lord commanded Moses.

¹⁰ No prophet like Moses has yet emerged in Israel; Moses knew the Lord face-to-face! ¹¹ That's not even to mention all those signs and wonders that the Lord sent Moses to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to his entire land— ¹² as well as all the extraordinary power that Moses displayed before Israel's own eyes!

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Charlotte Thomas
(*1 Thessalonians 2:1–8, Common English Bible*)

2 As you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, our visit with you wasn't a waste of time. ² On the contrary, we had the courage through God to speak God's good news in spite of a lot of opposition, although we had already suffered and were publicly insulted in Philippi, as you know.

³ Our appeal isn't based on false information, the wrong motives, or deception. ⁴ Rather, we have been examined and approved by God to be trusted with the good news, and that's exactly how we speak. We aren't trying to please people, but we are trying to please God, who continues to examine our hearts. ⁵ As you know, we never used flattery, and God is our witness that we didn't have greedy motives. ⁶ We didn't ask for special treatment from people—not from you or from others— ⁷ although we could have thrown our weight around as Christ's apostles. Instead, we were gentle with you like a nursing mother caring for her own children.

⁸ We were glad to share not only God’s good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much.

SelectionSt. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Charlotte Thomas

Blessing of the Offering Sister Charlotte Thomas

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Sister Charlotte Thomas

(Matthew 22:34–46, Common English Bible)

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. ³⁵ One of them, a legal expert, tested him. ³⁶ “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ He replied, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.*” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

⁴¹ Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, ⁴² “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?”

“David’s son,” they replied.

⁴³ He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, ⁴⁴ *The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool’?*” ⁴⁵ If David calls him Lord, how can he be David’s son?” ⁴⁶ Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.

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 PreparationSt. Mark’s Choir

Inspirational MessageRev. Eugene W. Matthews

“The Anatomy of A Christian”

All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

(Matthew 22:40)

Invitation / Praise and Concerns

Altar CallRev. Eugene W. Matthews

Benediction

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 10/22/2023	
In-Person	57
YouTube	20
Total	77

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.



What’s Buzzing around the Marquee? — The last phase of native-flowers are in full bloom. The pollinators are in abundance. We achieved our goal of creating a productive pollinator garden on our “Sacred Ground”. We will be transplanting some of the native plants after Worship Service today. For more information, please see Jackie Jones.



Volunteers Needed! Decorate your car and/or bring a few bags of candy! Let Tina Matthews know how you can help!

Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Book Study — Purpose Driven Life. 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, November 2nd (6:30 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal

Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat, April 25th–April 27th at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum. For information and reservations, please see Nena Hughes if you are interested. \$100 deposit will hold your reservation.

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>)



***“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.

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, 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

Eunice Dumas

1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Grace Elaine Catchings

15505 Clayburn Drive
Laurel, MD 20707
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)