

Sunday, August 23, 2020

# Twelfth 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:** Praise the Lord! We gather and give thanks to God.

**People:** **How incredible are the works of our God!**

**Leader:** The Lord is gracious and merciful, faithful and just.

**People:** **Holy and awesome is God’s name!**

**Leader:** Wisdom begins with respect to the Lord.

**People:** **May our praise go on forever!**

**ALL:** **Praise God forever and forever for his greatness.**

**Hymn of Praise** ..... “How Great Thou Art”  
(sing along with instrumental)

1 O LORD my God! When I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hand have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

**Refrain:**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great thou art! how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great thou art! how great thou art!

2 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin; (**Refrain**)

3 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then shall I bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God how great Thou art! (**Refrain**)

## **Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

God of wisdom and strength, we forget that you are the source of all wisdom, and often we choose to trust in our own wisdom instead. Forgive us when we turn away from you and follow our own desire and whims. Give us the humility to return to you, O God, and follow your way of truth and life. **Amen.**

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

### **The Invocation**

## **Song of Meditation — "Trust in You"** (*Anthony Brown & group therAPy*)

## **The Prayer of Illumination** (*Unison*)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read, and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Desiree** (*Exodus 1:8–2:10, Common English Bible*)

### **Israel is Oppressed**

<sup>8</sup> Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. <sup>10</sup> Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." <sup>11</sup> As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. <sup>13</sup> So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. <sup>14</sup> They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: <sup>16</sup> "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." <sup>17</sup> Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

<sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

<sup>19</sup> The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." <sup>20</sup> So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

### **Moses' Birth**

<sup>2</sup> Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with

black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank.

<sup>4</sup> The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

<sup>7</sup> Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

<sup>8</sup> Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

<sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup> After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out<sup>[a]</sup> of the water."

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Sister Gemma**  
(*Romans 12:1–8, Common English Bible*)

### **Living Sacrifice and Transformed Lives**

<sup>12</sup> So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service.

<sup>2</sup> Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

### **Transformed Relationships**

<sup>3</sup> Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. <sup>4</sup> We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. <sup>8</sup> If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Sister Chantel**  
(*Matthew 16:13–20, Common English Bible*)

### **Peter's Declaration About Jesus**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

<sup>15</sup> He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. <sup>18</sup> I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. <sup>19</sup> I'll

give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.”<sup>20</sup> Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

**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 3** .....**Sister Jaime**

**Hymn of Preparation — “Praise Him”** (*New Jersey Mass Choir*)

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

***“Examples of Courageous, Faithful  
and Vigorous Women”***

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

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

**Selection — “I Give Myself Away” — William McDowell**

**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.



**Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience. Call-in Information: 712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960)**

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> — Back to School Sunday**

**Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> — Annual Emancipation Day**

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

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> — 130<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



**Saturday, September 5, 2020** — Registration is open through September 4, 2020. **Commemorative T-Shirts will be available if your designated size is available.** On your registration just indicate your size and it will be delivered with your bib and 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](http://bluecheetahtiming.com) (listed as Laurel Sesquicentennial 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.

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**Saturday, September 12, 2020** — The **236<sup>th</sup> 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**

**130<sup>th</sup> 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.**



**Front**



**Back**



*“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](mailto: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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