



Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
10:00 am

Wade In

Over time
wind and water
will sand down the edges of a stone. For humans,
our wind and water
is the grief of the world.

Stay here long enough
and pieces of you
will be pressed upon
by life's never-ending stream.
It's enough to make you weary. It's enough to make you question.
It's enough to make you quiet. And yet, the stream continues.

So do not be afraid to stand in that water.
Wade in. Soak the hem of your jeans.
Drip wet footprints through every room in your house. Let the
water stains tell your story.
And when your body grows weary of swimming,
name the stream.
Acknowledge your weariness.
For eventually,
you will pick flowers from
the opposite bank.
And over and over again, we'll tell this story.
And over and over again,
a weary world will rejoice.

- *Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

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

The People are invited to read the words in **bold**. If you're joining us from home, please stand, kneel, sing, and pray with us as you're able. No matter where you are, joining in this worship service is a form of prayer that connects you to God and to each other. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Scripture reminds us that Jesus is present among us.

Children are most welcome and are encouraged to participate in worship.

To the parents of children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Sit toward the front so your little ones can see and hear. Go ahead and quietly answer their questions. If you don't know the answer, the priest would love to talk to your little one. When you sing the hymns and join in the prayers, you teach little hearts how to be faithful; you are their best model. If you need to leave the service, that's okay. Don't be shy about coming back. It was Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me."

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Matt's.

Prelude

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-68)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above

(No. 1 from *12 Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes, Op. 8*)

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

Processional Hymn 76 vv. 1-4

WINCHESTER NEW

"On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"


The Lighting of the Second Candle

Lector There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him. - John 1:6-7

Celebrant O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your Son, the light of all who love him, by making room for him in our hearts. **Amen.**

Carol at the Candle Lighting

BESANÇON CAROL



Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled. E-ven the hour when wings are fro - zen
God for fledg - ling time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day:
Love the bird is on the way.

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Celebrant

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People

You come to your people and set them free.

The Collect for Purity *(said by all)*

**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.**

Kyrie eleison

Sung by all

setting by William Bradley Roberts (b. 1955)

Lord, — have mer - cy, Christ, — have
mer - cy, Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

chant by John Joubert (1927–2019)

¹ You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

² You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Children in Pre-K - 7th Grade may proceed to their classrooms for Church School at the beginning of the hymn.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn 67

PSALM 42

“Comfort, comfort ye my people”

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

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.

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor begins, the People respond with the words in bold.

Intercessor Beloved of God, strive to be found by God at peace, without spot, or blemish. Placing our trust in God, let us pray, “Gather us in your arms; *carry us in your heart.*”

Intercessor O God, we pray for the Church. May those who have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit live no longer in their sins but lead lives of holiness and godliness. Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for the nations of the world. May your voice be heard in all the earth, your glory revealed in all lands. Rain down righteousness and peace in abundance. Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for all creation. Continually renew the heavens and the earth by your mercy. Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for our community. And we give thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially for the birthday of Kate DeAngelis. We long to see truth spring up through the frozen earth and be found in all our hearts and minds. Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for the sick and the sorrowful. Comfort the suffering with your tenderness. Speak peace to your people. We pray especially for Thomas, Diana, James, Carol, Susan, Lee, Arlene, Barbara, Mike, Jack, Chuck, Joan, David, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. We also remember those we name now either silently or aloud. Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for those who have died. Though we mortals fade like the flowers, still you gently lead the dead into your heavenly home to dwell with your saints forever. Gather us in your arms;
People **Carry us in your heart.**

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 Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen. — “*A Collect for Racial Justice Sunday,*” *Church of England.*

Celebrant Lord, we gather up our prayers and offer them to you, knowing full well that there are signs in the sun and moon and stars and in the common events of ordinary life that call us to attend to your coming. Prepare us for the time of trial and for your dominion, coming now and at the close of this age. **Amen.**

The Confession

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.**

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 may be seated.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Anthem

RORATE CAELI

Drop down ye heavens from above

Antiphon

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

1. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,
neither remember iniquity forever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,
where our fathers praised thee.

Antiphon

2. We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind,
have taken us away:
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Antiphon

3. Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen:
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Antiphon

4. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud
thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Antiphon

Whether you've joined us today from near or far, in person or online, please consider making a gift of thanksgiving to support the work of God at St. Matthew's. Be part of God's mission with us as we make our way into the new life God promises.

Visit www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering. Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge.

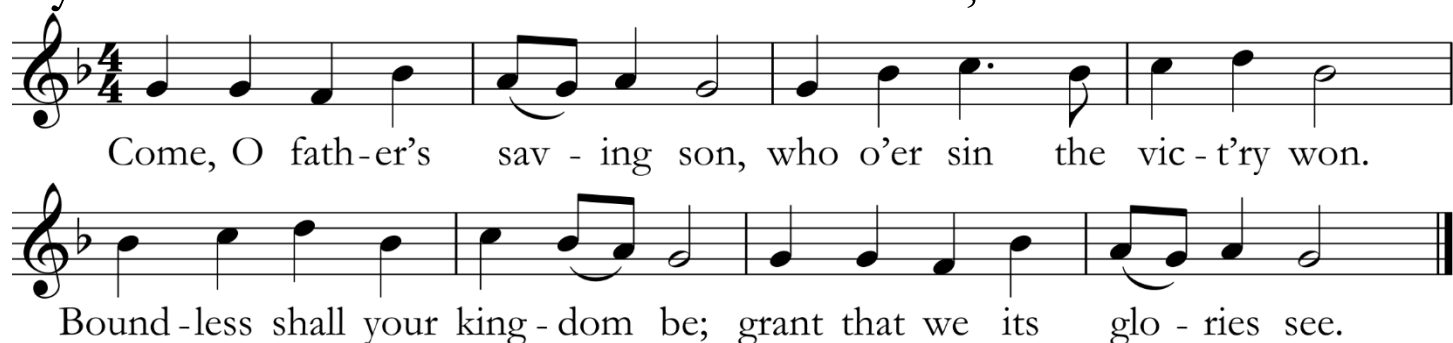
No gift is too small. All gifts honor the God who honors us with life, breath, love, and salvation.



Please stand as you are able.

Hymn at the Presentation

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Come, O fath-er's sav - ing son, who o'er sin the vic - t'ry won.' The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics are: 'Bound-less shall your king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

Blessing of the Pledges

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 our 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. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 William Bradley Roberts (b. 1955)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and, might. _____ Heaven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. _____ Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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:

Celebrant and People

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 trespasses,

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.

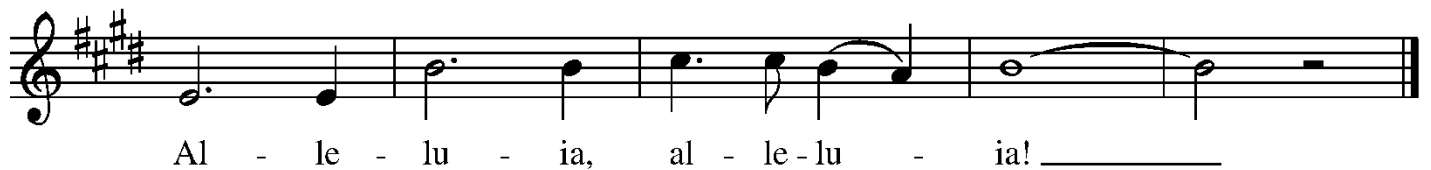
The Breaking of the Bread

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

Fraction Anthem

Sung by all

setting by William Bradley Roberts (b. 1955)



Celebrant

The gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward, as directed by ushers, to receive communion or a blessing. Please wait for the Ushers and follow their instructions. When you reach the center of the space, please open your hands and lay them flat to receive the bread or cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. You may then choose to drink from the silver chalice to your left or intinct (dip the wafer in the wine) in the clay chalice to your right. If you do not wish to receive wine, simply pass the cup, and make your way back to your seat. We believe Jesus is fully present in both the bread and the wine, so if you receive the bread, you have participated fully in communion. Let the Priest know if you need a gluten free wafer by first extending your palms down. If you would like to have communion brought to your pew, please let an Usher know.

Communion Anthem

Taizé

Prepare the way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of God. Alleluia

All sing the following hymn, either sitting or kneeling:

Communion Hymn 71

BRISTOL

“Hark! the glad sound! The Savior comes”

If you are joining from home or have not received communion, you may offer this prayer to the Lord.

The Act of Reception

Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (2nd ed)

The Celebrant and the People say together

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant

Let us pray.

People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of our God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you this day and evermore. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 65

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

The Celebrant offers the dismissal,

Celebrant Our Lord says, ‘I am coming soon.’

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Celebrant May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

People **Amen.**

Postlude

Otto Olsson (1879–1964)

Bereden väg för Herran, Op. 36, No. 1

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

Intercessor

Music Director

Choir

Altar Guild

Counters

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

Vytas Kisielius, Beth Baker

Jean Campbell, Caroline DeAngelis

Amy Gubner

Andrew Leslie Cooper

St. Matthew's Church Choir

Nancy Brautigam, Char Griffin, Lorena Morales Aparicio

David Gortz, Keith DeAngelis



Today's altar flowers are given in thanksgiving and celebration for the birthday of Kate DeAngelis by her family.

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: *Thomas, Diana, James, Carol, Susan, Lee, Arlene, Barbara, Mike, Jack, Chuck, David, Joan, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield. Ministries to the homeless, for parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven, Church by the Pond, Hartford, and all Ecclesia ministries.

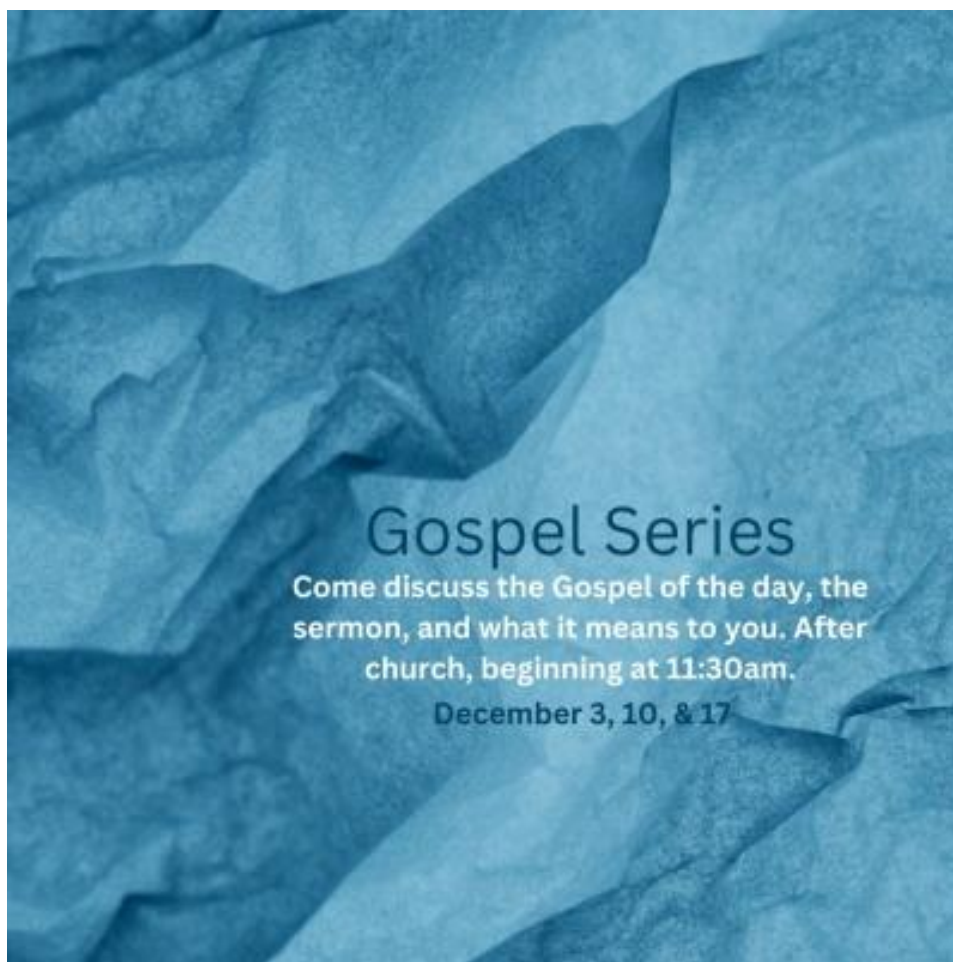
Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings



At this time of year, it's our custom to give gifts in memory of or in thanksgiving for the people we love. If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers, music memorials or the Rector's Discretionary Fund, please be in touch with Nancy in the Parish Office at office@stmatthewswilton.org or online at www.stmatthewswilton.org/memorials.

Please respond by Friday, 12/15 with names to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Advent Gospel Series – Sundays December 3, 10, & 17



A Special Advent III – Sunday, December 17th

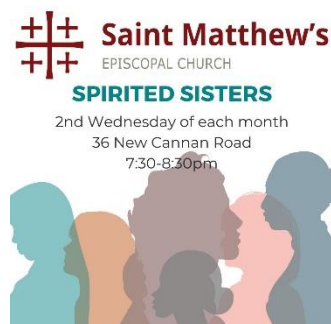
On the third Sunday of Advent, December 17th, we'll have a special day to celebrate! Our Pageant will take place during worship. And after church, to help celebrate our kids, we'll share a festive Christmas celebration with WPC and the animals are coming to give us a sense of a live nativity!

Come hear the greatest story, told in costume and little voices by the wonderful children of the parish. Then stay. Drink something warm and walk around seeing all the animals in the courtyard and celebrating the coming of Christmas with our Presbyterian neighbors. It will be a beautiful, festive day! Pageant, Hot Chocolate, and Live Nativity - oh my!



St. Matt's Spirited Sisters

Join us for our next monthly meeting of the St. Matt's Spirited Sisters on **Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30pm in the Upper Core**. We are so excited to share the format of our next meeting! We will be doing a Christmas craft incorporating felting. Have you heard of it? Felting is an ancient craft that produces a textile or fabric by combining and compressing loose fibers or yarn. We will show you how to sculpt wool into Christmas ornaments using a special felting needle. Please bring your tools if you have them and RSVP to Stacey at staceysavas@optonline.net so we have a head count. Also, feel free to bring some Christmas treats to share with the group. As always, you are welcome to bring friends to this gathering.



Please save **Wednesday, January 10th** for our first meeting in 2024.

We are a community of faith for the women of St Matthew's that explores and strengthens our Christian ideals and knowledge, fostering friendship, offering prayer and support for each other, and building a deeper relationship with Christ. We meet monthly to discuss topics of faith by listening to podcasts, reading articles, taking field trips, doing hands-on activities, and learning from each other. We welcome all the women of St. Matthew's and their friends. Discussion materials will be available prior to meeting but advanced prep work is not required. Contact Pam Carlson or Stacey Savas with any questions.



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DECEMBER

SATURDAY | **16** | 3PM-7PM

2023

Handmade with Love
Artisan
Art
Eco-Friendly
Womenswear | Menswear
Beauty
Home



Step Up for St. Matthew's

2023 Pledges

All of us are called to give to support our community of faith and the needs of the saints. If each of us does our best, discerning with God the best we can give,

we will have what we need.

Is it possible for you, this year,
to take a step up?



Frequently Asked Questions About Pledging

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a financial promise to support our parish and its missions in the coming year. Your pledge is an act of faith that connects you more deeply to our church. Many find spiritual joy in making a generous pledge to support God's work through the church. While pledges guide our budget for the year, they can be adjusted, up or down, if your circumstances change.

Why is it important to pledge?

Scripture is clear on many occasions about the teachings of Jesus and others, including St. Paul, that God expects us to give back to our community faith and to God out of gratitude. The Episcopal Church also sees a pledge as an important part of membership. No matter the size of this gift, your pledge is a sacred gift to be discerned with God.

Whether it's \$10, \$100, \$5,000 or \$50,000, we give thanks for the best you and God can put forward this year.

Don't we have an endowment?

We are blessed to have an endowment fund that supports a portion of our annual budget and our mission efforts. As good stewards, we strive to preserve the principal for future needs or emergencies and use only a small draw (4% of average principal) each year to offset a portion of our annual expenses.

Don't we get money from the Diocese?

It's actually the other way around! Episcopal churches raise most of their operating funds from members. Unlike some churches, we are not funded from the top down. Your pledges or gifts go directly to our parish, and we are then charged an annual assessment to support the larger church at the diocesan (state) and national levels.

What's the difference between a gift and a pledge?

A pledge indicates your commitment to the parish, your intention to support the mission of God in the year ahead.

Gifts are always welcome and appreciated and God delights in them, however, they don't allow us to plan responsibly or to look ahead. Pledges help us to plan responsibly for God's mission and your care.

Don't see your question here? Email finance@stmatthewswilton.org

the arts AT S T. M A T T H E W ' S

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday, Jan 19, 2024, 7:30 PM: Michelle Pauker | American Songbook

Friday, Feb 02, 2024, 7:30 PM: Westminster Choir

Friday, Mar 22, 2024, 7:30 PM: Hildegard, Bach, and Pärt (free)

Friday, Apr 05, 2024, 7:30 PM: Chhandayan | Holi Festival of Colors

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:30 PM: La Fiocco

Saturday, Jun 08, 2024, 7:30 PM: Grand Finale — The Bach Family

Tickets and subscriptions available at
www.stmatthewswilton.org/aasm-tickets





A Liturgy for the Weary

December 21st, 2023

7:00pm

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

36 New Canaan Road, Wilton

A safe space for every weary, broken heart in the midst of this holiday season.



Christmas Eve

December 24th
Advent IV at 10am

Musical Prelude begins at 3:30pm
Christmas Eve Family Service at 4pm

Musical Prelude begins at 8:30pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 9pm



Saint Matthew's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Calendar – December 10 – December 17

Sunday, **December 10**

8:30-10:00am

10:00am

11:30am

11:30-1:00pm

The Second Sunday of Advent

Pancakes & Pledges

Holy Eucharist – Rite II

Advent Gospel Series

Confirmation Class

Monday, **December 11**

7:00pm

EFM (virtual)

Tuesday, **December 12**

11:00am

Staff meeting

Wednesday, **December 13**

7:30-9:00pm

St. Matt's Spirited Sisters group

Thursday, **December 14**

7:30-9:00pm

St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Sunday, **December 17**

10:00am

11:30am

11:30am

The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist – Rite II and Christmas Pageant

Advent Gospel Series

Live Nativity & Joint Festive Coffee Hour

**Connection details available on our website, in the e-news,
and in our Parishioner Facebook group.**

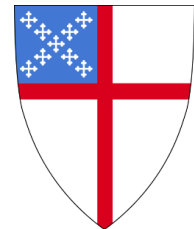
Need to sign up for the e-news? It's easy – just go to www.stmatthewswilton.org/newsletter.

Need to join the Parishioner Facebook Group? Go here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMatthewsOnline/>

Need something else? Send Marissa a note or be in touch with another member of the staff.

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. There you'll find information and opportunities to connect for friends and members of all ages.

Staff

Rector	The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, marissa@stmatthewswilton.org
Music Ministries & Organist	Andrew Leslie Cooper, andrew@stmatthewswilton.org
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of WEPCO	Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
Media Technician	Matthew Henshaw
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato
Sexton	Alix Williams, Jairo Mejia

Wardens and Officers

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

The Vestry

Eleanor Arnold	Amy Gubner	Endy Perry
Beth Baker	Vytas Kisielius	Paul Reis
Pam Carlson		

36 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897

Phone: (203) 762-7400

www.stmatthewswilton.org

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