

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | 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

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, February 25, 2024

Black History Month

Women Heart Month

2024 Lenten Season

Second Sunday in Lent



Ushers:

Ralph Laguerre and Thomas Matthews

Black History Month Youth Sunday

Order of Service

Rev. Eugene Matthews, Worship Leader

Prelude Mr. Sheldon King

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 Pastor Matthews

Leader: My Lord, what a morning! You have raised up a mighty nation and a mighty people.

People: And we are strong, proud, and yours.

Leader: My Lord, what a morning! You have brought us through the dips and hollows, up and down the streets, over the hills and mountains and through the valleys.

People: And we are strong, proud, brave and yours.

ALL: My Lord, this morning, we have come to celebrate you, to affirm ourselves as images of you in all your glory and to say "Yes, Lord, we are strong, proud, brave, and yours in every way." We count it all joy

Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation

“I Am Thine Old Lord”

- 1 I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

- 2 Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow’r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine. [Refrain]
- 3 O, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend! [Refrain]
- 4 There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee. [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Almighty God, we come to worship you today with open hearts and open minds. We want to hear and receive what you have to say to us in this meeting. Speak to us today as you spoke to those who went before us. Tell us the stories of your wonders and greatness. We are ready to hear them. Remind us once again of your grace and love. Help us teach your goodness to our children and the next generation. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (*Sing*) **Choir and Congregation**

The Invocation **Pastor Matthews**

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

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, you are the source of all light. You divinely separated light from darkness so that we may have the beauty of the light of day. Dear Lord, illuminate this day and enlighten us as we seek to know you through your word. May we be led by your light so our hearts may be opened to your word. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Eli Coffen**
(*Jeremiah 29:10-14, Common English Bible*)

¹⁰ The LORD proclaims: When Babylon’s seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹I know the plans I have in mind for you,

declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. ¹² When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. ¹³ When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be present for you, declares the LORD, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile,[a] declares the LORD.

Scripture Reading #2**Kamille Quick**
(*Philippians 4:10–13, Common English Bible*)

¹⁰ I was very glad in the Lord because now at last you have shown concern for me again. (Of course you were always concerned but had no way to show it.) ¹¹ I'm not saying this because I need anything, for I have learned how to be content in any circumstance. ¹² I know the experience of being in need and of having more than enough; I have learned the secret to being content in any and every circumstance, whether full or hungry or whether having plenty or being poor. ¹³ I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

A Prayer for Justice **Wayne Coffen**

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements **Pastor Matthews**

Blessing of the Offering **Pastor Matthews**
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... **Eli Coffen**
(*Matthew 20:12–16, Common English Bible*)

¹² ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’

¹³ “But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ ¹⁶ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

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**

Black History Moment **Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

“You too, Can Be A First!”

BHM Celebration!

Join us in the fellowship hall for BHM brunch & fun!

Chicken & Waffles ... Did you know the first plate of Chicken & Waffles were served in the 1930's in Harlem at the Wells Supper Club!

Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light and in his honor enjoy traffic light **Rice Krispy Treats!**

Don't want Waffles have your **Chicken with Potato Chips!** Did you know a black man George Speck also known as George Crum popularized Potato Chips!

In **West Africa** meals are concluded with a **Fresh Cup of Fruit.** Enjoy!

Play BHM Bingo! Be inspired by artist Alma Thomas and create your own masterpiece, or make a bracelet!

All are invited to participate!

Celebrating our past to step boldly into our future!

A Prayer for Justice

By Stephon Carlisle Void

Heavenly Father, how many more names must be added to the list? How many more hashtags must we post? How many more vigils must be held? How many more mothers must bury their children? How many marches and how many events must we hold until our nation sees that there is an epidemic of death by police?

Father, we tell our children to keep their hands visible, always comply, don't wear a hoodie, don't walk too fast, don't walk too slow, walk in pairs to the store, be respectful, and do whatever it takes to make it home. Why do they fear us, O God? We aren't animals. We are not a threat. We are your children, just like they are. Still, we lose our lives because they fear the greatness inside of us. Night after night, we see our own gunned down because they were the wrong color, at the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Lord, we are tired; we are afraid; we are angry; and we are confused. In the midst of our pain, God, we still trust you. You said in your word, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV^[1]). Lord, we are seeking your face today. We admit we are not perfect and we have not done all we can.

We are pleading for the pain to stop. We are praying to stop the tears from falling down our cheeks. We pray that our justice system no longer sees us as a target and that they soon will see us as human beings. We need your wisdom. We need your strength. We need your peace to spread, far and wide, so that our sons and daughters make it back home.

Father, in this troublesome time, help us not return violence for violence. Help us to stand on your Word and your promises. We know that change will not be easy and that we will have to endure many tests. Lord, don't move the mountain. We ask that you give us the strength to climb. We pray that there will be a day when all our children can live without fear. We pray that the hashtags of names be replaced with #Faith, #Hope, and #Love. We pray that your love will conquer all the fear and hatred in this country. We pray that our justice system will be equal and just --for all of us. May we soon see a day where we all are truly free. It is in your name we pray, **Amen.**

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

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

Invitation Selection

Benediction

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 02/18/2024	
In-Person	55
YouTube	31
Total	86

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.

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.

We will have a meeting on Monday, February 26th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86250990374?pwd=UGZZQlcyYXlQd0NZUXdicTdpV0szdz09>,
Meeting ID: 862 5099 0374 Passcode: 276462

Thursday, February 29th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.

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/stmarks1md>)

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.

Delores Stratford, Keith Davis, Elba Hernandez, 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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