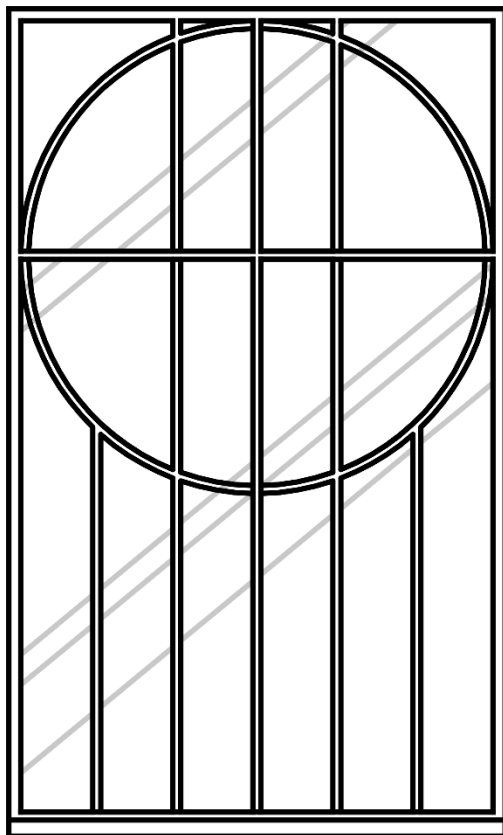




# Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Holy Eucharist – Rite II  
Confirmation & Reception  
The Second Sunday of Easter  
April 7, 2024  
10:00 am**

## + THE WORD OF GOD +

*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 us to God and to each other. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Scripture reminds us that Jesus is present among us. We are especially pleased today that the Rt. Rev. Laura J. Abrens is here for Confirmation and Reception.*

### **Prelude**

*Minuet Gothique*

Léon Boëllmann (1862–97)

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

### **Processional Hymn 191**

LUX EOI

“Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heavenward raise”

*Bishop* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**  
*Bishop* There is one Body and one Spirit;  
*People* **There is one hope in God's call to us;**  
*Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
*People* **One God and Father of all.**

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

### **The Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **The First Reading**

**Acts 4:32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

## **Psalm 133**

*sung by the choir*

chant by Richard Farrant (c. 1525–80)

- <sup>1</sup> Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!
- <sup>2</sup> It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,
- <sup>3</sup> Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- <sup>4</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- <sup>5</sup> For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

## **The Second Reading**

**1 John 1:1-2:2**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Children in Pre-Kindergarten –5th Grade may proceed to the narthex for Godly Play at the beginning of the hymn.*

## **Sequence Hymn 490**

HOUSTON

“I want to walk as a child of the light”

## **The Holy Gospel**

**John 20:19-31**

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to

them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## **The Sermon**

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Confirmation Hymn 349**

ABERYSTWYTH

“Holy Spirit, Lord of love”

## The Presentation and Examination of the Candidates for Confirmation and Reception

*The Bishop says*

The Candidates will now be presented.

*The Candidates come forward.*

*Rector*

I present these persons for Confirmation.

I present this person to be received into this Communion.

*The Bishop asks the Candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*The Candidates*

**I do.**

*The Bishop asks the Candidates*

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*The Candidates*

**I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my  
Savior and Lord.**

*The Bishop asks all those in the congregation*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*The People*

**We will.**

*The Bishop then says these or similar words*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*The People stand or kneel as they are able.*

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

Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Then the Bishop says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



*The Confirmands are presented by the Rector to the Bishop*

*Presenter* I present:

John Fredrik

Liam Thomas

Harper Grace

Lynne Elizabeth

*The Bishop lays hands upon their heads and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant \_\_\_\_\_ with your Holy Spirit; empower him/her/they/them for your service; and sustain him/her/they/them all the days of his/her/their life. **Amen.**

*The Candidate for Reception is presented by the Rector to the Bishop*

*Presenter* I present Mary Cullum

*The Bishop lays hands upon her head and says*

Mary, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

Peter C. Lutkin (1858–1931)

*The Lord Bless you and Keep you*

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord lift his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you. Amen.

## The Peace

*Bishop*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**

## + THE HOLY COMMUNION +

### The Offertory

*The Bishop says an Offertory sentence.*

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty.  
For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and  
you are exalted as head over all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*

*Please read and pray on the words of the anthem as you listen to the choir sing.*

**Offertory Anthem** traditional spiritual, arranged by Moses Hogan (1957–2003)

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian.

Lord, I want to be more holy...

Lord, I want to be like Jesus...

### The Offering

*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. If you're with us in person, the Ushers will pass plates. If you've joined us online, you can use this QR code or visit [www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering](http://www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering). You can designate it as a gift or as a part of your pledge. No gift is too small. All gifts honor the God who honors us with life, breath, love, and salvation. Be a part of God's mission with us today and in the future as we seek to love and serve our neighbors, to heal each other and the world, to share the joy and good news we've found in Jesus.*



*The People stand as they 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**

*Bishop*     The Lord be with you.

*People*     **And also with you.**

*Bishop*     Lift up your hearts.

*People*     **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop*     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*     **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Bishop proceeds*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

# Sanctus

*sung by all*

*setting by Peter Crisafulli*

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ God of power and might,  
heaven 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 Bishop continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Bishop and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Bishop continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [ \_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

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

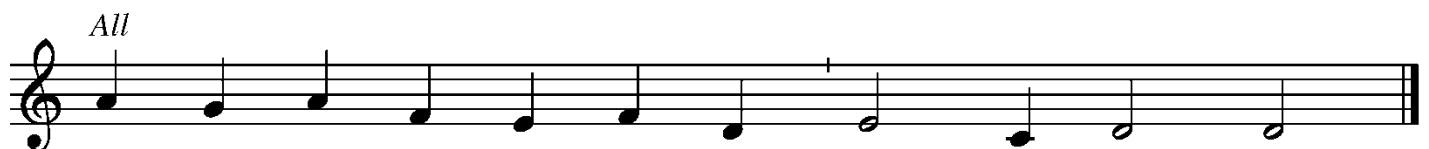
### **Fraction Anthem**

*sung by all*

*setting by Peter Crisafulli*



Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sac - ri - ficed for us.



There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Bishop* 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.*

*Please read and pray on the words of the anthem as you listen to the choir sing.*

## **Communion Anthem**

Thomas Tallis (1505–85)

*If ye love me*

If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
And I will pray the Father,  
and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may 'bide with you forever;  
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

—*John 14:15–17*

*Please kneel or sit to sing.*

## **Communion Hymn 209**

ST. BOTOLPH

“We walk by faith, and not by sight”

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

### **The Act of Reception**

Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

*The People stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **God of abundance, you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people  
in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in  
the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim  
your redeeming love to the world and continue  
for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

## **Parish Announcements**



## The Blessing

*The Bishop blesses the People.*

## Recessional Hymn 205 vv. 1, 3, 4, 5

GELOBT SEI GOTT

“Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!”

## Dismissal

*Rector*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

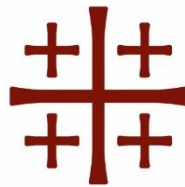
*People*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

Toccata in G major



*Confirmands:*

John Fredrik Mannix  
Liam Thomas O’Sullivan  
Harper Grace Pattillo  
Lynne Elizabeth Satrazemis

*Reception:* Mary Cullum Obermayer

Please join us in the narthex for refreshment and celebration!

## **Worship Leaders**

<i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</i>	The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
<i>Gospeller</i>	The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach
<i>Bishop's Chaplain</i>	Douglas Gubner
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Pam Ely, Bill Brautigam
<i>Lectors</i>	Paul Reis, Janet Nobles
<i>Intercessor</i>	Anna-Kate Reis
<i>Music Director</i>	Andrew Leslie Cooper
<i>Choir</i>	St. Matthew's Church Choir
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Char Griffin, Joy Ruterma
<i>Counters</i>	Brian Angerame, Chris Perry

**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: *Lia, Rob, Sabrina, Karen, Kristen, Vinny, Antonio, Thomas, Diana, Aaron, Kathy, Arlene, Jack, Joan, Liz, Jack, Maddie, Scott, Melinda, and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. George's, Middlebury; Holy Trinity, Middletown; St. Andrew's, Milford ECCT Regions and Region Leadership Teams.

## **Philadelphia Eleven Documentary – Sunday, April 28th**

We have a wonderful opportunity at St. Matthew's coming up on April 28th. We will have a special screening of a documentary that was made about the Philadelphia Eleven, the first women to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. And we will be joined that day by one of the eleven, the Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward. You can read more about the film and watch the trailer in this week's Enews.



**Come to worship at 10am to hear Carter preach. Then come back at 2pm for the screening of the film and a special conversation with her.**

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it! Share this invitation with friends who might be interested. All are welcome.

## Weekly Calendar – April 7 – April 14

Sunday, **April 7**

10:00am

10:15am

11:15am

11:45am

**The Second Sunday of Easter**

Confirmation/Reception & Holy Eucharist – Rite 2

Godly Play

Coffee Hour

Vestry Meeting

Monday, **April 8**

7:00pm

Education for Ministry

Tuesday, **April 9**

11:00am

Staff Meeting

Wednesday, **April 10**

7:30-9:00pm

St. Matt's Spirited Sisters group

Sunday, **April 14**

10:00am

10:15am

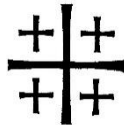
11:15am

**The Third Sunday of Easter**

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2

Church School

Coffee Hour



Need to sign up for the e-news?

It's easy – just go to [www.stmatthewswilton.org/newsletter](http://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, <a href="mailto:marissa@stmatthewswilton.org">marissa@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Music Ministries & Organist	Andrew Leslie Cooper, <a href="mailto:andrew@stmatthewswilton.org">andrew@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, <a href="mailto:office@stmatthewswilton.org">office@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
WEPCO Facilities Coordinator	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>
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	John Pearson

**36 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT**

**06897 Phone: (203) 762-7400**

**[www.stmatthewswilton.org](http://www.stmatthewswilton.org)**

**Like us on Facebook!**

**[www.facebook.com/stmattswilton](https://www.facebook.com/stmattswilton)**

**Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @stmattswilton**