



Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant
December 17, 2023
10:00 am

All the Way to Joy

We could take her by the arm.

We could let her lead us all the way to joy.

We could play hard and fast, not let anything touch us at all, keep composure, have all the answers. Or we could crack ourselves open and let everything in. We could feel everything, every touch, every marvel. We could stand gaping at the beauty of the world, mouths wide open (because sometimes a mouth wide open is the very best gratitude). We could laugh so loudly that the whole restaurant looks, and err on the side of goofy whenever possible. We could put our defenses down. We could grow soft. We could choose awe.

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

Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931)

Prelude on Veni, veni, Emmanuel

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

Processional Hymn 56 vv. 1-4

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

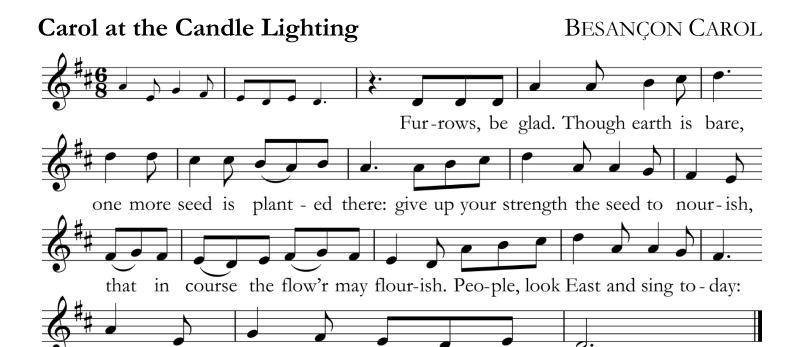
"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

The Lighting of the Third Candle

Lector God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- John 3:16

Celebrant Lord, we thank you for your great gift of love to us. Help us, through Jesus, to love you more. **Amen.**



+THE WORD OF GOD+

on.

the

way.

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.People You come to your people and set them free.

is

rose

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.

Love

the







The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

Psalm 126

chant by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
- ² Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- ³ Then they said among the nations, *
 "The LORD has done great things for them."
- ⁴ The LORD has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
- ⁵ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
- ⁶ Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁷ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 66

STUTTGART

"Come, thou long expected Jesus"

The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.



The Christmas Pageant

Please join in singing the congregational carols during the Pageant.

1. Once in royal David's city (102)

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love; For that child who seemed so helpless Is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.

2. Away in a manger (101)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3. Angels we have heard on high (96)

Angels we have heard on high, Singing sweetly through the night, And the mountains in reply Echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloris in excelsis Deo.

4. We three kings (128)

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

5. Go tell it on the mountain (99)

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!

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, hold fast to what is good. And let us praise our God, saying, "We rejoice in you, O Lord; we exult in you."

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you have clothed your people with the garments of salvation; you have covered us with robes of righteousness. You have done great things for us. We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you are a lover of justice. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth. Replace your children's tears with laughter. We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you cause the seeds to grow and the earth to bring forth its shoots. And we give thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially for the birthday of Caroline DeAngelis. May the fields and streams, mountains and oceans, glorify you. We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you are the repairer of cities. Build up ruined places, raise up whatever is devastated. Heal our community. We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you speak good news to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captive, and those who mourn. May those who sow with tears, reap with songs of joy. 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. We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: through your Son, Jesus the Christ, you

have made an everlasting covenant with us. Bless the dying and the

dead forever. We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

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 Holy One, I hear and say so many words, yet yours is the word I need. Speak now and help me listen; and, if what I hear is silence, let it quiet me, let it disturb me, let it touch my need, let it break my pride, let it shrink my certainties, let it enlarge my wonder. **Amen.**

—Ted Loder

Celebrant Lord, we gather up our prayers and offer them to you, O Lord, 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 though 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

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

"O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion" from Messiah

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

— Isaiah 40: 9; Isaiah 60: 1

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.

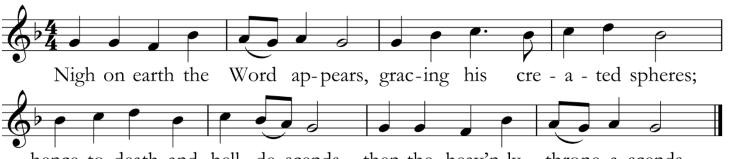
Visit <u>www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering</u>. Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge.

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



Hymn at the Presentation

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



hence to death and hell de-scends, then the heav'n-ly throne a-scends.

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:



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

PERSONENT HODIE

Long ago, prophets knew

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew, come to make all things new; bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan: He will come, as a man, born himself of woman,

Refrain

Mary hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed. In her womb, God is laid: till the time expected, nurtured and protected,

Refrain

Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star, stable door stands ajar. unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Communion Hymn 81

ES IST EIN ROS

"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"

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 56 vv. 5-8

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

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

Alec Rowley (b. 1892-1958)

Fantasia on Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

Bill Brautigam, Vytas Kisielius

Brian Angerame, Sharon Pearson

Intercessor Janet Nobles

Music Director Andrew Leslie Cooper

Choir St. Matthew's Church Choir

Altar Guild Debbie Fuller, Jen DeAngelis, Joy Ruterman

Counters Bill Brautigam, Brian Angerame



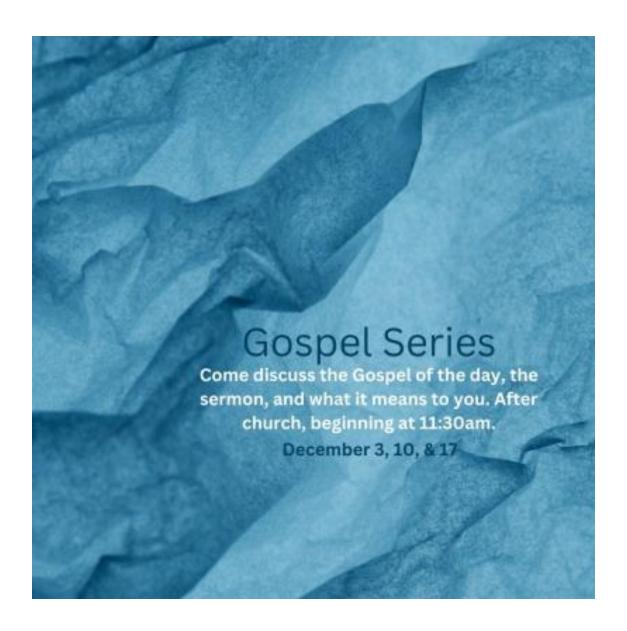
Today's altar flowers are given in thanksgiving and celebration for the birthday of Caroline DeAngelis by her family.

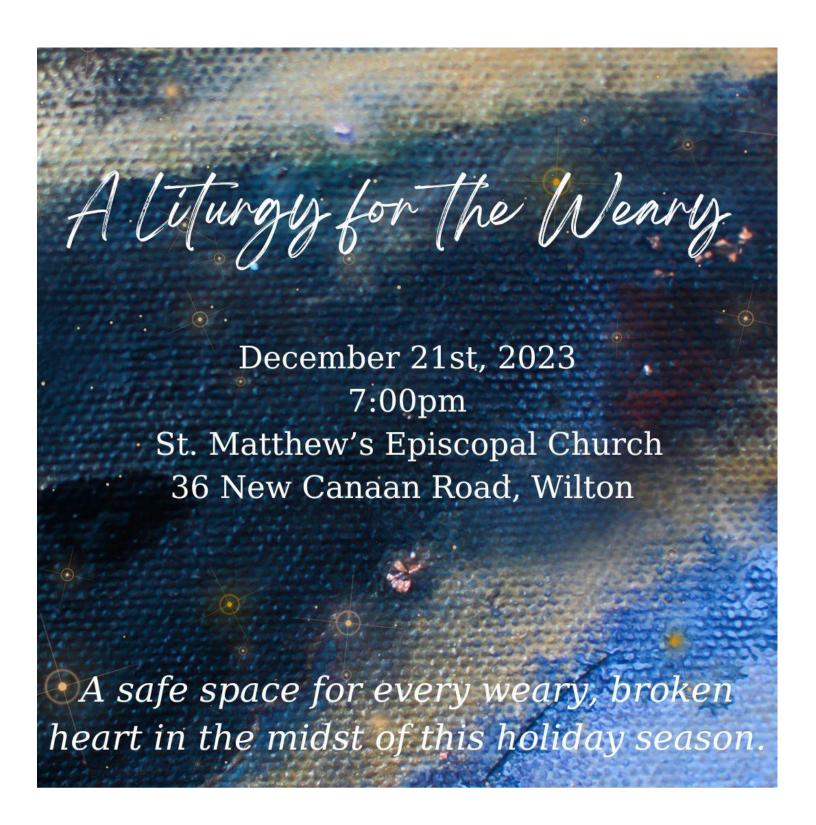
<u>Prayer Requests</u> Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for <u>six weeks</u>. Please call or email the office if you have additions or deletions to the prayer list. You are encouraged to offer your own prayers silently or aloud as indicated in the Prayers of the People.

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. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport. Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

Final Advent Gospel Series - Today after Worship







Weekly Calendar – December 17 – December 24

Sunday, **December 17** The Third Sunday of Advent

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite II and Christmas Pageant

11:30am Advent Gospel Series

11:30am Live Nativity & Joint Festive Coffee Hour

Monday, December 18

7:00pm EFM (virtual)

Tuesday, December 19

11:00am Staff meeting

Thursday, **December 21**

7:00-7:30pm A Liturgy for the Weary

7:30-9:00pm St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Sunday, December 24 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite II

Christmas Eve

3:30pm Musical Prelude

4:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service

Holy Eucharist – Rite II

8:30pm Musical Prelude

9:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Holy Eucharist – Rite II

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

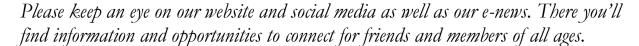
Need to sign up for the e-news? It's easy – just go to www.stmatthewswilton.org/newsletter.

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





Staff

Rector The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, <u>marissa@stmatthewswilton.org</u>
Music Ministries & Organist Andrew Leslie Cooper, <u>andrew@stmatthewswilton.org</u>
Parish Administrator Nancy Johnson, <u>office@stmatthewswilton.org</u>
Director of WEPCO Donna Savage, <u>wepco@optonline.net</u>
Bookkeeper Louann Miska, <u>louann.miska@gmail.com</u>
Matthew Henshaw

Media Technician

Nursery Staff

Matthew Henshaw

Lucia Sato

Sexton Alix Williams, Jairo Mejia

Wardens and Officers

Warden Pam Ely Clerk Jennifer De Angelis 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
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