



# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

A Neighborhood Church with a Worldwide Community

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Please stand if you are able during the portions indicated by a +. The congregation is invited to say the words in **bold** and to sing along to the music printed in the bulletin or in the red hymnals in the backs of the pews.

Please be aware that we live-stream our services on Facebook and your image may appear in the video.

If you do not want your image to appear, please speak to an usher.

## GATHERING

### + Opening Hymn

“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”



Sing of Mar - y pure and low - ly, Vir - gin-moth - er un - de - filed,  
Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, In the home at Naz - a - reth.  
Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; Glo - ry be to God the Son:



Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, Who be - came her lit - tle child.  
Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry Love en - dur - ing un - to death.  
Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; Glo - ry to the Three in One.



Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er, God the Lord who came to earth,  
Con - stant was the love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,  
From the heart of bless - ed Mar - y, From all saints the song as - cends,



Word made flesh, our ver - y broth - er, Takes our na - ture by his birth.  
Forth to preach, and heal, and suf - fer, Till on Cal - va - ry he died.  
And the church the strain re - ech - oes Un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

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Music: *Pleading Savior*, Joshua Leavitt (1794–1873). All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709211.

### + Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

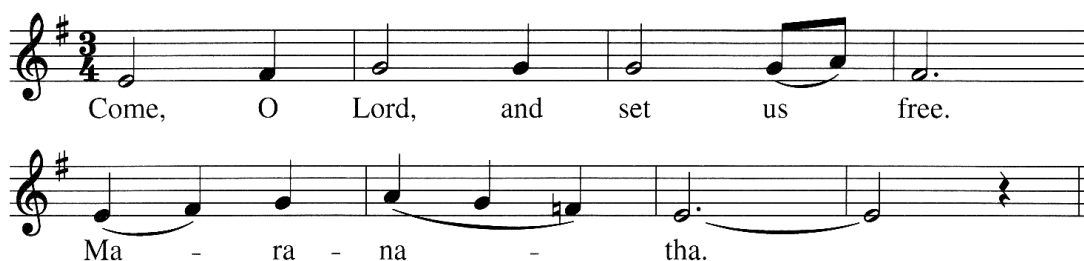
**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### + Welcome

### + Collect (Prayer) for Purity (*said by all*)

**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. Amen.**

+ **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (*cantor begins, the people repeat refrain*)



*Verse:* My being shouts out the greatness of God. My soul finds joy in my Lord.  
Choosing the lowly to serve in his name, he is my savior, my Lord.

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+ **Collect of the Day**

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.**

**WORD** *Please be seated.*

**First Lesson** *Micah 5:2-5a*

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**Psalm 80:1-7** (*please remain seated ~ congregation sings bold text*)



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading / Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon / the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, / and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come / to help us.  
**Restore / us, O God of hosts; \***  
**show the light of your countenance, and we / shall be saved.**

*The Psalms are prayers and songs to God from ancient Jewish worship that speak so powerfully to the human condition that they were incorporated into the Bible. Sometimes, they lift up voices of joyful praise. Other times, they speak from the places of deepest lament and sorrow.*

O /LORD God of hosts, \*  
 how long will you be angered despite the prayers of /your people?  
 You have fed them /with the bread of tears; \*  
 you have given them bowls of /tears to drink.  
 You have made us the derision /of our neighbors, \*  
 and our enemies laugh /us to scorn.

**Restore /us, O God of hosts; \***  
**show the light of your countenance, and we /shall be saved.**

**Second Lesson** *Hebrews 10:5–10*

When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

+ **Gospel Acclamation** (*cantor begins, the people repeat “Alleluia”*)

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
 \*Mar - a - nath - a, Al - le - lu - ia, Mar - a - nath - a, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Mar - a - nath - a, Al - le - lu - ia, Mar - a - nath - a, Al - le - lu - ia.

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+ **Gospel Reading** *Luke 1:39–55*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

Bethany Ringdal

*followed by silence*

+ **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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

*The Nicene Creed is a confession of faith from the fourth century that affirms the two great mysteries of Christian faith: that ultimate reality (God) is a community of love (the Trinity) and that God joins us in our life and suffering (the Incarnation of Jesus). We say it in unity with followers of Jesus around the world and across the ages.*

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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.

#### + Prayers of the People

*Place your hands together in prayer and move them back and forth.*

*(hands at forehead)*      **God be in my head and in my thinking.**  
*(hands at mouth)*        **God be in my mouth and in my speaking.**  
*(hands at heart)*        **God be in my heart and in my loving.**  
*(hands open palms up)*   **God be in my hands and in my helping.**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Come, Lord God, change us and we shall be changed. Increase our awareness of your presence.  
Awaken us to be ready and watchful for your coming.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

Fill your Church with your grace and goodness, that we may grow in holiness and hospitality,  
that we may reach out in mission and love, and that we may reveal your light and your glory.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

We pray for the nations of the world and for righteous dealings. We pray for reconciliation and  
peace as we approach the inauguration of our new president. We pray for our president and  
president-elect, and for all elected to public office, and for the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy,  
peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

We pray for those around the world who are devalued and discarded: for the poor, immigrants  
and refugees, and all who suffer from ethnic violence and prejudice.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

We give thanks for all who have taught us the faith and led us to you, for all who have given us  
a glimpse of your glory, especially Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, families, friends, and  
all who are dear to us.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

Lord of love, we pray for all who are consumed with hatred, all who do not know how to accept  
or receive forgiveness, all who are not at peace with themselves or the world. We remember  
those who are anxious or fearful at this time.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

Mighty God, you are our strength. We pray for all who are frail, weary and weak, all who are in pain or suffering, especially those listed on our parish prayer list. Are there others?

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

We pray for all who have lost or are separated from loved ones at this time. We remember those who will join us for Christmas and those who are alone.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

We remember the deceased members of St. Matthew's listed in the announcements. We remember especially Kurt Walther, who died this week. Are there others you wish to remember today? We give thanks for those who have been the light of Christ during their earthly pilgrimage and are now at peace in your kingdom.

Blessed Lord hear us **and set your people free.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you": Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution** (*please kneel as you are able*)

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*When we've heard God's word from the Bible and the sermon, and offered our communal prayers for the healing of ourselves and all of creation, we take a moment to be honest about our brokenness—and to hear God's steadfast promise of forgiveness and mercy. We then share the peace with each other as a sign of our reconciliation in Christ.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### + **Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

#### **TABLE Offertory**

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*If you wish to make a pledge for 2025, please place your pledge card in the offering basket. If you pledged online this week, you may place a laminated card found in the pew as a token of your pledge.*

"Ave Maria"

Jacques Arcadelt (c. 1507–1568)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;  
benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, pray for us. Amen.

## + Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**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 God thanks and praise.**

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:

## + Sanctus and benedictus

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord," with notes for "Ho - ly" and "Ho - ly" marked with a triplet bracket. The second line contains "God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry." with triplet brackets over "God of pow-er and might," "hea-ven and earth are", and "full of your glo - ry." The third line contains "Ho - san - na in the high - est. [cantor] Bles-sed is He who" with triplet brackets over "Ho - san - na in the high - est." and "Bles-sed is He who". The fourth line contains "comes in the name of the Lord. [all] Ho - san - na in the high - est." with triplet brackets over "comes in the name of the Lord." and "Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

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We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember his death,**  
**We proclaim his resurrection,**  
**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Matthew, Beatrice, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

+ **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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**

+ **Agnus Dei**

INVOCATIONS



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 2. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 3. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 4. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:



teach us your Word, have mer - cy on us \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 break us your bread, have mer - cy on us \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 pour us your wine, have mer - cy on us \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 give us your life, have mer - cy on us \_\_\_\_\_ .

FINAL INVOCATION



5. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world \_\_\_\_\_ ,



grant us your mer-cy, grant us your peace \_\_\_\_\_ .



+ **Invitation to Communion**

The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus and all those who love him. So come to this table you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been in a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

**Communion**

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Please come forward to receive communion.*

*If you cannot come forward for communion, please let an usher know and a clergy person will come to you.*

*We offer bread broken from a common loaf and wine from a common cup. The church teaches that you have received fully if you only receive the bread. If you choose to receive the wine, you are encouraged to drink directly from the common cup rather than to dip.*

*There are also individually-wrapped gluten-free wafers and a pewter chalice reserved for gluten-free.*

*If you would like the prayer team to pray for you, another person or family, or a local or global situation, please come to the side chapel after receiving communion. Please let them know if you would prefer they wear a mask.*

**Hymn During Communion**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Hymnal #54

+ **Postcommunion Prayer**

**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.**

*After we experience this foretaste of God's great heavenly banquet, to which people from every tribe and nation are invited, we are sent forward into the world to participate in God's healing of all creation. When the liturgy ends, our lives of service and worship continue beyond these doors, shaped by how God has met us here.*

**SENDING**

+ **Sending of Eucharistic Visitors** (*when requested*)

N., in the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that N., to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

+ **Farewell Blessing to the Rev. George Anne McDonnell**

+ **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

+ **Closing Hymn**

“Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus”

Hymnal #268

+ **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve our God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*If you are new to St. Matthew's and would like to learn more about our church, you are invited to come forward immediately after the service for a seven-minute welcome led by Joan Hershbell.*

*Scripture readings next week (The First Sunday after Christmas):  
Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23–25; 4:4–7; John 1:1–18*

## *Announcements*

### **Faith Formation**

St. Matthew's offers faith formation for all ages each week. After today, faith formation for all ages will be on break and will resume on Sunday, January 12. For more information on Sunday School and youth group, contact Mia Millares at [kids@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:kids@stmatthewsmn.org). For more information on the Faith Forum series on liturgy, please contact Chris Lilley at [chrisl@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:chrisl@stmatthewsmn.org). For more information on the Sunday Morning Book Group, please contact Linda López at [lindablopez@gmail.com](mailto:lindablopez@gmail.com).

### **Advent Supply Drive for Asylum Seekers**

Today we welcome guest preacher Bethany Ringdal, the Ministry Leader at Jonathan House, a community supporting asylum seekers in St Paul. If you have brought cleaning items for the supply drive she requested, please place them in the box labelled "Jonathan House Supply Drive" in the office hallway.

### **Greening of the Church and Gingerbread Houses**

Following the service on **Sunday, December 22**, children are invited to assist in the **Greening of the Church** (decorating the Christmas tree) in the sanctuary, and then go to the Parish Hall with their families to create gingerbread houses! To RSVP for this fun activity, please email Mia at [kids@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:kids@stmatthewsmn.org).

### **Christmas Poinsettias**

Today is the last day to make an offering for our Christmas poinsettias in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones. Envelopes are in the entryway and the pews, or you can use the form at [stmatthewsmn.org/poinsettias](http://stmatthewsmn.org/poinsettias). The amount of the donation is open. Questions? Email Lars at [lars@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:lars@stmatthewsmn.org).

### **Funeral Planning Workshop**

We encourage everyone to attend a funeral planning workshop at 2:00 pm on **Saturday, January 11**. We will learn how to plan for our own funerals and produce a directive. Staff and ministry leaders will be there to answer questions about the liturgy and music during the service and committal in our columbarium.

### **New Members Class**

If you have recently begun to worship with St. Matthew's, we invite you join us for two sessions of conversation. On **Sundays, January 12 and 19**, at 12:00 noon, come into the Gathering Room and enjoy some time together asking questions, sharing stories, enjoying fellowship, and getting some reading material (no tests involved!). Please let Lars in the office know if you plan to attend one or both meetings ([lars@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:lars@stmatthewsmn.org)). Those who choose to join can be formally welcomed on **Sunday, January 26**.

### ***Bearing Witness***

Kirsten Whitson will present her solo cello program *Bearing Witness* featuring pieces reflecting genocide, global racial injustice, and cultural loss at 5:00 pm on **Sunday, January 19**. We will invite donations at the door of \$20. Any excess over Kirsten's fee will go to Interfaith Action's work with asylum seekers.

### **Nursery closure**

The nursery is open today, but will not be available during the services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, nor next **Sunday, December 29**. Nursery for Sunday morning Eucharist will return on **Sunday, January 5**.

### **Staff vacation and office closures**

Christopher will be away from December 26 through January 2. We are arranging pastoral cover during this time; please look for an update from CCB for who you should contact. We will not hold our Wednesday Noonday Eucharist and Lunch the next two weeks, but will resume on **Wednesday, January 8**. The office will not be open for regular office hours the next two weeks.

### **Christmas Services at St. Matthew's**

- **Tuesday, December 24 | 4:00 pm Family Eucharist with the Living Creche** includes a lively, improvisational retelling of the Christmas story by the Rev. Christopher Rogers and Mia Millares
- **Tuesday, December 24 | 10:00 pm Choral Candlelight Eucharist** begins with a half hour of hymns and carols with the Parish Choir, and closes with handbells and handheld candles
- **Wednesday, December 25 | 10:30 am Festive Traditional Eucharist** features a sermon from Dave McEachron and music by a brass trio

## Spiritual Practice for Advent: The Fruits of the Spirit

*In the period leading up to the election we studied Galatians together in Faith Forum, a letter which addresses division, but we also encouraged each other to pray daily for the Fruits of the Spirit, which St. Paul writes about in chapter 5: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** It seems appropriate to keep praying for these as we approach January's inauguration, but as well as praying for them, this Advent let us also actively look for the fruits in our every day life, individually and as a community.*

Blessed and Glorious Trinity,

You are three persons and one God, in whom we live and move and have our being. We pray for reconciliation and peace as we approach the inauguration of our new president. Across the differences in our church and country, we pray together for the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Be with us and the leaders of all the nations, at this time and always, Amen.

## Prayer list

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of the Province of Uganda.

**Prayers:** Nancy, Ann, Jesse, Maya, and Rio, Bonnie, Chris, Sarah, and family, Vicki, Mary, Jenny, Dan, Elaine, Evelynne, Callum and Boden, Peg, June, Jarrett, Juola and Pat, Jon, Martha, Chris and Kristine, James and Barbara, Richard, Larry and Pam., Linda, Larry, Tom and Elaine, Marilyn and Peter, Nevin, Judy, Ruth and family, Lenny, Jewel, Steve, Ken, Michael, Michele, Gail, Raquel and family.

**Deceased:** (*recent*) Kurt Walther; (*Parish History*) Ernestine Miller, Edna Knowles King, Nancy Jane Colvin, J. A. Wilder, William Crickmer, Nancy Roberts, Martha Walbom Benson, Thomas Dunn, Leo R. Murray, Manshak Panmun Dahip, Else D. Goetz.

## Congregational Calendar

### Sunday, December 22 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am Sunday School (Parish Hall)
- 9:15 am Faith Forum led by Bethany Ringdal (library)
- 9:15 am Sunday Morning Book Group (Gathering Room)
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Bethany Ringdal preaching (sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Greening of the Church and Gingerbread Houses (sanctuary and Parish Hall)
- Deadline for Christmas Poinsettias offerings

### Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm Family Eucharist with the Living Creche (sanctuary)
- 10:00 pm Choral Candlelight Eucharist, Christopher Rogers preaching (sanctuary)

### Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day

- 10:30 am Festive Traditional Christmas Eucharist, Dave McEachron preaching (sanctuary)
- 1:00 pm Community Lunch (Parish Hall)
- 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal (sanctuary)

### Saturday, December 28

- 9:30 am Centering Prayer (library)

### Sunday, December 29 The First Sunday after Christmas

- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Dave McEachron preaching (sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 pm Young(er) Adults Lunch (Lanna Thai)

### All weekdays

- 8:00 am Daily Morning Prayer (Zoom)

*For more information about any of these offerings or the Zoom links,  
please email [office@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:office@stmatthewsmn.org).*

## *St. Matthew's staff*

The Rev. Christopher Rogers, Rector, rector@stmatthewsmn.org

The Rev. Dave McEachron, Curate, dave@stmatthewsmn.org

MiaLisa McFarland Millares, Director of Children's and Youth Ministry, kids@stmatthewsmn.org

Chris Lilley, Resident for Discipleship and Engagement, chrisl@stmatthewsmn.org

The Rev. George Anne McDonnell, Pastoral Care Priest, revgeorgeanne@gmail.com

J Michael Compton, Music Director, jmichaelcompton@aol.com

Lars Christensen, Office Manager and Communications Director, office@stmatthewsmn.org

Fariba Sanikhatam, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@stmatthewsmn.org

## *Wardens*

Terese Lewis, Senior Warden, lewiskiehne@gmail.com

Barrett Fisher, Junior Warden, barrettf215@gmail.com

## *Ministry leaders*

Elizabeth O'Toole, Altar Guild

Judy Johnson, Healing Ministry

Kate Vold and Cathy Wilkowske, Acolytes

Gwen Odney, Readers and Prayer Leaders

Laura Bathke, Vergers

## *Today's worship leaders*

Bethany Ringdal, guest preacher

Liam Kiehne and Susan Hardman, readers

Elizabeth Hosch, prayer leader

Kennedy Nyenya, verger

Clara Hosch, crucifer

Michaela Lilley and Sophia Powell, torchbearers

Mike and Linda López, ushers

Elizabeth Hosch and Janet Murphy, chalice bearers

Lis Christenson and Heather Halker, Healing Prayer

Paul Kiehne, live-streaming

Loice Howard and Liam Kiehne, nursery

Aine Johnson, childcare assistant

Heather Halker, hospitality team coordinator

Joan Hershbell, seven-minute welcome

Mike López and Vicki McKenna, counters

Christopher Sibia, cantor

Jenny Bach, Peter Cartford, Lars Christensen, David Colwell, Laura Corcoran, Heather Craig,

Elaine Eyre (on leave), Kristine Granias, Lynn Jenkins, Judy Jones, Susan Jones,

Dave McKenna, Christopher Sibia, and Dave Wilkowske, choir



## **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**

A Neighborhood Church with a Worldwide Community

2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 + 651-645-3058

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