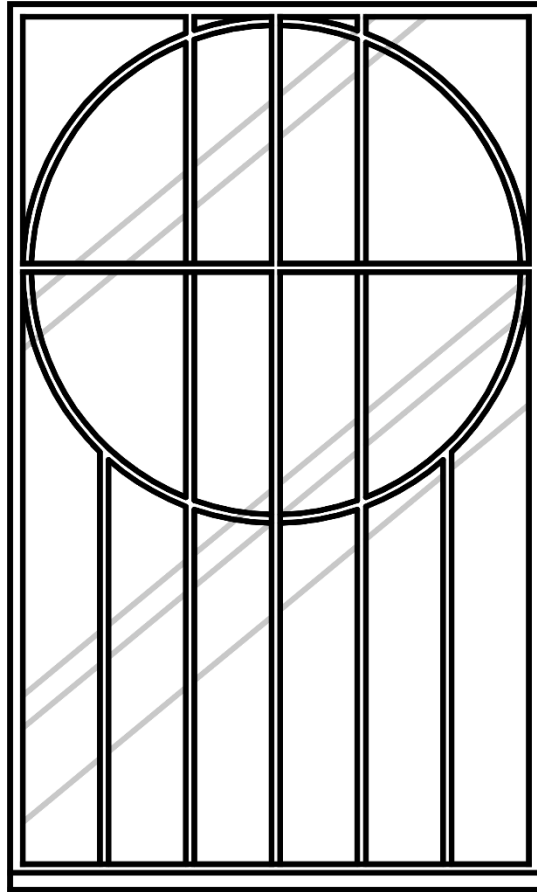




Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 11, 2024
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 7

RATISBON

"Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

Celebrant
People

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

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, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew

near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-6 *sung by the choir* chant by Jonathan Battishill (1738–1801)

¹ The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.

³ Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

⁴ He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.

⁵ "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

⁶ Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Children in Pre-K - 7th Grade proceed to their classrooms at the beginning of the hymn.

Sequence Hymn 497

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

“How bright appears the Morning Star”

The Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

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

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

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 Sing to the Lord, you servants of the Lord! With thankful hearts, let us pray: “Hear O Lord; *have mercy upon us.*”

Intercessor Healing God, give us hearts to love the lonely; give us hands to touch the hurting; give us courage to speak your grace to the suffering. Build your Church into a place of new life. Hear, O Lord;

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor God of Elisha, raise up prophets to speak into the relationships of the nations. May we see an end to war; may the captives be set free. Hear, O Lord;

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor God of creation, you give us water to make us clean, to refresh our bodies. We pray that you refresh the waters, forgiving us for our neglect and misuse of your precious gift. Hear, O Lord;

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor God our helper, defend those who enforce our laws. Bless all police officers and help them to strive for justice and peace. Bless all those who work to protect our communities. Hear, O Lord;

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor God, the restorer of health, hear the prayers of those who cry out to you. Turn their wailing into dancing; clothe them with joy instead of a sackcloth. We pray especially for Sabrina, Karen, Kristen, Vinny, Antonio, Thomas, Diana, Aaron, Kathy, Arlene, Jack, Joan, Liz, Jack, Maddie, Scott, Melinda, and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

We also remember those we now name either silently or aloud (*the people are invited to offer their own intercessions*). Hear, O Lord;

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor O God, giver of life, you do not abandon your people to the grave. Assure us with the hope of resurrection and your promise of favor forevermore. Hear, O Lord;

People **Have mercy upon us.**

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.

The Celebrant says the following prayer

Celebrant O God, our Father, take the chaos and confusion and disorder of our minds and spirits and hold them so completely in your grasp that the impure thing will become pure, the crooked thing will become straight, and the crass and hard thing will be gentled by your spirit. Oh, that we may have the strength to see and the vision to comprehend what is needful for your peace. **Amen.** —Howard Thurman

Celebrant Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and 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.

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23, 24

Offertory Anthem

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

text by Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)

O thou the central orb

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal light
Of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine;
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin:
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming ray
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within.

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 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

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 – S 129

Sung by all

setting by Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven 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._____

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Fraction Anthem – S 163 *Sung by all* *setting by Robert Powell (b. 1932)*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward, as directed by ushers, to receive communion or a blessing. Please wait for the Ushers and follow their instructions. When you reach the center of the space, please open your hands and lay them flat to receive the bread or cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. You may then choose to drink from the silver chalice to your left or intinct (dip the wafer in the wine) in the clay chalice to your right. If you do not wish to receive wine, simply pass the cup, and make your way back to your seat. We believe Jesus is fully present in both the bread and the wine, so if you receive the bread, you have participated fully in communion. Let the Priest know if you need a gluten free wafer by first extending your palms down. If you would like to have communion brought to your pew, please let an Usher know.

O Light of Light, Love given birth

1. O Light of Light, Love given birth;
Jesus, Redeemer of the earth:
more bright than day your face did show,
your raiment whiter than the snow.
2. Two prophets, who had faith to see,
with your elect found company;
the heavens above your glory named,
your Father's voice his Son proclaimed.
3. May all who seek to praise aright
through purer lives show forth your light.
To you, the King of glory, now
all faithful hearts adoring bow.

Please kneel or sit to sing.

Communion Hymn 383

ST. ELIZABETH

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

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 137

WAREHAM

“O wondrous type! O vision fair”

After the Celebrant offers the dismissal, the People respond

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

Eucharistic Ministers

Pam Ely, Bill Brautigam

Lectors

Adair Garis, Mary Obermayer

Intercessor

Pam Ely

Music Director

Andrew Leslie Cooper

Choir

St. Matthew's Church Choir

Altar Guild

Debbie Fuller, Nancy Brautigam, Jenn DeAngelis

Counters

Adair Garis, Keith DeAngelis

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: *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. 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



UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday, Mar 22, 2024, 7:30 PM: Hildegard, Bach, and Pärt (free)

Friday, Apr 05, 2024, 7:30 PM: Chhandayan | Holi Festival of Colors

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:30 PM: La Fiocco

Saturday, Jun 08, 2024, 7:30 PM: Grand Finale — The Bach Family

Tickets and subscriptions available at
www.stmatthewswilton.org/aasm-tickets



St. Matt's Spirited Sisters

On Wednesday, February 14, the Spirited Sisters group will gather in the sanctuary to attend the 7:30pm Ash Wednesday service in the Church. Afterwards, we will adjourn to the Upper Core to share some light snacks and a brief conversation about what Ash Wednesday means to us (or whatever topic grows out of worship). Please join us for an evening of worship and fellowship.

St. Matt's Spirited Sisters is 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 generally 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 the meeting but advanced prep work is not required. Please Contact Pam Carlson pamelacarlson@gmail.com or Stacey Savas staceysavas70@gmail.com with any questions.

Philadelphia Eleven Documentary



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.

We continue to work out some of the details - but I'll have all of them to you soon. Plan on coming to church that morning and staying afterward for the screening and a conversation with Carter Heyward. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it! Share this invitation with friends who might be interested. All are welcome.



Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

*Remember that you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.*

February 14th, 2024

7:30pm



Weekly Calendar – February 11 – February 18

Sunday, February 11 10:00am 10:15am 11:15am	The Last Sunday after the Epiphany: Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream) Church School Coffee Hour
Monday, February 12 7:00-9:30pm	Education for Ministry (Zoom)
Tuesday, February 13 11:00am	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, February 14 7:30pm 7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service St. Matthew's Spirited Sisters group
Thursday, February 15 7:30-9:00pm	St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal
Sunday, February 18 10:00am 10:15am 11:15am	The First Sunday in Lent Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream) Church School Coffee Hour

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

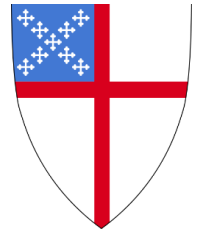
Need to sign up for the e-news? It's easy – just go to www.stmatthewswilton.org/newsletter.

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
Director of WEPCO	Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
Media Technician	Matthew Henshaw
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato
Sextons	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	Paul Reis
Pam Carlson		

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