

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, May 26, 2024

Trinity Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday

Ushers: Ralph Laguerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Brother Jaden Coffen, Worship Leader

Prelude Elder Kelvin Brown

Lighting of the Candles

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 Brother Jaden Coffen

Leader: The Lord God grants us life and salvation.

People: O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

Leader: The Lord created the moon, the stars and all things.

People: O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

Leader: We are all made in the image of God.

People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Leader: Fill us anew, with your Holy Spirit, Lord.

ALL: Renew us in body and spirit this day by the power of your word. Amen.

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

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

How do we name you God? What words can we use to describe who you are and what you do? How do we define our relationship with you and what this means for our relationships with one another? We ask these questions in the awareness that our human language is limited and inadequate, but we still come to you in prayer, because we want to give voice to our hopes and needs as well as to our praise and thanksgiving. God, you reveal yourself to us in a multitude of ways, and on this Trinity Sunday, we celebrate you as Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. Be with us in all your manifestations. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*Sing*)

The Invocation..... Brother Jaden Coffen
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

O Lord, pour out on us the spirit and understanding as the scriptures are read today. And may that understanding open our hearts and minds to what it is you are communicating to us this day. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Brother Jaden Coffen
(*Isaiah 6:1–8, Common English Bible*)

6 In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple. **2** Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. **3** They shouted to each other, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heavenly forces!
All the earth is filled with God's glory!”

4 The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 I said, “Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!”

6 Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. **7** He touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed.”

8 Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, “Whom should I send, and who will go for us?”

I said, “I'm here; send me.”

Scripture Reading #2 Brother Jaden Coffen
(*Romans 8:12–17, Common English Bible*)

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. **13** If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body,

you will live. ¹⁴ All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. ¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father."
¹⁶ The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. ¹⁷ But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Brother Jaden Coffen

Blessing of the Offering Brother Jaden Coffen

Special Offering – Peace with Justice

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Brother Jaden Coffen

(John 3:1–17, Common English Bible)

³ There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. ² He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him."

³ Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom."

⁴ Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' ⁸ God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?"

¹⁰ "Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? ¹¹ I assure you that we speak about what we

know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶ God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. ¹⁷ God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

The Doxology— “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”
(Hymnal, #95)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation St. Mark's Choir

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“To God Be the Glory”

They shouted to each other, saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heavenly forces! All the earth is filled with God's glory!” (Isaiah 6:3, CEB)

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

Benediction

Announcements

Worship Attendance — 05/12/2024	
In-Person	57
YouTube	14
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, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**Thank
You**

Rev. DeFord would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting his book by purchasing or your encouraging words.

Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — On hiatus

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, May 30th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Monday, June 3rd (7:30 p.m.) — Farewell Committee Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433720948>;
Meeting ID: 854 3372 0948

This is not goodbye,
This is not farew'ell...* **Sunday, June 23rd (10:00 a.m.) — Pastor's Goodbye/Farewell.** The theme is **"I'm Done – Stick A Fork In It!"** — *Well done, good and faithful servant!* A barbeque is being planned to feature some of Pastor Matthew's favorite foods. Please come out and share this celebration with us.

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, Delores Stratford, Keith Davis, Elba Hernandez, Nathaniel Watkins, Judith James, 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, 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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