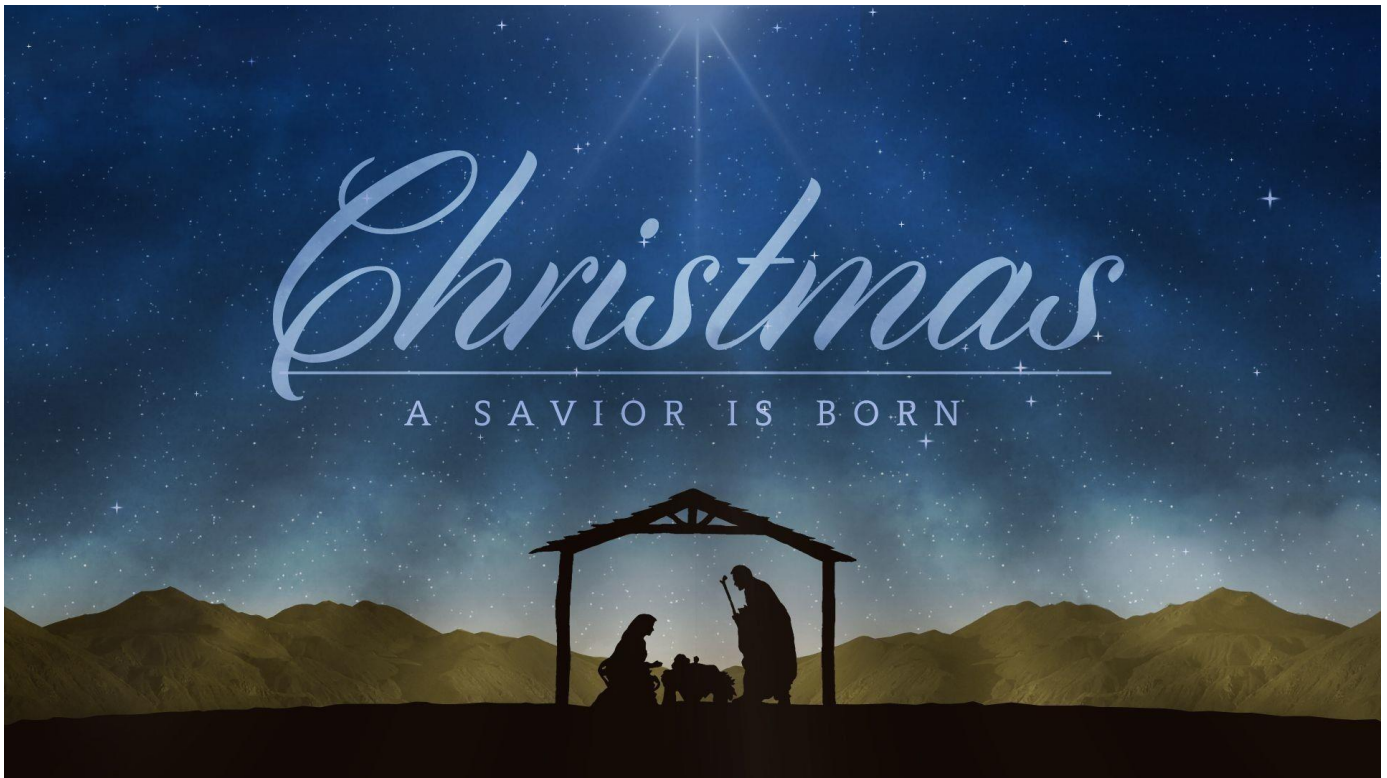


**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**

**December 27, 2020**

**The Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service**



**919 Tennis Ave**  
**Maple Glen, PA 19002**  
**215-646-4092**  
[saintmattsec.org](http://saintmattsec.org)  
**Rev. Rodney Roehner**

## Opening Hymn

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues with the Collect of Purity*

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.**

## Hymn of Praise

*Glory to God Forever*

**by Steve Fee and Vicky Beeching**

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Lessons *Please be seated*

### Old Testament

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 147:13-21 (read responsively by whole verse)**

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;

**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.**

15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.**

17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?**

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

**20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

**New Testament**

**Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Meditation**

*The Lord Is My Light*

**by The Community of Taize**

**Gospel**

**John 1:1-18**

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon** (*seated*)

**The Nicene Creed** (*all standing*)

**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 all may 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 Daniel our bishop, Rodney our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for Donald our President, Joseph our President-elect, Thomas our Governor, and 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 Dorothea, Terry, Carol, Phil, Mary Lou, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Dorothea, Bob, Kathy, and all those with the coronavirus;

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed, especially Dorothea Blenk, eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Matthew, our patron, and all 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. We pray for our church family and preschool, for all who serve in our nation in the armed forces and their families, for first responders and health care workers, for those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. We also pray for the protection of persecuted Christians throughout the world, and that all may come to the knowledge and love of Christ. I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

## **General Confession**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* **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.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

## **The Peace** *(all stand)*

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

*People* **And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

*Then is said in unison*

**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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Matthew, our patron, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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.**

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

**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.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says*

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

## Holy Communion

**Spiritual Communion** – *for those watching online*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where your Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my soul. I unite myself unto you, and embrace you with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in Thy Love. Amen.

**Communion Hymn**      *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*      **by Matthew Preston Slocum**

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All*      Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant says the following blessing*

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Service Hymn**      *Angels We Have Heard on High*

### **Dismissal**

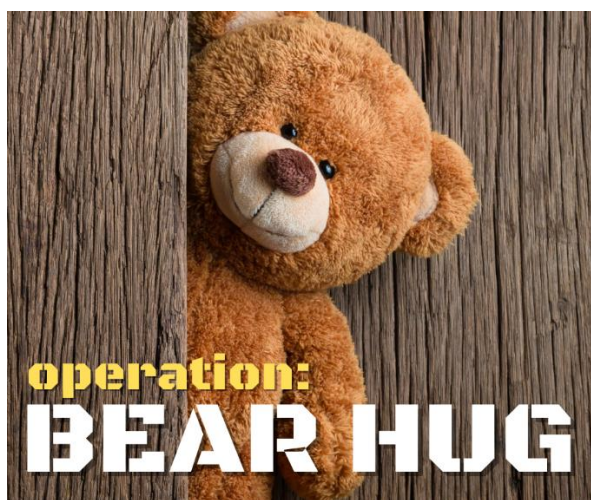
*Celebrant*    Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

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### **Help Father Rodney Get to Know You!**

Given the current pandemic situation, it isn't safe to hold the kind of in-person gatherings that we would like with our new rector. Help Father Rodney put faces to names by sending him an email at [rector@saintmattsec.org](mailto:rector@saintmattsec.org) with photos of you and your family!



### **OPERATION BEAR HUG UPDATE**

Thank you, thank you!! Over **575** (!! ) bears were collected to share with seniors and hospital patients this Christmas. Many parts of our broader community came together to make this happen, including our Nursery School, and friends and family of members of our congregation.

Many thanks also to those who worked so hard to meet these goals. Please visit our website for photos: [www.saintmattsec.org](http://www.saintmattsec.org)

## **Lifelong Learning Adult Forum:**

The Adult Forum will be joining with many other Episcopal parishes during Epiphany, reading the Gospel of Mark. Organized by Forward Movement, the Gospel is divided into daily readings, which we will be discussing in our education hour on Sunday mornings. You can find more information

@ [www.goodbookclub.org](http://www.goodbookclub.org). Please join us! <https://tinyurl.com/LLLForum>

Here is a listing of the dates and the verses covered:

January 3 - Introduction and Mark 1  
January 10 - Mark 2 through Mark 4  
January 17- Mark 5:1-7:13  
January 24 - Mark 7:14-9:32  
January 31- Mark 9:33-11:33  
February 7 - Mark 12:1-14:11  
February 14 - Mark 14:12 - 16:20 (end)

## **2021 Pledge Envelopes**

If you requested pledge envelopes, they are now available in a bin at the top of the steps outside the narthex double doors.



*Where your  
treasure is,  
there will  
your heart  
be also.  
Math 6:21*

# My Offering

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_