

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021 – 9:00 AM
The Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service



Christ Pantocrator – Cathedral of Cefalu, Sicily

919 Tennis Ave
Maple Glen, PA 19002
215-646-4092
saintmattsec.org
Rev. Rodney Roehner

Prelude

Here I Am To Worship

by **Tim Hughes** (instrumental)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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 forever. **Amen.**

Gather

Here I Am To Worship

by **Tim Hughes**

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.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and

great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons *Please be seated*

New Testament Reading

I Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

We Will Glorify

by Twila Paris

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

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

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

Jesus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away,

but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon (*seated*)

Rev. David Robinson

Faith Song

I Believe in Jesus

by Kathryn Scott

The Prayers of the People

As we keep awake for the coming of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who prepares a light for our path.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For Daniel our bishop, for Rodney and Dave, for the clergy and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place, especially St. Matthew's and our school. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who serve our nation in the armed forces, especially for Grace Murwin upon the completion of basic training in the U.S. Army, and also for Steven, Jonathan, Kyle, Justin, Zack and their families. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For travelers, for the hungry and the oppressed, for the sick and the suffering, especially Phyllis, Terry, Carol, Edward, Dick, Lou, June, Margaret, Priscilla, Nancy, Ava, Greg, Laura, Mary, Chris, Betty, Clarence, Silas, and all those with the coronavirus. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who rest in Christ and for all the departed, especially remembering Bert Holt in whose loving memory the altar flowers are given by Roger Holt. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the loving witness of Lew and Betty Parry on their 75th wedding anniversary, for whom the altar flower are given by Barbara Powers. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary, Matthew our patron, and all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

Celebrant

O Rising Sun, brightness of light eternal, sun of justice, come and shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

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

Offertory

Watchman

by Robin Mark

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 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 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 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.

Sanctus

Holy Holy Holy

by Larry Hampton

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. ✠ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

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 your Love. Amen.

Communion Hymn *Revelation Song* by Jennie Lee Riddle, arr. Dan Galbraith

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.**

The Celebrant says the following blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; 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

The Joy of the Lord

by Twila Paris

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

– THE PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Wreath and Swag Order Pick Up Today | If you placed an order for a wreath or swag, please do not forget to pick it up today in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Flower Offering | Envelopes are available in the pews. If you wish to contribute toward the festive Christmas decorations at Saint Matthew's in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving, please fill out one of these envelopes and place it in the offering plate. (If you need more space, you may use the back of the envelope.)

– OUTREACH –

United Thank Offering | 100% of Offerings Support Episcopal Ministry

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude, encouraging people to notice the good things that happen each day, giving thanks to God for those blessings, and making an offering for each using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. **If you would like a box to take home and use on a regular basis,** please contact Carolyn in the church office parishmanager@saintmattsec.org

Operation Bear Hug Preparations Begin | St. Matthew's is once again preparing to spread Christmas comfort to residents dwelling within our local care centers, such as Fox Subacute. Steered by parishioner Lisa Walsh, Operation Bear Hug has been collecting and delivering new teddy bears to individuals in our community for nearly two decades. Following the collection window, normally, a contingent of volunteers from the church would hand-deliver the stuffed animals to patients on Christmas Eve. However, due to COVID-19 limitations, things look a little bit different this year, and we invite you to participate in the following ways:

- Purchase a teddy bear of your choosing and drop it off at Saint Matthew's in the bins near the narthex.
- Purchase a bear, or many bears, via [tinyurl.com/Amazon-Bears-21](https://www.tinyurl.com/Amazon-Bears-21) . During check out, be sure to select the shipping address labeled: **Lisa Walsh's Gift Registry Address**.
- Donate funds to the project through Tithely [tinyurl.com/Tithe-OBH](https://www.tinyurl.com/Tithe-OBH) .
- Post a copy of our flyer in your workplace, school, or community center. Copies can be found in the narthex.

We will be collecting bears until December 15th, but donations made after that date will be used for Operation Bear Hug 2022. Questions? Reach out to Lisa at reillywalsh@comcast.net or via telephone at (215) 518-3316.

Little Pantry Donations | Recently, members of St. Matthew's have built a *Little Pantry* to support friends and neighbors of community who might going through hard times. The pantry is being stocked with groceries and hygiene products, and leaders are now accepting donations. We are looking for individuals who would be willing provide **feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, bars of soap, shampoo, and conditioner for the pantry**. Donations can be dropped off in the parish kitchen when the church is open. Please do not place offerings directly in the pantry. You can take a look at the new structure as you depart church today, as it is located in our driveway about ten yards away from Tennis Avenue.

– EVENTS –

A Celebration of New Ministry | Wednesday, December 8th at 6:00 PM

Your prayers and presence are requested as our parish celebrates a new ministry; The Rev. Rodney Roehner will be instituted as Rector of Saint Matthew's on Wednesday, December 8th at 6:00 PM. Our bishop, The Rt. Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez will preside over the service. A reception follows and all are welcome. For those who cannot attend physically, our Facebook livestream will broadcast the service.

Christmas Pageant Preparation Begins!

We're inviting all children - nursery school through middle school - to be a part of this year's Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 24 @ 3:00 pm. Performed during our Christmas Eve Family Eucharist service, the pageant gives children an opportunity to participate in a centuries-old holiday tradition. It is a wonderful celebration of the Nativity. If you have children who would like to be in the pageant, please complete this form: <https://tinyurl.com/SMEC-ChristmasPageant2021>.

Christmas Service Schedule | December 24th – 26th, 2021

We are glad to announce the following service times in Advent and Christmastide:

Friday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

- 3:00 PM Family Service and Christmas Pageant
- 5:00 PM Rite II Service, Contemporary Music
- 8:00 PM Rite II Service, with Choir and Organ

Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Day

- 10:00 AM Traditional Service, Rite I

Sunday, December 26th, Christmas I, Youth Sunday

- 7:45 AM
- 9:00 AM
- 10:30 AM, Christmas Lessons and Carols