

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”*

*Condolence to the family of
Sister Delores Tyler
(Service information forthcoming)*

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, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Joyce Gibson, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Eunice Harding (Gemma’s Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley’s brothers), Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas
1909 Sheffield Ct.
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher
9160 Charlton Pl.
Douglasville, GA 39135

Laura Dotson
7246 Guilford Rd.
Clarksville MD 21029

Ruth Miller
1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Mrs. Edlin Chambers
14904 4th St.
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707
301.776.8885 | stmarks/md@gmail.com*



“We come together at St. Mark’s to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world.”

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

401.379.0600 | 443.257.2710 (cell) | reveugene@comcast.net

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Augustus, Worship Leader

Prelude **Rev. Dr. Fernando Allen**

Lighting of the Candles **Usher**

Gathering Song..... **Choir/Congregation**

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

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..... **Sister Cynthia Augustus**

Leader: May your love and mercy be upon us today, O Lord.

People: **And may your wisdom be in our hearts.**

Leader: May the joy of your salvation be upon us today, O Lord.

People: **And the power of our Spirit be in our lives.**

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O God.

People: **Lead us in truth and righteousness.**

All: **Let us sing praise to God and rejoice in God’s love.**

Hymn of Praise..... **Choir/Congregation**

“My Hope Is Built”

1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood, and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

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.**

Tuesday, August 17th (6:30 p.m.) — **Nomination’s Committee** will meet in a conference call. Call in: 712-770-4010 Access code: 331960.

Wednesday Night Experience. **On hiatus until September 8th.**

Thursday, August 19th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Moving Forward

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

Sunday September 26th (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Homecoming Sunday.** Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord will be our morning preacher.

Monday, October 11th (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](#))

Blessing of the Offering Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

“Life Comes Full Circle”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection

Announcements

Benediction

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. ***Refrain***

3 His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. ***Refrain***

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness, alone, faultless to stand before the throne. ***Refrain***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

Gracious God, thank you for being a God who hears us when we cry out to you. Today we bring before you all our hurts and our fears. Some of the pain we have brought upon ourselves, while some have been completely out of our control. Either way, we trust that you will hear our cries of guilt and grief. May your presence among us bring us hope during these challenging days. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation.....**Sister Cynthia Augustus**
Song of Meditation**Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination *(Unison)*

O God, your word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your word with truth and grace so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses. So that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust on our journey. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1**Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(2 Samuel 18:5–9, 31–33, Common English Bible)

⁵The king gave orders to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai: “For my sake, protect my boy Absalom.” All the troops heard what the king ordered regarding Absalom to all the commanders.

⁶ So the troops marched into the field to meet the Israelites. The battle was fought in the Ephraim forest. ⁷ The army of Israel was defeated there by David's soldiers. A great slaughter of twenty thousand men took place that day. ⁸ The battle spread out over the entire countryside, and the forest devoured more soldiers than the sword that day.

⁹ Absalom came upon some of David's men. Absalom was riding on a mule, and the mule went under the tangled branches of a large oak tree. Absalom's head got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair while the mule under him kept on going.

³¹ Then the Cushite arrived and said, "My master the king: Listen to this good news! The LORD has vindicated you this day against the power of all who rose up against you."

³² The king said to the Cushite, "Is my boy Absalom okay?"

The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my master the king and all who rise up against you to hurt you end up like that young man."

³³ The king trembled. He went up to the room over the gate and cried. As he went, he said, "Oh, my son Absalom! Oh, my son! My son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you! Oh, Absalom, my son! My son!"

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*Ephesians 4:25—5:2, Common English Bible*)

²⁵ Therefore, after you have gotten rid of lying, *Each of you must tell the truth to your neighbor* because we are parts of each other in the same body. ²⁶ *Be angry without sinning.* Don't let the sun set on your anger. ²⁷ Don't provide an opportunity for the devil.

²⁸ Thieves should no longer steal. Instead, they should go to work, using their hands to do good so that they will have something to share with whoever is in need.

²⁹ Don't let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say. ³⁰ Don't make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy—you were sealed by him for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. ³² Be kind,

compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

5 Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. ² Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God.

Selection **Choir**

Scripture Reading #3 **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*John 6: 35, 41–51, Common English Bible*)

³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴¹ The Jewish opposition grumbled about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

⁴² They asked, "Isn't this Jesus, Joseph's son, whose mother and father we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

⁴³ Jesus responded, "Don't grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless they are drawn to me by the Father who sent me, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, And they *will all be taught by God.* Everyone who has listened to the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ I assure you, whoever believes has eternal life.

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that whoever eats from it will never die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Gloria Patri – "Glory Be to the Father" (Hymnal, #71)

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 **Choir**