

Sunday, September 13, 2020
Fifteenth 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: Sing aloud to God our strength.

People: Shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

Leader: I am the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt.

People: But my people did not listen to my voices and would not submit to me.

Leader: So I gave them stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

People: O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways.

Leader: I would feed you with the finest of wheat and with honey from the rock.

All: Bless the Lord, O My Soul and all that is within me and Bless His Holy Name!

Hymn of Praise **“My Hope Is Built”**
(sing along with Alfred Street Baptist Church Men’s Choir)

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. *[Refrain]*

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. *[Refrain]*

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. *[Refrain]*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Dear God, though we know you to be our all, there are times when the all of life is too much. In such moments, we are tempted to give up. Yet, we know too that you impart strength and courage. Do for us what we have not done for others, and in your undeserved graciousness, help

us to see that life does not have to be what it is. Grant us in grace to receive such astonishing and wondrous blessings and, with our new strength and courage, we will not forget to say thank you. **Amen.**

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

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “There Is God” (*song by Donnie McClurkin*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope as your resurrection witnesses. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1

(*Exodus 14:19–31, Common English Bible*)

¹⁹ God's messenger, who had been in front of Israel's camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It stood between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn't come near each other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. ²² The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. ²⁴ As morning approached, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. ²⁵ The LORD jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, “Let's get away from the Israelites, because the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!”

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. ²⁹ The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ The LORD rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the amazing power of the LORD against the Egyptians. The people were in awe of the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Scripture Reading #2

(*Romans 14:1–12, Common English Bible*)

Welcoming Each Other Like Christ

¹⁴ Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. ² One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). ⁵ One person considers some days to be more sacred than others,

while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. ⁶ Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. ⁷ We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. ⁹ This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ Because it is written,

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me,
and every tongue will give praise to God.*

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Scripture Reading #3

(Matthew 18:21–35, Common English Bible)

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵ Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶ But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.’ ²⁷ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸ “When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’

²⁹ “Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. ³² His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. ³³ Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

³⁵ “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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 **Sister Jaime**

Hymn of Preparation — “Go Down, Moses” (*sing along with Paul Robeson*)

Inspirational Message **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

“Seeing the Deliverance of God”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

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

Selection — “Oh, Freedom” — *sing along with Negro Spiritual Collection*)

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.

Sunday, September 27th — Annual Homecoming. Speaker will be **Rev. Dr. Rebecca Iannicelli**, *Annapolis District Superintendent, The United Methodist Church, Baltimore-Washington Conference.* Please don't forget as you are able to make a sacrificial donation for this Sunday.

Sunday, October 18th — 130th Church Anniversary. Speaker will be **Rev. George F. DeFord.** Sacrificial donation of \$1.00 for each year.

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.



*“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)

Nina Settles, John Hall, Ronald Smith, Marva Thomas, 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

Eunice Dumas
1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher
9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Ruth Miller
1206 Peachwood Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Mrs. Edlin Chambers
14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Diane Cobb
410.802.1427