

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarksfmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksfmd@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, February 11, 2024*

*Black History Month*

*Women Heart Month*

*Scouting Sunday*

*Transfiguration Sunday*

*Ushers:*

*Deborah Harper and Francis Desouza*

*Order of Service*

*Brother Thomas Matthews, Worship Leader*



**Prelude** ..... **Mr. Reginald McClurkin**

**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**..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**

**Leader:** The Lord is Creator of all! May we tremble in awe.

**People:** May we praise God's great and awesome name.

**Leader:** Our Mighty God is a lover of justice,

**People:** May we strive for equity and righteousness.

**Leader:** When our ancestors cried out to God, God answered them,

**People:** And God responds to our prayers and pleas.

**Leader:** Worship the Wondrous and Mighty One,

**People:** Holy is our God!

Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation

## *“Glory, Glory, Hallelujah”*

- 1 Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down.
- 2 I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down,  
I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down.
- 3 Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!” Since I laid my burden down,  
Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!” Since I laid my burden down.
- 4 I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, Since I laid my burden down,  
I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, Since I laid my burdens down.
- 5 Ev’ry round goes higher and higher, Since I laid my burden down,  
Ev’ry round goes higher and higher, Since I laid my burden down.

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

Holy God, we confess that we do not trust You fully. We put our hope in worldly gain and in human promises, and find ourselves defeated and lost when things fall apart. You have given us a love more fully than anything we could experience in this world but we do not seek it, we do not hold on to it, and we look to our own means of assurance and security. Forgive us. Call us back to You that we may put our trust in You and not be afraid. May we hear the words so clearly as the disciples did on the day of the Transfiguration; may we rise up, and not be afraid. In the name of Jesus, who loves us and offers us forgiveness, we pray. **Amen.**

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

**The Invocation**..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**

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

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

Reveal your presence to us this day, O God of light, love, and glory. As you did to your servants at the foot of the mountain, send your Spirit to show us your story. May the brilliance of your face illuminate this place as we dare to proclaim your Word and may we, your people, be never unable to tell all of that we have heard.

**Scripture Reading #1**..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**

(*2 Kings 2:1–12, Common English Bible*)

**2** Now the Lord was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. **2** Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

**3** The group of prophets from Bethel came out to Elisha. These prophets said to Elisha, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?”

Elisha said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

**4** Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Jericho.”

But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

<sup>5</sup> The group of prophets from Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?”

He said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

<sup>6</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.”

But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So both of them went on together. <sup>7</sup> Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. <sup>8</sup> Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. <sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “What do you want me to do for you before I’m taken away from you?”

Elisha said, “Let me have twice your spirit.”

<sup>10</sup> Elijah said, “You’ve made a difficult request. If you can see me when I’m taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don’t see me, it won’t happen.”

<sup>11</sup> They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

<sup>12</sup> Elisha was watching, and he cried out, “Oh, my father, my father! Israel’s chariots and its riders!” When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**  
(2 Corinthians 4:3–6, Common English Bible)

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are on the road to destruction. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who don’t have faith so they couldn’t see the light of the gospel that reveals Christ’s glory. Christ is the image of God.

<sup>5</sup> We don’t preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup> God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Selection** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

**Black History Moments** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**

**Blessing of the Offering** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)** ..... **Brother Thomas Matthews**  
(Mark 9:2–9, Common English Bible)

**Jesus transformed**

<sup>2</sup> Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes were

amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. <sup>4</sup> Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we’re here. Let’s make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> He said this because he didn’t know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead.

### **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 Installation or Recognition of Leaders in the Church*

*This order may be included in a service of worship when elected or appointed leaders among the laity in the congregation are to be installed or recognized.*

*As a Response to the Word or at some other appropriate place within a public worship service, the pastor invites the leaders being recognized to come forward. The pastor presents the leaders to the congregation and then says to them:*

Dear friends,  
you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us. In love we thank you for accepting your obligation and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to this people, and to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ and make him known in your witness and your work.

*Today we install:*

Nena Hughes—Church Council Chair  
Millicent George—Church Council Secretary  
Desiree Vanloo—Church Lay Leader  
Anthony Latney—Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Andrea Gibson—Finance Chair  
Cynthia Burley—Church Treasurer  
Deidre Burley-Ballard—Church Financial Secretary  
Jaime Whitfield-Coffen—Staff Pastor Parish Relations (SPRC) Chair  
David Burley, Sr.—Trustee Chair  
Sandra Johnson—Church Historian  
Cynthia Whitfield—Nurture Coordinator/Worship Coordinator (UMW)  
Jacqueline Jones, Millicent George—Outreach Coordinators  
Desiree Vanloo—Witness Coordinator  
Charles Gregg / Robert Catchings—Coordinators of Men’s Ministry

Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

**I do.**

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world?

**I will.**

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace?

**I will.**

Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen?

**I will.**

[We also recognize those persons who have been elected to office by the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, and United Methodist Youth (*and other organizations as appropriate*) and are already installed in those organizations,]

Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service. Keep before them the example of our Lord, who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all. Let them share his ministry and consecration, that they may enter into his joy. Guide them in their work. Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge that through them your purposes are accomplished; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards. Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers?

*The congregation responds:*

**We will.**

**Hymn of Preparation** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

**Inspirational Message** ..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

## *“Mountaintops Lead to Valleys”*

<sup>2</sup> Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them,

*Mark 9:2, Common English Bible*

**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 — 02/4/2024	
In-Person	54
YouTube	18
Total	72

## 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.) — **No class, Ash Wednesday Service.** 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 19<sup>th</sup>, Zoom**

**information will be provided.**

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

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** (following service) — **Meeting of the Men**

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Ash Wednesday Service** via Zoom (information forthcoming). Facilitated by Jaime Coffen. Please have your ashes available. **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81264212241?pwd=OWNUbUxsR0dlb1N5ZW1rYkxvUFp3QT09>;  
Meeting ID: 812 6421 2241; Passcode: 056398

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** (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/stmarks/md>)

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”*

*Condolence to the family of  
Overseer Henry Allen Tindal, Jr.  
Homegoing Celebration*

*Viewing: Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> (4:30 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.)*

*Service: Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> (final viewing: 10:00 a.m., service 11:00 a.m.), 8728 Liberty  
Rd, Randallstown, MD 21133*

*Immediately following the homegoing celebration, the family will honor Overseer Henry Tindal, Jr. with a  
procession to **First Church of Faith, Power, and Deliverance “The Hope Church”**, 1300-1302 E. Eager Street,  
Baltimore, MD 21205*

**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).

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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