

# ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 22, 2019

8:00AM  
HOLY EUCHARIST ST. MARY'S CHAPEL



### **Building Community in a Complicated World**

*Form the Faithful • Grow the Church • Change the World*

*St. Matthew's is a safe and caring community  
where acceptance and our journey of faith bring us together.  
We welcome all and our commitment to others inspires us to reach out,  
take action, and make a difference.*

# WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S

Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself in your journey of faith,  
you are welcome at God's table to receive the bread and wine made holy.

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

DECEMBER 22 - 29

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Advent 4</b>			
	8:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Mary's Chapel	
	9:00am	Coffee Hour	Parlor	
	9:15am	Family Workshops/Christmas Pageant Writing	2nd Floor, Mark	
	9:30am	Bible Study with Don Scott	Gallery	
	10:30am	Holy Eucharist with Choir	Church	
	11:30am	Coffee Hour	Back of Church	
<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	Morning Prayer <i>(After Dec. 23, Morning Prayer will be on hiatus for the holidays and resume January 6)</i>	St. Mary's Chapel	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve – Office Closed</b>			
	4:00pm	Family Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist	Church	
	6:00pm	Lunch Packing for Wednesday Lunch Program	St. Mark's	
	10:30pm	Bob Chilcott's "On Christmas Night"	Church	
	11:00pm	Midnight Eucharist with Choir	Church	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Christmas Day – Office Closed</b>			
	9:00am	Christmas Day Eucharist with Christmas Music	Church	
	<del>10:30am</del>	<del>Midweek Spirituality Seminary: Why Choose the Episcopal Church Today?</del> <i>(Spirituality Seminar will resume January 8)</i>	Parlor	
	11:00am	Lunch Serving at St. Mark's	St. Mark's	
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Mary's Chapel	
	9:00am	Coffee Hour	Parlor	
	9:30am	Bible Study with Don Scott	Gallery	
	10:30am	Holy Eucharist with Music   Renewal of Conley Marriage Vows	Church	
		11:30am	Coffee Hour	Back of Church

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## LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 5 – 8/10:30 Holy Eucharist | Carol Sing at 10:30 service  
Monday, January 6 – Morning Prayer Resumes  
Wednesday, January 8 – Midweek Spirituality Seminar resumes  
Thursday, January 16 – Annual Reports Due  
Saturday, January 18 – Coffeehouse 7:00pm – Assembly room  
Sunday, January 19 – Congregational Finance Meeting at noon in the church  
Sunday, January 26 – Single service at 10:30am followed by the Annual Meeting

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## OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 2

The Office will be closed December 24, 2019 – January 2, 2020  
Charlie will be available by phone or email.

*The congregation stands as able as a handbell is rung.*

*Presider* People of God: awake!  
The day is coming soon  
when you shall see God face to face.  
Remember the ways and the works of God.  
God calls you out of darkness  
to walk in the light of the Lord's coming.  
You are God's children.

*People* **Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.**

#### **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Presider* Creator God,  
you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

*Presider* Lord Jesus,  
you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight.  
Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Presider* Holy Spirit,  
you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

### **† THE WORD OF GOD †**

#### **THE OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living one.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

#### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray, saying together,

*People* **Shepherd God,  
who leads us always toward light  
and from whom we cannot be lost,  
give us the trust and faithfulness of Joseph,  
that we may accept your mysteries  
and wait patiently for your presence with us  
in the body of Jesus, the fulfillment of your promises. Amen.**

*(Created by St. Matt's Inquirer's U!)*

*The people sit.*

**A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH (7:10-16)**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18**

*The Psalm is read responsively, half-verse by half-verse*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
**how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?**
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
**the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
**give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS (1:1-7).**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (1:18-25).**

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON**

*After a period of silent reflection, the people stand, as they are able, and say;*

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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: FORM I

*Leader* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."  
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.**

*Leader* We pray for the peace of the world and for the welfare of the Holy Church of God.

*The leader prays for the intentions of the Anglican, Diocesan and St. Matthew's Cycles of Prayer.*

For the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey, our Bishop, and our Bishop Search and Nominations Committee, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Donald, our President, for the leaders of the nations, for all in authority, and for those in uniform, risking their lives daily on our behalf, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the city of Evanston, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts.

*The people may offer the names of those in any need.*

For all of these, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader* In the communion of Matthew and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*People* **To you, O Lord our God.**

*Silence*

*Presider* Hasten, O Father, 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.

*People* **Amen.**

### **THE CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Presider* God has promised forgiveness  
to all who truly repent,  
turn to Christ in faith  
and are themselves forgiving.  
In silence we call to mind our sins.

*The people kneel or stand in silence*

Let us confess our sins.

*People* **Merciful God,  
we have sinned in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness:  
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Presider* Through the cross of Christ,  
God have mercy on you,  
pardon you  
and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven,  
forgive yourself,  
and be at peace.  
God strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal.

*People* **Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The people stand as able.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* 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:

*All* **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel as able.*

*Presider* 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:

*All* **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*Presider* 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 Matthew and 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 forever.

*All* **AMEN.**

*Presider* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All*       **Our Father in heaven,  
          hallowed be your Name,  
          your kingdom come,  
          your will be done,  
          on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
          Forgive us our sins  
          as we forgive those  
          who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
          and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
          and the glory are yours,  
          now and for ever. Amen.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Presider* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People*   **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself in your journey of faith, you are welcome at God's table to receive the bread and wine made holy.

*We offer gluten-free wafers for those with gluten allergies; simply ask for them at the altar rail.*

### **THE SACRAMENTAL HEALING**

*After receiving Communion, all who desire to receive prayers for healing are invited to walk to the baptismal font at the back of the Church where a prayer leader is ready to offer prayers with anointing and laying on of hands. If walking or standing for a time is difficult, please alert an usher and the prayer leader will come to you.*

### **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All*       **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.**

### **THE ADVENT BLESSING**

*Presider* May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and may God's blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, and the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always.

*People*   **Amen.**

### **BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

*Presider* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*   **Thanks be to God.**

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AFTER WORSHIP  
IN THE PARLOR.

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*Christmas  
at St. Matthew's*



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**December 24 | Christmas Eve**

4:00PM Family Christmas Pageant  
with Holy Eucharist

10:30PM Bob Chilcott's *On Christmas Night*

11:00pm - Midnight Eucharist with choir

**December 25 | Christmas Day**

9:00am - Holy Eucharist  
with Christmas Music

**SUNDAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

**December 29 | First Sunday of Christmas**

8:00AM Holy Eucharist

10:30AM Holy Eucharist

Renewal of Marriage Vows of  
Connie and Dudley Conley

**January 5 | The Second Sunday of Christmas**

8:00AM Holy Eucharist

10:30AM Holy Eucharist with Choir  
and Christmas Carol Sing



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BUY OLIVE OIL**

If you didn't purchase a bottle of olive oil from Palestine during the St. Nick's brunch, it's not too late. These bottles make a great holiday gift and are likely to become a staple in your own kitchen. The 750-mL bottles cost \$20, and 500-mL bottles of organic oil cost \$16. In addition, we have a fresh supply of za'atar, a versatile Middle Eastern herb mix, which sells for \$5 a packet. To buy, contact Deborah Williams (847-212-3922) or Mary Jo Deysach (847-606-9447).

The quality of Palestinian olive oil among the very best in the world. Ours is produced by a fair-trade cooperative in Palestine, is shipped here by a Canadian not-for-profit organization, and is being sold at cost. Your purchase supports farmers and families who are under ever-increasing economic and political constraints and thereby furthers the cause of peace and justice in the Holy Land.



# COTTAGE MEETING SUMMARY

## **A Report from the Rector and Wardens**

Our schedule of cottage meetings is complete. Although not everyone who wanted to participate could, between 50 and 60 people did. The facilitators' questions took parishioners on a trip from the past to the future, and the scribes recorded the ensuing discussions in 50+ pages of notes. Because people connect to St. Matthew's in so many ways, the notes present a broad spectrum of suggestions, proposals and aspirations. For a more detailed summary, please see the link at the bottom of this notice. Hard copies of these notes are also available in the church office. Contact Julie for a copy at 847-869-4850 or [Julie@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:Julie@stmatthewsevanston.org).

Certain themes, however, have emerged:

- 1. A strong desire for personal relationship and connection.** Many expressed gratification about the ways that we connect with each other by working together in teams and ministries, providing pastoral care and home communion, coming together to make music, and socializing in interest groups and parties.
- 2. A fervent desire to show our faith by supporting social action.** Moved by Christ's message to aid the vulnerable, many spoke of their willingness to support social action by increasing diversity, making our talents available to the elderly or young, or partnering those in our midst who are working with agencies and not-for-profits in our community.
- 3. A feeling that we are challenged by facilities that are no longer the best fit for our needs and aspirations.** While our parish has a deep feeling for our church and location, many concerns were expressed about lack of accessibility and ease of use for the elderly or infirm, the datedness of our kitchen and restroom facilities, our ability to rearrange worship space to make it more flexible, inviting and accommodating, and the obstacles to making our classroom and office space useful to community and social action groups.

We cannot say that as a result of these meetings, we have a clear, concrete program for the future, so further discernment appears necessary. But we have taken the first steps into the mountains, and we ask the congregation to pray on these matters and consider how we might advance these themes and grow into our mission. We expect to have further discussions in other settings in the near future.

**JAN  
18  
2020**



**ST. MATT'S  
COFFEEHOUSE**

**MUSIC, MUNCHIES,  
AND OPEN MIC**

**JOIN  
US!**

**HOSTED BY:  
BILL MCCRORY**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18  
7:00PM - 9:00PM  
2120 LINCOLN ST, EVANSTON**

# Justice, hope & safety

**LEARN \* EDUCATE\* ACT**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**AFTER CHURCH (1:00PM) AT ST. ANDREWS PENTECOST  
COFFEE WITH REPRESENTATIVE GONG-GERSHOWITZ**

The St Andrew's Pentecost and St Matthew's partnership team invites you to a coffee immediately following church service on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at St Andrews Pentecost church. Representative Gong-Gershowitz will speak to our combined churches about current issues facing immigrant and refugee families in our state.

Representative Gong-Gershowitz has extensive experience in the field of immigration law. She is the granddaughter of an immigrant from China and her family's experience instilled in her a deep commitment to public service. She earned law degrees from Loyola and Northwestern and has specialized in immigration law. She is the former Director of the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic and as an attorney with Winston and Strawn did pro bono work with the National Immigrant Justice Center. She founded and co-chaired the Unaccompanied Children's Task Force. Currently she is the State Representative for District 17. In this role, she has sponsored legislation to protect immigrant youth and protect the civil rights of immigrants in judicial proceedings.

The St Andrew's Pentecost and St. Matthew's Partnership has focused on issues facing refugees. We have coordinated donations to refugees through Refugee One and St. Luke's and have participated in education and advocacy efforts. In the new year, we hope to deepen our involvement in this issue and to widen the participation of both churches. We hope you will join us for this event.

## **REMINDER**

**JANUARY 19, 2020**

**Congregational Finance Meeting: noon in the church**

**JANUARY 26, 2020**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Single Service at 10:30am with lunch and meeting to follow.**

**If you lead ANY ministry or organization,  
Annual Reports are due to Julie by January 16 for inclusion in the reports book.**

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: Terri Morrissey  
Presider: The Rev. Charles A. de Kay  
Altar Guild: Susan Cherco, Kristin Jacobsen,  
Allison Zidek  
Lector: Donald Draganski  
Prayer Leader: Janie Stevens  
Chalice Bearer: Jack Lerman

Healing Minister: Bill Widmer  
Bread Baker: Rick Worden  
Counting: Rick Worden  
Green Team: Christina Padilla  
Coffee Hour Host: Dudley Conley

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are encouraged to include these names in your daily prayers.

During Sunday worship, you are encouraged to offer silently or aloud your prayers to God.

The Prayer List is prayed for by the Tuesday morning Prayer Group and at weekday Morning Prayer services.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for Christians in other denominations and for the work of the ecumenical movement: For His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; for His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; for The Reverend Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; for Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council, and the Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for the youth in our cities and communities affected by violence, and the perpetrators of violence in our communities. May they find peace.

**In the St. Matthew's Cycle of Prayer:** That we might strive to live into our mission as a house of engaging worship rich in prayer, joyful music, and blessing. We pray for our acolytes; altar guild; bread bakers; chalice bearers; lay preachers; lectors & intercessors; music leaders, choir, musicians; ushers; for all who seek God's call in their lives; for our office staff, and for our clergy.

**For St. Matthew's congregation** as we discern our future as a place of God's love in action and for the work flowing from our cottage meetings.

**We pray for all those who celebrate birthdays** in December including David Senechal, May Srichandra, Tilley Vogel, Kristin Jacobsen, Grace Viner, William McCrory, Jack McCarthy, George Darrell, John Lloyd-Still, David Frederickson, Anne Branning, Oliver Arima.

**We pray for those who celebrate wedding anniversaries** in December including Judy Royal & Tim Patenode, Connie & Dudley Conley, Bill & Corky Siegfriedt, and David & Diane Senechal.

**We pray for equal opportunity and equal treatment under the law** for all people; that we may be agents of God's kingdom, dismantling systems of injustice wherever and whenever we can, and for the will to enact common sense gun control laws.

**We pray for those in uniform, risking their lives daily on our behalf:** Jeremy Garrett, Aaron Grant, Thomas Greenwich, Lee Henderson, Tyler Howland, Peter Marks, Ian McGuffin, James McMillan, Jeremy and Molly Robinson, Joseph Sanford, Daniel Seckinger, Emma Seckinger, Dan Teska, members of our city's fire and police departments, and for their families.

**We pray for those suffering from warfare and acts of violence, natural disasters, and their aftermaths.**

**We pray for those who have died.**

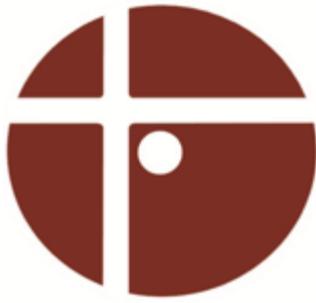
**We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit or who have asked for our prayers:** Terry Ling, Clemence, Jane Durfee, Nancy Ferguson, Maurine Bohne, Sid Simpson, David Jones, Jessica Mueller, all organ donors, Ginger Kelson, Sallie and Jim Warden, Clara Boyle, Betty Stafford, Roy Gobin, Ellen Butkus, Mark Austin, Bill Papanastou, and Tim.

### ABOUT THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

*While the shape and format of our service is from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, St. Matthew's strives to offer worship that is relevant, inclusive, and hospitable: worship which is in keeping with our mission to be "building community in a complicated world." Therefore, we draw upon a variety of authorized sources:*

The Scripture readings are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible. The Opening Acclamation, Nicene Creed and the Blessing are taken from *Enriching Our Worship 1: Supplemental Liturgical Materials*. The Prayers of the People, the Confession and Absolution, and The Great Thanksgiving, are adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. The Post Communion Prayer is from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

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# Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

*Building Community in a Complicated World*

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Connie Conley, Kristin Jacobsen, Bob Purse (2022)  
Jennie Woodring, *Clerk* (2020)

### *Trustees of the Endowment*

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## CLERGY AND ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, *27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church*  
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[www.stmatthewsevanston.org](http://www.stmatthewsevanston.org)

Current announcements and news

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

Online directory and giving statements

### **St. Matthew's Publishing Deadlines**

Notices for the weekly e-newsletter or Sunday bulletin:

**Wednesday Noon**