

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 17, 2024

Women's History Month

2024 Lenten Season

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ushers:

Tyrone Mundell and Daryl Smith

Order of Service

Sister Venita Stratford-Smith, 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 Venita Stratford-Smith

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant.

People : **It will not be like the covenant that they broke.**

Leader: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

People: **And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Leader: No longer shall they say to each other. “ Know the Lord”.

ALL: For they shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the lord.

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

“GLORY TO HIS NAME”

1 Down at the cross where my Savior died, down where for cleansing from sin I cried, there to my heart was the blood applied, singin' glory to his name!

Refrain

Glory to his name, precious name, singing glory to his name, precious name, there to my heart was the blood applied, glory to his name.

2 I am so wondrously saved from sin, Jesus so sweetly abides within, there at the cross where he took me in, singin' glory to his name! ***Refrain***

3 O precious fountain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have entered in, there Jesus saves me and keeps me clean, singin' glory to his name! ***Refrain***

4 Come to this fountain so rich and sweet, cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet, plunge in today and be made complete, singin' glory to his name! ***Refrain***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Eternal and loving Lord, when you became incarnate among us, you showed us how to reveal the divine within our souls. Risking your life for us and dying for with the work unfinished, you entrust us with your reputation in our hands. Since you have been resurrected, you have commissioned us to be your presence in a desperate and needy world. Now bend us toward grace and compassion toward all creation as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

The Invocation.....**Sister Venita Stratford-Smith**
Song of Meditation **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the scriptures are read and your WORD proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips, and let all

other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Sister Venita Stratford-Smith
(Jeremiah 31: 31- 34, *Common English Bible*)

31 The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. "They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband," declares the Lord. 33 No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Scripture Reading #2Sister Venita Stratford-Smith
(Hebrews 5: 5-10, *Common English Bible*)

⁵ In the same way Christ also didn't promote himself to become high priest. Instead, it was the one who said to him,

You are my Son.

Today I have become your Father,

⁶ as he also says in another place,

You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.

⁷ During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears as his sacrifices to the one who was able to save him from death. He was heard because of his godly devotion.

⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. ⁹ After he had been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him. ¹⁰ He was appointed by God to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Women's History MomentSister Venita Stratford-Smith

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Venita Stratford-Smith

Blessing of the OfferingSister Venita Stratford-Smith
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Venita Stratford-Smith
(John 12: 20-33, *Common English Bible*)

Jesus teaches about his death

²⁰ Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²² Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus. ²³ Jesus replied, “The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. ²⁴ I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me. ²⁷ “Now *I am deeply troubled*. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? No, this is the reason I have come to this time. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard and said, “It’s thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to him.” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “This voice wasn’t for my benefit but for yours. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world’s ruler will be thrown out. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” (³³ He said this to show how he was going to die.)

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

“GLORY TO HIS NAME”

²⁷ “Now *I am deeply troubled*. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” John 12: 27-28 (CEB)

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

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 02/25/2024	
In-Person	45
YouTube	17
Total	62

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=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNNQW9YYQT09>, 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 21st (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 — Additional details forthcoming. Thank you to those congregates who have volunteered to assist with planning.



The Board of Trustees will meet **Saturday, March 23, 2024 @ 10:00A.M.** This meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall. If you are a member of the board of trustees, please plan to attend. Your participation is appreciated!

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, Cynthia Whitfield

Eunice Dumas

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Umbrenda Fisher

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Grace Elaine Catchings

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Inspirational Quotes for Women

EACH TIME A WOMAN
STANDS UP FOR HERSELF,
WITHOUT KNOWING IT POSSIBLY,
WITHOUT CLAMING IT, SHE STANDS
UP FOR ALL WOMEN.

— MAYA ANGELOU

THERE IS NO LIMIT TO
WHAT WE, AS WOMEN,
CAN ACCOMPLISH.

— MICHELLE OBAMA

A WOMAN WITH A VOICE IS,
BY DEFINITION,
A STRONG WOMAN.

— MELINDA GATES

THERE'S SOMETHING SO SPECIAL
ABOUT A WOMAN WHO DOMINATES IN
A MAN'S WORLD. IT TAKES A CERTAIN
GRACE, STRENGTH, INTELLIGENCE,
FEARLESSNESS, AND THE NERVE TO
NEVER TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.

— RIHANNA

“Women belong
in all places where
decisions are
being made. It
shouldn't be that
women are the
exception.”

RUTH BADER GINSBURG



WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN
SELDOM MAKE HISTORY

— LAUREL THATCHER ULICH

“Find out who
you are and do it
on purpose.”

DOLLY PARTON

