

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 21, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Ushers: Tyrone Mundell and Darryl Smith

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Augustus, 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 Cynthia Augustus**

Leader: Even if I live a life of luxury and abundance.

People: The Lord is my shepherd.

Leader: Even, if I pass through the darkest alleys in the roughest neighborhoods.

People: The Lord is my shepherd.

Leader: Even if I come upon people who wish to do me harm.

People: The Lord is my shepherd.

Leader: **Even when my cup overflows.**

**ALL: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. WE WILL LIVE
IN GOD'S HOUSE FOREVER. AMEN.**

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

"Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we
are. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine
we are.
2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our
way; keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go
astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we
pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we
pray.
3. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we
be; thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to
free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will; blessed
Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed
Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still. Blessed
Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Shepherding God, we confess we have been less than welcoming.
It's easy to shut the gates of your realm on those with whom we
disagree. It's easy to shut the gates of those who don't fit our ideas
of what a follower of Christ looks like, or acts like, or lives like.
Grant us the courage to open wide the gates of your realm so that
all may enter. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*Recited*)

The Invocation.....Sister Cynthia Augustus
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and minds as we read the scripture today. Help us to hear them in a new way. May our meditations and actions be acceptable to God and may the peace of Christ be with us. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*Psalms 23, King James Version*)

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*1 John 3:16–24, Common English Bible*)

¹⁶ This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?

¹⁸ Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. ¹⁹ This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. ²⁰ Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things.

²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. ²² We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those

who keep his commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that he dwells in us, because of the Spirit he has given us.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Cynthia Augustus

Blessing of the Offering Sister Cynthia Augustus

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Sister Cynthia Augustus

(John 10:11–18, Common English Bible)

I am the good shepherd

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that don’t belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

¹⁷ “This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father.”

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

“Jesus! The Good Shepherd”

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. . (John 10:14–15 (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 — 04/14/2024

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|-----------|----|
| In-Person | 48 |
| YouTube | 13 |
| 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=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, April 25th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.

This is not goodbye,
This is not farew'ell...* **Sunday, June 23rd** (10:00 a.m.)— **Pastor's Goodbye/ Farewell** —.

Monday, April 29th (7:30 p.m.) — **Farewell Committee Zoom meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433720948>; Meeting ID: 854 3372 0948

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

The opportunity to **VOTE** will exist twice this year: The Primary Election (May):The General Election (November).Many persons have marched, protested and died in order that we now have the privileges to cast our ballots. Please be informed, pray, **VOTE** and encourage your family and friends exercise their right to “**VOTE**”

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/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.

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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