

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, March 24, 2024

*Women's History Month
Palm / Passion Sunday in Lent*

Ushers:

Jeremiah and Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Sister Nena Hughes, Worship Leader

Prelude Ms. Carol Tatum

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 Nena Hughes

Leader: Open the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them.

People: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

Leader: I thank you that you have answered me and become our salvation.

People: The stone that the builder's rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Leader: Bind the festival procession with branches, up the horns
of the altar.

People: **HOSANNA! HOSANNA TO THE SON of DAVID.**

All: **HOSSANA! BLESSED HE WHO COMES IN THE
NAME OF THE LORD!**

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation

“O Magnify The Lord”

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Lord Jesus. Lord of life, we come bearing branches of confession
to you on this Palm/ Passion Sunday. We give honor to you today
and every day, for this is the day the Lord has made. Lord, we have
praised you with our lips this morning and we realize that our lives
have not always followed our words. We want to agree with the
Palm waving crowd and profess our boasting in you. Yet we are
fearful of what others may think of our devotion to you. Merciful
God, forgive us for not worshipping you by freely sharing our
testimony of love of you to others. In the name of Christ, who
came not to condemn but to save, hear our Confession to you this
day. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation..... Sister Nena Hughes

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 receive what you have commanded. May we find the
power and wisdom of God in the words we are about to hear today.
Come Holy Spirit, come. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Sister Nena Hughes

(Isaiah 50:4–9a, *Common English Bible*)

⁴ The Lord God gave me an educated tongue
to know how to respond to the weary
with a word that will awaken them in the morning.
God awakens my ear in the morning to listen,
as educated people do.

⁵ The Lord God opened my ear;
 I didn't rebel; I didn't turn my back.
⁶ Instead, I gave my body to attackers,
 and my cheeks to beard pluckers.
 I didn't hide my face
 from insults and spitting.
⁷ The Lord God will help me;
 therefore, I haven't been insulted.
 Therefore, I set my face like flint,
 and knew I wouldn't be ashamed.
⁸ The one who will declare me innocent is near.
 Who will argue with me?
 Let's stand up together.
 Who will bring judgment against me?
 Let him approach me.
⁹ Look! The Lord God will help me.
 Who will condemn me?
 Look, they will wear out like clothing;
 the moth will eat them.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Nena Hughes
 (Philippians 2:5–11, *Common English Bible*)

⁵ Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:
⁶ Though he was in the form of God,
 he did not consider being equal with God something to
 exploit.
⁷ But he emptied himself
 by taking the form of a slave
 and by becoming like human beings.
 When he found himself in the form of a human,
⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of
 death,
 even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore, God highly honored him
 and gave him a name above all names,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus everyone
 in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow
¹¹ and every tongue confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Women's History Moment.....Sister Nena Hughes

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Nena Hughes

Blessing of the OfferingSister Nena Hughes

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Nena Hughes

(Mark 11:1–11, *Common English Bible*)

11 When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, ² saying to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.’”

⁴ They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. ⁵ Some people standing around said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. ⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. ⁹ Those in front of him and those following were shouting, “*Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*” ¹⁰ Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

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

Morning Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“Fair Weather Fans”

*Those in front of him and those following were shouting, “Hosanna!
Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! (Mark 11:9
(CEB)*

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

Blessing and Distribution of the Palms

Benediction Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 03/17/2024	
In-Person	47
YouTube	24
Total	71

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.

Thursday, March 28th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.

Friday, March 29th (11:00 am) — Emancipation Committee at St. Mark's UMC (601 Eighth Street, Laurel (301-776-8885) will sponsor a **Fish Fry / Chicken Dinner**. Donation: \$17. Meal includes: Fish/Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad and Green Beans, Bread

This is not goodbye,
This is not Farewell...*

Pastor's Goodbye/Farewell — Additional details forthcoming. Thank you to those congregates who have volunteered to assist with planning.

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.

*Condolence to the family (Hebron and Gibson) of
Brother, Marvin Hebron
Arrangements forthcoming*

Cynthia Whitfield, 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, 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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