

Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant
December 18, 2022
10:00 am

Carol after the Candle Lighting *Sung by all*



Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
light the bowl shall brim, shin-ing be-yond the frost-y wea-ther, bright as sun and moon to-
ge-ther. Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the star is on the way.

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 *Sung by all* *setting from the Wilton Service by Andrew Leslie Cooper*

Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score is written on seven staves in G minor (one flat) and common time (C). The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy." repeated in various melodic settings across the staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

The congregation may be seated.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

sung by the Choir

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁶ Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- ¹⁷ And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- ¹⁸ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn 57

HELMSLEY

“Lo! he comes, with clouds descending”



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. **Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming (81)**

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

3. O little town of Bethlehem (79)

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

4. Away in a manger (LEVAS 27)

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.

5. 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.

6. 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!

7. 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!

St. Matt's Christmas Pageant Cast

Narrators:	Douglas Gubner Parker Pettibone Alice Jaehnig Beck Pettibone
Gabriel:	Alice Jaehnig
Mary:	Scarlett Jaehnig
Joseph:	Declan Chaney
Elizabeth:	Piper Chaney
Innkeeper:	Lily Chaney
Angels:	Avery Sherk Peyton Sherk Alex Sherk
Shepherds:	Jack Horrman Luke Horrman
Kings:	Mikey Gubner Parker Pettibone
Parent Helpers:	The Jaehnigs, Cindy Karamitis, The Sherks

A special "thank you" to Andrew and the St. Matthew's Choir for teaming up with us, and to our parent helpers for helping with costume fittings and rehearsals. This was a labor of love and couldn't be accomplished without all of you.

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 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us appeal to the Lord, praying, “Restore us, O God of hosts; **show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.**”

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless your Church. Give us your grace. Stir up your strength and come to help us even as we declare the gospel concerning your Son. We pray especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Jeff and Laura our Bishops, for Marissa our Rector, and for all the holy flock of God.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
Show us the light if your countenance and we shall be saved.

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless this nation. May our leaders not trust in their own strength but in you, O God of hosts. Teach us to refuse the evil and choose the good.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
Show us the light if your countenance and we shall be saved.

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless this planet. By your creative power bring forth new life in the places in which we have reaped too much or sown too little.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
Show us the light if your countenance and we shall be saved.

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless the cities and towns in which we live. Let your hand be upon us. Guide and strengthen all those who find themselves in difficult situations.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
Show us the light if your countenance and we shall be saved.

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless all those who are distressed. Hear their prayers, O Shepherd of the flock. We pray especially for Joy, Peter, Sandie, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Joanne, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Donnie, Aaron, Mary Lou, Dann, Paula Harrison and family, and those we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own intercessions*); and we remember before you those who serve in the military, especially Matthew and those we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own intercessions*).

May they take comfort in the knowledge that you are with them.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

Show us the light if your countenance and we shall be saved.

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless all who have died. Welcome into your heavenly kingdom all who are called to be saints.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

Show us the light if your countenance and we shall be saved.

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 Loving God: You love every person that you have made and call us to do the same. Give us the wisdom and grace to be close to all who suffer: in body, mind, spirit or relationship. Give us the courage to be present to those who live in isolation; to comfort those whom no one comforts; to see those whose pain we would rather not see. Give us ministering hearts and healing hands. Turn our lives and the lives of our churches and communities to seek those who need to see your love in our eyes. Send your loving spirit of peace and justice upon us and the world you have entrusted into our care. **Amen.**

—*Washington National Cathedral*

Celebrant Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Christ our Lord. **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.**

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 may be seated.

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.

Offertory Anthem

David Willcocks (1919–2015)

The Cherry Tree Carol

Joseph was an old man and an old man was he,
When he married Mary in the land of Galilee.
And as they were walking through an orchard so good,
There were cherries and berries as red as any blood.

"Oh," then bespoke Mary, with words both meek and mild,
"Pluck me one cherry, Joseph, for that I am with Child."
"Go to the tree, then Mary, and it shall bow to thee,
And you shall gather cherries, by one, by two, by three!"

Then bowed down the highest tree unto our lady's smile,
"See," Mary said, "see, Joseph, I have cherries at command."
"Oh, eat your cherries, Mary. Oh, eat your cherries now.
Oh, eat your cherries, Mary, that grow upon the bough."

Then Mary plucked a cherry as red as any blood,
Then Mary went she homewards all with her heavy load.



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 out of the COVID season and 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

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

**O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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 from the Wilton Service by Andrew Leslie Cooper*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly

Lord, God of power and might, power and might,

hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Choir alone:

Bless - ed is he, he who comes in the *All:*

name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na, Ho - san - na, 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 children; 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,
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 forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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. The Ushers will help you move toward the center in single file, socially distanced, lines. 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.

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 kneel or sit to sing.

Communion Hymn 53

GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN

“Once he came in blessing”

If you are joining us from home or have not received communion, please 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 People stand as they are able.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant

Let us pray.

People

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

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

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

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 (1892–1958)

Fantasia on "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Worship Leaders

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Pam Ely
<i>Lectors</i>	Paul Reis, Amy Gubner
<i>Intercessor</i>	Anna-Kate Reis
<i>Music Director</i>	Andrew Leslie Cooper
<i>Choir</i>	St. Matthew's Church Choir
<i>Counters</i>	Adair Garis, Bill Brautigam

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: *Joy, Peter, Sandie, Liz, Ann, Jack, Kathy, Pat, Dick, Joanne, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Donnie, Aaron, Mary Lou Mannix, Dann Pompa, Paula Harrison and family. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgeport. For the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk.

Christmas Eve at St. Matthew's

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

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

 **Saint Matthew's** 36 New Canaan Road, Wilton stmatthewswilton.org

Weekly Calendar – December 18 – January 1

Sunday, December 18

9:00-9:50am

10:00am

11:15am

11:30-12:30pm

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pageant rehearsal

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 and Christmas Pageant

Coffee Hour

Adult Forum: Advent Gospel Series

Monday, December 19

7:00pm

Education for Ministry

Tuesday, December 20

11:00am

Staff Meeting

7:30pm

Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday, December 21

7:30pm

Vestry meeting

Thursday, December 22

7:30-9:00pm

St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 24

3:30pm

Christmas Eve

Musical Prelude

4:00pm

Family Service – Holy Eucharist - Rite 2

8:30pm

Musical Prelude

9:00pm

Candlelight Service - Holy Eucharist – Rite 2

Sunday, January 1

10:00am

The First Sunday after Christmas

Pajama Lessons & Carols

11:00am

Cocoa & Cookies

**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.

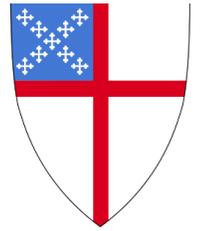
Need to join the Parishioner Facebook Group? Go here:

<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
Children, Youth & Family	Samantha Trolice, samantha@stmatthewswilton.org
WEPCO Facilities Coordinator	Andrew Arevalo, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
Media Technician	Matthew Henshaw
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato

Wardens and Officers

Warden	Pam Ely	Clerk	Jennifer DeAngelis
Warden	Anne Newton	Asst. Treasurers	Andrea Sato, Rob Kyle
Treasurer	Keith DeAngelis		

The Vestry

Beth Baker	Amy Gubner	Joe Magnano
Pam Carlson	Vytas Kisielius	Paul Reis

36 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897

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