

Sunday, August 31, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Back to School



Order of Service

Greeting..... **Master Jaden**

Children’s Morning Prayer **Miss Kamille**

Lord, in the morning I start each day, by taking a moment to bow and pray. Beginning with thanks, I then give praise for all your kind and loving ways. Today if sunshine turns to rain, if a dark cloud brings some pain, I won’t doubt or hide in fear, for you, my God, are always near. I will travel where you lead; I will help my friends in need. Where you send me, I will go; with your help, I’ll learn and grow. Hold my family in your hands, as we follow your commands. And I will keep you close in sight until I crawl in bed tonight. **Amen.**

Opening Song — **“This Is The Day”** (*Fred Hammond*)

Call to Worship **Master Jaden**

Leader: Bless my paper and my pen. Guide my spirit deep within. Help me think and help me play this whole school year, day by day.

People: **Of whom much is given, much is required. May learning be your greatest desire.**

Leader: As I move from class to class guide my footsteps; clear my path. Keep my tongue to speak your words. Let your will for me be heard.

People: **Of whom much is given, much is required. May learning be your greatest desire.**

Leader: In every subject high or low, may God’s excellence be shown! Keep me strong to reach the prize to grow in grace, becoming wise.

People: **Of whom much is given, much is required. May learning be your greatest desire.**

Leader: Whether in the schoolhouse or on the computer may I hold God’s precepts dear. To do my best at every task; for this blessing, I do ask.

People: Of whom much is given, much is required. May learning be your greatest desire.

Leader: Help my family be a part as I lift my mind and heart. As I study, work, and pray, be with them throughout the day.

People: Of whom much is given, much is required. May learning be your greatest desire.

Hymn of Praise — “Put A Praise On It” (*Tasha Cobbs Lockhart*)

Back to School Litany **Master Eli**

Learning is a gift from God. As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways. Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both. Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day. We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates and friends. We ask that you bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe. We ask God’s blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God’s gift of learning. **Amen.**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Christian Mental Health Tips **Mrs. Justine Murdock**
Professional School Counselor

The Invocation **Miss Jalani**

Be near us, Lord Jesus! we ask Thee to stay close by us forever and love us, we pray. We invite you in today asking for blessings on all dear children, hold them in your loving and tender care as they go forth with another school year. **Amen.**

Song of Meditation — “Made A Way” (*Travis Greene*)

Blessing of Students and Educators **Master Jeremiah**

Eternal God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our great teacher and savior, bless these your servants as they begin the school-year. Your Son was once himself a child learning and teaching in the temple. Grant that all who enter into places of learning as students and educators this year be filled with your grace and heavenly

wisdom—that all their efforts be directed by your Holy Spirit, and work to your praise and glory. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Master Jaden**
(*Nehemiah 4 1-9, International Children’s Bible*)

Those Against the Rebuilding

4 Sanballat heard we were rebuilding the wall. He was very angry, even furious. He made fun of the Jews. **2** He said to his friends and the army of Samaria, “What are these weak Jews doing? They think they can rebuild the wall. They think they will offer sacrifices. Maybe they think they can finish rebuilding it in only one day. They can’t bring stones back to life. These are piles of trash and ashes.”

3 Tobiah the Ammonite was next to Sanballat. Tobiah said, “A fox could climb up on what they are building. Even it could break down their stone wall.”

4 I prayed, “Hear us, our God. We are hated. Turn the insults of Sanballat and Tobiah back on their own heads. Let them be captured and taken away like valuables that are stolen. **5** Do not hide their guilt. Do not take away their sins so you can’t see them. The builders have seen them make you angry.”

6 So we rebuilt the wall until all of it went halfway up. The people were willing to work hard.

7 But Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men from Ashdod were very angry. They heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls were continuing. And they heard that the holes in the wall were being closed. **8** So they all made plans against Jerusalem. They planned to come and fight and stir up trouble. **9** But we prayed to our God. And we appointed guards to watch for them day and night.

Scripture Reading #2—Part I **Miss Jaylah**
(*John 14:1–7, International Children’s Bible*)

Jesus Comforts His Followers

14 Jesus said, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in me. **2** There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. **3** After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with me so that you may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.”^[a]

5 Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. So how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. **7** If you really knew me, then you would know my Father, too. But now you do know him, and you have seen him.”

Scripture Reading #2—Part IIMaster Isaiah
(John 14:8–14, International Children’s Bible)

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need.”

⁹ Jesus answered, “I have been with you a long time now. Do you still not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father. So why do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you don’t come from me. The Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done. ¹² I tell you the truth. He who believes in me will do the same things that I do. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And if you ask for anything in my name, I will do it for you. Then the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks and School SuppliesSister Jaime

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for a new school year. We thank you for the teachers and students who will gather each day for meaningful teaching and learning. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books, new ideas, and innovative teaching strategies. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy

crayons, and technology to help us learn and teach during these unprecedented times. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. Today we give you thanks for educators who are being called to lead schools in a manner that will provide students with a robust learning experience while teaching in ways new and uncomfortable to many of them. Today we give thanks for parents and caregivers who will partner with teachers to support students while learning at home. May their backpacks, school supplies, and teaching materials be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn, teach, and grow this year. May they be guided by your love. We are claiming victory this week for all of our students, teachers, caregivers, and parents! All this we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation — “This Week” (*Anthony Brown & Group TherAPy*)

Inspirational Message **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

“A Lesson of Perseverance”

Prayer Concerns/Sharing of Joy/Words of Encouragement
for our Students and Teachers **Congregation**

Invitational Prayer **Sister LáAngel**
Selection — “You Will Win” (*Jekalyn Carr*)

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)

Requesting a Mail-in Ballot — YOU WILL YOU'RE YOUR DRIVERS LICENCE —

<https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY —

Please complete the 2020 Census by September 30, 2020. It's Safe, Easy, and Important!!! if you have misplaced your 2020 Census form, go to my2020census.gov for more information.

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 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 (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.

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.**



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)

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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