



Sunday, February 14, 2021
Black History Month
Transfiguration Sunday
Order of Service



Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (Hymnal, #334)
(being sung this morning by Doris Akers)

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..... **Cynthia**

Leader: God, you have seen the millions of dark bodies beneath the tumultuous waves of the deep.

Tina: **Bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.**

Leader: Lord, you have seen women’s dreams for a united family vanish as they were sold on auction blocks.

Tina: **Bitter the chastening rod, felt in days when hope unborn had died.**

Leader: God, you have seen African American families decimated and demeaned because of slavery.

Tina: **Bitter the chastening rod, felt in days when hope unborn had died.**

Leader: O God, you have ignited within us a blazing demand for freedom.

Tina: **Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our father’s sighed.**

Leader: NOW, our Hymn of Praise — “Let Us Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Hymn of Praise..... **“Lift Every Voice and Sing”**
(sing along with Solomon Howard)

- 1 Lift every voice and sing
- Till earth and heaven ring
- Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
- Let our rejoicing rise
- High as the listening skies
- Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
- Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

2 Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

3 God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land
Our native land

Prayer of Confession and Assurance..... Cynthia

God, in the story of Christ's transfiguration, we heard that Peter, James and John experienced your glory. We confess that we also prefer what is appealing and comfortable. We also realize that our ancestors could not be at ease in Zion, because they were under the slave master's authority. Forgive us in times that we forget that it was through your transcending power that they held on to God's unchanging hand. Call us down from the mountain of privilege and security into a closer relationship with you that we may see your glory. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*song by Andrea Bocelli*)

The Invocation..... LáAngel

Song of Meditation — "My Soul Been Anchored in the Lord" (*featuring Douglas Miller*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path toward faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sandy**

(2 Kings 2:1–12, Common English Bible)

Elijah goes to heaven

2 Now the LORD was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. **2** Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

3 The group of prophets from Bethel came out to Elisha. These prophets said to Elisha, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?”

Elisha said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

4 Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Jericho.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

5 The group of prophets from Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?”

He said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

6 Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So both of them went on together. **7** Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. **8** Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. **9** When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “What do you want me to do for you before I’m taken away from you?”

Elisha said, “Let me have twice your spirit.”

10 Elijah said, “You’ve made a difficult request. If you can see me when I’m taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don’t see me, it won’t happen.”

11 They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

12 Elisha was watching, and he cried out, “Oh, my father, my father! Israel’s chariots and its riders!” When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

Scripture Reading #2 **Tina**

(Romans 5:1–11, Common English Bible)

Therefore, we have peace with God

5 Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God’s glory. **3** But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, **4** endurance produces character, and character produces hope. **5** This hope doesn’t put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. **7** It isn’t often that someone will die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good

person. ⁸ But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ So, now that we have been made righteous by his blood, we can be even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰ If we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son while we were still enemies, now that we have been reconciled, how much more certain is it that we will be saved by his life? ¹¹ And not only that: we even take pride in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the one through whom we now have a restored relationship with God.

Scripture Reading #3 **Pat**
(*Mark 9:2–9, New International Version*)

The Transfiguration

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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”

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”

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.**

Black History Moment **Ms. Cynthia**

Hymn of Preparation — **“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”** (*featuring Chicago Mass Choir*)

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

“Hanging On”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — **“Never Would’ve Made It”** (*featuring Marvin Sapp*)

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.



Wednesday, February 17th (7:00 p.m.) — **Ash Wednesday** service. Please make sure that you have ashes.

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



Sunday, February 21st (morning service) — We will be blessed with a message from **Bishop Forrest C. Stith**, one of the Ebony Bishops of the United Methodist Church, now retired.

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/stmarkslmd>)
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), 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-3x29Pn7pZ29akpYwLOMgjuJCoNSItale1mQSWM&referral_id=032c0c58-c7d8-4ca8-a181-4d44d1b3b971

#BECAUSEOFTHEMWE CAN

BHM CHALLENGE

- AFFIRM A BLACK CHILD
- DONATE TO AN HBCU OF YOUR CHOICE
- FIND A PERSON IN BLACK HISTORY THAT YOU SHARE A BIRTHDAY WITH
- SHARE A PHOTO OF AN ANCESTOR
- RESEARCH BAYARD RUSTIN
- WATCH THE "THEY'VE GOTTA HAVE US" DOCUMENTARY
- TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE NMAAHC
- BUY & READ A BOOK BY A BLACK AUTHOR
- RESEARCH BARBARA JORDAN
- FIND AN EVERY DAY ITEM CREATED BY A BLACK INVENTOR
- INTERVIEW AN ELDER
- RECREATE AN ICONIC BLACK PHOTO
- RESEARCH FLEET WALKER
- SUPPORT A BLACK BUSINESS
- DOWNLOAD 3 BLACK-OWNED APPS
- COOK A FAMILY RECIPE
- RESEARCH ELLA BAKER
- CALL YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE & TELL THEM TO AUTHORIZE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT
- HELP SOMEONE REGISTER TO VOTE
- RESEARCH BROCK PETERS
- LEARN ABOUT HISTORIC BLACK LANDMARKS IN YOUR CITY
- DONATE TO A BLACK CHARITY/FOOD BANK
- RESEARCH PEG LEG BATES RESORT
- LEARN THE FULL VERSION OF LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING
- DONATE SUPPLIES TO A BLACK TEACHER
- OPEN UP AN ACCOUNT WITH A BLACK OWNED BANK
- RESEARCH IDA B. WELLS
- PLAN A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION WITH YOUR FAMILY ON THE 28TH

BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN

28 DAYS, 28 WAYS TO CELEBRATE