

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, January 14, 2023

Baptism of the Lord
Human Relations Sunday
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

Ushers:

Francis DeSouza and Tyrone Mundell

Order of Service

Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley, Worship Leader

PreludeRev. Henry Tindel

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 WorshipSister Gemma Desouza-Ottley

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

People: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.

Leader: The voice breaks the cedars.

People: And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens opened, and God's Spirit descended.

Leader: God is our refuge and our strength.

People: God is a present help in times of trouble.

ALL: Therefore, we shall not fear even in the midst of change. AMEN! AMEN and AMEN!

Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation

“Hush, Hush, Somebody’s Callin Mah Name”

- 1 Hush, Hush, Somebody’s callin’ my name.
Hush, Hush, Somebody’s callin’ my name.
Oh, Hush, Hush, Somebody’s callin’ my name.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?
What shall I do?
- 2 Sounds like Jesus. Somebody’s callin’ my name.
Sounds like Jesus. Somebody’s callin’ my name.
Oh, Sounds like Jesus. Somebody’s callin’ my name.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?
What shall I do?
- 3 Soon one morning, death come creepin’ in my room.
Soon one morning, death come creepin’ in my room.
Oh, Soon one morning, death come creepin’ in my room.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?
What shall I do?
- 4 I’m so glad, got me religion on time.
I’m so glad, got me religion on time.
Oh, I’m so glad, got me religion on time.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?
What shall I do?
- 5 I’m so glad trouble don’t last always.
I’m so glad trouble don’t last always.
Oh, I’m so glad trouble don’t last always.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Gracious God, we confess that we have enjoyed being the insiders, unbind our reluctance to share all things with all people. Thank you loving God, for the privilege of changing our failings to exhibit your presence in our lives. May our ears, mind and spirit continue to listen for your call on our lives. And when we hear your WORD, may we respond joyfully” Hear I am, For you have called me. **Amen.**

The Invocation.....Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley
Song of Meditation St. Mark’s Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Show us your ways, O Lord, teach us your paths, guide us in your truth and give us the understanding of your word. Now may we listen attentively as the scriptures are read in our hearing this morning. In your name we ask. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Miss. Kamille Quick
(1 Samuel 3:1–20, Common English Bible)

3 Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord’s word was rare at that time, and visions weren’t widely known. **2** One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. **3** God’s lamp hadn’t gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord’s temple, where God’s chest was.

4 The Lord called to Samuel. “I’m here,” he said.

5 Samuel hurried to Eli and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

“I didn’t call you,” Eli replied. “Go lie down.” So he did.

6 Again the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

“I didn’t call, my son,” Eli replied. “Go and lie down.”

(**7** Now Samuel didn’t yet know the Lord, and the Lord’s word hadn’t yet been revealed to him.)

8 A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. **9** So Eli said to Samuel, “Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down where he’d been.

10 Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, “Samuel, Samuel!”

Samuel said, “Speak. Your servant is listening.”

11 The Lord said to Samuel, “I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! **12** On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it! **13** I told him that I would punish his family forever because of the wrongdoing he knew about—how his sons were cursing God, but he wouldn’t stop them. **14** Because of that I swore about Eli’s household that his family’s wrongdoing will never be reconciled by sacrifice or by offering.”

15 Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the Lord’s house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. **16** But Eli called Samuel, saying: “Samuel, my son!”

“I’m here,” Samuel said.

17 “What did he say to you?” Eli asked. “Don’t hide anything from me. May God deal harshly with you and worse still if you hide from me a single word from everything he said to you.” **18** So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

“He is the Lord,” Eli said. “He will do as he pleases.”

19 So Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not allowing any of his words to fail. **20** All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was trustworthy as the Lord’s prophet.

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and

a Letter to America (2024) Brother Thomas Matthews

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley

Blessing of the Offering Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley

Special Offering – Human Relations Sunday

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Miss. Kamille Quick
(John 1:43–51, Common English Bible)

⁴³ The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph’s son, from Nazareth.”

⁴⁶ Nathanael responded, “Can anything from Nazareth be good?”

Philip said, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “How do you know me?”

Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are God’s Son. You are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! ⁵¹ I assure you that you will see heaven open and God’s angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Human One.”^[a]

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

“Are You Listening”

⁹ So Eli said to Samuel, “Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.’”
(1 Samuel 3:9 (CEB))

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT I
HOLY BAPTISM
CONFIRMATION
REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH
RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RECEPTION INTO A LOCAL CONGREGATION

Sister Cynthia E. Dixon, receiving membership into St. Marks

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

As persons come forward, an appropriate baptismal or confirmation hymn may be sung.

1 *A pastor makes the following statement go the congregation:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ:
Through the Sacrament of Baptism
 we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
 and given new birth through water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

2 *If there are confirmations or reaffirmations, the pastor continues:*

Through confirmation,
and through the reaffirmation of our faith,
we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,
acknowledge what God is doing for us,
and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

3 *A representative of the congregation presents the candidates with the appropriate statements:*

I present *Name(s)* for baptism.
I present *Name(s)* for confirmation.
I present *Name(s)* to reaffirm *their* faith.
I present (*Name(s)*) who come(s) to this congregation from the _____ Church.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

4 *The pastor addresses parents or other sponsors and those candidates who can answer for themselves:*

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

6 *The pastor addresses candidates who can answer for themselves:*

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain *faithful members* of Christ's holy Church
and serve as Christ's *representatives* in the world?

I will.

7 *The pastor addresses the sponsors:*

Will you who sponsor these *candidates*
support and encourage *them* in *their* Christian life?

I will.

8 *The pastor addresses the congregation*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include *these persons* now before
you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround *these persons*
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in *their* service to others.**

**We will pray for *them*,
that they may be *true disciples*
who *walk* in the way that leads to life.**

9 *The pastor addresses all:*

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
[the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.]**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

***10 If there are baptisms, or if water is to be used for reaffirmation, the water may be poured
into the font at this time, and the following prayer offered***

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah

you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

****Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.
He called his disciples
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

****Declare Christ's works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
to bless this gift of water and *those* who receive it,
to wash away *their* sin
and clothe *them* in righteousness
throughout *their* lives,
that, dying and being raised with Christ,
they may share in his final victory.

****All praise to you, Eternal Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

When all candidates for baptism have been baptized, the pastor invites the congregation to welcome them together with those who are transferring as baptized members:

Now it is our joy to welcome our new *sisters* and *brothers* in Christ.

**Through baptism
you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.
We are all one in Christ Jesus.
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
as members of the family of Christ.**

CONFIRMATION OR REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

12 *Here water may be used by the candidates as the pastor says:*

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

As the pastor, and others if desired, place hands on the head of each person being confirmed or reaffirming faith, the pastor says to each:

Name, the Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

13 *When there is a congregational reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant, water may be used symbolically in ways that cannot be interpreted as baptism, as the pastor says:*

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14 *If there are persons coming into membership in The United Methodist Church from other denominations who have not yet been presented, they may be presented at this time.*

The pastor addresses all those transferring into The United Methodist Church as professing members, together with those who, through baptism or confirmation, have just professed their own faith:

As members of Christ's universal Church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

15 *If there are persons joining this congregation from other United Methodist congregations who have not yet been presented, they may be presented at this time.*

The pastor addresses all those transferring membership and those who have just professed their own faith in baptism or in confirmation:

As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, and your service?

I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

16 *The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Members of the household of God,
I commend *these* persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase *their* faith,
confirm *their* hope, and perfect *them* in love.

The congregation responds:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, and our service,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The pastor addresses those baptized, confirmed, or received, using an appropriate gesture of blessing:

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

One or more laypersons, may join the pastor in acts of welcome and peace.

Appropriate thanksgivings and intercessions for those who have participated in these acts should be included in the concerns and prayers which follow:

It is most fitting that the service continue with Holy Communion, in which the union of the new members with the body of Christ is most fully expressed. The new members may receive first.

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 01/07/2023	
In-Person	41
YouTube	20
Total	61

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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09>, Meeting ID: 885 7118 4455; Passcode: 459563

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.

Usher Board — The Usher Board is looking for 2 ushers to serve one Sunday a month

This is not goodbye,
This is not farewell...*

Pastor's Goodbye/Farewell — If you have an interest in working on the committee to plan Rev. Matthews Goodbye/Farewell celebration, please let Cynthia know. Someone from Finance and Culinary is a must. Thank you.

Thursday, January 18th (6:30 p.m.) — Choir rehearsal

Sunday, January 21st (morning service) — **Rededication of Class Leaders.**

Sunday, January 28th (morning service) — **Rededication of Church Officers.**

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, let us give a big 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>)

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.

Nathaniel Watkins, Judith James, Isabella Dustin, 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., Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Eric Smith, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

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