Saint Matthew's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Last Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King
November 22, 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.

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

Prelude in C Major — formerly attr. to J.S.Bach

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

Processional Hymn 544 — DUKE STREET

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

Song of Praise

sung by all

setting by John Rutter



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

The First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

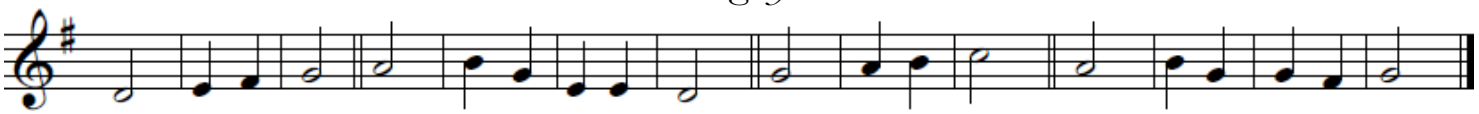
Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95:1-7a

sung by all



1 Come, let us ˈsing to the ˈLORD; *
let us shout for joy to the ˈRock of ˈour salˈvation.

2 Let us come before his ˈpresence with thanksˈgiving *
and raise a loud ˈshout to ˈhim with ˈpsalms.

3 For the LORD is aˈgrëat ˈGod, *
and a great ˈKing aˈbove all ˈgods.

4 In his hand are theˈcaverns of theˈearth, *
and the heights of theˈhills areˈhïsˈalso.

†5 The sea isˈhis, for heˈmade it, *
and his hands haveˈmolded theˈdry ˈland.

6 Come, let us bow down, andˈbend theˈknee, *
andˈkneel beˈfore theˈLORD ourˈMaker.

7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and theˈsheep of hisˈhand. *
Oh, that toˈday you wouldˈhearken to hisˈvoice!

The Second Reading — Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 435 — KING'S WESTON

At the Name of Jesus

The Holy Gospel — Matthew 25:31-46

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Kerith Harding

All stand for

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

Intercessor Everything we have comes from God. Let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings for all that God has given us, saying:
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We thank you for the gift of your creation. Give us the strength and courage to recognize your presence and goodness in all that you have made. Help us to respect, protect, and preserve the earth, sky, and sea, plants and animals, and one another. Teach us to be faithful stewards of the world you have entrusted to our care.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We give you thanks for the many blessings of our lives: for the people who love and sustain us, for our families and friends, for the work we are given to do, and for the gifts and abilities that make each of us unique. We thank you for moments of joy and beauty, for opportunities to grow and serve, and for the gift of life itself. Help us to receive these blessings with grateful hearts and to share them generously with others.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us the grace to nurture our relationships with you and with one another. As we worship, may we hear your call to love our neighbors as ourselves, to honor the dignity of every human being, and to seek the good of those whose lives are different from our own. May our lives reflect our gratitude for the abundance of your gifts.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for the leaders of our world, our nation, and your Church. Grant them wisdom, humility, and compassion, that they may exercise their authority with integrity and use the resources entrusted to their care for the good of all. Guide them to seek justice, pursue peace, protect the vulnerable, and serve not their own interests, but the common good.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for all those in danger or trouble: for the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the oppressed, the unemployed and the grieving, for prisoners and captives. Open our hearts to their needs, and help us to share generously the blessings we have received.

Intercessor We pray especially today for all those on our parish prayer list, especially Kelsey, Isador, Dan, Aaron, Liz, Scott, Judy, Vanessa, Melinda, Kathy, Shelly, Patty, Joan, Susan, Kristen, Vinny, and Antonio.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor On this *Bells of Hope* Sunday, we pray also today for all those children featured in the Connecticut Heart Gallery who are awaiting permanent, loving homes: Carlos (17), Anthony (16), Jay'Vion (13), Zy'King (4), Mickelea (8), Taylor (9), Jonah (14), Amanda (19), David (16), Xavier (15), Aiyanna (16), Mariselly (17), Danny (15), Josiah (2½), Zyan (8), Alex (13), Andrew (16), Sa'Niyah (12), Brian (17), Sammy (9), Bobby (10), Brynn (16), Fisher (11), Brenda (10), Anastasia (10), Yolanda (10), Evelyse (13), Isabella (14), Jason (14), Amy (9), Nathan (18), Javon (6), Jayden (5), Kesha (14), Alice (10), A (10), Simone (16), Samuel (16), Amaira (13), Armoni (10), Anthony (13), and Jynnette (14).

Intercessor We pray for all who have died. In your compassion, comfort all those who mourn, and strengthen us in the hope of the resurrection.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for your Church, its mission, and its members. Help us to be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us—our time, our talents, our resources, and our very lives. Give us the courage to participate in your work of love and reconciliation. And when we fall short, as we will, remind us of the redeeming love of your Son, who calls us always to begin again. Help us to trust in your abundance and to share your gifts with joyful and generous hearts.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Confession

Then the Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. The people may stand or kneel.

Celebrant and People say together

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your
will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **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 +

Celebrant says an Offertory sentence, the congregation is seated.
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem

King of Glory by David Charles Walker,
arr. by Tim Lind

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee;
and the cream of all my heart,
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

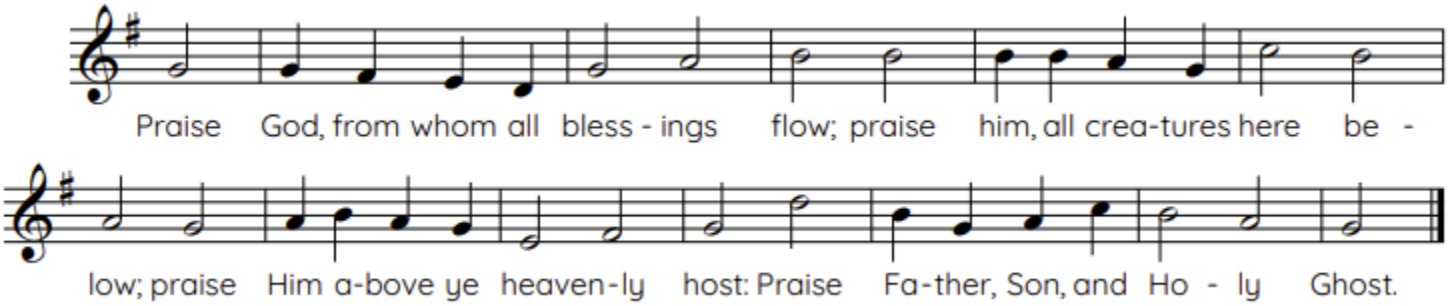
Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort
to enroll thee;
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

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. Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge.

Please stand as you are able.

Doxology at the Presentation

THE OLD HUNDREDTH



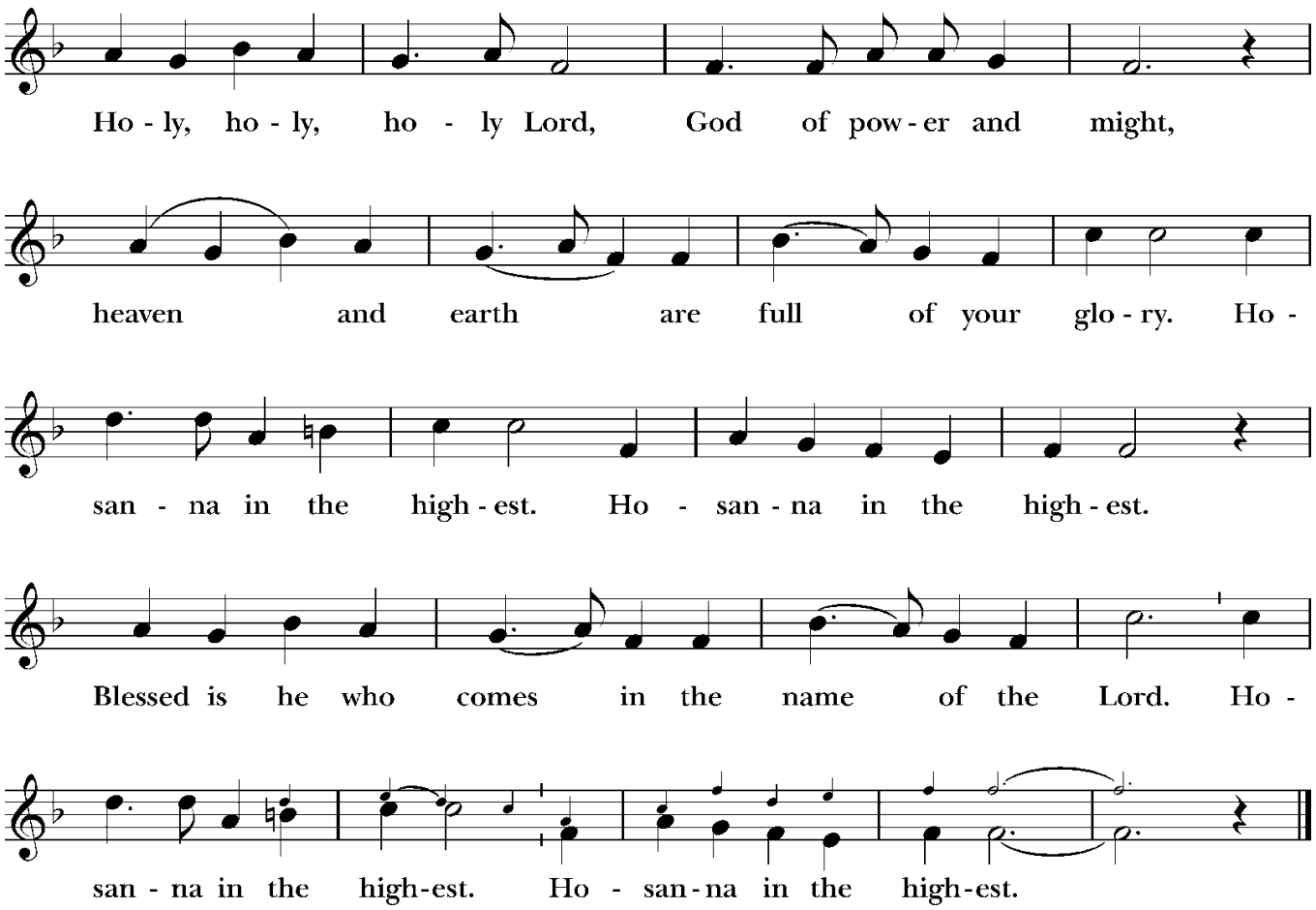
The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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 Richard Proulx*



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.**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our tresspasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Fraction Anthem

sung by all

by Franz Peter Schubert
arr. by Richard Proulx



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 325 LET US BREAK BREAD

Let us break bread together on our knees

Communion Hymn 343 ST. AGNES

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

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.

Stewardship Reflection

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn 494 DIADEMATA

Crown him with many crowns

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Toccata by Giovanni Battista Martini



Taizé Candlelight Service with Flutist Bärli Nugent Later Today at 4:00 PM

Join us for a peaceful and contemplative Taizé service by candlelight, featuring the beautiful music of flutist Bärli Nugent. Through simple sung prayers, Scripture, silence, and music, Taizé invites us to slow down, listen, and rest in God's presence.

A light reception will follow the service.

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Kerith Harding
Eucharistic Ministers	Bob Giolito, Sharon Pearson
Lectors	Jean Campbell, Chris Perry
Intercessor	John Pearson
Music Director	Irina Georgieva
Choir	St. Matthew's Church Choir
Altar Guild	Debbie Fuller, Char Griffin
Offering Counters	Steve Hudspeth & Chris Perry
Coffee Host	Rob & Melissa Kyle

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 throughout the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: Kelsey, Isador, Dan, Aaron, Liz, Scott, Judy, Vanessa, Melinda, Kathy, Shelly, Patty, Joan, Susan, Kristen, Vinny, and Antonio. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for All Saints', Wolcott; St. Paul's, Woodbury; Grace, Yantic; Finance Committee and Property Working Group and for the Faith and Order Commission.

CT FOSTERS

Bells of Hope – Today !

In recognition of national adoption awareness month, St. Matthew's is participating in *Bells of Hope,* a statewide faith-based awareness initiative to shine a light on children waiting for permanent, loving families. During our service this day, we will ring bells of hope once for every child currently featured in the Connecticut Heart Gallery and lift all children waiting for loving homes in prayer.

We will also be welcoming the Venerable Donald Burr, II, Archdeacon in the Diocese of Connecticut, to speak with us at coffee hour about the need for permanent and foster families in our state. Please join us!

Stewardship 2027 at St. Matthew's



We are *Making All Things New Again* at St. Matthew's.
Stewardship is a form of renewal itself - we are bringing new life to our physical space, our clergy, our presence in community, newcomers, our personal spiritual practices, and how we give back to God all that He has given us. In the spirit of renewal, please consider significantly increasing your pledge in support of all things that God and St. Matthew's are making new again.

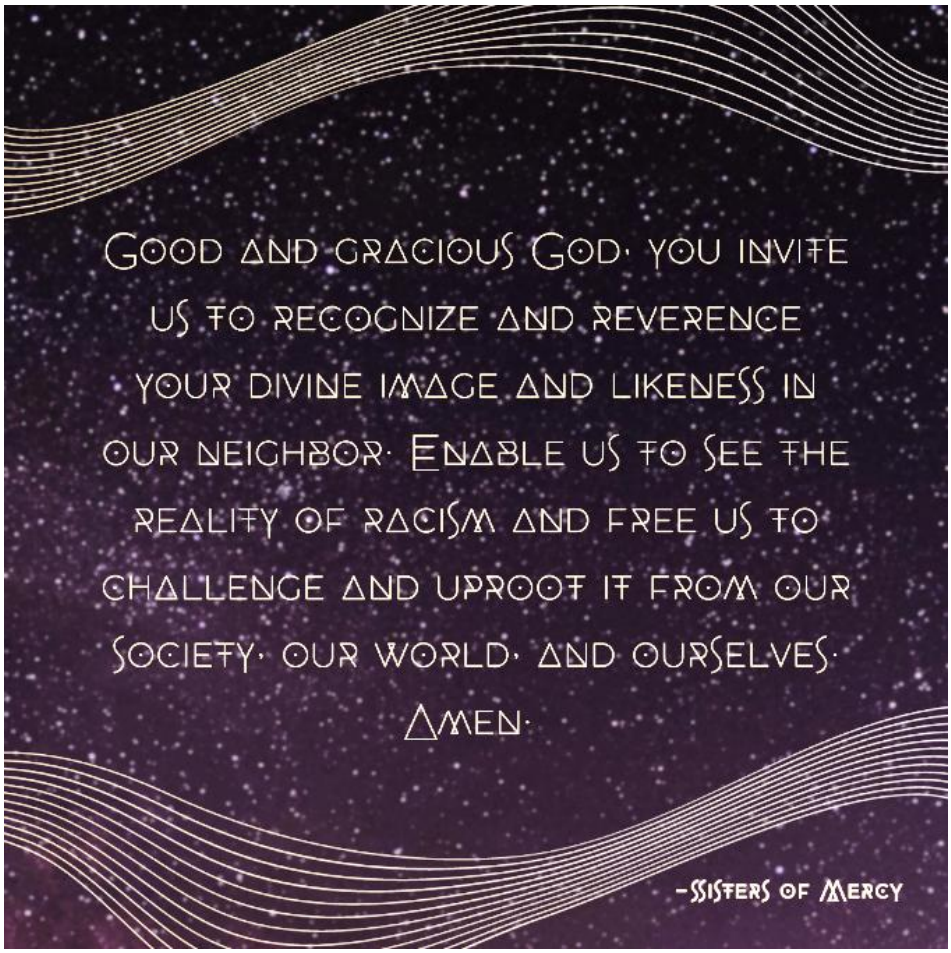
"Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow."
Proverbs 3:9–10

Please plan to join us on Sunday, December 6th, as we come together to celebrate our commitments to this community. On this day, we will bring our pledge cards forward and offer them to God on the altar, blessing them to God's work and service through St. Matthew's Church. If you are unable to attend on this day, please consider giving your pledge card to either Brian Angerame or the Rev. Kerith Harding in advance (or make your pledge commitment online) and they will be sure it is included in the blessing!

Weekly Calendar – November 22 – November 29

Sunday, November 22	**The Last Sunday After Pentecost**
10:00am	Holy Eucharist – Rite 2
11:15am	Coffee Hour and Bells of Hope
11:30am	Vestry Meeting
4:00pm	Taizé Service
Monday, November 23	
7:00pm	Education for Ministry (Zoom)
Tuesday, November 24	
11:00am	Staff meeting
Sunday, November 29	**The First Sunday of Advent**
10:00am	Holy Eucharist – Rite 2
11:15am	Coffee Hour

This Week's Prayer from Our Social Justice Group



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

Rector	The Rev. Kerith Harding, kerith.harding@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of Music Ministries	Irina Georgieva, irina@stmatthewswilton.org
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of WEPCO	Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
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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