



# **Saint Matthew's**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Holy Eucharist - Rite II**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 26, 2026**  
**10:00 am**



# Welcome to St. Matthew's! We are glad you are here.

Welcome to St. Matthew's! Whether you join us in person or online, we welcome you to this Episcopal Church, one of many in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, throughout the United States and around the world. As part of the Anglican Communion, our ministry stretches over the face of the earth. Our worship, found in the Book of Common Prayer, was established in the middle of the 16th century, modified to accommodate contemporary tastes and times.

We invite families with young children to sit close to the Communion Table that you see and hear clearly. A play space for young children is provided on the east side of the church towards the rear. All children are absolutely welcome in worship as their wonder and curiosity inspires us all.

Rubrics, the *italicized* words of the bulletin give guidance for worship—when to sit, stand or kneel. At St. Matthew's, we also embrace silence at various times, occasions when we speak to and listen for God.

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## + THE WORD OF GOD +

### Prelude

by Johann Sebastian Bach

*Sheep may safely graze (from Cantata No. 208)*

*The hymns can be found in the blue hymnals. Please stand as you are able.*

### Processional Hymn 708

SICILIAN MARINERS

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us*

*Celebrant*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People*

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### The Collect for Purity

*The Celebrant and People say together*

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Gloria in excelsis

*sung by all*

*setting by Robert Powell (1932-2025)*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy



on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,



you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## The First Reading

**Acts 2:42-47**

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm 23

*chanted by all*



- 1 The <sup>1</sup>LORD is my <sup>1</sup>shepherd; \*  
I shall not <sup>1</sup>be in <sup>1</sup>want.
- 2 He makes me lie <sup>1</sup>down in green <sup>1</sup>pastures \*  
and <sup>1</sup>leads me be <sup>1</sup>side still <sup>1</sup>waters.
- 3 He re <sup>1</sup>vives my <sup>1</sup>soul \*  
and guides me along right <sup>1</sup>pathways for his <sup>1</sup>Name's <sup>1</sup>sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall <sup>1</sup>fear no <sup>1</sup>evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your <sup>1</sup>rod and your <sup>1</sup>staff, they <sup>1</sup>comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of <sup>1</sup>those who <sup>1</sup>trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my <sup>1</sup>cup is <sup>1</sup>running <sup>1</sup>over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the <sup>1</sup>days of my <sup>1</sup>life, \*  
and I will dwell in the <sup>1</sup>house of the <sup>1</sup>LORD for <sup>1</sup>ever.

## The Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Sequence Hymn 343**

ST. ANGES

*Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*

## The Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

Sharon E. Pearson

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# Prayers of the People

# Form IV

*The People respond with the words in bold.*

*Intercessor* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Intercessor* Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; for Jeff and Laura, our bishops; for the clergy and lay leaders of St. Matthew's; for the search and call of the next rector of St. Matthew's;

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially for John, Christine, Gus, Shelby, David, Nancy, Bernie, Aaron, Liz, Scott, Vanessa, Melinda Kathy, Shelly, Patty, Ty, Joan, Ann, Winter, Susan, Kristen, Vinny, and Antonio, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own intercessions either silently or aloud.*

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

# + THE HOLY COMMUNION +

## The Offertory

*Celebrant*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

## Offertory Anthem

by Richard Farrant

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,  
lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past,  
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.  
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee,  
now and evermore.  
Amen

*Whether you've joined us today from near or far, in person or online, we invite you to make a gift of thanksgiving to support God's work St. Matthew's. Visit [www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering](http://www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering). Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge.*




*Please stand as you are able.*

**Doxology at the Presentation**      *sung by all*      LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**


**The Great Thanksgiving**      *chanted by all*

*Celebrant*      *People*




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*      *People*



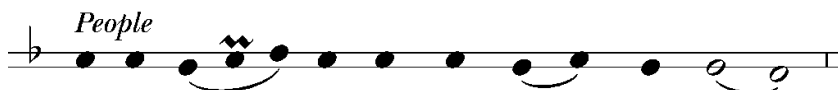
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

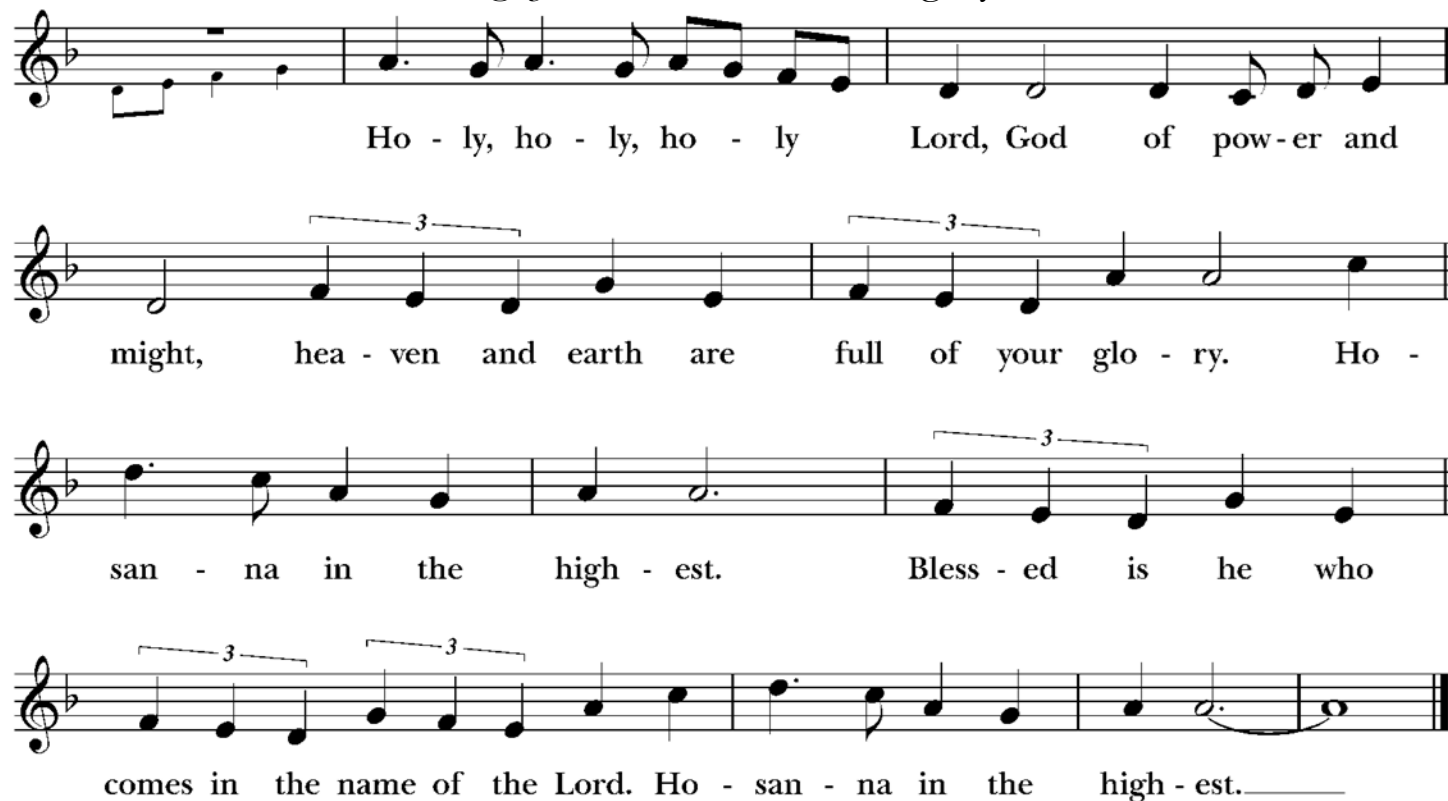
*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus** *sung by all* setting by Robert Powell (1932-2025)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

The musical score is written on four staves in G major and 3/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) and a final fermata on the last note.

*The People remain standing or kneel. The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*chanted by all*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

# The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem – Wonder Love and Praise 877 *sung by all*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread. The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, is the com - mun - ion of the bod - y of Chrsit. The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia, though ma - ny we share one bread. The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread." The score includes performance directions: "Cantor or Choir" at the beginning and end, and "All" for the main body of the anthem. Measure numbers 6, 11, 17, and 21 are indicated at the start of their respective staves.

*Celebrant*      The gifts of God for the People of God.

*We receive communion at the altar rails of St. Matthew's. Please follow the ushers guiding you forward down the center aisle to the communion rails, filling in from the outside wall. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free bread is available. Those desiring gluten-free shall present their hands, palms down. The chalices contain consecrated wine. With guidance from the chalice bearer, those who choose, drink from the common cup. The same cup offered to those choosing to intinct--dipping the bread oneself lightly in the wine and consuming.*

## Communion Hymn 657

HYFRYDOL

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

## The Postcommunion Prayer

*The People stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Parish Announcements

## The Easter Blessing

## Recessional Hymn 492

FINNIAN

*Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness*

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

by Paul Manz

*Awake, my heart, with gladness*

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### Worship Leaders

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson
<i>Preacher</i>	Sharon Pearson
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Anne Newton, Sharon Pearson
<i>Lectors</i>	Sharon Pearson, Jean Campbell
<i>Intercessor</i>	Caroline DeAngelis
<i>Music Director</i>	Irina Georgieva
<i>Organist</i>	Michael Burnette
<i>Choir</i>	St. Matthew's Church Choir
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Kim Olson, Jennifer DeAngelis
<i>Coffee Host</i>	Becca LaMantia
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Brian Angerame, Joy Ruterma

**Prayer Requests** *Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for six weeks. Please call or email the office if you have additions or deletions to the prayer list. You are encouraged to offer your own prayers silently or aloud as indicated in the Prayers of the People.*

Today and through the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: John, Christine, Gus, Shelby, David, Nancy, Bernie, Aaron, Liz, Scott, Vanessa, Melinda Kathy, Shelly, Patty, Ty, Joan, Ann, Winter, Susan, Kristen, Vinny, and Antonio. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Andrew's, Milford; St. Peter's, Milford; Trinity, Milton. Parishes in transition, transition teams and interim clergy.

## This Week's Prayer from Our Social Justice Group



### Witnessing Resurrection

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Resurrection is relentless.

Hope breaks through the hardened cracks of our deferred dreams, mending the pieces of our shattered hearts. The relentless chorus of love pulses rhythmically with the Divine heartbeat compelling us on, against all odds.

Relentless God, tune our hearts to the symphony of your reckless love.  
Amen.

Bishop Deon K. Johnson

Weekly Calendar – April 26-May 3

**Sunday, April 26**

10:00am  
10:00am  
11:15am  
11:30am  
11:30am

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2  
Church School  
Coffee Hour  
Confirmation Class  
Vestry meeting

**Monday, April 27**

7:00-9:30pm

Education for Ministry (Zoom)

**Tuesday, April 28**

11:00am

Staff Meeting

**Thursday, April 30**

7:30pm

St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

**Sunday, May 3**

10:00am  
10:00am  
11:15am

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2  
Church School  
Coffee Hour

## Explore Education for Ministry

Seeking to study the Bible and how to apply it to your daily life?

**Education for Ministry (EfM)** helps us understand how we are called into relationship with God, neighbor, and creation wherever we are – at home, at work, in all the places we spend time. Sharon Pearson, a certified EfM mentor facilitates the seminar that meets weekly, on Mondays from 7:00-9:15pm via Zoom). A new group will hopefully form at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on Thursday mornings (9:00-11:30am) on-site beginning mid-September. Alongside reading the Bible, learn how to do theological reflection to understand how Scripture, our Christian tradition, our society/culture, and our stories can inform how we view God and live out our lives as people of faith.



To learn more about the program: <http://efm.sewanee.edu> or register for the free Zoom ECCT Spring Training workshop on Wednesday, April 29 (6:45-8:15pm) led by Sharon here: <https://www.episcopalct.org/timetable/event/education-for-ministry-a-theological-education-program-for-the-laity/>. Contact Sharon for more info at [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com).

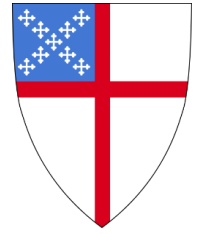
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## Worship Schedule at St. Matthew's

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am

*Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. You will find information to connect with friends and members of all ages.*



### **Staff**

Interim Rector	The Rev. John H. Branson, <a href="mailto:john@stmatthewswilton.org">john@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Formation & Engagement	The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson, <a href="mailto:tommy@stmatthewswilton.org">tommy@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Director of Music Ministries	Irina Georgieva, <a href="mailto:irina@stmatthewswilton.org">irina@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, <a href="mailto:office@stmatthewswilton.org">office@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Director of WEPCO	Donna Savage, <a href="mailto:wepco@optonline.net">wepco@optonline.net</a>
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, <a href="mailto:louann.miska@gmail.com">louann.miska@gmail.com</a>
Technology Coordinator	Matthew Henshaw
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato
Sextons	Alix Williams, Jairo Mejia

### **Wardens and Officers**

Warden	Pam Ely	Clerk	Jennifer DeAngelis
Warden	Keith DeAngelis	Asst. Treasurer	Brian Angerame
Treasurer	Rob Kyle		

### **The Vestry**

Eleanor Arnold	Bob Giolitto	Endy Perry	Kimberly Olson
Brian Angerame	Becky Hudspeth	John Pearson	

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