

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

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, November 19, 2023

Twenty–Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Women’s Day Kickoff

Order of Service

Ushers:

Gemma Desouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas

Sister 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 Whitfield*

Leader: ... O God, you are my God and I seek you!

People: **My soul is thirsty for you.**

Leader:Because your steadfast love is much better than life,

People: **my lips are full of your praises.**

Leader: I will lift up my hands and call on the name of the Lord.

People: For you have been our help, and in the shadow of your wings, we feel safe.

ALL: WE will continue to sing for you have been our rock and salvation

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

Jesus Is A Rock in the Weary Land

Refrain:

Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land;
My Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in the time of storm.

1 No man can do like Jesus,
Not a mumbling word He said;
He went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
And He raised him from the dead. *[Refrain]*

2 When Jesus was on earth,
The flesh was very weak;
He girdled Himself with a tow'l,
And washed His disciples feet. *[Refrain]*

3 Yonder comes my Savior,
Him whom I love so well;
He has the palm of victory,
And the keys of death and Hell. *[Refrain]*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(In Unison)*

O GOD, we confess that we have buried our talents. We confine your grace to ourselves rather than passing it on to others. Often we prefer to invest in ourselves rather than in the life to which you have called us as

disciples. Forgive us, O Lord, and restore our stewardship to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

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

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Gracious Lord, you have created us not as empty vessels to be tucked away from your holiness. Fill us today with words of your Holy scripture that we may continue to faithfully serve you. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(Judges 4:1–7, Common English Bible)

4 After Ehud had died, the Israelites again did things that the Lord saw as evil. **2** So the Lord gave them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, and he was stationed in Harosheth-ha-goiim. **3** The Israelites cried out to the Lord because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was a leader of Israel at that time. **5** She would sit under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands, and the Israelites would come to her to settle disputes. **6** She sent word to Barak, Abinoam's son, from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "Hasn't the Lord, Israel's God, issued you a command? 'Go and assemble at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand men from the people of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. **7** I'll lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, to assemble with his chariots and troops against you at the Kishon River, and then I'll help you overpower him.'" "

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(1 Thessalonians 5:1–11, Common English Bible)

The Lord’s coming

5 We don’t need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. **2** You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. **3** When they are saying, “There is peace and security,” at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won’t escape. **4** But you aren’t in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won’t catch you by surprise like a thief. **5** All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don’t belong to night or darkness. **6** So then, let’s not sleep like the others, but let’s stay awake and stay sober. People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. **8** Since we belong to the day, let’s stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **9** God didn’t intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10** Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. **11** So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Blessing of the Offering Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(John 4:7–18, 28-29, Common English Version)

7 A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me some water to drink.” **8** His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

⁹ The Samaritan woman asked, “Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (Jews and Samaritans didn’t associate with each other.)

¹⁰ Jesus responded, “If you recognized God’s gift and who is saying to you, ‘Give me some water to drink,’ you would be asking him and he would give you living water.”

¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you don’t have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.”

¹⁷ The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

“You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered.

¹⁸ “You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.”

²⁸ The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?”

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

“Needed Christian Sister Women”

28 The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, 29 “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?”

(John 4:28–29)

Invitation / Praise and Concerns

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

Benediction

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 11/12/2023	
In-Person	42
YouTube	14
Total	56

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.



Bible Studies on Hiatus this week for Thanksgiving break, resume next week respectively.

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.

Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat, April 25th–April 27th 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.

Joseph Ballard, 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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