

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarksmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksmd@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](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, November 12, 2023*

*Twenty–Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

## *Order of Service*

*Ushers:*

*Francis Desouza and Tyrone Mundell*

*Sister Jaime Coffen, 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 Jaime Coffen**

**Leader:** Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to me.

**People:** **I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old.**

**Leader:** The glorious deeds of the Lord and his might are known.

**People:** **For he has established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law to Israel.**

**Leader:** Rise up and tell these deeds to your children.

**People:** **So that they may put their hope in God.**

**ALL:** **Don’t forget the works of God and keep his commandments.**

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

### *My Hope Is Built*

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**Refrain:**

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! **(Refrain)**

**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 the day to day experiences. We often lose sight of who we really are and where we are going. When this happens, Lord forgive us. When we are tempted to blame others for our missteps, stop us. Intervene in our lives and guide our steps in the right direction. Assure us that even in those moments where we turn from you, please seek us out and offer your forgiveness. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(sung)*

**The Invocation** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
**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 is proclaimed. Let the WORD of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we here today—the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
*(Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25, Common English Bible)*

**What God Has Done**

24 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges, and officers. They presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup> Then Joshua said to the entire people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates. They served other gods. Among them was Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. <sup>3</sup> I took Abraham your ancestor from the other side of the Euphrates. I led him around through the whole land of Canaan. I added to his descendants and gave him Isaac.

**Challenge to be faithful**

<sup>14</sup> “So now, revere the Lord. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “God forbid that we ever leave the Lord to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> The Lord is our God. He is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He has done these mighty signs in our sight. He has protected us the whole way we’ve gone and in all the nations through which we’ve passed. <sup>18</sup> The Lord has driven out all the nations before us, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, “You can’t serve the Lord, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won’t forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you leave the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn around and do you harm and finish you off, in spite of having done you good in the past.”

<sup>21</sup> Then the people said to Joshua, “No! The Lord is the one we will serve.”

<sup>22</sup> So Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.”

They said, “We are witnesses!”

<sup>23</sup> “So now put aside the foreign gods that are among you. Focus your hearts on the Lord, the God of Israel.”

<sup>24</sup> The people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and will obey him.”

### **Joshua makes a covenant**

<sup>25</sup> On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people and established just rule for them at Shechem.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
(*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, Common English Bible*)

### **Believers who have died**

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about people who have died so that you won’t mourn like others who don’t have any hope. <sup>14</sup> Since we believe that Jesus died and rose, so we also believe that God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> What we are saying is a message from the Lord: we who are alive and still around at the Lord’s coming definitely won’t go ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> This is because the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the signal of a shout by the head angel and a blast on God’s trumpet. First, those who are dead in Christ will rise. <sup>17</sup> Then, we who are living and still around will be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet with the Lord in the air. That way we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words.

**Selection** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

### **Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**

**Blessing of the Offering** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)** ..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**  
(*Matthew 25:1–13, Common English Version*)

### **Parable of the ten young bridesmaids**

<sup>25</sup> “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but didn’t bring oil for them. <sup>4</sup> But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

<sup>5</sup> “When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.’

<sup>7</sup> “Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.’

<sup>9</sup> “But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘No, because if we share with you, there won’t be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> But

while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup>“Later the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’

<sup>12</sup>“But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup>“Therefore, keep alert, because you don’t know the day or the hour.

**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** ..... **Dr. Rev. Louis Shockley**

**Invitation / Praise and Concerns**

**Altar Call** ..... **Dr. Rev. Louis Shockley**

**Benediction**

# Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 11/05/2023	
In-Person	67
YouTube	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</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.



**Women’s Day:** There will be a meeting with all women immediately following worship service today.

**Tuesday Women’s Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Book Study — Purpose Driven Life.** Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFV0VHRlYlJxK284Zz09>; 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 16<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal**

**Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat,** April 25<sup>th</sup>–April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum. For additional information, please **Nena Hughes.** \$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/stmarks/md>)



*“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).

*Condolence to the family of  
Sister Diane Gaskin Breedy  
(friend of Gemma)*

Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, 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

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