



Saint Matthew's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Morning Prayer: Rite Two
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 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

Dawn

Dario Marianelli (1963 -)

Opening Hymn

The Cantor sings verses 1, 2, and 6. The People are invited to sing at home.

1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!
 3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;
 4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;
 5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!
 2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.
 3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.
 4 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.
 5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

6 Then bless his holy Name,
 whose grace hath made thee whole,
 whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:
O bless the Lord, my soul!

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103:1-5
 Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The Officiant begins the service with the following sentence of scripture.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8, 9

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
O Lord, o - pen thou our lips.

People
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant and People
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

Officiant The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: *People* **Come let us adore him.**

Officiant and People say together

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry
land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of
his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Officiant The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: *People* **Come let us adore him.**

Psalm 23

*The Cantor leads the Psalm, the People are invited to sing the verses in **bold**.*

Tone II.1



- 1 The Lord is my / shepherd; *
I shall not / be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green / pastures ***
and leads me beside / still waters.
- 3 He revives my / soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his / Name's sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**
I shall fear no / evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they / comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who / trouble
me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is / running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of**
my / life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the / Lord for ever.
- 7 Glory to the Father, and to the / Son, *
and to the / Holy Spirit:
- 8 **As it was in the beginning, is / now, ***
and will be for ever. * / Amen.

The First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 12

Invocation, Part III, Doxology

Officiant and People say together

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

The Second Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant and People say together

**O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.**

**Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

**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

John 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and

said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen

to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

Musical Meditation

“Pie Jesu”
sung by Emily Risley

Gabriel Fauré

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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant 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: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R: **And grant us your salvation.**

V: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R: **Let your people sing with joy.**

V: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R: **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V: Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R: **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V: Let your way be known upon earth;
R: **Your saving health among all nations.**
V: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten.
R: **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V: Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R: **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

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

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray for all who are sick and in need of our prayers, especially Donnie, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Steve, Kim, Katie, Brooke, Laura, Petra, Doris, Laine, Richard, Mary Lou, Ellen, Kirk, and Charles, 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.**

The People are invited to offer prayers of Thanksgiving or Intercession either silently or aloud.

Samantha reads a prayer written by the 6th and 7th graders

Dear God, Thank you for giving the blessings of community, education, staying connected and our health. We pray that we have the ability to help others in need in the time that is hard, and that those who are lonely have the comfort and presence of you. We trust you to lead us to use our blessings to bless others and pray for others in need. **Amen.**

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

Closing Hymn

The Cantor leads the hymn, the People join in singing.

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Postlude

Nimrod

Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)

Worship Leaders

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Don Burr

Lectors: Mike O’Connell, Andrea Sato

Artist in Residence: Scott Ellaway

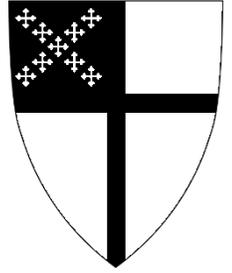
Cantor: Emily Risley

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: *Donnie, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Steve, Kim, Katie, Laura, Petra, Laine, Brooke, Doris, Richard Douthitt, Mary Lou Mannix, Ellen Maxwell, Charles Kennedy, and Kirk Tenant. For those serving in the military, Jake Walker, Matthew Comeau, and Joshua Holcombe.*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace Church, Hartford; St. Martin’s Hartford; St. Monica’s, Hartford. ECCT Joint Leadership members of the Mission Council, Missionary Society, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry and Donations and Bequests.

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.

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, March 22 nd | Church School at home |
| Sunday, March 22 nd | Pub Theology Online with Marissa at 2:00pm |
| Monday, March 23 rd | Zoom Room Coffee Hour at 10:00am |
| Tuesday, March 24 th | Sung Compline at 9:00pm |
| Wednesday, March 25 th | Morning Prayer with Meg via Facebook Live (facebook.com/stmattswilton) |
| Wednesday, March 25 th | Youth Group Connection via Zoom for 6 th -8 th grades |
| Thursday, March 26 th | Youth Group Connection via Zoom for 9 th -12 th grades |
| Thursday, March 26 th | Adult & Youth Choir Connection via Zoom |
| Thursday, March 26 th | Boys & Girls Choir Connection via Zoom for 2 nd -6 th grades |
| Sunday, March 29 th | Morning Prayer at 10:00am www.stmatthewswilton.org/live |
| Sunday, March 29 th | Adult & Youth Choir Connection via Zoom |

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.

36 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897

Phone: (203) 762-7400

www.stmatthewswilton.org

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/stmattswilton

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @stmattswilton