

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, April 14, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

Ushers: Deborah Harper and Francis DeSouza

Order of Service

Sister Charlotte Thomas, Worship Leader

PreludeMr. 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 WorshipSister Charlotte Thomas

Leader: We gather together in the name of God, our creator,
Redeemer and Sanctifier.

People: **The Master has taught us to be of one mind and heart.**

Leader: The Master has taught us to hold everything in common.

People: **Jesus, our Master has taught us to hold peace in
common, refusing to harm our neighbor.**

Leader: Jesus taught us to hold justice in common, standing with
the voiceless and powerless.

People: Jesus has taught us to hold all possessions in common, sharing everything until there is no more homeless or needy.

ALL: Jesus taught us to take this action today.

Hymn of Praise.....St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

“My Hope Is Built”

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. ***(Refrain)***
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. ***(Refrain)***
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! ***(Refrain)***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Hopeful God, we confess that we are wholehearted when we receive the blessings of this life, but halfhearted when it comes to share them. We confess we enthusiastically and wholeheartedly accept all the benefits that come to us by virtue of our race or social class, our level of education, our gender but we grudgingly and halfheartedly work to ensure these benefits to every sister, brother, to friend to stranger, to enemy. Bless us with the prayer we need to pray that our whole hearts will belong to one another and that we will hold nothing back from the common good for all. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(Recited)*

The Invocation.....Sister Charlotte Thomas
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, in you are the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, open our ears, hearts, and mind afresh to the wonders of your Word. Give us grace in this time of worship to freely choose the way of your wisdom, through Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reading #1Sister Charlotte Thomas
(*Acts 3:12–19, Common English Bible*)

¹² Seeing this, Peter addressed the people: “You Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us as if we made him walk by our own power or piety? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our ancestors—has glorified his servant Jesus. This is the one you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence, even though he had already decided to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released to you instead. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, the very one whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ His name itself has made this man strong. That is, because of faith in Jesus’ name, God has strengthened this man whom you see and know. The faith that comes through Jesus gave him complete health right before your eyes.

¹⁷”Brothers and sisters, I know you acted in ignorance. So did your rulers. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he foretold through all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹ Change your hearts and lives! Turn back to God so that your sins may be wiped away.

Scripture Reading #2Sister Charlotte Thomas
(*1 John 3:1–7, Common English Bible*)

3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God’s children, and that is what we are! Because the world didn’t recognize him, it doesn’t recognize us.

² Dear friends, now we are God’s children, and it hasn’t yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we’ll see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure. ⁴ Every person who practices sin commits an act of rebellion, and sin is rebellion. ⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and there

is no sin in him. ⁶ Every person who remains in relationship to him does not sin. Any person who sins has not seen him or known him.

⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you. The person who practices righteousness is righteous, in the same way that Jesus is righteous.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Charlotte Thomas

Blessing of the OfferingSister Charlotte Thomas
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Charlotte Thomas
(Luke 24:36b–48, Common English Bible)

³⁶ While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ³⁷ They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones like you see I have." ⁴⁰ As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of baked fish. ⁴³ Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

⁴⁴ Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

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

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

“What A Difference a Day Makes”

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you”. They were startled and terrified and thought they had seen a ghost. (Luke 24:36b–37 (CEB))

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 — 03/31/2023	
In-Person	44
Zoom	17
Total	61

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, 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=TUR4ZGpySU5ub>

[0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09](#), 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 —Thank you to those congregates who have volunteered to assist with planning, could you please show up for this meeting. **Monday, April 15th at 7:30 p.m. Zoom information:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433720948>; Meeting ID: 854 3372 0948

Thursday, April 18th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.



There will be Hot Jazz and Cool Drinks in a Swinging Speakeasy at the Laurel Historical Society's 22nd Gala, **June 2, 2024**, 5:00–9 p.m. in the Great Room at Savage Mill, 8600 Foundry Street, Savage, MD 20763. The gala will honor Rev. Eugene Matthews, who is the retiring pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Affair at the Great Room at Savage Mill. Dress code: Black tie optional or Speakeasy attire. **Tickets: \$115. To purchase Gala Tickets online go to www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/gala.html**

Dr. George DeFord's recent book "Oh, My Child, My Child" has just been released. The book is available on Amazon: \$17. I wholly endorse everyone's investment of time and money regarding this writing by Dr. DeFord.

Pastor Eugene Matthews

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.

Rico Harper, 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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