

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



Annual Homecoming

“Striving for Excellence”

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: Home is not a building or a place where we meet.

People: **Home is not just where we can flee.**

Leader: Home is more than people and fellowship gatherings.

People: **Home is more than sentimental memorials.**

Leader: Home is a hug of acceptance.

People: **Home is remembering promises made in water and the spirit.**

Leader: Home is seeing where God is leading us.

ALL: **Welcome home to St. Mark’s where everyone is accepted and where we strive for excellence. A place where we give thanks and praise for 130 years of continued ministry. “To God Be the Glory!”**

Hymn of Praise **“To God Be the Glory”**
(sing along with piano instrumental)

To God be the glory, great things He has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. Although Christ has shown us how to love, we are stubborn and hard-hearted. We forgive ourselves but not others. We proclaim your words but ignore their meaning. We choose sentiment over love in action. Forgive us, Lord, and by the power of your Holy Spirit fill us with your abiding love, that we may embody the love of your son. **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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. **Amen.**

The Invocation..... **LaAngel**

Song of Meditation — “**The Lord Is Blessing Me**” (*sing along with Lomax Sisters*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Speak to us, Lord, through these scriptures. Remind us again of your everlasting power. May we know your story and our place within it. May we remember your mighty works and deeds, that we might know that you are the God of all ages. May we claim your promise and share your love. We are listening, Lord; speak to us today.

Scripture Reading #1

(*Exodus 17:1–7, Common English Bible*)

Water from a Rock

17 The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the LORD commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the LORD?”

³ But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?”

⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me.”

⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. ⁶ I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and

the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the LORD, asking, “Is the LORD really with us or not?”

Scripture Reading #2

(Philippians 4:1–9, Common English Bible)

Stand Firm in the Lord

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord.

Loved ones, ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I’m also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life.

⁴ Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! ⁵ Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. ⁶ Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. ⁷ Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

⁸ From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. ⁹ Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

Scripture Reading #3

(Matthew 21:23-32, Common English Bible)

Jesus’ authority questioned

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, “What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I’ll tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things. ²⁵ Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?”

They argued among themselves, “If we say ‘from heaven,’ he’ll say to us, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But we can’t say ‘from humans’ because we’re afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet.” ²⁷ Then they replied, “We don’t know.”

Jesus also said to them, “Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

Parable of two sons

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

²⁹ “‘No, I don’t want to,’ he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, ‘Yes, sir.’ But he didn’t go.

³¹ “Which one of these two did his father’s will?”

They said, “The first one.”

Jesus said to them, “I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God’s kingdom ahead of you. ³² For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn’t believe him. But tax

collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn't change your hearts and lives and you didn't believe him.

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**

Introduction of Guest Preacher **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

Hymn of Preparation — “How Excellent” *(sing along with Mississippi Mass Choir)*

Inspirational Message **Rev. Dr. Rebecca Iannicelli**

*Superintendent of the Annapolis District
Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church*

“Excellence in Christ”

⁸ From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. (Philippians 4:8)

Praise and Prayer Concerns

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

Selection — “Grateful” *(sing along with Hezekiah Walker)*

Announcements

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Iannicelli

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Iannicelli currently serves as Superintendent of the Annapolis District in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church. Guiding her work as superintendent is her understanding of *missio dei*, that is God's mission to send the church to bring Christ's redeeming love to the brokenness we encounter in the world. She finds much joy in coming alongside clergy and congregations, getting to know their stories, praying and listening and discerning what God is calling them to do in their context. Rebecca has served churches throughout Southern Maryland. She received her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary, and her Doctor of Ministry from Drew Theological School. Before her ordination, Rebecca served in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and also as a civilian attorney. She resides with her husband and two daughters in Anne Arundel County, where they enjoy eating the harvest from their garden, camping, hiking, and also providing support to their son/brother who is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and lives in North Carolina.



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, October 3rd (10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., weathering permitting) — Rev. Matthews along with the help of some team members will greet you on the church parking lot where you can receive a communion packet to use for **World Communion Sunday (October 4th)** and a special gift that Rev. Matthews has obtained for each member of our congregation. **Note:** You are asked to wear a mask and not to exit your vehicle, no one will be permitted to park and socialize. We are asking this for your safety, the safety of the team members and in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines of social distancing.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”

1 CORINTHIANS 10:17, NRSV

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.

Note from Membership Secretary, Sandra Johnson — The following persons will be removed from the membership roll at the October 2020 Church Conference. If any of these persons still attend services at St. Mark's, please let me know by **Monday, September 28, 2020**. You can contact me either by email (sandra7767@msn.com), phone call or text (410.530.0399). Thank you.

Rochelle Chauncey
Mayshala Cunningham
Xassie Cunningham
Leon Edmond
Dominique Garlic
Christine Grabish
Frank Jennings
Lashawn Jennings

John D. Jones
Jennifer Klotz
Victoria Kosoko
Ruth Kyle
Carolyn Martin
Robert Minor, Jr.
Vanesst Morore-Wiehe
Lloyd Perkins

Justin Walter Reid
Roger T. Rogers
Steven Thompson
John Wedling
Steven R. Wiehe
Darrin Williams
Ian Brock Wimberly



*“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

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