

July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Welcome

Whether you regularly worship at St. Mark’s United Methodist or whether you’re visiting with us, we encourage you to open your hearts and minds to what says the Lord. If you are a visitor, interested in becoming a member of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church feel free to contact the church at **301.776.8885** | emailstmarksimd@gmail.com | Pastor Matthews directly (**443.257.2730** | reveugene@comcast.net). Our doors are always open, welcome.

Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)
(sing along with 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 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 **Cynthia**

Leader: Who are we who gather this summer Sunday?

People: **We are those besieged by the message and values of the world, but choose to live by God’s truth.**

Leader: Why do we come here?

People: **We come to worship God, the source of life and to hear his Word.**

Leader: How are we enabled?

People: **We attend to Christ’s teachings, contemplate the gospel story and pray for strength from the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Why Have We Come Together?

People: Again, we have come to worship the source of life, to hear the gospel story and to be enabled to witness.

Leader: Come Then, “Let Us Worship the Lord!!”

Hymn of Praise **“Come Let Us Worship the Lord”**
(sing along with Barnes UMC)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance **Cynthia**

Dear God, we confess that we are far from a united Christian community. We are fragmented people because we have created division by the way we regard one another in the church and in the world. Forgive us for failing to be the incarnation of love that Jesus exemplified from his birth to his death, reconciling us to you, O God. May we then become reconcilers in his name. **Amen.**

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

The Invocation

Song of Meditation **“Help”**
(featuring Anthony Brown & group therAPy)

The Prayer of Illumination **Cynthia**

Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and minds as we read the scripture today. Help us to hear them in a new way. May our meditations and actions be acceptable to God and may the peace of Christ be with us. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1
(2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19, Common English Bible)

God’s chest is brought to Jerusalem

6 Once again David assembled the select warriors of Israel, thirty thousand strong. ² David and all the troops who were with him set out for Baalah, which is Kiriath-jearim of Judah, to bring God’s chest up from there—the chest that is called by the name of the LORD of heavenly forces, who sits enthroned on the winged creatures. ³ They loaded God’s chest on a new cart and carried it from Abinadab’s house, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab’s sons, were driving the new cart. ⁴ Uzzah was beside God’s chest while Ahio was walking in front of it. ⁵ Meanwhile, David and the entire house of Israel celebrated in the LORD’s presence with all their strength, with songs, zithers, harps, tambourines, rattles, and cymbals.

¹² King David was told, “The LORD has blessed Obed-edom’s family and everything he has because of God’s chest being there.” So David went and brought God’s chest up from Obed-edom’s house to David’s City with celebration.

¹³ Whenever those bearing the chest advanced six steps, David sacrificed an ox and a fatling calf. ¹⁴ David, dressed in a linen priestly vest, danced with all his strength before the LORD. ¹⁵ This is how David and the entire house of Israel brought up the LORD's chest with shouts and trumpet blasts.

¹⁶ As the LORD's chest entered David's City, Saul's daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David jumping and dancing before the LORD, and she lost all respect for him.

¹⁷ The LORD's chest was brought in and put in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered entirely burned offerings in the LORD's presence in addition to well-being sacrifices. ¹⁸ When David finished offering the entirely burned offerings and the well-being sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of heavenly forces. ¹⁹ He distributed food among all the people of Israel—to the whole crowd, male and female—each receiving a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Scripture Reading #2
(*Ephesians 1:3–14, Common English Bible*)

The believers' blessings

³ Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. ⁴ God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world. ⁵ God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan ⁶ and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. ⁷ We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, ⁸ which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding. ⁹ God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. ¹⁰ This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. ¹¹ We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. ¹² We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. ¹³ You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

Scripture Reading #3 Venita
(*John 6:1–15, Common English Bible*)

Feeding of the five thousand

6 After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). ² A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. ³ Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. ⁴ It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

⁵ Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, “Where will we buy food to feed these people?” ⁶ Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, “More than a half year’s salary worth of food wouldn’t be enough for each person to have even a little bit.”

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, ⁹ “A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. ¹² When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, “This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

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” Cynthia

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”Cynthia

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.**

Hymn of Preparation “Looking for You”
(featuring Kirk Franklin)

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“What Are You Looking For?”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “God I Look to You”
(featuring Funmi Adenugba)

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.



“A FRESH START (NOW)” — Any person who would like to participate or discuss further the Ministry areas presented last week, please contact either Jaime, Nena or Rev. Matthews. **We desire to have many members as possible active in all of the various areas of Ministry.**

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

Moving Forward

The remaining **July Sunday worship** services will be held virtually via Zoom.

Beginning **Sunday, August 1st**, worship will be held in the sanctuary, all protocols, masks, etc. will be observed.

The **Annual Emancipation Day** observance **will not be held this year.** However, the **Annual 5K Walk/Run (Saturday, September 4th – 8:00 a.m., see flyer attached.**

Sunday September 26th (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Homecoming Sunday** including fellowship and other activities will take place.

(Additional update and information relative these announcements will be forthcoming at a later date.)

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)

Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Noble (BeBe) Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, 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, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

Eunice Dumas

1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Laura Dotson

7246 Guilford Road
Clarksville MD 21029

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Mrs. Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

St. Mark's UMC Emancipation Day
Rev. Eugene Matthews, Pastor

9th Annual In-Person & Virtual Diabetes
— 5K Run/Walk/Fun Walk



Saturday, September 4, 2021
8:00 AM Rain or Shine

Alice B. McCullough Field
Montgomery & Eighth Street, Laurel, MD

USATF Certified Course Professionally Timed by
Blue Cheetah Sports Timing, LLC

5K Run/Walk—\$25 (timed) | Fun Walk—\$20 (untimed) |
Virtual 5K—\$30 (to cover postage for Running Bib &
Finisher Medal)

For Online Registration/Additional Information go to
[Runstopsignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5K](https://runstopsignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5K)

Note: All registered participants will be notified if there are modifications due to COVID-19. **If you have questions, please contact Jacqueline Jones.**