



Morning Prayer: Rite Two The Second Sunday of Advent December 6th, 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, Scripture reminds us that Jesus is present among us.

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

François Couperin (1668 - 1733) Movements from Mass for the Parishes

Opening Hymn 76

Winchester New

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



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: Winchester New, melody from Musicalishes Hand-Buch, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The Lighting of the Second Candle

The People are invited to light their wreath at home.

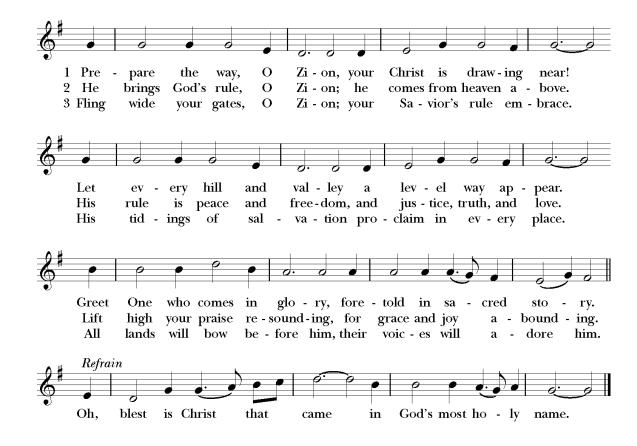
The Cantor sings verse 1. The People are invited to sing at home.

Lector There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him. *John 1:6-7*

Celebrant O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your Son, the light of all who love him, by making room for him in our hearts. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Beredan väg för Herran



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

The Officiant continues

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The Officiant 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 Priest 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 Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: People

Come let us adore him.

Officiant and People say together

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; * serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; * give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

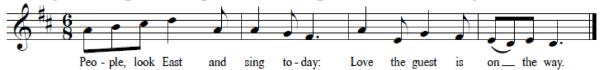
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; * and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

OfficiantPeopleOur King and Savior now draws near:Come

People Come let us adore him.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

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



¹ You have been gracious to your land, O / Lord, * you have restored the good for-/tune of Jacob.

² You have forgiven the iniquity of your / people * and blotted out / all their sins.

⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is / saying, * for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their / hearts to him.

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to those who / fear him, * that his glory may dwell / in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met / together; * righteousness and peace have / kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the /earth, * and righteousness shall look / down from heaven.

¹² The Lord will indeed grant pros-/perity, * and our land will / yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall go before / him, * and peace shall be a pathway / for his feet.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

- The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
- The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Motet	Locus iste	Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
	Locus iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est.	This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament; it is without reproach.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Canticle 16

The Song of Zechariah

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

Blessed be the Lord, the God of / Israel; * he has come to his people and / set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty / savior, * born of the house of his ser-/vant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our / enemies, * from the hands of / all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our / fathers * and to remember his / holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father / Abraham, * to set us free from the / hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without / fear, * holy and righteous in his sight all the days / of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most / High, * for you will go before the Lord to pre-/pare his way, To give his people knowledge of sal-/vation * by the forgiveness / of their sins. In the tender compassion of our / God *

the dawn from on high shall / break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of / death, * and to guide our feet into the / way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy / Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. / Amen.

The Third Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,""

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Lector	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

Anthem

People, look East

Besançon Carol Arr. Craig Phillips (1961)

People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.



To make a pledge for 2021, or to fulfill your pledge for 2020, please visit <u>www.stmatthewswilton.org/give</u>.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

A Blessing Over Pledges for the Year to Come

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving. Our pledges represent our sweat, our work, our lives, our dreams. They also represent our desire to fulfill God's expectations of us, that we are part of a community of faith, and that we contribute to the growth of the Kingdom. The commitment we make in a pledge to St. Matt's is but a token of the awesome gifts that have been so freely given to us by God. These commitments we make are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become in this place.

We give thanks for the promises and pledges already made, for the generosity of those who have made them. And we pray for those who are continuing to discern their gift for the year ahead. May we all be inspired to transformative, generous, faithful giving that will give life to the community around us.

May these promises, these gifts, these pledges be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over. May we be joyful, cheerful givers who understand our responsibility to live and love as generously as you do. May we see these pledges as an offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, and filled with possibilities. May we hold this image in our hearts and minds as a reminder that this gift is a crucial piece of the offering we make to you, the offering of ourselves: a living sacrifice to love. **Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People say together I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting Amen.

The Prayers

Deacon	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Deacon	Let us pray.

The Deacon and People say together

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.

- V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
- R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
- V. Day by day we bless you;
- R. We praise your name for ever.
- V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
- R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
- V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
- R. For we put our trust in you.
- V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
- R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Deacon offers a series of prayers, the People respond with the words in **bold**.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We pray for all who are sick and in need of our prayers, especially Christian, Rich, Nancy, Ken, Dawn, Barrie, Donnie, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Katie, Petra, Doris, Darunee, Patricia, Frank, Richard, Mary Lou, Charles, Gene, Kathy, Bo, and for all those we now name [_____].

Gracious and loving God, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to behold your people, to relieve and comfort those around the world who are suffering from coronavirus. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, preserve them from the temptations of the enemy, and give them peace in their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to lead the rest of their lives in favor and to your glory; and grant that they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God who is the Source of Life, be with all those who care for the needs of the sick and the dying. Be present with first responders who risk their own lives to save ours. Support our doctors, nurses, and all those who work within our healthcare systems. Protect all those in our community who facilitate our life and meet our needs. Make us, we pray, more than grateful for their service, teach us to be mindful of the needs of others and draw us more fully into your work in the world. **Amen.**

We pray for all those we love and see no longer, especially Laine DiMaria, 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.

The People are invited to offer prayers of Thanksgiving or Intercession either silently or aloud. Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People say together Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

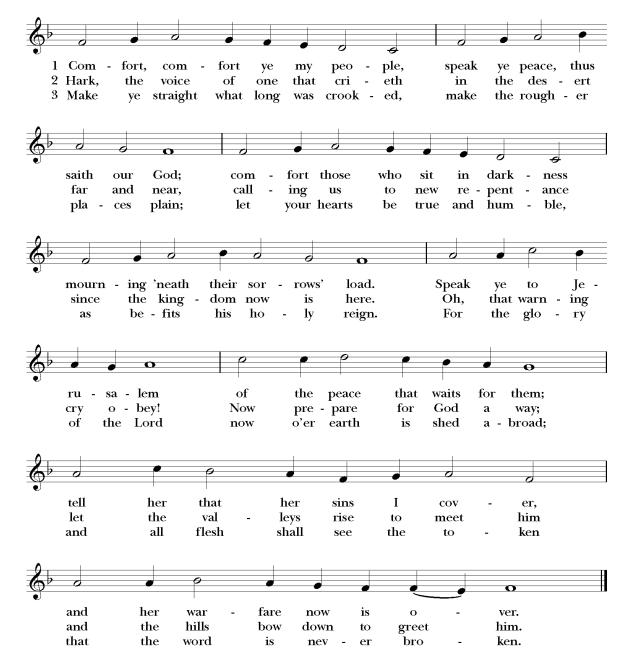
The Priest blesses the People saying,

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 67

Psalm 42

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



Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

CelebrantOur Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'PeopleAmen. Come, Lord Jesus.CelebrantMay the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.PeopleAmen.

Postlude

François Couperin (1668 - 1733) Movements from Mass for the Parishes

Worship Leaders

Officiant & Preacher	The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach	
Deacon	The Rev. Deacon Don Burr	
Lectors	Janet Nobles, Brian Angerame, Amy Gubner, Sharon Pearson,	
	Samantha Trolice	
Artist in Residence	Scott Ellaway	
Cantor	Dermot Kiernan	
The Parish Choir		
Coffee Hour Hosts	Kim Hall, Pam Ely	
Facebook Greeters	Pam Ely	

<u>Prayer Requests</u> Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for <u>six weeks</u>. 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, Dawn, Barrie, Donnie, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Katie, Petra, Doris, Darunee, Patricia, Frank, Gene, Kathy, Bo, 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. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield. Ministries to the homeless, for parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven, Church by the Pond, Hartford, and all Ecclesia ministries. For the ministry of the Midnight Runs.

Meet the RenewalWorks Team:

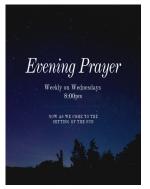
Pam Ely, Facilitator	Marissa Rohrbach, Rector
Joe Magnano, Administrator	Jen Kepner, Senior Warden
Vytas Kisielius	Brian Angerame, Junior Warden
Pam Carlson	Amy Gubner
Jen DeAngelis	Beth Baker
Beth Cristini	Eleanor Arnold
Bill Brautigam	Samantha Trolice, Director of
Anne Newton	Children, Youth, & Family 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.

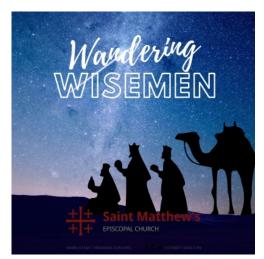
Join us in a Zoom room for Sung Compline – Tuesday nights at 9pm

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!



Link shared in e-news and our Parishioner Facebook Group

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!

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!

A Virtual Christmas Pageant!



It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year....almost. We're gearing up for the **Annual St. Matthew's Christmas Pageant** and we're calling all actors and actresses of all ages! The pageant will be virtual this year, but no less magical! <u>Please reach out to Sam at *samantha@stmatthewswilton.org* if you're interested in playing one of the parts. This year, each actor will be asked to drop by church to pick up their</u>

costume and record (in their own time) their lines to submit to be pieced together and ultimately editing into a Sunday morning worship service. Join us in the fun of continuing a special St. Matt's tradition.

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.



Weekly Calendar – December 6 – December 13

Sunday, **December 6** 9:00am 10:00am 2:00-5:00pm

Monday, **December 7** 7:00pm

Tuesday, **December 8** 11:00am 7:00pm 9:00pm

Wednesday **December 9** 8:00pm

Thursday, **December 10** 3:20-4:50pm 7:30pm

Sunday, **December 13** 9:00am 10:00am 3:00-5:00pm **The Second Sunday of Advent** Coffee Hour (Zoom) Morning Prayer: Rite 2 (Livestream) 6th Grade – High School Christmas parties (Zoom)

Education for Ministry (Zoom)

Staff Meeting (Zoom) RenewalWorks Team Meeting Compline (Zoom & Livestream)

Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Music Appreciation Online Class with Scott Online Adult & Youth Choir Rehearsal (Zoom)

The Third Sunday of Advent Coffee Hour (Zoom) Holy Eucharist -Rite 2 (Livestream) Drive-By Live Nativity

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: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMatthewsOnline/</u>

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.



<u>Staff</u>

Rector The Deacon Artist in Residence Parish Administrator Children, Youth & Family Bookkeeper WEPCO Nursery Staff Sexton

The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, <u>marissa@stmatthewswilton.org</u> The Rev. Deacon Don Burr, <u>don@stmatthewswilton.org</u> Scott Ellaway, <u>scott@stmatthewswilton.org</u> Nancy Johnson, <u>office@stmatthewswilton.org</u> Samantha Trolice, <u>samantha@stmatthewswilton.org</u> Louann Miska, <u>louann.miska@gmail.com</u> Sandy Muschler, <u>wepco@optonline.net</u> Lucia Sato, Kate DeAngelis 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 Dodo Roberts Jessica Christ Kim Hall Tim Jarvis Pam Ely Joe Magnano Paul Reis

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