



Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023
10:00 am

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.

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

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

Processional Hymn 199

ST. KEVIN

"Come, ye faithful, raise the strain"

Celebrant
People

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity *(said by all)*

The Celebrant and People say together

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria – S278

Sung by all

setting by William Mathias (1934-92)

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

The First Reading

Acts 2:14a,36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17 *said by all*

¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

² The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

³ Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

¹⁰ How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

¹¹ I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹² I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

¹³ Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

¹⁴ O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁵ I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹⁶ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁷ In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn 495

IN BABILONE

“Hail, thou once despised Jesus!”

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

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

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each

other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Linda Spiers

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The People respond with the words in bold.

Intercessor How shall we repay the Lord for all the good God has done? Let us offer the prayers of our hearts, saying, “Stay with us, Lord Jesus; **and set our hearts on fire.**”

Intercessor Lord Jesus Christ, you have ransomed us by your own precious blood. Once again, as a holy community, we place our faith and hope in you. Stay with us, Lord Jesus;

People **And set our hearts on fire.**

Intercessor Save us, O Lord, from corruption. Deliver the nations and the peoples from greed and hatred. Place in your children hearts of repentance. Stay with us, Lord Jesus;

People **And set our hearts on fire.**

Intercessor O Lord, you are the giver of good things. We thank you for this planet; we thank you for its gifts. We pray a blessing on the seeds that were sown this spring that the harvest might be bountiful. *(The people are invited to add their own thanksgivings).* Stay with us, Lord Jesus;

People **And set our hearts on fire.**

Intercessor O Lord, you are made known in the breaking of the bread and so we pray for all those who lack bread. We pray for the hungry. You feed us generously at your table. Help us to generously feed the world. Stay with us, Lord Jesus;

People **And set our hearts on fire.**

Intercessor Whenever we call upon you, gracious Lord, you incline your ear to us. We raise our voices for those for whom we care: those who are ill, those who are struggling, those who are in need of your mercy. We pray especially for Mike, Susan, Jack, Chuck, Joan, Joy, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Becky, Kathy, Dick, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann, and for all those we now name [_____]. Stay with us, Lord Jesus;
People **And set our hearts on fire.**

Intercessor Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your servants. We trust you with our dead and with our dying. Jesus, be gracious with them, we pray. Stay with us, Lord Jesus;
People **And set our hearts on fire.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own petitions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.
Silence may be kept.*

The Celebrant says the following prayer

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change. Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

—*The Anglican Church of Australia*

Then the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
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 +

The Offertory

Celebrant

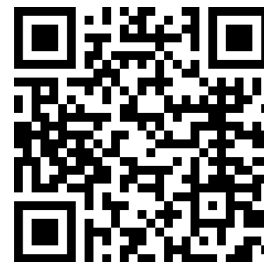
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Hymn 194

ST. ALBINUS

“Jesus lives! thy terrors now”

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.

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus – S128

Sung by all

setting by William Mathias (1934-92)

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 people remain standing or kneel. The Celebrant continues

And so, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers; Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.

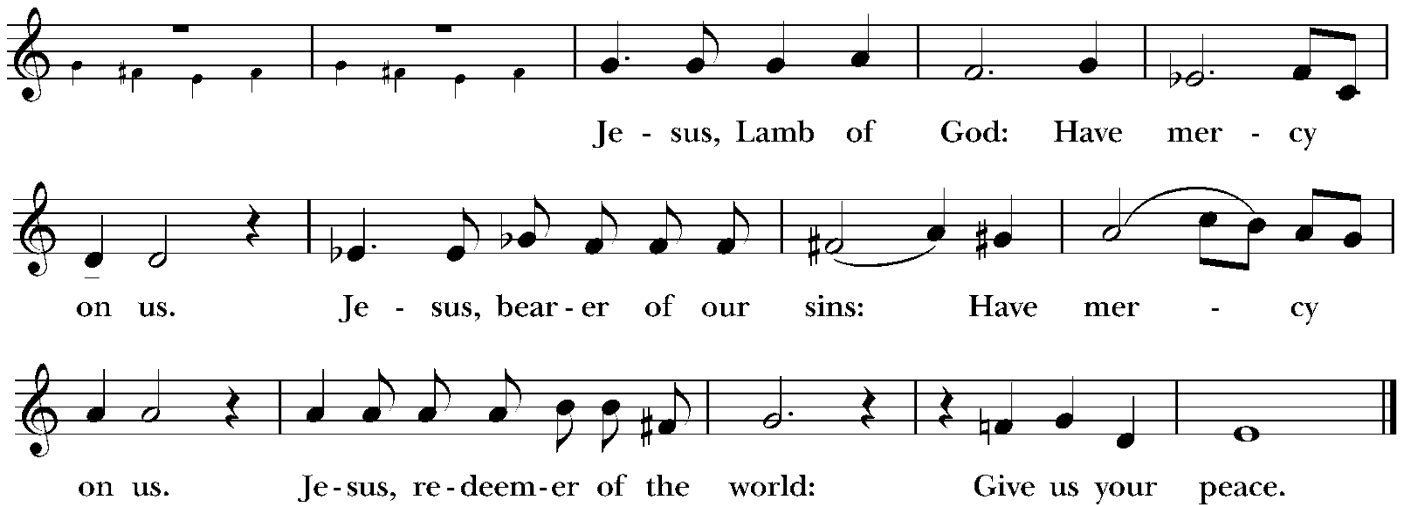
Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast, alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem – S165

Sung by all

setting by William Mathias (1934-92)



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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.

Communion Hymn 343

ST. AGNES

“Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

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 (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

The People stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People

Beloved, life is short. And we do not have enough time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of our God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you to strengthen and guard you this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 483

ST. MAGNUS

“The head that once was crowned with thorns”

The Celebrant offers the dismissal to which the people respond,

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

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

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Linda Spiers

Eucharistic Ministers

Vytas Kisielius, Anne Newton

Acolytes

Douglas Gubner, Mikey Gubner

Lectors

Janet Nobles, Caroline DeAngelis

Intercessor

Brian Angerame

Guest Organist

Stephanie Johnson

Altar Guild

Char Griffin, Joy Ruterma, Lorena Morales Aparicio

Counters

Brian Angerame, 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: *Mike, Susan, Jack, Chuck, Joan, Joy, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Becky, Kathy, Dick, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann.* For those serving in the military, *Matthew Comeau.* In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mark's, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; St. James', New Haven; Parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy.

Weekly Calendar – April 23 – April 30

Sunday, April 23

10:00am

10:15am

11:15am

The Third Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

Church School

Coffee Hour

Monday, April 24

7:00pm

Education for Ministry

Tuesday, April 25

11:00am

Staff Meeting

7:00pm

Vestry meeting

Thursday, April 27

7:00pm

St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Sunday, April 30

10:00am

10:15am

11:15am

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

Church School

Coffee Hour

Witness Stones Project – Youth Engagement

Our time with the Witness Stones Project staff has concluded and we received many primary documents of an enslaved person who had a connection to St. Matthew's: John C. Wally (aka Lazarus). Over the course of 3 Sundays (April 16, 23, 30 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm), youth in Grades 6-9 will be meeting with Becky Hudspeth and Sharon Pearson to learn more about him, his role at St. Matthew's, and his accomplishments in the Wilton community. Among their tasks will be to determine what should be engraved on the memorial Witness Stone to be placed in Wilton in his honor. Speak to Becky or Sharon if you have any questions about this fascinating project.

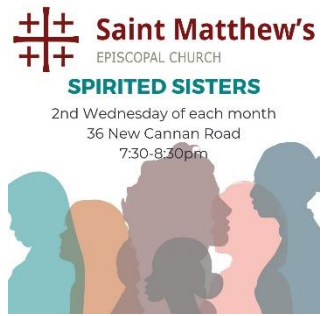


St Matt's Spirited Sisters End of Year Potluck

Wednesday, May 10th 6:00PM

Come celebrate the first year of St. Matt's Spirited Sisters!

Throughout the year, we have learned from fellow Christians through their writing and speaking. We have explored new ways to worship in creating prayer beads. We collaborated on a craft project in support of our mission partner, Circle of Care. Next week we are embarking on our first field trip to St. John the Divine. Join us for our final get-together before we break for summer! Please email Stacey Savas at staceysavas70@gmail.com and she will forward the signup genius to you. As always, please feel free to bring friends.



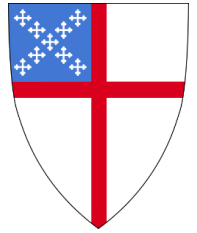
Our Mission Partner, Circle of Care will be having their annual 5K on Sunday, April 30th. Since we do not want to miss the 10am service, we will do a walk the day before as we did last years. St. Matthew's will participate by walking together on Saturday, April 29th at 10am. We will meet at the commuter lot on Route 7 and walk up and down the NRVT for an hour. Cost is \$25pp. No fundraising is required but is encouraged. Register on www.thecircleofcare.org as a virtual participant. Looking forward to walking with you in fellowship – all to support the families of children with cancer! Any questions? Call Lisa Williams at 203-858-2546 or email her at lisa.williams@thecircleofcare.org.

The Grief Recovery Method: Grief Support Group

Beginning on Wednesday, May 3, at 3 pm, in the Goldstone Caregiver Center at Danbury Hospital, there will be a new Grief Support Group offering dealing with death of a loved one, divorce, and other losses. It's an 8-week program. Please see flyers in the Narthex and on the parish bulletin board. For more information or to register, call Chaplain Beryl Knudsen, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, in the Spiritual Care Department, 203-739-7135, email beryl.knudsen@wchn.org.

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
Interim Director of WEPCO	Ed Rowley, 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. Treasurer	Brian Angerame
Treasurer	Rob Kyle		

The Vestry

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

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