



*“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)

Mary Taylor (LáAngel’s Mom), 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, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, 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

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St. Mark’s United Methodist Church

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“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

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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, September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Augustus, Worship Leader

Prelude **Rev. Dr. Fernando Allen**

Lighting of the Candles **Usher**

Gathering Song.....**St. Mark's 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: Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

People: **From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee.**

Leader: When my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

People: **For thou have been a shelter in the time of storm.**

Leader: Unto you, O my strength, will I sing praises.

People: **God is my defense, and the God of mercy and the midst of troubled times.**

ALL: **To you we sing to your glory.**

Wednesday Night Experience — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room.

Call in #267.807.9611; Access code 331960

Thursday, September 16th (7:00 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal

Sunday September 26th (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Homecoming — “God of the Past, God of the Present, and God of the Future”.

Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord will be our morning preacher. We are asking for a special Homecoming offering to be given by each member.

Monday, October 11th (6:00 p.m.) — Annual Church Conference (This will be virtual)

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](mailto:601.Eighth.Street.Laurel.MD.20707))
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.

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."

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..... St. Mark's Choir

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

“Do You Know Him?”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection

Announcements

Benediction

Announcements

Starting September 14, 2021

Pastor's Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Millicent Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

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)” —We desire to have many members as possible active in all the various areas of Ministry.

Hymn of Praise.....St. Mark's Choir/Congregation

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 (Unison)

Holy God your son walked the road to Calvary for each of us. For our sake, he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. Yet sometimes we find it hard to sacrifice even for the sake of him who gave so much for us. We hold back from the road he calls us to walk, because we know there might be a cross. Forgive us for our faltering faith and give us the courage to move farther in your name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

The Invocation..... Sister Cynthia Augustus

Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

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

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*Proverbs 1:20–33, Common English Bible*)

Listen to “Woman Wisdom”

²⁰ Wisdom shouts in the street; in the public square she raises her voice. ²¹ Above the noisy crowd, she calls out. At the entrances of the city gates, she has her say: ²² “How long will you clueless people love your naïveté, mockers hold their mocking dear, and fools hate knowledge? ²³ You should respond when I correct you. Look, I’ll pour out my spirit on you. I’ll reveal my words to you. ²⁴ I invited you, but you rejected me; I stretched out my hand to you, but you paid no attention. ²⁵ You ignored all my advice, and you didn’t want me to correct you. ²⁶ So I’ll laugh at your disaster; I’ll make fun of you when dread comes over you, ²⁷ when terror hits you like a hurricane, and your disaster comes in like a tornado, when distress and oppression overcome you. ²⁸ Then they will call me, but I won’t answer; they will seek me, but won’t find me ²⁹ because they hated knowledge and didn’t choose the fear of the Lord. ³⁰ They didn’t want my advice; they rejected all my corrections. ³¹ They will eat from the fruit of their way, and they’ll be full of their own schemes. ³² The immature will die because they turn away; smugness will destroy fools. ³³ Those who obey me will dwell securely, untroubled by the dread of harm.”

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*James 3:1–12, Common English Bible*)

Taming the Tongue

³ My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. ² We all make mistakes often, but those who don’t make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. ³ When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

⁴ Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. ⁵ In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire.

⁶ The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us.

It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

⁷ People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. ⁸ No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God’s likeness.

¹⁰ Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn’t be this way!

¹¹ Both fresh water and salt water don’t come from the same spring, do they? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn’t flow from a saltwater spring either.

Selection **St. Mark’s Choir**

Blessing of the Offering **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 **Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*Mark 8:27–38, Common English Bible*)

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

²⁸ They told him, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets.”

²⁹ He asked them, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

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,