



Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

*Growing in Love to Become One
with God's Purpose*

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

8:00 a.m.

Organ Voluntary

Processional Hymn: 659 (vs.1,2&4)

“O Master, let me walk with thee”

Verse 1

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Verse 2

Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Verse 4

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

The Word of God

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

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity (Celebrant)

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

Trisagion- S100

Holy God

Holy and Mighty

Holy Immortal One

Have mercy upon us

Collect of the Day

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.*

A reading from Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

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.

The Epistle

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: 661 (vs.1&3)

“They cast their nets in Galilee”

Verse 1

They cast their nets in Galilee
Just off the hills of brown;
Such happy, simple fisher-folk,
Before the Lord came down.

Verse 3

Young John who trimmed the flapping sail,
Homeless, in Patmos died.
Peter, who hauled the teeming net,
Head down was crucified.

Reading from the Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Clergy: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory be to thee, O Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you

know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

Andrew Kellner

The 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. 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

The Celebrant says:

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer

unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially for our current President, Donald J. Trump, and the President-Elect, Joseph R. Biden, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Terry, Carol, Phil, Mary Lou, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Dorothea, Bob and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially remembering Bert and Craig Holt in whose memory the altar flowers are given, and those whose lives have been taken by the coronavirus pandemic; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

God, our Gracious Shepherd, we offer you our deepest worship and honor for your faithfulness to the people of St. Matthew's through the years. You have blessed us with faithful clergy and leaders who have led us to you, nurtured us in your care, and encouraged us in our work for you. Today, we are particularly grateful that you have led us to our new rector, Father Rodney Roehner, who will walk with us in the next chapter of our common life and ministry. Be with him and his family as they say farewell to their current parish and community and as they prepare to come to us. Provide everything necessary for their life and salvation as they travel and begin to settle in our midst.

Prepare our hearts to receive them into our parish family with patience and joy. Provide from your bounty all that we need to follow the mission you have set before us all in the years to come as priest and people. In your most Holy Name we pray. *Amen.*

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says the following:

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

The Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy S114

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

Christ Our Passover S154

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Anthem: 662

“Abide with me: fast falls the eventide”

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Parish Announcements

Closing Hymn: 232

“By all your saints still striving”

Verse 1

By all your saints still striving,
for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus for evermore be blessed.
You rose, our King victorious, that they might wear the crown and ever shine in splendor
reflected from your throne.

Verse 3

Then let us praise the Father and worship God the Son
and sing to God the Spirit, eternal three in One,
till all the ransomed number
who stand before the throne

ascribe all power and glory
and praise to God alone.

Organ Voluntary

Worship Update from the Rector's Warden

We have some disappointing news, which most of you are probably expecting. Beginning Sunday, November 29, we are shifting from the current modified in-person worship service to 100% virtual. As you are aware, the Covid infection rates are climbing, and we have no reason to expect this trend to reverse anytime soon. We have been watching and hoping for the rates to decline, or even flatten - but they have not.

After having numerous conversations, consulting with Father Rodney, and reviewing the cautionary directive from the Bishop, we believe the prudent decision is to refrain from in-person services for the foreseeable future. This decision does not come lightly, but we feel by being pro-active with this decision we help protect the health of our congregation, staff and community. Secondly, by making this decision now, we can focus all our energy and planning for the best possible online service experience.

To be clear, **services on November 29 through December 13 will be streamed on Facebook Live at both 8:00 a.m and 9:30 a.m.** We may have additional changes after December 13, as Father Rodney will be joining us on December 20. We plan for Christmas Eve services to also be virtual only, with more details to follow.

I appreciate your patience as we work through the details, but in the meantime, please feel free to call me with any questions.

Chris Suhy, Rector's Warden

FROM THE VESTRY

Welcome Newly Elected Vestry Members: Nancy Austin, John Gill, Karen Sawyer
Rotating off with our thanks: Joe Buesgen, Tim Jennings, Chris Strittmatter

LIFE LONG LEARNING MINISTRY

Adult Lifelong Learning Forum: Continues this morning at 11:00 AM. Led by a group of rotating leaders, the forum aims to focus on understanding the root causes of systemic racism, and how Christians are called to respond. Join the forum every Sunday at 11:00 AM on Zoom here: <https://zoom.us/j/98376656289?pwd=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRaIFtQT09>

Christmas Pageant 2020: It remains a challenge for Saint Matthew's to gather in person during this most special and holy season. In times like these, I wonder how technology might bring us together?

What is a virtual pageant? A *virtual pageant* means that we won't be performing inside of our church building this year. Instead, we'll each record our lines in advance, combine them together, and interact with a recording being streamed live to our homes. Though this experience might feel new and maybe even a bit strange, *do not be afraid!* With your help, all of us will be able to create a memorable, joyful, and holy memory as Saint Matthew's this year.

How will it work?

Anyone can participate, but we will prioritize children for the major roles! After you or your family signs up as a participant, they'll be sent a few lines from our pageant script. From there we'll ask you to record those lines, and send them to us when you're done. We'll stitch all of the clips from Saint Matthew's together into one pageant *movie*, which you'll be able to interact with at your home during the Advent and Christmas seasons. You'll also be able to keep pageant forever, and send it to your loved ones with the click of a button.

What Now?

We're asking families to sign-up to participate by heading to: <https://tinyurl.com/yyekqzqf> Around December 8th, we'll send your family a few lines to record — we'll ask if you'd like to create your own costumes, or if you'd like Saint Matthew's to lend you a few of our own. Once you record your lines, we'll show you how to send them to us. We ask that you do this before **December 20th**.

Who Do I Go To With Questions?

Reach out to a member of the Pageant Team! Anthony Carrella, Janine Buesgen, Antonia Edwards, and Martha Reynolds.

Parish Transition Committee

The Rvd. Rodney Roehner, his wife Carolina, and their twin daughters Alexa and Sophia will arrive in Pennsylvania at or around December 7th. While the family's residence in Lower Gwynedd is being prepared, they will reside in a comfortable, local AirBNB. The Transition Committee invites you in welcoming Fr. Rodney for yourself! Choose a welcoming option that works best for you and your family this season.

Send a Word of Welcome

Say hello to Fr. Rodney and his family by sharing a word of welcome here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3nprkg6>. Entries will be compiled into a parish-wide welcome card. You may also choose to write a physical card and mail it to Saint Matthew's Church, c/o Anthony Carrella.

Recommend Favorite Local Opportunities

Submit a recommendation of your favorite restaurants, recreational, cultural, and family opportunities in the area here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3nprkg6>

Purchase Groceries for the *Pounding of the Pantry*

Sign-up to purchase grocery staples here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6xabtck> as we *pound* Fr. Rodney's pantry.

Prepare and Deliver a Home-cooked Meal

Sign-up to make a family-style meal during over a six week period here: <https://tinyurl.com/y57e7pjb>.

Donate Toward a Welcome Gift

Contribute toward a gift card for Fr. Rodney (under \$50) here: <https://saintmattsec.org/giving>
Click "Make an Online Gift" and you may choose a gift type. Alternatively, you may also choose to send your contribution to Saint Matthew's Church, c/o Carolyn Bedics.



Welcome to another
year of collecting
bears for Operation
Bear Hug!

Saint Matthew's is spreading Christmas cheer by collecting and donating brand-new bears to local centers including [Fox Subacute](#) and other senior residences in our community. We are hoping for a record-breaking year — our goal is to collect over 300 bears!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Purchase a brand-new bear and drop it off in the boxes by the kitchen, or outside St. Matthew's (919 Tennis Ave, Maple Glen) in the plastic bins at the lower parking lot entrance to the Narthex.
- Purchase a brand-new bear online via an online retailer or Amazon (<https://tinyurl.com/operationbearhug2020> for options) and send to Lisa Walsh. Her home address is below.
- Make a donation through our online giving page <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1645637> by choosing "Operation Bear Hug" from the dropdown menu, and we will purchase bears for you!

Please help us make someone feel special and loved this Christmas season, especially since so many are unable to be with their loved ones.