

# ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 10:30AM

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS  
IN THE CHURCH



2120 LINCOLN STREET | EVANSTON, IL 60201 | 847-869-4850

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa nations. This land was also a place of travel and trade to many other tribes, including the Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Miami tribes. These Native Peoples were forced off their lands with the Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829. After a series of land transfers, St. Matthew's acquired its current site within this territory in 1906. Today, Cook County is home to tens of thousands of Native Americans from many tribes. We acknowledge and respect our Indigenous neighbors, as we strive to be good stewards of this Native land.

## ST. MATTHEW'S EVENTS

- December 7      **Lessons & Carols**, 10:30am service  
December 7      **St. Nick's Brunch**, after 10:30am service  
December 24      **Christmas Eve:**  
                         4:00pm Family Service, Brown Bag Pageant  
                         10:30pm St. Matthew's Choir Prelude of Christmas Music  
                         11:00pm Christmas Eve, Festival Holy Eucharist with Music  
December 25      **Christmas Day:**  
                         10:00a.m. Said Service of Holy Eucharist

### Welcome to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Welcome! If you would like to become a registered parishioner or are just updating your information, please complete as much information as possible. Completed forms may be returned to the Parish Office, placed in the offering plate or mailed to the office. You may also fill out this form online by scanning the QR Code below.

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	RECEIVE EMAILS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:	



**ONLINE FORM**

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**

**2120 Lincoln St. Evanston, IL 60201**

**847-869-4850**

# 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 made holy.

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## THE PRELUDE

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

## THE INTROIT

*Matin Responsory*

G.P. da Palestrina

Chloe Beal and Kaylie O'Dell, soprano;  
Karlos Piñero-Mercado, tenor; Terry Bucher, bass

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.  
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?  
High and lo, near and far, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say:  
Hear O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, Tell us...  
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Celebrant* People of God: be glad!

Your God delights in you,  
giving you joy for sadness  
and turning the dark to light.  
Be strong in hope therefore;  
for your God comes to save.  
You are God's children.

*People* **Lord, make us one in the love of Christ  
today and for ever. Amen.**

*Two candles on the Advent Wreath are lit.*

Creator God,  
you call us to repent of our sins:  
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

*Celebrant* Lord Jesus,  
you declared the forgiveness of God:  
teach us to forgive one another.  
Christ, have mercy.

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

*Celebrant* Holy Spirit,  
you search our hearts and show us the truth:  
direct us in your way of righteousness.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

The people standing, as able, sing the verses indicated

THE OPENING HYMN 56

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

Verses 1-3, 6 and 8



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with “The Song of Mary” on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

## LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

### THE BIDDING PRAYER

*Celebrant* Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Child of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose in the glorious redemption brought to us by God's holy Child Jesus and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church.

And because God particularly loves them, let us remember in God's name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children.

Finally, let us remember before God that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

*People* **Amen.**

*The people sit*

### THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:1-15

*Reader: Judy Royal*

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree,

*(Continued on the next page)*

and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.'

The word of the Lord.

## THE ANTHEM

*Adam lay ybounden*

Frank Boles

*(Sung in Medieval English)*

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, An apple that he took  
As clerkes finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been  
Ne had ne'er our lady abeen heavene Queen.  
Blessed be the time the apple taken was  
Therefore we moun singen Deo gracias

## THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

*Reader: Tim Patenode*

*God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption*

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.  
A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;

make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.  
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will 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 like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever.”  
You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.  
He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

The word of the Lord.

*The people stand, as able, and sing*

## THE HYMN 67

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

*Psalm 42*

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet him  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

*The people sit*

## THE THIRD LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reader: Steve Carr

*A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts*

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,

“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel

and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,

*(Continued on the next page)*



because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”  
declares the Lord.  
“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time,” declares the Lord.  
“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.  
No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,”  
declares the Lord.  
“For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”

The word of the Lord.

## **THE ANTHEM**

*E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come*

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed  
his blood That we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who  
was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus,  
quickly come, And night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ  
will be their All!

## **THE FOURTH LESSON**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: Ginger Carr

*The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

*(Continued on the next page)*

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

*The people stand, as able, and sing*

## THE HYMN 75

There's a voice in the wilderness

*Ascension*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a\_\_\_\_  
2 O\_\_\_\_ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
3 but the word of our God\_\_\_\_ en - du - reth, the\_\_\_\_

call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst\_\_\_\_ of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The\_\_\_\_  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
flowers of the field they\_\_\_\_ per - ish, like  
feed his\_\_\_\_ flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our\_\_\_\_ God\_\_\_\_ may go!  
na - tions shall\_\_\_\_ pass like a dream\_\_\_\_ a - way;  
lead them, and\_\_\_\_ bring them\_\_\_\_ safe to his fold.

*The people sit*

## THE FIFTH LESSON

Baruch 4:36-5:9

Reader: Angela Torres-Kutkuhn

*The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand*

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,  
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.  
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;  
they are coming, gathered from east and west,  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing in the glory of God.

*(Continued on the next page)*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
 and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.  
 Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
 put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;  
 for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.  
 For God will give you evermore the name,  
 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.  
 Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
 look towards the east,  
 and see your children gathered from west and east  
 at the word of the Holy One,  
 rejoicing that God has remembered them.  
 For they went out from you on foot,  
 led away by their enemies;  
 but God will bring them back to you,  
 carried in glory, as on a royal throne.  
 For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low  
 and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
 so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.  
 The woods and every fragrant tree  
 have shaded Israel at God's command.  
 For God will lead Israel with joy,  
 in the light of his glory,  
 with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.  
  
 The word of the Lord.

## THE ANTHEM

*People look east*

arr. John Leavitt

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. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
 Ding dong, People, looke east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way. Angels, announce  
 with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
 with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east today: Love, the Lord, People, look east!

## THE SIXTH LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

Reader: The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey

*God promises a new heaven and a new earth*

For I am about to create new heavens  
 and a new earth;  
 the former things shall not be remembered  
 or come to mind.

*(Continued on the next page)*

But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.

*The people stand, as able, and sing*

**AN ANTHEM**

*A spotless rose*  
Jack Ellis, bass-baritone

Herbert Howells

A spotless rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promis'd fruit; its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter, and in the dark midnight. The rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said, is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid; for through our God's great love and might the blessed Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE ANTHEM

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

Michael John Trotta

"I will come" O come, O come, the "I am" that is with us break the bond of the captive people who mourn in exile deprived of the incarnation of the Father. Rejoice! The great "I am" will be born for you. O come, gatherer of all nations, Come to make all whole, To save your servants, From their separateness. Who will come? "I will come!" O come, light of life (morning Star) To shine on us by your coming, Dispel the clouds of night, Drive away the shadows of death.

*The people stand as able to pray*

## A PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

*Celebrant* O God, you made us in your own image  
and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:  
Look with compassion on the whole human family;  
take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;  
break down the walls that separate us;  
unite us in bonds of love;  
and work through our struggle and confusion  
to accomplish your purposes on earth;  
that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you  
in harmony around your heavenly throne;  
through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior.

*All*      ***Amen.***

## A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

*Celebrant* Let us pray together  
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that we may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Officiant: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;  
People: **Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Officiant: Stand still, and you shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
People: **Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Officiant: We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.**  
**We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord.**

Officiant: Stir up, O Lord, thy power, and come among us; and mercifully fulfil that which thou hast promised to thy Church unto the end of the world. Amen.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant* The peace of God be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

**THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *We wait for thy loving kindness* William McKie  
Karlos Piñero-Mercado, tenor

## THE BLESSING

*Celebrant* May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Creator, the Savior, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

*People* **Amen.**



## THE CLOSING HYMN 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

*Bereden väg för Herran*



- 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 (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

## THE POSTLUDE

## Leading Our Worship This Morning

*Celebrant:* The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr

*Deacon:* The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey

*Music Director:* Mark Crayton

*Greeter:* Volunteer

*Lectors:* Judy Royal, Steve Carr, Ginger Carr,

The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey,

The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr.

*Prayer Leader:* Mary Jo Deysach

*Chalice Bearer:* Mary Jo Deysach

*Acolytes:* Bob Purse

*Altar Guild:* Pat Egan, Deborah Williams,

Kate Lauderbaugh

*Green Team:* Jennie Woodring

*Livestream:* Volunteer

## The Choir of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Mark Crayton, Music Director and Conductor

Quinn Brann, Organist/Pianist

### Soprano

Monique Austin

Charlotte Bishop

Ginger Carr

Alice Dolan

Chloe Beal\*\*

Kaylie O'Dell\*\*

Winifer Castaneda Verastegui\*\*\*

### Alto

Bernadette Brockman\*

Nancy Churchill

Allyn Rawling

Angela Torres-Kutkuhn\*†

### Tenor

Francis Lynch

Karlos Piñero-Mercado\*

Zachary Schwartz\*

Anthony Rohr\*\*\*

Brian Pember\*\*\*

### Bass

Terry Bucher\*

Steve Carr

Jack Ellis\*

\*Section Leader

\*\*\*Substitute Singer

\*\*Staff Singer

†Choral Assistant

# Why We Love St. Matthew's...



*In this stewardship season, we reflect on why we support the church. The reasons are in the pews next to us in church and in the seats next to us in the choir, at movie group, study class, the coffeehouse, etc. We've asked parishioners to tell us why they support St. Matthew's. If you would like to tell your story, email Wayne at [whayne@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:whayne@stmatthewsevanston.org) or Tim at [tim.patenode@gmail.com](mailto:tim.patenode@gmail.com).*

## 2026 Pledges Are Now Open - Pledge Today!

Your pledge of financial support for 2026 makes all the difference. It ensures that our worship remains vibrant, that our outreach extends compassion into Evanston and beyond, and that our ministries continue to form disciples in the way of Jesus. More than dollars and cents, your pledge is an expression of trust in God's faithfulness and of gratitude for the many blessings of this community.

"For me Saint Matthew's is a place of reset and comfort. I came because friends suggested it to me many years ago. I left due to moving and many church and personal changes, but came back after Covid and a move back to the area. I have stayed and am personally and financially committed to St Matthews. I am encouraged by the clergy, teaching and community. I am looking forward to being a part of all we can do during and after our 150th year."

*-Elizabeth Anderson Parks*



Scan the QR Code to make  
your pledge today!



# CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND FLOWERS

**Remember someone special this  
Christmas by contributing to the  
flowers in the sanctuary or supporting  
our music program.**

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## CHRISTMAS MUSIC / FLOWERS DONATIONS

☐

MUSIC

☐

FLOWERS

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for listing in Christmas bulletins is Monday, December 15.**

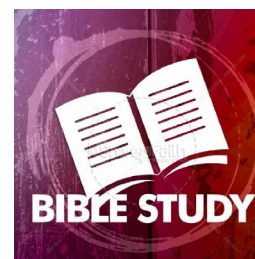
Please return this form to Gregory Peebles at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church: 2120 Lincoln Street, Evanston, IL 60201

Please make checks out to St. Matthew's with "Christmas Music/Flowers" in the memo line.

## Bible Study with Rev. Wayne

### Tuesdays at 12 Noon, St. Matt's Library

Join Rev. Wayne for Bible Study every Tuesday. We will meet at Noon in St. Matt's Library / Gallery. Bible Study will last around an hour. Bring your lunch - and a friend!



## A Note From Deacon Terri

In my recent sermon on Creation Care, I spoke about how our Native Plant Garden at St. Matthew's promotes biodiversity and environmental sustainability. The challenge of caring for God's creation includes helping wildlife and the land thrive naturally. Please enjoy this post from Homegrown National Park about the importance of leaving the leaves in place over the winter months.



-The Reverend Terri J. Morrissey, Deacon

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/leave-the-leaves-why-less-cleanup-means-more-life/>

## Anti-Racism / Loving Our Neighbor

**Prayer for migrants:** The beautiful prayer below is from the email signature of Rev. Sandra Castillo, the diocesan Canon for Migration Ministries.

**Give Us Hearts**

**God of love and compassion:** may we always recognize your spirit:

- in the refugee family, seeking safety from violence;
- in the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables;
- in the asylum-seekers, seeking justice for their families;
- in the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world.

Give us hearts that break open whenever our brothers and sisters turn to us.

Give us hearts that no longer turn deaf to their voices in times of need.

Give us eyes to recognize a moment for grace instead of a threat.

Give us voices that fail to remain silent but which decide instead to advocate prophetically.

Give us hands that reach out in welcome, but also in work, for a world of justice until all homelands are safe and secure.

Bless us, O Lord...

- Fr. Dan Hartnett S.J.



Your recycling—if it's in a plastic bag—won't be recycled. The bag will be pulled off the line and trashed because there is no time to open and empty it, and plastic bags cannot be allowed to go through because they tangle up the equipment and cause shutdowns.

## EVANSTON FOOD FRIDGES

Food insecurity is something many in our community deal with. Since Covid, Evanston Food Fridges, along with many in our community, have been doing their part. How does it work? Food pantries and refrigerators are located in 4 places in Evanston where you can drop off food for those in need. Fresh foods are most appreciated. Those in need can come, get food, no questions asked. Soul and Smoke, Northwestern, and Starbucks all donate regularly. Feel free to drop off food or you can donate money directly to them. <https://www.evanstoncommunityfridges.com>



Food fridges are located at:  
1601 Payne Street next to Soul and Smoke  
1335 Dodge Street  
619 West Howard Street  
602 Madison Street

# THE 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. If you wish to add a name to the prayer list, email [info@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:info@stmatthewsevanston.org). Names are listed for 4 weeks.

The Prayer List is prayed for weekly by the St. Matthew's Prayer Group.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** *Organizations of Episcopal Charities:* Ravenswood Community Services; Shelter Care Ministries; Holy Family School; St. Leonard's Ministries; Hopeful Beginnings; Waukegan to College; ElderCare Lake County *And for organizations of our Companion Dioceses of SE Mexico and Renk*

**For the congregation at St. Matthew's** as we embrace our mission to be welcoming all in community; joyfully doing God's work in the world: welcoming our neighbors near and far.

**We pray for all those who celebrate birthdays in December:** Anne Branning, George Darrell, David Frederickson, Kristin Jacobsen, John Lloyd-Still, David Senechal.

**We pray for all those who celebrate anniversaries in December:** Connie & Dudley Conley, Kate & Gregg Lauderbaugh, Judy Royal & Tim Patenode, Diane & David 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:** Cobe Layag, Jeremy Garrett, Aaron Grant, Thomas Greenwich, Lee Henderson, Tyler Howland, Peter Marks, Ian McGuffin, Joseph Sanford, Emma Seckinger, Thomas Garbee, and the members of our city's fire and police departments, and for their families.

**We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit or who have asked for our prayers:** Carol Imperial, Jim, Timmy Arondale, David Julian, Juliette, Jancie Dark, Gina Purse, Dorothy Wyandt, Jeremy Herschaft, Tobin Hudgins, Kaden Brown, Larry Anderson, Beth Swigart, Brad Swigart, Ann Wilson Wesley, Bob Baker, Becky Wilson, Ramona Frederickson, Harriet Brandt, Paige D, Kate Martin, Benjamin Ticobay, Bob Teska, Jessica Mueller, Maeve Shampine, Donna Wagner, Carol Wagner, Will Widmer and for Maua and her 5 daughters.

**We pray for all in need:** those struggling with the Coronavirus, all victims of this pandemic, organ donors and those awaiting transplant, the lonely and isolated, our nation, especially those oppressed by our current systems, those protesting racial injustice, all elected officials seeking to lead communities in this challenging time, the unemployed and under-employed.

**We pray for those suffering** from acts of violence – including warfare, gun violence and sexual violence – as well as from natural disasters, and their aftermaths.

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

## ABOUT THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

While the shape and format of our service is from the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* (revisions authorized by the Episcopal Church, March 17, 2020), St. Matthew's strives to offer worship that is relevant, inclusive, and hospitable: worship which is in keeping with our mission to be "welcoming all in community; joyfully doing God's work in the world." Therefore, we draw upon a variety of authorized sources, adapting them as necessary.

In today's service, the Opening Acclamation comes from "Text of Expansive Language Liturgies – from Resolution 2018-D078- updated 09-02–2019" and the introductions to prayers and responses and the Peace come from *Enriching Our Worship I*. The Collect of the Day comes from a collection of prayers written to match the lessons appointed in the Revised Common Lectionary: *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. Scripture readings follow the Revised Common Lectionary using the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible.

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St. Matthew's lay leaders duly elected and appointed at  
The 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parish on January 26, 2025

**St. Matthew's Vestry**

Stephen Carr, *Senior Warden*

Tim Patenode, *Junior Warden*

William Widmer, Kelsey Davies, Jim Kelly (2026)

Dudley Conley, Larkin Myers (2027)

Roberta Buchanan, Karen Hertel, David Parks (2028)

*Clerk of the Vestry*, Larkin Myers (2028)

Christopher Motogawa, *Treasurer* (2026)

**Trustees of St. Matthew's Endowment**

Don Churchill (2025)    Mary Clark (2025)    Ann Searles (2026)

**St. Matthew's Lay Delegation to the  
187<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago**

ONLINE – All Day, Saturday, November 22, 2025

Delegates: Mary Clark, Ann Searles, Julia Green

**Clergy and St. Matthew's Staff**

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, 28<sup>th</sup> *Presiding Bishop*, *The Episcopal Church*

The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, *Thirteenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago*

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr., *Priest-in-Charge* | [wayne@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:wayne@stmatthewsevanston.org)

The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey, *Deacon* | [terri@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:terri@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Mark Crayton, *Music Director* | [mark@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:mark@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Julie Salako, *Communications Director* | [julie@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:julie@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Gregory Peebles, *Parish Administrator* | [gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Jorge Lopez, *Handyman*

[www.stmatthewsevanston.org](http://www.stmatthewsevanston.org)                      [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org)  
[info@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:info@stmatthewsevanston.org)