

Sunday, January 24, 2021
Third Sunday After the Epiphany
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 Spirt, 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..... **Jaden**

Jaden: Come, let us worship the Lord!

Eli: God is our refuge and strength.

Jaden: Come, behold the works of the Lord.

Eli: God brings peace to all nations and peoples.

Jaden: When we are on shaky ground.

Eli: God rescues us in Jesus Christ.

Jaden: Christ is our solid ground.

Eli: All other ground is sinking sand. Thanks be to God, our refuge and strength!

Hymn of Praise..... **“You Are Good”**
(sing along with Israel & New Breed)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance..... **Jaden**

Holy God, hear our prayer for the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness; for the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us; for the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist; for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us. We pray for the courage to admit our fault, the strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer..... **Jaden**

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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.

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “I Love the Lord” (*featuring Whitney Houston*)

The Prayer of Illumination **Jaden**

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Jaylah & Jalani**

(*1 Samuel 3:1-10, Common English Bible*)

Samuel’s call

3 Now the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. The LORD’s word was rare at that time, and visions weren’t widely known. **2** One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. **3** God’s lamp hadn’t gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD’s temple, where God’s chest was.

4 The LORD called to Samuel. “I’m here,” he said.

5 Samuel hurried to Eli and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

“I didn’t call you,” Eli replied. “Go lie down.” So he did.

6 Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

“I didn’t call, my son,” Eli replied. “Go and lie down.”

(**7** Now Samuel didn’t yet know the LORD, and the LORD’s word hadn’t yet been revealed to him.)

8 A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. **9** So Eli said to Samuel, “Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down where he’d been.

10 Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, “Samuel, Samuel!”

Samuel said, “Speak. Your servant is listening.”

Scripture Reading #2 **Jeremiah**

(*1 Corinthians 7:29–31, Common English Bible*)

29 This is what I’m saying, brothers and sisters: The time has drawn short. From now on, those who have wives should be like people who don’t have them. **30** Those who are sad should be like people who aren’t crying. Those who are happy should be like people who aren’t happy. Those who buy something should be like people who don’t have possessions. **31** Those who use the world should be like people who aren’t preoccupied with it, because this world in its present form is passing away.

Scripture Reading #3 **Isaiah**

(Mark 1:14–20, New International Version)

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” **Jaden**

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” **Jaden**

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” **Jaden**

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 — “All Night I Called on the Lord” (*featuring Alvin Darling*)

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“Could God Be Calling You?”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Jesus is All” *(featuring Fred Hammond)*

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)

Its that time again!!! Girl Scout Cookie time. Jaylah is a member of Troop #4887 and is taking orders, for additional information reach out to Tiara at 202.603.9800. Varieties include: **Lemon Ups, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Tagalongs, Samoas, Thin Mints, GS S'Mores, Toffee-Tastics.** Initials orders due January 11th, but it is never to late to order. Monies due when you receive your cookies.

If you are a Step Afrika fan, tune in to the premiere of **No Justice, No Peace** on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and www.stepafrika.org. This premiere will be available for **extended viewing until Friday January 22, 2021 at 11:59pm/et.** Share this moment with your community!

Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarks/md>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



***"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)

Aaron Burley, Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, 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), Charles Burley, 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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Eric Smith's story: https://www.spotfund.com/story/5700aa0f-3368-4593-92ac-1cbcad6fa551?created=true&fbclid=IwAR22RY6XyC06K4w5c6Sy-3x29Pn7pZ29akpYwLOMgjuJCoNSItaleImQSWM&referral_id=032c0c58-c7d8-4ca8-a181-4d44d1b3b971