



“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

September 27th , 2026

Rev. Dr. Andreá Cummings-Wratee, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent
LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Presiding Bishop



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Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
****Please stand as you are able in body or spirit***

Prelude~ “We Have Come Into this House - #174 AAHH”

Welcome~ Rev. Dr. Andreá Cummings-Wratee

****Opening Hymn~ “Trust and Obey” - #380 AAHH***

Opening Prayer

****Offering***

Doxology~ “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”~#650 AAHH

Prayer of Illumination: Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit give us the words of life, that we may understand your way and follow your truth, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

****The Scripture Readings***

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32: The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from

their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

*The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.***

****Psalter~** #756-757 UMH, Psalm 25:10*

****Second Reading:** Philippians 2:1-13: If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,*

so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.***

***Song of Preparation~** “More Than Enough”*

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 21:23-32: When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you*

saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Proclamation~ Dr. Cummings-Wratee

****Affirmation of Faith: (881 UMH): 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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. (*universal)***

Prayers of the People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

****Confession/Pardon/ The Peace~ Pg. 8***

Thanksgiving & Holy Communion~ Pgs. 9-11

Lord's Prayer

Post Communion Prayer: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

****Benediction***

Mark your Calendar

#7025 NAACP St. Mary's Branch annual Freedom Fund Jazz & R&B Brunch is Oct. 10th from 11 am-3 pm at the Bay District Fire Department. Tickets for a table of 8 are \$400 (\$50 per person). We can have multiple tables. Mark on your envelope: NAACP Brunch.

146TH Church Anniversary weekend, October 16-18. Fish Fry and Bake Sale on Oct. 16th and an Afternoon of Praise on Oct. 17th at 3 pm. If you would like to join the anniversary committee, contact the pastor. Sign-up sheet and order forms are at the usher station.

Ace's Angels 4th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk is Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Leonardtown Wharf Park, Leonardtown, MD, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. This year, our mission is to Walk for Hope and Healing. Bring your family and friends. Together, we can make a difference.

Church conference on November 7, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. at Mt. Harmony-Lower Marlboro, 155 E. Mt. Harmony Rd., Owings, MD.

Announcements? If you have an announcement or prayer request, please email it to zionlexpk@gmail.com by Wednesday.

Ready to Join Zion? Please text 301-997-3328. Pastor Cummings will reach out to you to arrange a time to discuss the membership vows and schedule a Sunday to join Zion.