

## *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto: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](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, January 21, 2023*

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany*

*Ushers:*

*Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas*

### *Order of Service*

*Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen, Worship Leader*

**Prelude ..... Rev. 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 Worship ..... Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

**Leader:** We have come to worship our Lord and Savior.

**People :** **Our week has been challenging as we strived to serve you.**

**Leader:** We have come to worship our Lord and Savior.

**People:** **We have been living under the expectations of friends and family.**

**Leader:** We have come to worship our Lord and Savior.

**People:** **Today we have come to find peace for our daily journey.**

**ALL:** **We have come to serve our Lord and Savior and to declare that we have decided to follow Jesus.**

**Hymn of Praise ..... Choir / Congregation**

### *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

1 I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
no turning back (*no turning back*) no turning back.

2 Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;

though none go with me, I still will follow;  
no turning back (*no turning back*) no turning back.

- 3 The world behind me, the cross before me;  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me;  
no turning back (*no turning back*) no turning back.

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

Gracious God, what we must confess today is more than the obvious that we haven't always paid attention to you when you called us to follow you. Even when we have heard you loud and clear, we like Jonah have said "NO" thank you. But thank you for believing and loving us despite the times we have reneged on our promises. And thank you Lord, for giving us the opportunity to say "YES". **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*Recite*)..... **Choir and Congregation**

**The Invocation**..... **Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

**Song of Meditation** ..... **St. Mark's Choir**

**The Prayer of Illumination** (*In Unison*)

As we journey into your sacred story this morning, help us along the path toward faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope and love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

(*Jonah 3:1–5, 10, Common English Bible*)

**3** The Lord's word came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and declare against it the proclamation that I am commanding you." <sup>3</sup> And Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord's word. (Now Nineveh was indeed an enormous city, a three days' walk across.)

<sup>4</sup> Jonah started into the city, walking one day, and he cried out, "Just forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on mourning clothes, from the greatest of them to the least significant.

<sup>10</sup> God saw what they were doing—that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn't do it.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

(*1 Corinthians 7: 29–31, Common English Bible*)

<sup>29</sup> This is what I'm saying, brothers and sisters: The time has drawn short. From now on, those who have wives should be like people who don't have them. <sup>30</sup> Those who are sad should be like people who aren't crying. Those who are happy should be like people who aren't happy. Those who buy something should be like people who don't have possessions. <sup>31</sup> Those who use the world should be like people who aren't preoccupied with it, because this world in its present form is passing away.

**Selection** ..... **St. Mark's Choir**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements** ..... **Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

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

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**  
*(Mark 1:14–20, Common English Bible)*

**Jesus' message**

<sup>14</sup> After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, <sup>15</sup> saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

**Jesus calls disciples**

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." <sup>18</sup> Right away, they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. <sup>20</sup> At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

**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.**

***An Order for the Commissioning of Class Leaders***

*Cynthia Augustus  
Yvonne Borders  
Wayne Coffen  
Floyd Hughes, Jr.  
Judith James  
Barbara Jones  
Anthony Latney*

*Thomas Matthews  
Patricia Mundell  
Carolyn Noel  
Venita Stratford-Smith  
Charlotte Thomas  
Vaune Williams-Jones  
Shimaine Wilson-West*

***Pastor to congregation:***

Dear friends,  
the office of class leader is one of the most important contributions  
made by world Methodism to the pastoral leadership of Christ's holy Church.

In the General Rules of 1743,  
John Wesley described the Methodist societies  
as companies of men and women who,  
"having the form, and seeking the power of godliness,"  
came together in order to pray,  
to receive the word of exhortation,  
and "to watch over one another in love  
that they may help each other work out their salvation."

To this end, the societies were divided into small companies, called classes, each with an  
appointed leader "to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require."

Class leaders of today continue this tradition.

In the founding *Discipline* of our church, they are described as persons

“not only of sound judgment, but truly devoted to God,” who are willing to help others in the congregation “to grow in the knowledge and love of God.”

*Pastor to class leader(s):*

Do you accept the office of class leader  
in this congregation of The United Methodist Church?

**I do.**

Will you exercise this office  
by helping other members of the congregation  
to fulfill the general rule of discipleship:  
To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings  
through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion,  
under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

**I will.**

Will you help other members of the congregation  
to be accountable for their discipleship,  
not by judging them, but by watching over them in love?

**I will.**

Will you meet weekly in covenant with others of like mind  
and purpose to be accountable for your own discipleship?

**I will.**

*Pastor to congregation:*

Will you affirm the call of these *men and women* to be class leaders in this congregation of The  
United Methodist Church?

**We will.**

Will you acknowledge *them* as your *leaders* in discipleship,  
and accept *their* guidance as *they* watch over you in love?

**We will.**

*Pastor to class leader(s):*

You are hereby commissioned as *class leaders*  
in this congregation of The United Methodist Church

Let us pray.

Most gracious God,  
bless your servant(s)  
whom we now entrust with the office of class leader.

Grant *them* wisdom tempered by your love,  
and courage tempered by your justice,  
so that Jesus Christ might be honored and served  
by all in this congregation,  
to the furtherance of your coming reign, on earth as in heaven;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation ..... St. Mark's Choir  
Inspirational Message ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

## *"Called to Be the Church"*

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." (Mark:1:16-17 (CEB))

Praise and Prayer Concerns ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews  
Invitation / Altar Call ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews  
Invitation Selection

## *Announcements*

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

Worship Attendance — 01/14/2024	
In-Person	46
YouTube	18
Total	64

### **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 25<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

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

**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, 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](mailto: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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