

Sunday, August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Gathering Song..... “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” (*Hymnal, #334*)

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**

Leader: We have come to this special place today.

People: **We have come seeking hope and wholeness in God.**

Leader: We have come to this special place today.

People: **We have come because we are pilgrims and Christ is found on the journey.**

Leader: We have come to this special place today.

People: **We have come because this place offers solace and sanctuary.**

ALL: **We have come to this special place to give Glory to His Name.**

Hymn of Praise “Down at the Cross”
(*sing along with choir*)

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.
Glory to his name, Precious name
There to my heart was the blood applied;
singin', Glory to his name, 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, his name!
[Refrain]

3 Oh, 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, 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, his name!
[Refrain]

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

We confess on this Day of Sabbath, Lord , that we have not always been as faithful as we might have been, nor have we been willing in all opportunities to risk being faithful. Far too often we

have played it safe. Sometimes – too often – our pride gets in the way of our seeing and hearing. Forgive us and put us back on the path that leads to you. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*Recite in unison*)

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “I Need You Now” (*song by: Smokie Norful*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace, through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1

(*Genesis 45:1–15, King James Version*)

45 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

² And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

³ And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

⁴ And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

⁵ Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

⁶ For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

⁹ Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

¹⁰ And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

¹¹ And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

¹² And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you.

¹³ And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.

¹⁴ And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

¹⁵ Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

Scripture Reading #2

(Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32, Common English Bible)

Israel and God’s faithfulness

¹¹ So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I’m an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God hasn’t rejected his people, whom he knew in advance. Or don’t you know what the scripture says in the case of Elijah, when he pleads with God against Israel?

²⁹ God’s gifts and calling can’t be taken back. ³⁰ Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. ³¹ In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy too. ³² God has locked up all people in disobedience, in order to have mercy on all of them.

Scripture Reading #3

(Matthew 15:10–28, Common English Bible)

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, “Listen and understand. ¹¹ It’s not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God’s sight. It’s what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person.”

¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?”

¹³ Jesus replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be pulled up. ¹⁴ Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch.”

¹⁵ Then Peter spoke up, “Explain this riddle to us.”

¹⁶ Jesus said, “Don’t you understand yet? ¹⁷ Don’t you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that’s what contaminates a person in God’s sight. ¹⁹ Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. ²⁰ These contaminate a person in God’s sight. But eating without washing hands doesn’t contaminate in God’s sight.”

Canaanite Woman

²¹ From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.” ²³ But he didn’t respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, “Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us.”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I’ve been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel.”

²⁵ But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

²⁶ He replied, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and toss it to dogs.”

²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters’ table.”

²⁸ Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (*recite in unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed” (*recite in unison*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried:
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (*Recite in unison*)

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.**

Children / Youth Moment — Back to School, Part 2**Sister Jaime**

Hymn of Preparation — “Total Praise” (*sing along with Richard Smallwood*)

Inspirational Message..... **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

“All About Mercy”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

Selection — “Your Grace and Mercy” — *sing along with Mississippi Mass Choir*)

Announcements

Benediction

Announcements

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.



Sunday, August 30th — **Back to School Sunday**

Saturday, September 5th — **Annual Emancipation Day**

Sunday, September 27th — **Annual Homecoming**. Guest speaker will be joining us. Special offering will be taken.

Sunday, October 18th — **130th Church Anniversary**. Sacrificial donation of \$1.00 for each year. Guest speaker will be joining us.

If you have not purchased or placed your order for our Anniversary shirts, all of these milestones will give us the opportunity to dress and stand in unity. Place your order today. See information on the next page.

Laurel 150th Anniversary/Emancipation Day Virtual 5K for Diabetes



Saturday, September 5, 2020 — Registration is open through September 4, 2020. Commemorative T-Shirts are not available if you register after August 18, 2020. All participants will receive a commemorative running bib and a finisher medal via mail. Registration is **Online Only** with a fee of \$25 plus an additional \$3 for shirts above XL.

For additional information and registration go to:

Register.bluecheetahtiming.com (listed as Laurel Sequential 5K on Emancipation Day) or **Active.com** (listed as Laurel 150th Anniversary Virtual 5K on Emancipation Day)

For additional information, please contact **Sister Jackie**.

The net proceeds will be divided between the City of Laurel for a Diabetes Initiative and St. Mark's UMC to benefit the University of Maryland Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology.

Saturday, September 12, 2020 — The **236th Annual Conference** session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held online. This move to a virtual Annual Conference is made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing as the church seeks to privilege life, especially among its vulnerable members. A practice run for voting members will be held prior to the September conference.

General Conference — August 31, 2021–September 10, 2021

Jurisdictional Conference — TBA

130th Anniversary Shirts — Sizes: Small to XL = \$15; 2X = \$17; 3X = \$19. **If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact Millicent at the church email.**



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*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma’s Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley’s brothers), Barbara Matthews, Charles Burley, Richard Cager, Jr., Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

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