



**Saint Matthew's**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Holy Eucharist - Rite II**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 13, 2020**  
**10:00 am**

The People are invited to read the words in **bold**. While we're online, these words will be led by someone on screen so that you can read and pray with them. No matter where you are, joining in this worship service is a form of prayer that connects you to God and to each other. Find a comfortable place to sit. Kneel or stand for the prayers if you'd like. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Jesus is present among us.

If you're visiting us, welcome! We're glad you're here and we pray God's blessings upon you. If you have questions or want to be in touch, please send an email to the Rector: [marissa@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:marissa@stmatthewswilton.org).

## + THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

### Opening Hymn 68

*Llangloffan*

The Cantor sings the verses. The People are invited to sing at home.

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.  
 Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eghbys yng Nghymru*, 1865

*Celebrant*

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People*

You come to your people and set them free.

## The Collect for Purity

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 Eleison

*David Hurd*

*The Cantor sings the Kyrie. The People are invited to sing at home.*

The musical score consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first three staves are for the Cantor, and the remaining seven are for the People. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

# The Lighting of the Third Candle

*The People are invited to light their wreath at home.*

*Lector* God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [John 3:16]

*Celebrant* Lord, we thank you for your great gift of love to us. Help us, through Jesus, to love you more. **Amen.**

## Song of Praise

*Beredan väg för Herran*

*The Cantor sings verse 1. The People are invited to sing at home.*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Beredan väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright ©1930 by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Reading

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

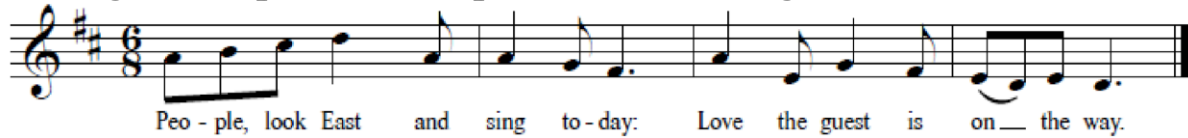
For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 126

*The Cantor sings the antiphon. The People are invited to sing at home.*



- <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of / Zion, \*  
then were we like / those who dream.
- <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with / laughter, \*  
and our tongue with / shouts of joy.
- <sup>3</sup> Then they said among the / nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great / things for them."
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD has done great things for / us, \*  
and we are / glad indeed.
- <sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O / LORD, \*  
like the watercourses / of the Negev.
- <sup>6</sup> Those who sowed with / tears \*  
will reap with / songs of joy.
- <sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the / seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shoulder-/ing their sheaves.

## The Second Reading

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Sermon

The Rev. Molly James, Ph.D.



## **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

*Intercessor* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

*Intercessor* For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, Ian and Laura, for Marissa our Rector, and for Don our Deacon, for Molly, our Preacher today, and for all the clergy and people of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the leaders of the nations, and for all those in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially for Christian, Rich, Nancy, Ken, Barrie, Dawn, Donnie, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Katie, Petra, Doris, Darunee, Patricia, Frank, Richard, Mary Lou, Charles, Gene, Bo, Kathy, Geoff, and those we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own intercessions either silently or aloud*); let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the members of our military, for first-responders, and for all who risk their lives on behalf of others; especially for Jake and Matthew, and those we now name, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all those we love and see no longer, especially Lorraine and Nathan Small, in whose memory the flowers are given. We commend to your mercy all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* We thank you, Lord for all the blessings of this life, especially for those we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own thanksgivings*).

*Intercessor* That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant* Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## The Confession

*Celebrant*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*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.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of the Peace with those who may be with you in person  
and with the gathered congregation on Facebook.*

## The Holy Communion

*Celebrant says an Offertory sentence.*

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



To make a pledge for 2021, or to fulfill your pledge for 2020, please visit [www.stmatthewswilton.org/give](http://www.stmatthewswilton.org/give).

Thank you for your faithfulness.

### Hymn at the Presentation

### *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

*The Cantor sings the verse. The People are invited to sing at home.*

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law,  
in cloud, and majesty and awe.**

***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

*Richard Proulx*

*The Cantor sings the Sanctus. The People are invited to sing at home.*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
hosts. Heav - en 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, 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 thing 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 sons and daughters; 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.

## The Great Amen

*Richard Proulx*

*The Cantor sings the Great Amen. The People are invited to sing at home.*



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.



# Agnus dei - O Lamb of God

*Richard Proulx*

*The Cantor sings the Agnus dei. The People are invited to sing at home.*



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.

## 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.**

*Silence is kept.*

Veiled in darkness Judah lay,  
Waiting for the promised day,  
While across the shadowy night  
Streamed a flood of glorious light,  
Heavenly voices chanting then,  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Still the earth in darkness lies.  
Up from death's dark vale arise  
Voices of a world in grief,  
Prayers of men who seek relief:  
Now our darkness pierce again,  
"Peace on earth, goodwill, goodwill to men."

Light of light, we humbly pray,  
Shine upon your world today;  
Break the gloom of our dark night,  
Fill our souls with love and light,  
Send your blessed word again,  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

# Communion Hymn

# *Divine Mysteries*

*The Cantor sings the verse. The People are invited to sing at home.*

## “Sweet Sacrament divine”



Sweet Sacrament divine,  
hid in thine earthly home,  
lo, round thy lowly shrine,  
with suppliant hearts we come;  
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise  
in songs of love and heartfelt praise:  
sweet Sacrament divine.

## **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 witness 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 Priest blesses the People saying,*

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.**

# Closing Hymn 73

*St. Stephen*

*The Cantor sings verses 1, 2 & 3. The People are invited to sing at home.*

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to  
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by  
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the  
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry  
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing  
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph  
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.  
3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;  
4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.  
5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925) Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

## 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

**J.S. Bach**

**Wachet auf, ruft uns Stimme, *BWV 645***

## Worship Leaders

*Celebrant*

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

*Preacher*

The Rev. Molly James, Ph.D.

*Deacon*

The Rev. Dcn. Don Burr

*Lectors*

Anne Newton, Paul Reis, Simon Hornby, Sharon Pearson,  
Samantha Trolice

*Artist in Residence*

Scott Ellaway

*Cantor*

Dermot Kiernan

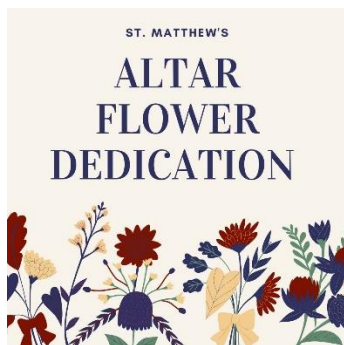
*Parish Choir*

*Coffee Hour Hosts*

Dodo Roberts

*Facebook Greeter*

Pam Ely



*Flowers*

The flowers are given in loving memory of Lorraine & Nathan Small by Guy & Eileen Ferro.

**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: *Christian, Rich, Nancy, Ken, Barrie, Dawn, Donnie, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Katie, Petra, Doris, Darunee, Patricia, Frank, Gene, Bo, Kathy, Geoff, Richard Douthitt, Mary Lou Mannix, Charles Kennedy. For those serving in the military, Jake Walker and Matthew Comeau.*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford. Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

---

### **Meet the RenewalWorks Team:**

Pam Ely, Facilitator

Joe Magnano, Administrator

Vytas Kisielius

Pam Carlson

Jen DeAngelis

Beth Cristini

Bill Brautigam

Anne Newton

Marissa Rohrbach, Rector

Jen Kepner, Senior Warden

Brian Angerame, Junior Warden

Amy Gubner

Beth Baker

Eleanor Arnold

Samantha Trolice, Director of

Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

If you have questions about this process or thoughts to contribute after taking the Spiritual Life Inventory, please be in touch with Pam or Marissa. You can also check in with these team members who are giving their time and their gifts to this process as we chart a course forward.

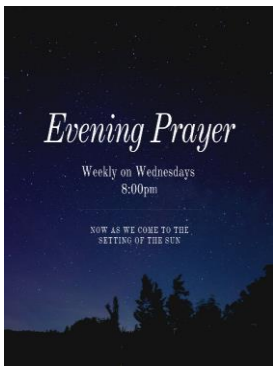
## Join Us For Coffee Hour – Sundays at 9am

This fall, coffee hour returns in a slightly different form! Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am. Gather with other parishioners for an hour before virtual worship at 10am. Bring your coffee or tea and spend some time connecting with all those faces you miss! To begin, Coffee Hour will be hosted each week by our Vestry members and Officers. As we move further into the year, there will be opportunities for others to host as well. As always, Zoom information will be shared in our e-News and will be posted in our Parishioner Facebook Group. We can't wait to see you!



---

## Evening Prayer at St. Matthew's – All Are Invited



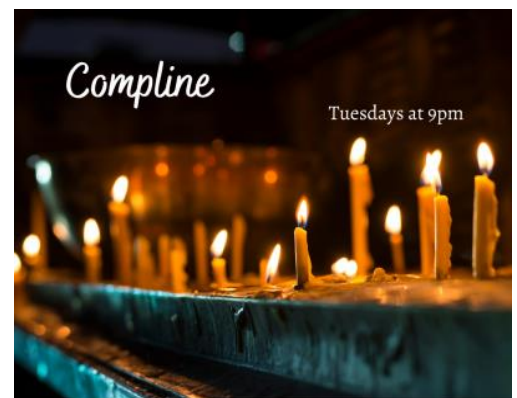
Set aside your Wednesday evenings as a family (or after the kids go to bed) to join St. Matthew's for online Evening Prayer to end the day. Offered via Zoom, this short (15-20 minute) service will help you settle down after a long day, giving thanks for what has been done and what has been left undone. Starting at 8:00pm led by members of St. Matt's, we will begin by greeting one another then move into

prayer with the opportunity for anyone to contribute or ask for prayers during the service. A link will be provided each week in our eNews and our Parishioner Facebook Group.

---

## Join us in a Zoom room for Sung Compline – Tuesday nights at 9pm

One of the pieces we miss most about worshipping together is actually **being together**. Join us in a Zoom room for Compline. This will allow us to see each other as we worship and it will allow us to connect for a few minutes afterwards, to talk to each other, to engage together on a deeper level - and we hope you'll try it with us!



In a Zoom Room  
Link shared in e-news and our Parishioner Facebook Group



# LATER TODAY!

## Drive-By Live Nativity!

Sunday December 13, 3-5pm

### I Believe: The Road to Bethlehem

All are welcome as Wilton Presbyterian Church and St. Matt's present, "I Believe: The Road to Bethlehem," an outdoor Christmas event. Join us for an afternoon of spirituality and magic as we drive through time and visit the road to Bethlehem while celebrating the wonders of Christmas **featuring a live nativity scene, complete with animals**—all from the safety of your car. Please visit and believe with us.

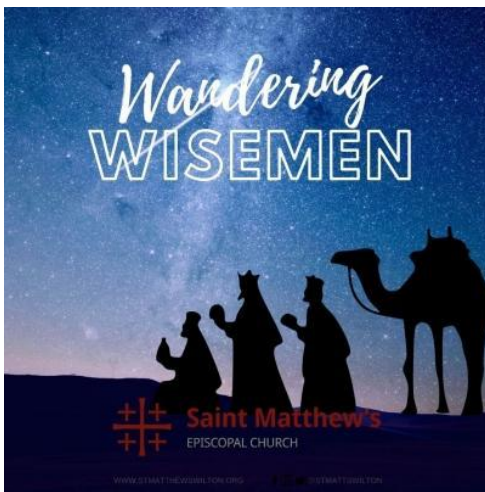


(Note: rain date: Saturday December 12, 3-5pm)

*All participants are invited to drop off non-perishables which will be given to local food pantries. There will also be a tie-in with our Mission team and a chance to pick up a present from St. Matt's! More soon!*

---

### Wandering Wisemen will be traveling in our town!



We all know the story of the three kings who followed a star to find a newborn King. They traveled from afar bringing gifts. We thought it would be fun to celebrate their travels with our very own Wandering Wisemen! With your help, our kings will travel Wilton and our neighboring towns. The Kings will stay at each location for a few days before they move to their next! Will they arrive at your house? If you spot them, be sure to take a photo and sent it to our social media team so we can share their travels! **Go to the St. Matt's website to fill**

**out the form if you would like to send them on their ADVENTures!**



## **Music for Christmas at St. Matt's Bringing you the very best in quality music performance with a touch of holiday magic.**

This Christmas **St. Matt's** has embarked on an ambitious musical offering that will be presented in a digital format. The Choir will sing festive repertoire utilizing click track technology underpinned by the splendid three manual Reuter Organ. In addition, the choir we will be joined by a Schola Cantorum made up of members drawn from the LA Master Chorale (choir-in-residence at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles). Joined by local harpist (Wendy Kerner), trumpeter (Matthew Suckling), and Artist in Residence (Scott Ellaway), then what better way to embrace the holiday spirit. Featuring holiday favorites like O come, all ye faithful, On Christmas Night, Interlude from A Ceremony of Carols, Hark! The herald angels sing, O Magnum Mysterium, and much much more. Even though so much will be different this year, our worship on Christmas Eve will be blessed with spectacular music from our beloved Choir and others. Sing along with us at home as we welcome our Savior.

**Join us on Christmas Eve at 5pm on our website or Facebook page.**

---

## **Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings**



At this time of year, it's our custom to give gifts in memory or in thanksgiving for the people we love. If you would like to make a donation please see the post on the St. Matt's website and use the donate button, or be in touch with Nancy in the Parish Office at [office@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:office@stmatthewswilton.org)

You may choose to give to support our special music for Christmas, flowers, or the Rector's Discretionary fund which is always available to confidentially assist members and neighbors in times of need or to support our life together.

***Please respond by Friday, 12/18 with names to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin - email Nancy***

## Weekly Calendar – December 13 – December 20

Sunday, **December 13**

9:00am

10:00am

3:00-5:00pm

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Holy Eucharist -Rite 2 (Livestream)

Drive-By Live Nativity

Monday, **December 14**

7:00pm

Education for Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, **December 15**

11:00am

Staff Meeting (Zoom)

9:00pm

Compline (Zoom & Livestream)

Wednesday **December 16**

8:00pm

Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Thursday, **December 17**

3:20-4:50pm

Music Appreciation Online Class with Scott

7:00pm

Vestry meeting (Zoom)

7:30pm

Online Adult & Youth Choir Rehearsal (Zoom)

Sunday, **December 20**

9:00am

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Coffee Hour (Zoom)

10:00am

Morning Prayer: Rite 2 (Livestream)

**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).

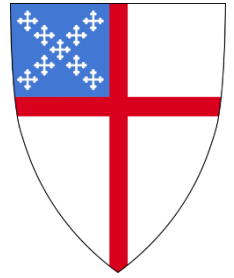
Need to join the Parishioner Facebook Group? Go here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMatthewsOnline/>

Need something else? Send Marissa a note or be in touch with another member of the staff.

## Next Week: Worship online again with St. Matthew's

*There are many ways to connect with St. Matt's in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. There you'll find information and opportunities to connect for friends and members of all ages.*

---



### **Staff**

Rector	The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, <a href="mailto:marissa@stmatthewswilton.org">marissa@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Deacon	The Rev. Deacon Don Burr, <a href="mailto:don@stmatthewswilton.org">don@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Artist in Residence	Scott Ellaway, <a href="mailto:scott@stmatthewswilton.org">scott@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>
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, <a href="mailto:louann.miska@gmail.com">louann.miska@gmail.com</a>
WEPCO	Sandy Muschler, <a href="mailto:wepco@optonline.net">wepco@optonline.net</a>
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato, Kate DeAngelis
Sexton	Max Gil

### **Wardens and Officers**

Sr. Warden	Jen Kepner	Asst. Treasurers	Bruce Beebe, Andrea Sato
Jr. Warden	Brian Angerame	Clerk	Anne Newton
Treasurer	Keith DeAngelis		

### **The Vestry**

Michael Kaelin	Kim Hall	Joe Magnano
Dodo Roberts	Tim Jarvis	Paul Reis
Jessica Christ	Pam Ely	

**36 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897**

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

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

**Like us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/stmattswilton](https://www.facebook.com/stmattswilton)**

**Follow us on Twitter & Instagram [@stmattswilton](https://twitter.com/stmattswilton)**