



Sunday, February 28, 2021
Black History Month
Second Sunday in Lent
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..... **Jaylah / Jalani**

Jaylah: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious unto me.
Jalani: “Come”, my heart says, “seek his face.”
 Jaylah: Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.
Jalani: Do not turn your servant away in anger, you have been my help.
 Jaylah: Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
Jalani: When my mother and father forsake me, then the Lord will lift me up.
 Jaylah: This morning we have come to praise The Lord our God! Praise Him! Praise Him!

Hymn of Praise..... **“Every Praise Is to Our God”**
(sing along with Hezekiah Walker)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance..... **Jaylah / Jalani**

O God, who has promised to stand by us, walk with us, and listen to our cries, pains, and sorrows. We praise and thank you for hearing the cries and pains of our enslaved, segregated and often marginalized fore parents. Lest we forget thee from where you have brought us, teach us how to serve you with power and consistency. Inspire us to a blessing to others and walk humbly beside our brother and savior Jesus in our service to others. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*featuring Andrea Bocelli*)

The Invocation..... **LáAngel**

Song of Meditation — **“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”** (*featuring Geoffrey Golden*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)**Jaylah / Jalani**

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read, and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Jaden**
(*Genesis 12:1–7, 15–16, Common English Bible*)

Abram’s family moves to Canaan

12 The LORD said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you.”^[a]

4 Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. **5** Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. **7** The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I give this land to your descendants,” so Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him.

15 When Pharaoh’s princes saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s household. **16** Things went well for Abram because of her: he acquired flocks, cattle, male donkeys, men servants, women servants, female donkeys, and camels.

Scripture Reading #2 **Kamille**
(*Romans 4:13–25, Common English Bible*)

Abraham’s promise is received through faith

13 The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn’t come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. **14** If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. **15** The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn’t any law, there isn’t any violation of the law. **16** That’s why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God’s grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham’s descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. **17** As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations.* So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don’t exist into existence. **18** When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: *That’s how many descendants you will have.* **19** Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah’s womb, which was dead. **20** He didn’t hesitate with a lack of faith in God’s promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. **21** He was fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised.

22 Therefore, it was credited to him as righteousness.

²³ But the scripture that says *it was credited to him* wasn't written only for Abraham's sake. ²⁴ It was written also for our sake, because it is going to be credited to us too. It will be credited to those of us who have faith in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was handed over because of our mistakes, and he was raised to meet the requirements of righteousness for us.

Scripture Reading #3 **Jaden**
(*Mark 8:31–38, Common English Bible*)

³¹ Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” ³² He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. ³³ Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

³⁴ After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. ³⁵ All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. ³⁶ Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? ³⁷ What will people give in exchange for their lives? ³⁸ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” **Jaylah / Jalani**

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” **Jaylah / Jalani**

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” **Jaylah / Jalani**

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 **Jalani & Jaylah**
Hymn of Preparation — “Praise Is What I Do” **Sister Dorothea Taylor, Soloist**
Inspirational Message..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

“Praise to God Almighty”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Total Praise” (*featuring Richard Smallwood*)

Announcements **Cynthia**

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)**

Thursday, March 4th (6:30 p.m.) — Council meeting. All are welcome, below is the Zoom information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86296932671?pwd=UHdIUUhJcitrQXBienlCUFZjK0ZQdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 9693 2671, **Passcode:** CHURCH

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+13017158592,,86296932671#,,, *276011# US (Washington DC)

Saturday, March 6th (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) — Communion elements will be distributed at the church. **Please use Coronavirus protocols.**

Sunday, March 14th (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Men’s Day. Speaker of the hour: **Rev. Eric W. King, I**, Pastor, Goshen United Methodist Church. Additional information forthcoming. **Sacrificial donation:** \$125 (Men); \$50 (Women).

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.**

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)

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-3x29Pn7pZ29akpYwLOMgiuJCoNSItaIe1mQSWM&referral_id=032c0c58-c7d8-4ca8-a181-4d44d1b3b971