

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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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 3, 2024

Women History Month

2024 Lenten Season

Third Sunday in Lent

Ushers:

Gemma DeSouza-Ottley, Ralph Laquerre and Jeremiah Laquerre

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Augustus, 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 Pastor Matthews

Leader: Be thou exalted, O Lord.

People : And we will sing and praise thou power.

Leader: You have loved us first and love us always.

People: Draw us nearer and those around us as we gather for worship.

Leader: The commandments of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

People: More to be desired are they than gold, sweeter also than honey.

Leader: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts.

ALL: Be acceptable to you, O Lord. Our rock and our redeemer.

Hymn of Praise Choir / Congregation

“At the Cross”

1 Alas, and did my Savior bleed? And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?

Refrain

At the cross, at the cross where first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

2 Was it for sins that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree! *Refrain*

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide, And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died For man, His creature's sin.
Refrain

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross
appears. Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to
tears. *Refrain*

5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do. *Refrain*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (Unison)

God of the universe , thank you for the abundance of resources you have given us. Forgive us when we use those resources only for our own good. Open our eyes to see the needs of others. It is in the season of Lent that we are reminded that you have seen our need and sent Jesus to rescue us. Help us to trust that you are the God

of abundant life. Help us to begin again to reach out in love to you, to others and to ourselves. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

The Invocation.....Pastor Matthews
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

As we journey into the sacred story, 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. Come, again holy Spirit, come. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Sister Cynthia Augustus
(Exodus 20: 1-17, *Common English Bible*)

The Ten Commandments

20 Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ You must have no other gods before me.

⁴ Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁵ Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. ⁶ But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. ⁹ Six days you may work and do all your tasks, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. ¹¹ Because the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ Do not kill.^[c]

¹⁴ Do not commit adultery.

¹⁵ Do not steal.

¹⁶ Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

¹⁷ Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia Augustus
(1 Corinthians 1: 18-25, *Common English Bible*)

Human wisdom versus the cross

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. ¹⁹ It is written in scripture: *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent.* ²⁰ Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? ²¹ In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. ²² Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. ²⁴ But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. ²⁵ This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Women History Month..... Sister Cynthia Augustus

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Cynthia Augustus

Blessing of the Offering Sister Cynthia Augustus
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Cynthia Augustus
(John 2: 13-22, *Common English Bible*)

Jesus in Jerusalem at Passover

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. ¹⁵ He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. ¹⁶ He said to the dove sellers, “Get these things out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a place of business.” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written, *Passion for your house consumes me*.

¹⁸ Then the Jewish leaders asked him, “By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple and in three days I’ll raise it up.”

²⁰ The Jewish leaders replied, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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..... Jaime Whitfield-Coffen

The Power of God

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

The Great Thanksgiving For Early In Lent

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image

and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,

you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,

and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,

you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,

your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;

and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from our sin,

your Spirit led him into the wilderness,

where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his
ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,

presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin
and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and
graced

to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and
said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for
us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by
his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy
Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and
for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray

The Lord's Prayer (*recite by choir*)

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we
all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing
in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Giving the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which
you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the
name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Benediction



Happy Birthday March Members

Birthday



***I apologize that I was late asking for March Birthdays,
Heavenly Birthdays and Heavenly Anniversary. But wishing
everyone a happy celebration***



Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 02/25/2024	
In-Person	67
YouTube	20
Total	87

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 7th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.

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, March 10th, 6:30 p.m.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86250990374?pwd=UGZZQlcyYXlQd0NZUXdicTdpV0szdz09>, Meeting ID: 862 5099 0374 Passcode: 276462

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.

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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