

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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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 5, 2023

Twenty–Third Sunday After Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Order of Service

Ushers:

Sharon Thomas and Jaqueline Vaughan

Min. Nena Hughes, 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 Min. Nena Hughes

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise shall be continually in my mouth.

People: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

Leader: O taste and see that the Lord is good.

People: Happy are those who take refuge in him.

Leader: O fear the Lord, your holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

People: The Lord redeems the life of his servants.

ALL: None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

Shall We Gather at The River

1 Shall we gather at the river
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river,
That flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy, golden day. ***[Refrain]***

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown. ***[Refrain]***

4 Soon we'll gather at the river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace. ***[Refrain]***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*In Unison*)

Loving God, we confess that we would like to be great .Even more, we would like to be known for our greatness. Forgive our foolish pride, and our appearing small in the eyes of others, and in our own eyes. Cleanse our hearts by faith that we might joyfully follow thee all the days of our lives. That your name might be honored and all creation may be blessed. **Amen.**

The Invocation **Min. Nena Hughes**
Song of Meditation.....**St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

O God, may you instill in us the power and graciousness of the words of scripture we hear today. Allow the spirit of our ancestors to speak to us through the readings and the proclamation. Above all, on this celebrative day, speak to our hearts through your WORD today. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Min. Nena Hughes**
(Joshua 3:7–17, Common English Bible)

⁷ The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to make you great in the opinion of all Israel. Then they will know that I will be with you in the same way that I was with Moses. ⁸ You are to command the priests who carry the covenant chest, ‘As soon as you come to the bank of the Jordan, stand still in the Jordan.’”

⁹ Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come close. Listen to the words of the Lord your God.” ¹⁰ Then Joshua said, “This is how you will know that the living God is among you and will completely remove the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites before you. ¹¹ Look! The covenant chest of the ruler of the entire earth is going to cross over in front of you in the Jordan. ¹² Now pick twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one per tribe. ¹³ The soles of the priests’ feet, who are carrying the chest of the Lord, ruler of the whole earth, will come to rest in the water of the Jordan. At that moment, the water of the Jordan will be cut off. The water flowing downstream will stand still in a single heap.”

¹⁴ The people marched out from their tents to cross over the Jordan. The priests carrying the covenant chest were in front of the people. ¹⁵ When the priests who were carrying the chest came to the Jordan, their feet touched the edge of the water. The Jordan had overflowed its banks completely, the way it does during the entire harvest season. ¹⁶ But at that moment the water of the Jordan coming downstream stood still. It rose up as a single heap very far off, just below Adam, which is the city next to Zarethan. The water going down to the desert sea (that is, the Dead Sea) was cut off completely. The people crossed opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ So the priests carrying the Lord's covenant chest stood firmly on dry land in the middle of the Jordan. Meanwhile, all Israel crossed over on dry land, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Scripture Reading #2 **Min. Nena Hughes**
(*1 Thessalonians 2:9–13, Common English Bible*)

⁹ You remember, brothers and sisters, our efforts and hard work. We preached God's good news to you, while we worked night and day so we wouldn't be a burden on any of you. ¹⁰ You and God are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were toward you believers. ¹¹ Likewise, you know how we treated each of you like a father treats his own children. ¹² We appealed to you, encouraged you, and pleaded with you to live lives worthy of the God who is calling you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ We also thank God constantly for this: when you accepted God's word that you heard from us, you welcomed it for what it truly is. Instead of accepting it as a human message, you accepted it as God's message, and it continues to work in you who are believers.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements **Min. Nena Hughes**

Blessing of the Offering **Min. Nena Hughes**
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Min. Nena Hughes
(Matthew 5:1–12, New International Version)

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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.**

Roll Call of the Saints Sandra Johnson
Lighting Saint’s Candles

✚ **Mildred Awkward** – November 27, 2022 – **St. Mark’s Member** –
Beloved Mother of St. Mark’s Members Valerie Awkward and Lisa

Wright; Beloved Grandmother of St. Mark's Member Shimaine Wilson-West

- † **Joan Moore** – December 14, 2022 – **St. Mark's Member** – Beloved Mother of Denise Jordan, Clifford, Chester and Timothy Moore
- † **John Catchings** – December 2022 – Beloved Brother of **St. Mark's Member Robert Catchings**
- † **Ronald Johnson** – December 2022 – Beloved Cousin/Brother of **St. Mark's Member Carlton West**
- † **Ronald Quick** – December 31, 2022 – Beloved Great Uncle of **St. Mark's Member** Kamille Quick (Gemma DeSouza's Granddaughter)
- † **Steve Scroggs** – January 2023 – Beloved Cousin of **Lynn Jennrich** (Faithfully Attends St. Mark's Worship Service on ZOOM/YouTube)
- † **Helen Vaughan** – February 9, 2023 – Beloved Mother of **St. Mark's Member** Jacqueline Vaughan
- † **Elizabeth Day** – February 2023 – Beloved Aunt of the Gibson Family
- † **Rosa Smith** – February 2023 – Beloved Aunt of **St. Mark's Member Cynthia Augustus**
- † **Kenneth Adams** – February 2023 – Beloved Cousin of **St. Mark's Members** Gemma and Francis DeSouza
- † **John Lezama** – February 2023 – Beloved Great Grandfather of **St. Mark's Member** Kamille Quick (Gemma DeSouza's Granddaughter)
- † **Melvin Jefferson** – April 2023 – Beloved Stepbrother of **St. Mark's Member** Cynthia Augustus
- † Rayna Carr – May 21, 2023 – Beloved Daughter of **St. Mark's Member** Brent Matthews
- † **Tina Bailey** – May 26, 2023 – Beloved Cousin of **St. Mark's Members** Andre Wright, Michelle Wilson, Angela Smith, and Shimaine Wilson-West

- † **Sylvia Mohammad** – July 2023 – Beloved Aunt of **St. Mark’s Members** Gemma and Francis DeSouza
- † **Cameron Smith** – July 21, 2023 – **Son of Kianna Smith**; nephew of **St. Mark’s Member** LaAngel Hall
- † **Chanelle Matthews** – October 3, 2023 – Beloved **Member of the Matthews Family**
- † **Beverly Wright** – October 9, 2023 – Beloved Sister-in-law of **St. Mark’s Member** Lisa Wright
- † **Carol Quick** – October 22, 2023 – Beloved Aunt of **St. Mark’s Member Kamille Quick** (Gemma DeSouza’s Granddaughter)

Former St. Mark's Members

- † **Monique Shelton** – January 2023 - Daughter of Former St. Mark's Members Rev. David and Beverly Shelton
- † **Eric Moore** – June 2023 – Former St. Mark's Member
- † **Carolyn Martin** – September 2023 – Former St. Mark's Member

Hymn of PreparationSt. Mark’s Choir
Inspirational MessageRev. Eugene W. Matthews

“Saints by Grace of God”

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”
(Matthew 5:4)

Invitation / Praise and Concerns
Altar CallRev. Eugene W. Matthews

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving for All Saints

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

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 (*almighty God*),
Creator of heaven and earth.
God of Abraham and Sarah,
God of Miriam and Moses,
God of Joshua and Deborah,
God of Ruth and David,
God of the priests and the prophets,
God of Mary and Joseph,
God of the apostles and the martyrs,
God of our mothers and our fathers,
God of our children to all generations.

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.

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 all your saints, especially those whom we
name before you—

Mildred Awkward, Joan Moore, John Catchings, Ronald Johnson,
Ronald Quick, Steve Scroggs, Helen Vaughan, Elizabeth Day, Rosa
Smith, Kenneth Adams, John Lezama, Melvin Jefferson, Rayna Carr,
Tina Bailey, Sylvia Mohammad, Cameron Smith, Chanelle
Matthews, Beverly Wright, Carol Quick, Monique Shelton, Eric
Moore, Carolyn Martin

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith.

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 forever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

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.**

Benediction

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 and Anniversary November Members

David, Jr. – 1st
Naomi Williams – 4th
Troy Gibson, Sr. – 14th

Ufuoma Agarin – 16th
Loretta Thomas – 17th
Amber Nicole Dorsey – 18th
Cynthia Burley – 24th

Anniversary

Jeffrey & Danielle King – Nov. 1st (4 yrs.)
Jerral & Umbrenda Fisher – Nov. 6th (30 yrs.)

Heavenly Birthdays

Laura Dotson – 4th
Patricia Briggs – 14th
Hazel Briggs – 16th

William (Bill) Carey – 17th
Sgt. Morris James – 21st
Bessie Williams – 22nd

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 10/29/2023	
In-Person	46
YouTube	14
Total	60

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.





To everyone for your time and donations for the Harvest Party

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 9th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat, April 25th–April 27th at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum. **Nena Hughes** will present a lay minute about the conference. \$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.

Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, Diane Gaskin Breedy (friend of Gemma), 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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