

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



*John the Baptist.* Acrylic, Spray Paint on Canvas. Dustin Parent, 2014

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 6, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Prelude**

**Organ Voluntary**

**Processional Hymn: H1982 No. 75**

***“There's a voice in the wilderness crying”***

**Verse 1**

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places,  
where the Lord our God may go!

**Verse 2**

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay,  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away;

**Verse 3**

but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;  
he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.  
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold;  
to pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

## — 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**

*The Celebrant says:*

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 H1982 | S100**

*Holy God*

*Holy and Mighty*

*Holy Immortal One*

*Have mercy upon us*

### **Collect of the Day**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Old Testament**

**Isaiah 40: 1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## **The Response**

### **Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13**

#### ***Benedixisti, Domine***

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

## The Epistle

## 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn: H1982 | 462

## *“The Lord will come and not be slow”*

### Verse 1

The Lord will come and not be slow,  
his footsteps cannot err;  
before him righteousness shall go,  
his royal harbinger.

### Verse 4

The nations all whom thou hast made  
shall come, and all shall frame  
to bow them low before thee, Lord,  
and glorify thy Name.

### Verse 5

For great thou art, and wonders great  
by thy strong hand are done:  
thou in thy everlasting seat  
remainest God alone.

## The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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

*People:* Glory be to thee, O Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Clergy:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

## Sermon

The Rvd. Náz Javier

## 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 Ella, 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 — particularly Bill Meyers, who passed away early on Thursday morning. Additionally, we pray for 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**

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

*People:* And with thy spirit.

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

*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.

### **Eucharistic Prayer I**

*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*

**H1982 | S114 : *Holy, Holy, Holy***

*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*

**O**ur 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 will be sung*

## **Agnus Dei H1982 | S164**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

*This prayer is an ancient prayer of the Church. Its old forms can be found in St. Augustine's Prayer book, and in every Intercession Paper of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. At this time of the Virus when we cannot be physically present, it can become a way to receive a spiritual communion as we watch a living streaming Mass.*

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
*Amen.*

## Communion Hymn: H1982 | 324

*After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let Us Pray.*

*The Priest gives the blessing*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

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: H1982 | 65

### *“Prepare the way, O Zion”*

#### Verse 1

Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

#### Verse 2

He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

#### Verse 3

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him,  
their voices will adore him.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

## — PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS —

## 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*. In January, the Adult LLL Forum will begin a month-long study of the Gospel of Mark. You can join the forum each Sunday by logging on here: <https://zoom.us/j/98376656289?pwd=OmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRalFtOT09>

**Sunday School:** Is a virtual learning opportunity streamed live on the second Sunday of the month. Before the lesson is offered, children and their parents can pick-up engaging materials at no cost in the lower parking lot of Saint Matthew's. Then, families can choose how they interact with our lessons — join us live at 8:45 AM on the second Sunday, or review our recorded lesson posted on our Facebook page and church website. The next lesson will be held remotely on December 13th at 8:45 AM. Materials are available for pickup now. You can join us here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6mdedqq>

**Youth Group:** Is taking a break from our bible study on James' letter for the month of December. Instead, we'll meet on December 16th for a virtual Christmas Party held over Zoom. We'll catchup, play some games, and finish with a Christmas movie depending on the turn out. Stay tuned for updates on our program in January! You can join our party here: <https://zoom.us/j/91363746529>

**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 very soon — around December 7th, 2020. 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**

<https://tinyurl.com/y3nprkg6> or call the parish office.

### **Recommend Favorite Local Opportunities**

<https://tinyurl.com/y3nprkg6> or call the parish office.

### **Purchase Groceries for the Pounding of the Pantry**

Sign-up to purchase grocery staples as we pound Fr. Rodney's pantry by going to <https://tinyurl.com/y6xabtck> or by calling the parish office.

### **Prepare and Deliver a Home-cooked Meal**

<https://tinyurl.com/y57e7pjb> or call the parish office.

### **Donate Toward a Welcome Gift**

<https://saintmattsec.org/giving> You may also choose to send your contribution to Saint Matthew's Church, c/o Carolyn Bedics.

We know the hospitality and warmth of this blessed place abounds. Should you have any questions, please contact any member of the Transition Committee below. Joyfully, **Chris Suhy, Anthony Carrella, Jon Clark, Connie Dee, Treva McLaughlin, Pam Dunlap, and Antonia Edwards**.

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**Operation Bear Hug 2020:** Saint Matthew's is spreading Christmas cheer by collecting and donating brand-new bears to local centers including Fox Subacute and other senior residences. We are hoping for a record-breaking year — our goal is to collect over 300 bears! We presently have 164 bears and will need about 150 more to fulfill the needs of three senior centers, and Abington/Lansdale Hospital. We will be collecting bears until December 21.

If you have any questions about Operation Bear Hug, please reach out to Lisa Walsh. Here's how to get involved:

- 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 (see our Wish List: <https://tinyurl.com/y26yrs2m> and send to Lisa Walsh. Her home address is: 126 Morning Walk Dr, Warrington PA, 18976. Call her at: (215) 518-3316
- Make a donation through our online giving page by choosing "Operation Bear Hug" from the dropdown menu, and we will purchase bears for you!

## STEWARDSHIP 2020

### **Don't forget to make your pledge of support for 2021**

Our current stewardship campaign has a goal of 140 pledges (our 2019 number) for \$357,000. That amount will allow us to continue our current level of staffing to support our new rector. Our new rector is anxious to direct both new and current programs to help us realize our hopes and dreams as a church community. Many thanks to those of you who have made your pledge already. For those who have not, pledges may be made online (just click on the "make a pledge" graphic in your weekly emails, or visit our website), or you may email the parish manager [parishmanager@saintmattsec.org](mailto:parishmanager@saintmattsec.org), or contact the parish office, (215) 646 - 4092.

### FROM THE RECTOR'S WARDEN

#### Worship Update from Sunday, November 22, 2020

We have some disappointing news, which most of you are probably expecting. Beginning on 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 Fr. 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 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. We may have additional changes after December 13, as Fr. Rodney will be joining us on December 20. We plan for Christmas Eve services to also be virtual only, with more details to follow [...] Please let me know if you have 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

ST MATTHEW'S INVITES YOU TO  
OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 P.M. EUCHARIST &  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (VIA  
ZOOM)

5:00 P.M. CONTEMPORARY  
EUCHARIST (LIVESTREAM)

7:00 TRADITIONAL  
EUCHARIST (LIVESTREAM)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 A.M. HOLY  
EUCHARIST  
(LIVESTREAM)

