

## *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 28, 2023*

## *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany*

*Ushers:*

*Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews*

### *Order of Service*

*Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen, Worship Leader*

**Prelude .....Ms. LaTonya Wrenn**

**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:** Let us praise the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts.

**People:** Honor and majesty are God's work and God's righteousness endures forever.

**Leader:** The works of God's hands are faithful and just.

**People:** God has sent redemption to the people through Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** God's Praise endures forever.

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

### *"Blessed Assurance"*

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain:*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*(Refrain)*

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

*(Refrain)*

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

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you that we have often bowed to every authority but your own. We have listened to voices that call us to worship idols of money, power, prestige, revenge and hate. We have tried to be our own authority and have failed to seek guidance from you, the source of our being. Forgive us from false authorities, turn us toward you, the one who offers us truth in love. **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)*

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable and obedient hearts, that we may hear your word and also do it. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding of your word today. **Amen.**

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

*(Deuteronomy 18:15–20, Common English Bible)*

<sup>15</sup> The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me from your community, from your fellow Israelites. He's the one you must listen to. <sup>16</sup> That's exactly what you requested from the Lord your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when you said, "I can't listen to the Lord my God's voice anymore or look at this great fire any longer. I don't want to die!"

<sup>17</sup> The Lord said to me: What they've said is right. <sup>18</sup> I'll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites—one just like you. I'll put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> I myself will hold accountable anyone who doesn't listen to my words, which that prophet will speak in my name. <sup>20</sup> However, any prophet who arrogantly speaks a word in my name that I haven't commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet must die.

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**  
(1 Corinthians 8:1–13, Common English Bible)

<sup>8</sup> Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. <sup>2</sup> If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. <sup>3</sup> But if someone loves God, then they are known by God.

<sup>4</sup> So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. <sup>5</sup> Granted, there are so-called "gods," in heaven and on the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. <sup>6</sup> However, for us believers,

There is one God the Father.

All things come from him, and we belong to him.

And there is one Lord Jesus Christ.

All things exist through him, and we live through him.

<sup>7</sup> But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. <sup>8</sup> Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. <sup>9</sup> But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. <sup>10</sup> Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? <sup>11</sup> The weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. <sup>13</sup> This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again, or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

**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 1:21–28, Common English Bible)

<sup>21</sup> Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. <sup>23</sup> Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, <sup>24</sup> "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God."

<sup>25</sup> "Silence!" Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

<sup>27</sup> Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, "What's this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!" <sup>28</sup> Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

**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**

***“The ABC’s of Praise”***

*<sup>111</sup> Praise the Lord!*

*I thank the Lord with all my heart*

*in the company of those who do right, in the congregation.*

*(Psalm 111:1 (CEB))*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

***Sharing Reflections of the Ministry of  
Rev. Henry Tindal, Jr.***

**Benediction**

# Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 01/21/2024	
In-Person	31
YouTube	19
Total	50

## 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, February 1<sup>st</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** (morning service) — **Rededication of Church Officers.**

**Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat. Cancelled.**

**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. 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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