

*July 18, 2021*

*Eighth 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** | [emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto:emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com) | Pastor Matthews directly (**443.257.2730** | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto: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 / Sandy**

Leader: I love the Lord because he hears my voice.

**Sandy: Gracious is our God.**

Leader: When I was in despair, God saved me.

**Sandy: Gracious is our God.**

Leader: I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

**Sandy: Gracious is our God. Blessed are we, servants of God.**

Leader: The Lord is in his Holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

**Hymn of Praise ..... “Standing on the Promises”**  
*(sing along with Mass Choir, lyrics below)*

**1** Standing on the promises of Christ,  
my King,  
Through eternal ages let his praises  
ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and  
sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

*Refrain:*  
Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God, my  
Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

**2** Standing on the promises that cannot fail.  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear  
assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God. *[Refrain]*

**3** Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,  
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God. *[Refrain]*

**4** Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God. *[Refrain]*

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance ..... Cynthia**

Loving God, often we have been unfaithful people. However, you have created us in your image and breathed the breath of life into us and yet we have not kept our covenant with you. We sometimes have marred your image and done deeds of death to ourselves and others. In the name of the Risen Christ have mercy upon us, blot out our sins and forgive us. **Amen.**

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

**The Invocation**

**Song of Meditation ..... “More Than Enough”**  
*(featuring Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir)*

**The Prayer of Illumination ..... Cynthia**

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1 ..... Ms. Cynthia**  
*(2 Samuel 7:1–14a, Common English Bible)*

**God's promise to David**

**7** When the king was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, “Look! I’m living in a cedar palace, but God’s chest is housed in a tent!”

<sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, “Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> But that very night the LORD's word came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup> Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. <sup>6</sup> In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a tent and in a dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel's tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven't you built me a cedar temple?

<sup>8</sup> So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I've been with you wherever you've gone, and I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. <sup>10</sup> I'm going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, <sup>11</sup> when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

And the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make a dynasty for you. <sup>12</sup> When the time comes for you to die and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your descendant—one of your very own children—to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He will build a temple for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to me. Whenever he does wrong, I will discipline him with a human rod, with blows from human beings.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Erica**  
(*Ephesians 2:11–22, Common English Bible*)

### **The reconciliation of God's people**

<sup>11</sup> So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called “uncircumcised” by Jews who are physically circumcised. <sup>12</sup> At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. <sup>13</sup> But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. <sup>15</sup> He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. <sup>16</sup> He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

<sup>17</sup> When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's

household. <sup>20</sup> As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Sandy**  
(*Mark 5:21–43, Common English Bible*)

### **Jesus heals two people**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus crossed the lake again, and on the other side a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. <sup>22</sup> Jairus, one of the synagogue leaders, came forward. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and pleaded with him, “My daughter is about to die. Please, come and place your hands on her so that she can be healed and live.” <sup>24</sup> So Jesus went with him.

A swarm of people were following Jesus, crowding in on him. <sup>25</sup> A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a lot under the care of many doctors, and had spent everything she had without getting any better. In fact, she had gotten worse. <sup>27</sup> Because she had heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. <sup>28</sup> She was thinking, If I can just touch his clothes, I'll be healed. <sup>29</sup> Her bleeding stopped immediately, and she sensed in her body that her illness had been healed.

<sup>30</sup> At that very moment, Jesus recognized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”

<sup>31</sup> His disciples said to him, “Don't you see the crowd pressing against you? Yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup> But Jesus looked around carefully to see who had done it.

<sup>33</sup> The woman, full of fear and trembling, came forward. Knowing what had happened to her, she fell down in front of Jesus and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He responded, “Daughter, your faith has healed you; go in peace, healed from your disease.”

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was still speaking with her, messengers came from the synagogue leader's house, saying to Jairus, “Your daughter has died. Why bother the teacher any longer?”

<sup>36</sup> But Jesus overheard their report and said to the synagogue leader, “Don't be afraid; just keep trusting.” <sup>37</sup> He didn't allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James, and John, James' brother. <sup>38</sup> They came to the synagogue leader's house, and he saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, “What's all this commotion and crying about? The child isn't dead. She's only sleeping.” <sup>40</sup> They laughed at him, but he threw them all out. Then, taking the child's parents and his disciples with him, he went to the room where the child was. <sup>41</sup> Taking her hand, he said to her, “*Talitha koum,*” which means,

“Young woman, get up.”<sup>42</sup> Suddenly the young woman got up and began to walk around. She was 12 years old. They were shocked!<sup>43</sup> He gave them strict orders that no one should know what had happened. Then he told them to give her something to eat.

**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 ..... “Hallelujah You’re Worthy to be Praised”  
(featuring Judith McCallister)**

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

## ***“The Ministry of Interruptions***

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection — “Don’t Cry” (featuring Kirk Franklin)**

**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).** Note: The group will meet through July, hiatus until September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal**

**Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m.) — Nomination’s Committee** will meet in person at the church. Please notify Rev. Matthews if you can’t be present. We need to start meeting to prepare for Annual Church Conference.

## Moving Forward

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

Beginning **Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**, 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 4<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 a.m., see flyer attached (link change).**

**Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> (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.)*

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (6:00 p.m.) — Annual Church Conference** (details will be forthcoming)

**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](mailto: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

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14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
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347.423.2764

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

**9<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**[Runsignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5K](https://runsignup.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.**