

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



**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 4, 2020**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Prelude: “Cornerstone”**

by Eric Liljero, Rueben Morgan, Jonas Myrin

*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*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are

not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Psalm 80:7-14**

#### *Qui regis Israel*

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; \*  
you cast out the nations and planted it.
- 9 You prepared the ground for it; \*  
it took root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow \*  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea \*  
and its branches to the River.
- 12 Why have you broken down its wall, \*  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, \*  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- 14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;  
behold and tend this vine; \*  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

### **A reading from Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider

that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Meditation: “Take My Life”**

by Scott Underwood

Verse 1

Holiness holiness  
Is what I long for  
Holiness is what I need  
Holiness holiness  
Is what You want from me

Verse 2

Faithfulness faithfulness  
Is what I long for  
Faithfulness is what I need  
Faithfulness faithfulness  
Is what You want from me

Chorus

So take my heart and form it  
Take my mind transform it  
Take my will conform it  
To Yours to Yours oh Lord

Verse 3

Righteousness righteousness  
Is what I long for  
Righteousness is what I need  
Righteousness righteousness  
Is what You want from me

**Reading from the Gospel**

**Matthew 21:33-46**

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

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But

when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*Clergy:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

**Jennifer Walters**

## **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, especially remembering Patricia Oram who died this past week;  
*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.

It is our duty and our joy to thank and praise you, Father of mercies,  
because when the gift of your grace was rejected by your creation people  
you offered it to your chosen people,  
and when it was rejected by your chosen people  
you offered it once more in your Son.

When your Son was rejected and crucified you came not in wrath  
but in the power of your Holy Spirit  
to spread the good news  
of restoration, reconciliation, and resurrection,  
beginning in Jerusalem and on to the ends of the earth.

And so we stand before you  
not in fear of your judgement but rejoicing in your abundant mercy,  
joining with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,  
to sing 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.**

You give us so much, gracious God,  
but everything we have is loss  
compared to the wondrous love we see in your Son Jesus Christ.  
On the night before your Son died  
we took away everything you gave us in him,  
and yet you gave us a meal.  
Now in this wonderful sacrament

we give you everything we know how to give you,  
praying that you will give us Christ in the form of this meal.  
Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now,  
that we might become the body of Christ that you give us to eat.  
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, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given to 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 you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God the Alpha and Omega,  
you are the wisdom from which we come,  
and you are the destiny to which we are going.  
You abide among us, between us, and within us.  
Where your servants are rejected, sustain them.  
Where your messengers are beaten, renew them.  
Where your children are cast out, give them hope of justice and vindication.  
Where your vineyard is in the hands of headstrong tenants,  
bring your liberation, bring your transformation,  
bring your righteousness, until the day comes  
when we and your suffering people see you face to face,  
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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: "Sweet Jesus"*

by Selah and Jill Philips

Sweet Jesus, my Savior  
You are my faithful friend  
You made me, You know me  
And You see my every sin

And my soul is amazed  
By this gift of Your grace  
And these arms that take me in

Sweet Jesus, my Savior  
You are my faithful friend

Sweet Jesus, my shelter  
You are my faithful friend  
The refuge that I run to  
When my world comes closing in

Why should I be afraid  
When I know I am saved  
By the arms that take me in

Sweet Jesus, my shelter  
You are my faithful friend, oh yeah

Sweet Jesus, my shepherd  
You are my faithful friend...

### **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: *"Forever Reign"*

by Jason Ingram and Rueben Morgan

##### Verse 1

You are good You are good  
When there's nothing good in me  
You are love You are love  
On display for all to see  
You are light You are light  
When the darkness closes in  
You are hope You are hope  
You have covered all my sin

##### Verse 2

You are peace You are peace  
When my fear is crippling  
You are true You are true  
Even in my wandering  
You are joy You are joy  
You're the reason that I sing  
You are life You are life  
In You death has lost its sting

##### Chorus

(Oh) I'm running to Your arms  
I'm running to Your arms  
The riches of Your love will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your embrace  
Light of the world forever reign

##### Verse 3

You are more You are more  
Than my words will ever say  
You are Lord You are Lord  
All creation will proclaim  
You are here You are here  
In Your presence I'm made whole  
You are God You are God  
Of all else I'm letting go

Bridge  
My heart will sing no other Name  
Jesus Jesus  
(REPEAT 4X)

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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=ZE9TekhITlnsNTFkTjBOVEFhaU84QT09>

**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>