

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
Growing in Love to Become One with God's Purpose



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Prelude: "The Way" (New Horizon)

by Pat Barrett

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

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

Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.*

Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

People: Christ have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

Let us pray

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 145:1-8

Exaltabo te, Deus

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

A reading from Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Meditation: “*Song of Jabez*”

by Paul Baloché

Chorus

Lord oh that You would bless me indeed
And enlarge my territory
That Your hand would be with me
And You would keep my heart from evil
Amen

Bridge

Bless me Lord
Bless me Lord
So that I might be
A blessing to this world

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not

allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Peter Stube

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.

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we may all be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble especially Terry, Carol, Phil, Mary Lou, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance and Dorothea;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

O Lord, you have blessed Saint Matthew's with wonderful priests who have led our congregation to share your love and serve you unselfishly. You promise to be with us, to help us, and to guide us always. We ask that you guide our discernment as we consider candidates for our next Rector. We know that you will provide a Rector who will assist us in fulfilling your purposes in the world. We ask for spiritual discernment and ask that you bless those who we meet during the search process. Thank you for listening to us and blessing us always. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution *Almighty God, have mercy upon 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 Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

We lift our hearts to you, gracious God,
because you made the dazzling creation out of nothing,
yet made us to share eternity with you.
In covenant love you called your chosen people to an imagination
as plentiful as the stars in the sky and the sands of the desert.
Your Son Jesus transformed our hearts
from the scarcity of mammon to the wondrous abundance of manna,
and through the church you gather us to share in the holy feast
where your grace abounds for all, forever.
His cross and resurrection turn the emptiness of sin
into the fullness of everlasting life.
And so we join with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.

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

We give you thanks and praise, Lord God,
for in your Son Jesus you became the true bread from heaven,
the manna sustaining us in every wilderness,
the bread of abundant life that never runs out.
Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now,
that we might become living bread for your hungry world.
Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine
and make them for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, too bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”
After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“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.
Do this, as often as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me”.

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Ever-bountiful God, listen to the hunger of your children
and nourish their true life in you.

Draw near to those who toil for daily wages
and all who wonder where they will find daily bread.
Bless any whose days are spent looking for work or waiting for hire.
Give each of your sons and daughters a place in your kingdom
and fruitful work in your vineyard,
not only for a passing day but for eternity.
By your Holy Spirit in your holy church,
make the labors of our hands tell the good news
of your harvest of plenty,
and hasten the day when in one great sharing around your table
with your people throughout the ages
we shall taste and see that you are good.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
all honor and glory are yours,
Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

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

The Lord's Prayer

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 Celebrant breaks the bread.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the Feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion will now be served in the back of the church. Please wear your mask until you are back in your pew at which time it can be removed to consume the host.

Communion Song: “I Am the Bread of Life”

by Jon Michael Talbot

Chorus

I am the Bread of Life

All who eat this Bread will never die

I am God's love revealed

I am broken that you might be healed

Verse 1

All who eat of this heavenly Bread
All who drink this cup of the covenant
You will live forever
For I will raise you up

Verse 2

No one who comes to Me shall ever hunger again
No one who believes shall ever thirst
All that the Father draws shall come to Me
And I will give them rest

Closing 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.

Blessing

Parish Announcements

Song of Service: “*One Way*”

by Joel Houston and Jonathon Douglass

Verse 1

I lay my life down at Your feet
You're the only One I need
I turn to You and You are always there
In troubled times it's You I seek
I put You first that's all I need
I humble all I am all to You

Chorus

One way Jesus
You're the only One that I could live for
One way Jesus
You're the only One that I could live for
One way Jesus
You're the only One that I could live for
One way Jesus
You're the only One that I could live for

Verse 2

You are always
Always there
Every how and every where
Your grace abounds so deeply within me
You will never ever change
Yesterday today the same
Forever 'til forever meets no end

Bridge

You are the Way
The Truth and the Life
We live by faith and not by sight
For You
We're living all for You
You are the Way
The Truth and the Life
We live by faith and not by sight
For You
We're living all for You

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The Lifelong Learning Ministry

What is Lifelong Learning?

Lifelong Learning is a new way to frame *Christian Education* at Saint Matthew's. It is a ministry geared to serve each of us — children, youth, and adults alike. It is a space where non-believers, young seekers, new inquirers, and the stalwart alike come together to dwell in the presence and message of Christ. It is a space where we teach and admonish one another to seek out God's call to us and live by Jesus' Way of Love proclaimed by the Gospel. It is a mature and relevant space for wrestling with ideas, and an accessible, safe space for families to learn together. Our diverse team of beloved catechesis professionals, experienced lay leaders, and compassionate clergy are prepared to provide you and your family with consistent programs amid the pandemic. And most importantly, to support your unique Christian call through learning at all stages of life.

What are the offerings of the Lifelong Learning Ministry?

Children (K - 5)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: *students and parents are invited to a live monthly Zoom session on Zoom, and participate in an activity. For those who cannot attend, a recording of the session will be made available on our social media channels for use at home. Zoom links will be posted on the Saint Matt's website, and a reminder e-mail will be sent the evening prior to all families.*

September: The LORD'S PRAYER: Zoom on 9/13 at 8:45 am.

October: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: Zoom on 10/11 at 8:45 am.

Youth (Grade 6 - 12)

Here's why you'll want to join us this year:

TWO PARTS...

We've got two youth groups now, a Middle *and* a High School group.

... OF ONE WHOLE.

You'll be invited to *two* youth group meetings per month: one specifically for kids of your own age group (MS/HS), and another where all of us meet together.

RESPECT YOUR TIME.

The sessions are only forty minutes long, and they're fun. All of us will be sharing conversations, working through the same bible study (a book and materials are provided to you free of cost), and have fun playing games.

**FEED YOUR CURIOSITY. EXPLORE NEW PERSPECTIVES. SERVE.
HAVE FUN.**

We'll explore topics and concepts that are interesting and actually relevant to what's going on in the world right now. We'll explore fresh theological perspectives from contemporary voices, including those of black, latinx, female, LGBT, and gender queer scholars. And we'll have fun doing it on Zoom and in person when it is safe. We have opportunities for performing outreach as well, and we will discuss these in-person at our first session.

HELP US DISCERN MISSION TRIP 2021

Who knows if we'll be able to go on Mission Trip in 2021. It *could* be possible, and because mission trips take planning, and planning takes time, we will need your help and input week after week to discern how we might serve next summer. How we might make a community decision to embark on a trip, or to plan an alternative activity? How would we make others comfortable to travel amid COVID-19? What extra considerations do we need to take? How will creatively raise money for the trip? We need your help figuring all of this, and much more, out.

The world can feel like a hard place right now. But there are many of us going through the same things. If you need a safe spot to express your feelings and find some support, come join us. Seriously. We're trying to impart a *spread the love* vibe here. All are welcome. No matter who you are. Connection information will be sent via postcard to your homes, and email/text reminders will be sent out as well.

Join us on Wednesdays at 5:00 - 5:40 PM through the end of December.

Log in to youth group week after week: <https://zoom.us/j/91363746529>

To register for your free materials please visit:

<https://forms.gle/hKKJrqUwSyKzU4Xo7>

Signup for text communications by visiting:

<https://www.remind.com/join/acarrella>

	September	October	November	December
High School	9.16	10.14	11.11	12.9
Middle School	9.23	10.21	11.18	12.16
All Youth	9.30	10.28	11.25	12.23

Adults

New comers and regulars alike gather in the Saint Matthew's virtual ministry space each week to pray, provide pastoral counsel, and to teach each through Jesus' Way of Love. Lay leaders and clergy support this work by offering a ministry of presence, and by providing opportunities for lifelong scriptural and theological education for adults.

ADULT LIFELONG LEARNING FORUM

- Held on Sundays after services at 11:00 AM over Zoom.
- We will begin on September 13 at 11:00 am.
- You can join us on Zoom here week after week: <https://zoom.us/j/98791689123>
- You can access the materials here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cEb77sPLdg012jTiQGc9RPEzGdc38XDF?usp=sharing>

This is a unique season in ministry. We are prepared to offer the adults of Saint Matthew's a stimulating, Christ-centered education that empowers them to seek out their Christian call and discern their Christian identity. Throughout this Fall and winter, we will be reading and reflecting on important texts, listening to and discussing on podcasts, and sharing our own thoughts and experiences as we journey together. We will utilize several wonderful resources developed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to guide our feet. One of these tools is called *The Way of Love*, and the other is called *Becoming Beloved Community*. These two programs will beckon God's people to consider the ways we commune with the Spirit and how we live according to Christ's message of radical love and compassion through acts of mercy and humility. If *you* have ideas about what *you* want to talk about or discuss, or to lead a session, please reach out to Jon Clark, Karen Randall, or Fr. Peter.

PRAYER GROUPS

The people of Saint Matthew's gather weekly for prayer and conversational gatherings.

Mondays at 7:30 PM (every other week): is Bible Study, currently studying the Gospel of Matthew, Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/94688281383>

Tuesdays at 7:30 PM: is the Prayer and Share group.

Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/91358309441?pwd=ZE9TekhITINsNTFkTjBOVEFhaU84QT09>

Wednesdays at 12:00 PM: is Noon Day Prayer

Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/94299702146>

Thursdays at 9:00 AM: is Morning Prayer

Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93689641213>