

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 21, 2025
10:30AM IN THE CHURCH



*Welcoming all in community;
Joyfully doing God's work
in the world.*

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 24 **Christmas Eve:**

4:00pm Family Service, Brown Bag Pageant

10:15pm St. Matthew's Choir Prelude of Christmas Music

11:00pm Christmas Eve, Festival Holy Eucharist with Music

December 25 **Christmas Day:**

10:00am 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

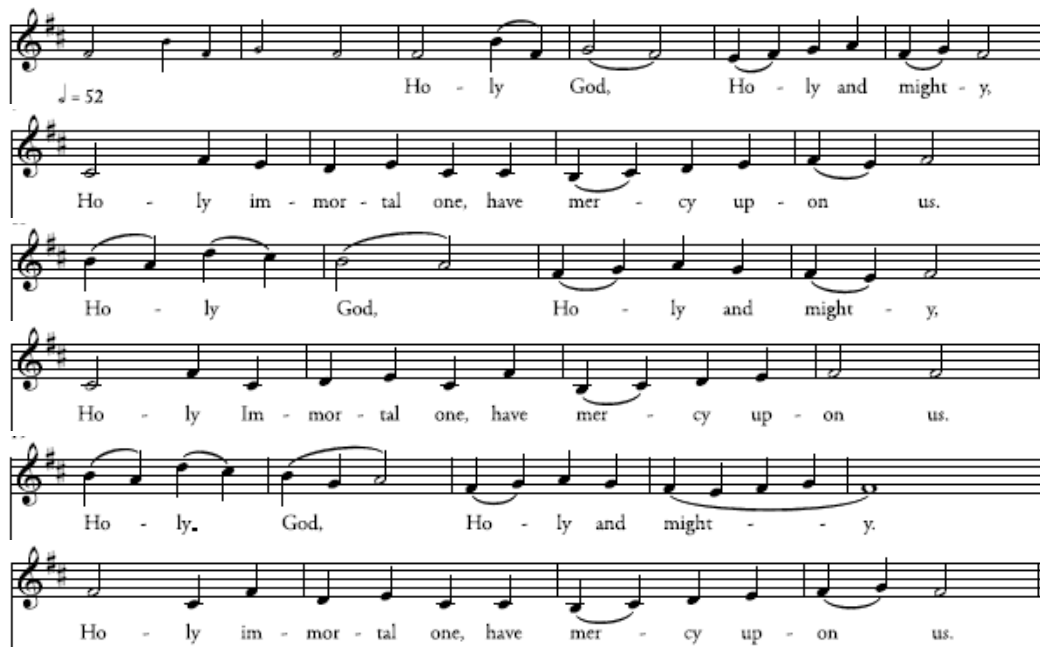
WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S

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

THE PRELUDE

The congregation stands as able as a handbell is rung.

THE TRISAGION



Celebrant 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 his 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

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.**

One candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

Celebrant 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.**

All stand as able.

THE OPENING HYMN *Hymnal 1982 #H475*

God himself is with us

Tysk

Verses 1, 2 & 4

1. God him-self is with us; let us all a - dore him,
2 Glad - ly, Lord, we of - fer thine to be for ev - er,
3 Thou per - vad - est all things; let thy rad - iant beau - ty
4 Come, a - bide with - in me; let my soul, like Ma - ry,

and with awe ap - pear be - fore him. God is here with -
soul and life and each en - deav - or. Help us to sur -
light mine eyes to see my du - ty. As the ten - der
be thine earth - ly sanc - tu - ar - y. Come, in - dwell - ing

in us; souls in si - lence fear him, hum - bly, fer - vent -
rend - er earth's de - ceit - ful trea - sures, pride of life, and
flow - ers ea - ger - ly un - fold them, to the sun - light
Spi - rit, with trans - fi - guring splen - dor; love and hon - or

ly draw near him. Now his own who have known
sin - ful plea - sures: thou a - lone shalt be known
calm - ly hold them, so let me qui - et - ly
will I ren - der. Where I go here be - low,

God, in wor - ship low - ly, yield their spi - rits whol - ly.
Lord of all our be - ing, life's true way de - cree - ing.
in thy rays im - bue me; let thy light shine through me.
let me bow be - fore thee, know thee, and a - dore thee.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

The Celebrant may say

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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.

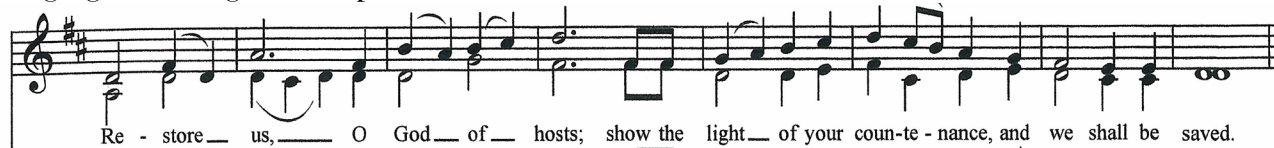
Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

Congregation sings the response once before the verses and once after the verses.



Response

- 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.

Response

The people sit.

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

Sing Twice



THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

(1:18-25)

People **Glory to you, O 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 our Savior.

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

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr.

After a time of silent reflection, all are invited to stand, as they are able, and say together:

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

(Continued on the next page)

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
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 1

Leader With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to God, saying "God, have mercy."
For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls,
let us pray to God.

People **God, have mercy.**

Leader For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Paula, our Bishop; for our own clergy and those at St.
Andrew's Pentecost, and for all the clergy and for all the people, let us pray to God.

People **God, have mercy.**

Leader 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 God.

People **God, have mercy.**

Leader For the cities and towns of Evanston, Skokie, and Wilmette, for every city and community,
and for those who live in them, let us pray to God.

People **God, have mercy.**

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

People **God, have mercy.**

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

People **God, have mercy.**

Leader For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to God.

People **God, have mercy.**

Leader For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially for David, Connie, Carol, Jim, Timmy, David, Juliette, Janice, Gina, Dorothy, Jeremy, Tobin, Kaden, Larry, Beth, Brad, Ann, Bob, Becky, Ramona, Harriet, Paige, Kate, Benjamin, Bob, Jessica, Maeve, Donna, Carol, Will and for Maua and her 5 daughters.

The leader pauses as the people offer the names of those in need.

Leader For all of these, let us pray to God.

People **God, have mercy.**

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

People **God, have mercy.**

Leader For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, let us pray to God.

People **God, have mercy.**

Leader For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to God.

People **God, have mercy.**

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

People **God, have mercy.**

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

People **To you, O God.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant 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, contemplating how we have neglected to love God and our neighbors.

Deacon Let us confess our sins.

Silence may be kept

Deacon Most merciful God,

(Continued on the next page)

People 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.

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

People Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† THE HOLY COMMUNION †

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The cherry tree carol (On Christmas night)* arr. Bob Chilcott

Joseph was an old man, and an old man was he, when he wedded Mary in the land of Galilee.
Joseph and Mary walk'd through an orchard good, where was cherries and berries so red as
any blood. O then bespoke Mary, so meek and so mild, 'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph, for I am
with child.' "Go to the tree, Mary, And it shall bow to thee, And the highest branch of all shall
bow down to Mary's knee. Then bow'd down the tallest tree, it bent to Mary's hand: Then she
cried, 'See, Joseph, I have cherries at command!' 'O eat your cherries, Mary, o eat your cherries
now; o eat your cherries, Mary, that grow upon the bough.' Then Mary pluck'd a cherry as red
as the blood; then Mary went home with her heavy load.

This carol comes from the Middle Ages probably from a "mystery play" where biblical stories were enacted during Advent and Christmas. The story deals with Joseph's doubt and his eventual "redemption."



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;
It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and
cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere
to give thanks to you, God 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 Jesus of everlasting life;
that when Jesus 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:



Celebrant Holy and gracious God: 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 Child, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. Jesus 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 Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and after giving thanks to you, Jesus broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, Jesus 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:

Celebrant

and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 our Savior 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.

Celebrant
and People AMEN.

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant
and People 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding lyric line. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the word "peace".

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him on your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

Ave Maria

Igor Stravinsky

Hail Mary, full of grace. Blessed are thou among women and blessed be the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Late in Stravinsky's life, he returned to the Russian Orthodox Church. While it was first set in Russian, he later adapted it (when he moved to Hollywood) and set in Latin adding an Amen at the end. We have this piece of music because Nadia Boulenger, the great pianist and music educator, saved the manuscript and promoted the piece in the choral concerts she conducted until she died in 1979.

Let us Pray

Eternal God, heavenly Creator, 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 Christ's 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 BLESSING

Celebrant May Almighty God, by whose Providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN *Hymnal 1982 #H53* Once he came in blessing *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.



came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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: Ginger Carr, Volunteer

Prayer Leader: Kristin Jacobsen

Chalice Bearer: Volunteer

Acolytes: Harper Olsen, Quincy Senechal

Bread Baker: Deborah Williams

Altar Guild:

Green Team:

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

ST. MATTHEW'S

Christmas SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM FAMILY SERVICE, BROWN BAG PAGEANT

10:15PM ST. MATT'S CHOIR PRELUDE OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

11:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE, FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST WITH MUSIC

DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00AM SAID SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST

Why We Love St. Matthew's...



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 Matthew's. 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!

Preparing for Christmas

You are invited to stay after the 10:30am service on this Sunday, December 21, to assist the Altar Guild in preparing the church for Christmas. We would especially appreciate help with those pesky camels and other heavy nativity pieces. Thank you!



Help Needed

If you are looking for a way to brighten a child's Christmas, Gerald Daye, of the Haitian Community Organization, is raising funds in order to provide refugee children in Evanston with \$50 gift cards. If you would like to contribute, you can send money via Zelle (773-226-4996) or send a check to the Haitian Community Organization, P.O. Box 5465, Evanston, IL. 60204. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes. In the past, this organization has organized a big Christmas party for children but this community is too fearful to gather together this year in light of current events.

Walk for Warmth

Please join us for Interfaith Action of Evanston's Walk for Warmth on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Monday January 19th. Walking together, we are a physical embodiment of Dr. King's vision of the beloved community. His commitment to service is reflected in the route we take past the many faith communities that house Interfaith Action's overnight shelter in rotation. The Walk helps raise awareness of homelessness in our community. Your donation supports Interfaith Action's programs including the overnight shelter. For more information, to register to walk and to donate, go to <https://interfaithactionofevanston.networkforgood.com/events/94018-walk-for-warmth-2026>. There is no charge to register.



Anti-Racism / Loving Our Neighbor

Help Sanctuary Evanston support immigrants: As federal agents returned to Chicago this week for more arrests and detentions, Sanctuary Evanston is continuing its resistance and assistance for affected area residents. The local group has offered food, rent support, and many other forms of assistance, and is asking for our help with their efforts.

Sanctuary Evanston is working with the [Evanston Community Cares](#) (ECC) Fund to help raise \$2 million in emergency community aid for our neighbors currently struggling with job loss, food insecurity, and housing instability. This is about making sure our entire community stays resilient.

Here's why this fund is so important — it's an incredible opportunity to maximize our collective impact as a community for our community:

Direct Aid:

The majority of funds will go directly to people in need, supporting & prioritizing trusted, hyper-local groups including [Evanston Latinos](#), Sanctuary Evanston (that's us!), [Evanston Community Fridges](#) and local D65 & D202 Families through an [equal distribution process](#).

Trust and Transparency:

The fund itself is fiscally managed by the [Evanston Community Foundation](#) (ECF) and overseen by respected local leaders. (Read more about [Evanston Community Cares](#) and our [leadership team](#).)

Our Ask:

We are asking if you can make a donation today to help us move closer to that \$2 million goal. And here's a fun incentive: Any donation of \$50 or more will receive an Evanston Community Cares car magnet to show your support for our community.

The Crucial Next Step:

Beyond your donation, we have one more vital favor to ask: Please forward this email and the donation link below to 5-10 of your own closest connections, friends, or family.

This multi-organizational campaign effort relies on neighbor-to-neighbor outreach. If everyone reaches out to their own trusted circle, we can reach our \$2 million goal much faster.

You can donate here: <https://evanstoncommunitycares.org/donate/> (Please remember to specify "Evanston Community Cares Fund" in the donation notes.)

Thank you for considering supporting us and this incredible community effort. We truly appreciate your help.

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. 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: The Anglican Church of Burundi

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: *For the ecumenical relationships between the churches in full Communion with the Episcopal Church: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Church of North India; Church of South India; Church of Pakistan; Church of Bangladesh; the Old Catholic Churches; the Philippine Independent Church; the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar; and the Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces.*

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, 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: David Kelson, Connie Conley, 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 149th 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
187th 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, 28th *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

The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey, *Deacon* | terri@stmatthewsevanston.org

Mark Crayton, *Music Director* | mark@stmatthewsevanston.org

Julie Salako, *Communications Director* | julie@stmatthewsevanston.org

Gregory Peebles, *Parish Administrator* | gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org

Jorge Lopez, *Handyman*

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info@stmatthewsevanston.org