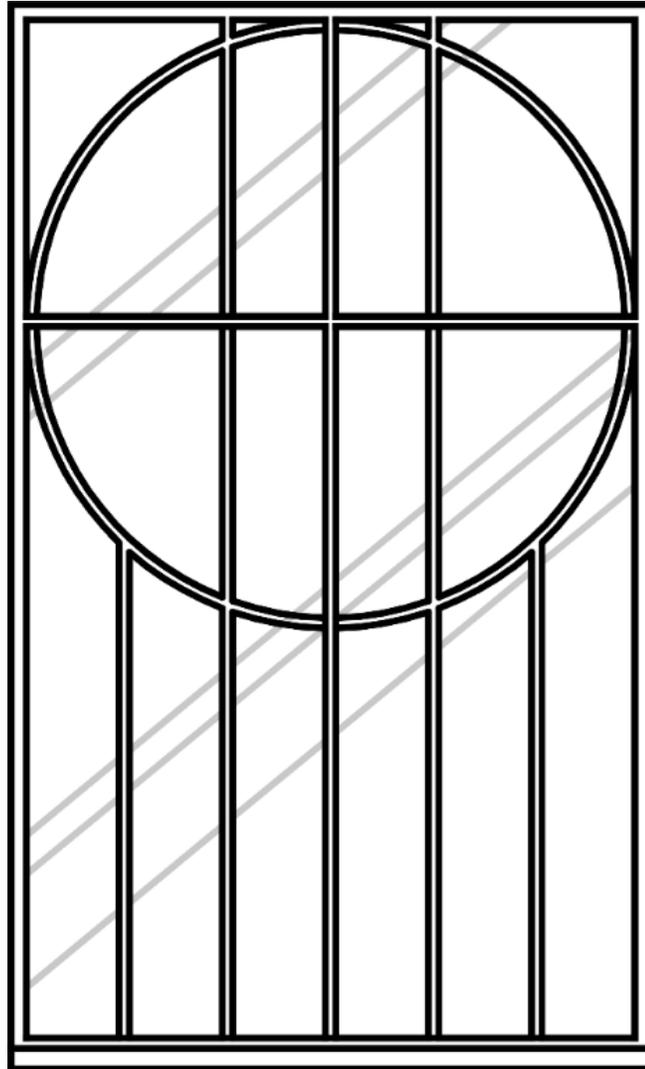


**Saint Matthew's**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Holy Eucharist - Rite II**  
**The Presentation of Our Lord**  
**Candlemas**  
**February 5, 2023**  
**10:00am**

## 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.**

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## + THE WORD OF GOD +

**Prelude**

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Meditation on *Brother James' Air*

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

**Processional Hymn 517**

**BROTHER JAMES' AIR**

**"How lovely is they dwelling place"**

*Celebrant*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Collect for Purity**

*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

*Sung by all*

*setting by Peter Crisafulli (b. 1946)*

*In 2* ***f***

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo-ple on earth. — Lord God, hea - ven-ly King, al -  
- might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
*poco rit.*  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
*a tempo* ***mp*** *poco cresc.*  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son — of the Fa - ther, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin — of the world; have  
mer - cy on us; — you are seat - ed at the right  
***ff***  
hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our — prayer. For  
you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, —  
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. Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **The First Reading**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 84

*sung by the Choir*

- <sup>1</sup> How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- <sup>2</sup> The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.
- <sup>3</sup> Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- <sup>4</sup> Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- <sup>6</sup> They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- <sup>7</sup> LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- <sup>8</sup> Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- <sup>9</sup> For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- <sup>10</sup> For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;
- <sup>11</sup> No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.
- <sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

## The Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the singing of the hymn.*

*Children in Pre K - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade proceed to their classrooms at the beginning of the first verse.*

## Sequence Hymn 259

OLD 120TH

“Hail to the Lord who comes”

## The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

**The Nicene Creed**

*The Celebrant and People say together*

**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 People respond with the words in bold.*

*Intercessor* Happy are the ones who put their trust in God! Presenting our prayers and our hearts to God, let us pray, “Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.”

*Intercessor* Fill the members of your church, O God, with a longing and desire for your presence. Fill us with joy as we approach your altar. Sustain us as we go forth in the name of your Christ. We pray especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Jeff and Laura, our Bishops, for Marissa, our Rector, for Linda and Meg, our clergy companions in this season, for the Vestry and Officers and for all the members and people of St. Matthew’s. Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer;  
*People* **Hearken, O God of Jacob.**

*Intercessor* Bless those, O God, who walk with integrity. Give them the strength to stand for truth in an age of deception and spin. Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer;  
*People* **Hearken, O God of Jacob.**

*Intercessor* Almighty God, spring forth new life in desolate places. Restore the beauty and health of your creation. Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer;  
*People* **Hearken, O God of Jacob,**

*Intercessor* O Lord, you are both sun and shield. On our local community shed your light that we might see our best future. Protect us from the forces of violence and hatred that threaten to undermine the future you want for us. Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer;  
*People* **Hearken, O God of Jacob,**

*Intercessor* Merciful and faithful God, we present to you our brothers and sisters who are now in pain and sorrow. We trust them in your mercy, asking that you would heal them. We pray especially, John, Chuck, Joan, Joy, Peter, Sandie, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Joanne, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Donnie, Aaron, Dann, and for all those we now name [\_\_\_\_\_].

Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer;

*People* **Hearken, O God of Jacob.**

*Intercessor* Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus to share our human nature, to share our flesh and blood, to share even our suffering and death. We pray for those who suffer and die in the service of others. (*The people are invited to offer their own intercessions*).

Grant them your everlasting peace.

Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer;

*People* **Hearken, O God of Jacob.**

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* Almighty God, source of our life, we acknowledge you as Creator of all people of every race, language, and way of life. Help us to see each other as you see us: your sons and daughters loved into being and sustained by your parental care. Keep watch over our hearts so that the evil of racism will find no home with us. Direct our spirits to work for justice and peace so that all barriers to your grace which oppress our brothers and sisters will be removed. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

—*Augustinian Secretariate for Justice and Peace*

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Confession**

*Then the Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. The people may stand or kneel.*

*The 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 +

*After the 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

Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth  
Our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads his vanguard on the way,  
As the light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of Lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

At his feet the six wing'd seraph;  
Cherubim with sleepless eye  
Veil their faces to the presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Alleluia, Lord most high.  
Amen.



*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](http://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

THE OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## 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.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

# Sanctus

*Sung by all*

*setting by Peter Crisafulli (b. 1946)*

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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Matthew, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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,  
**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.*

## Fraction Anthem

*setting by Peter Crisafulli (b. 1946)*

*Cantor*



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

*All*



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

*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 have received the bread, please return to your pew with the bread in your hand; then you may slip the bread into your mouth under your mask. If you would like to have communion brought to your pew, please let an usher know.*

*Lord God, you now have set your servant free*

Lord God, you now have set your servant free  
to go in peace as promised in your word;  
my eyes have seen the Savior, Christ the Lord,  
prepared by you for all the world to see,  
to shine on nations trapped in darkest night,  
the glory of your people, and their light.

*Please kneel or sit to sing.*

**Communion Hymn 466****JACOB**

“Eternal light, shine in my heart”

*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

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People*

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Parish Announcements

### The Blessing of the Candles

*After the candles are brought forward, a lector says*

The candles which you light reveal to you the intelligible light. Just as the church, that house of great beauty, is full of light from many candles, so the house of your soul, which is more precious than that church, should be illumined and full of light in a noetic sense – that is to say, that within you all the spiritual virtues should burn with divine fire... The multitude of burning lamps signify the illumined thoughts which should shine within you like lamps, so that there should be no dark thought in the house of your soul, but that all should be aflame and shining with the light of the Holy spirit.

*A reflection from St. Anselm (Archbishop of Canterbury, 1033-1109)*

*Celebrant*

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

*People*

**The maker of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*The Celebrant offers the following blessing*

O Gracious Father, almighty and eternal God, you created all things out of nothing, and by your command caused the labor of bees to be revealed in the perfection of wax. You commanded your servant Moses to keep lamps continually burning before you. Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of the true Light who enlightens everyone. As these candles, kindled with a visible flame, scatter the darkness of night, so also may our hearts be enlightened by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit that we might avoid the darkness of sin, see your salvation, and attain to the Light that never fades away. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*At this time, light will be passed throughout the sanctuary.*

**The Song of Simeon**  
**Luke 2:29-32**

Setting in C major by  
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, \*  
according to thy word;

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, \*  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.

## The Blessing

*Celebrant* The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, teach you to walk in his way more trustfully, to accept his truth more faithfully, and to share his life more lovingly; that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may come as one family to the kingdom of God. And the blessing of our God who Creates, Redeems, and Sanctifies be with you this day and evermore.  
**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn 257

EDMONTON

“O Zion, open wide thy gates”

*After the Celebrant offers the dismissal, the People respond,*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Tuba Tune* in D major

Craig Sellar Lang (1891–1971)

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### Worship Leaders

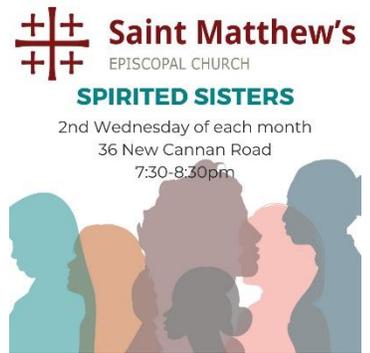
<i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</i>	The Rev. Dr. Linda Spiers
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Bill Brautigam
<i>Lectors</i>	John Pearson, Brian Angerame
<i>Intercessor</i>	Pam Ely
<i>Music Director</i>	Andrew Leslie Cooper
<i>Choir</i>	St. Matthew’s Church Choir
<i>Guest Organist</i>	Michael Burnette
<i>Counters</i>	Chris Perry, Adair Garis

**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: John, Chuck, Joan, Joy, Peter, Sandie, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Joanne, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Donnie, Aaron, Dann. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. John’s, Essex; St. Paul’s, Fairfield; St. Timothy’s, Fairfield; Trinity/St. Michael’s, Fairfield; St. James’, Farmington; Haitian ministry in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

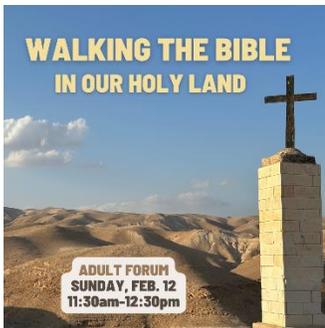
## St. Matthew's Spirited Sisters

Join us for our next monthly meeting of the St. Matt's Spirited Sisters on **Wednesday, February 8th at 7:30pm**. We are a community of faith for the women of St. Matthew's that explores and strengthens our Christian ideals and knowledge, fostering friendship, offering prayer and support for each other, and building a deeper relationship with Christ. We meet the second Wednesday of every month to discuss topics of faith by listening to podcasts, reading articles, taking field trips, doing hands-on activities, and learning from each other. We welcome all the women of St. Matthew's and their friends. Discussion materials will be available prior to meeting but advanced prep work is not required. Contact Pam Carlson or Stacey Savas with any questions.



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## Adult Forum: Walking the Bible in Our Holy Land



**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-12:30**

Join John and Sharon Pearson for a “trip” of discovery to the Holy Land through word and image as they experienced while on pilgrimage to Israel, Palestine, and Jordan in June 2019 and (Sharon) again in October 2022. We will discuss the geographical, political, historical, and religious significance of this region of the world alongside stories and events from the Hebrew Scriptures and Gospels. “Visit” Jordan, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, and other sites in Samaria, Galilee, and Judea. Learn how Jews, Muslims, and Christians precariously live together as well as the Episcopal Church's presence in the Holy Land. Cross borders with us – literally and figuratively – to see the land that was once inhabited by Abraham, Moses, Joshua, King David, the prophets, and Jesus. All are welcome.

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## Witness Stones Project Comes to Wilton

Registration is now open to all youth (grades 5 – 9 especially) to participated in the Witness Stones Project. If you've missed the buzz about the program over the past year, you can **learn all about it – and register at <https://www.witnessstoneswilton.com>**.

On this website you will learn about the program, the dates, and content of the sessions as well as the other churches who are partnering with St. Matthew's in offering this program. There is no cost for participation, but registration is necessary for program materials and refreshments. For more information contact Sharon Pearson [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com) 203-984-1228.

*Direct links for registration: (Also posted on the St. Matthew's website)*

- Youth – full program: <https://forms.gle/RFdGZamdXzjsF5cTA>
- Adults – Session 1: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/witness-stones-wilton-tickets-509343278457>



**A note about attending Meg's Ordination.** Please use the RSVP link here [www.stthomasbethel.org/RevMegOrdination](http://www.stthomasbethel.org/RevMegOrdination) and included in the weekly enews. This will be helpful for a headcount for the reception and parking – thank you.

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD**

The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Mello  
Bishop Diocesan of the  
Episcopal Church in Connecticut will ordain

Margaret Mary Stapleton Smith

To the Sacred Order of Priests  
In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm  
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
95 Greenwood Avenue  
Bethel, CT 06801

Yours prayers and presence are requested

Clergy, White Stoles | Reception to Follow  
Masks will be required during the service

Please help us gift Meg with her first set of priestly vestments, the set she will wear at her ordination. You can give online at [stmatthewswilton.org/offering](http://stmatthewswilton.org/offering) (please put "Meg's ordination" in the gift field). Or you can put a check in the plate or mail one into the office (please put "Meg's ordination" in the memo line).

Please also write her a note or sign the book in the Narthex.

Thank you for helping us give her these two special gifts!

## Weekly Calendar — February 5 – February 12

### **Sunday, February 5**

10:00am

10:15am

11:15am

11:30am

11:30am

### **The Presentation of the Lord**

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2

Church School

Coffee Hour

Annual Meeting

Joint High School Youth Group

### **Monday, February 6**

7:00pm

Education for Ministry

### **Tuesday, February 7**

11:00am

Staff meeting

### **Wednesday, February 8**

7:30-9:00pm

St. Matt's Spirited Sisters Group meeting

### **Thursday, February 9**

7:30-9:00pm

St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

### **Sunday, February 12**

10:00am

10:15am

11:15am

11:30-12:30

### **The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2

Church School

Coffee Hour

Forum: Walking the Bible

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

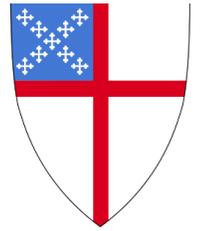
Need to join the Parishioner Facebook Group?

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.*

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### **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>
Children, Youth & Family	Samantha Trolice, <a href="mailto:samantha@stmatthewswilton.org">samantha@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
WEPCO Facilities Coordinator	<a href="mailto:wepc@optonline.net">wepc@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

### **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

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Phone: (203) 762-7400

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

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