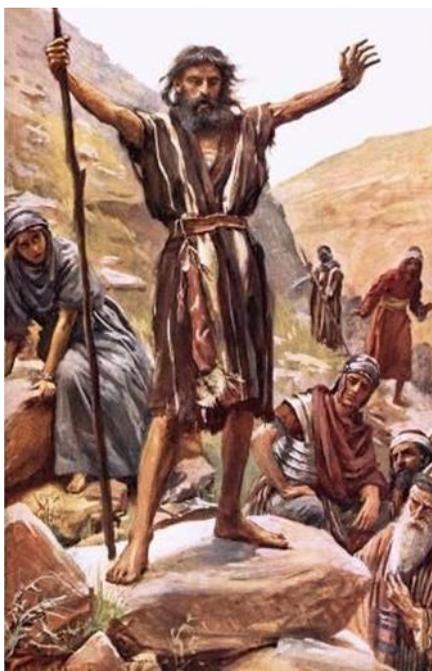


St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2021 – 9:00 AM
Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Music



John the Baptist by Harold Copping (1863-1932)

919 Tennis Ave
Maple Glen, PA 19002
215-646-4092

saintmattsec.org

Rev. Rodney Roehner

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (*Isaiah 40:3*)

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to remember that you are always with us. Cleanse our hearts of all thoughts and desires that keep us from loving you and our neighbor and fill us with your love that we may be prepared to receive your Son when he comes, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Gather

Oh, How Good It Is

by Getty, Getty, Holmes & Townend

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. 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.**

The Lessons *Please be seated*

New Testament Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

Refiner's Fire

by **Brian Doerksen**

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the

region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon (*seated*)

Rev. Rodney Roehner

Nicene 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

As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who will baptize us with Spirit and fire.

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 Steven, Jonathan, Kyle, Justin, Zack and their families. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For travelers, for the hungry and the oppressed, for the sick and the suffering, especially Terry, Dick, Lou, Margaret, Ava, Greg, Laura, Betty, Barbara, Carol, Millie, Jane, Kathleen, Anthony, Jay, Wister, Bill, Paul, Bill, Colwin, Drew, George, Hank, Steve, Pat, Avery, and Bill. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who rest in Christ and for all the departed, especially Joan Gildea, in whose memory the altar flowers are given by the Gildea-Walker family.
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 our God.**

Celebrant

O Root of Jesse, who rises as a light among all peoples, in whose presence rulers stand silent and nations bow in worship, come and deliver us without delay. 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

The River

by Wedgeworth, Feliz & Silverberg

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.

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.**

Anthem *Soon and Very Soon* **by Andrae Crouch**

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

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Hymn *Sweet Jesus* **by West, Smith & Wood**

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

Revival

by **Robin Mark**

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Flowers | Soon, the parish will green the sanctuary and adorn the campus for Christmas. Support the effort by donating funds in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving. Use the envelopes found in your pew, or go to bit.ly/Christmas-Flower-Donation

Advent Newsletter | The latest edition of *the Oracle* is available in the narthex.

EVENTS

Men's Breakfast | Join us next **Saturday, December 10th at 8:00 AM**. Sign-up using the sheet found in the narthex.

Family Christmas Pageant | Children in nursery through middle school are invited to sign up for the pageant held on **Saturday, December 24 at 3:00 PM** by going to bit.ly/SMEC-ChristmasPageant2022 .

OUTREACH

Mwamba | An outreach opportunity supported by St. Matthew's, Mwamba is an education ministry of the Diocese of Kitale, Kenya. The foundation awards scholarships to students coming from the most challenging economic circumstances, where a head of household makes ~\$800 USD per year. With annual school fees amounting to \$400 USD per child, every dollar donated to the foundation has a powerful impact. Please consider donating what you can, or an entire scholarship, by going to bit.ly/Give-A-Scholarship

CHOP Toy Drive | The Cleft Lip and Palate Team seeks toy donations for young patients undergoing treatment at the hospital. When you offer a toy, you help a child feel comforted and secure while working with their specialist. Gift opportunities cost \$10 or less and can be dropped off in the narthex. A wish list of items can be found by going to bit.ly/CHOP-Toys-22 .

Operation Bear Hug | Spread Christmas comfort to residents dwelling in retirement facilities and local care centers. Parishioner Lisa Walsh invites you and your family to participate by ordering, tagging, and hand-delivering new teddy bears. Head to bit.ly/OBH-22 to order bears and get involved.

Little Pantry Donations | Current donation requests include toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, dish soap, applesauce, bars of soap, toothpaste, tuna fish pouches, shampoo, and deodorant. Offerings can be brought directly into the church or to a plastic bin near the doors leading to the lower parking lot. Individuals are also invited to donate via an Amazon Wish List (amzn.to/3dcQP1s8) where goods are shipped directly to St. Matthew's.

Parish Calendar *for the week of* **December 4th, 2022**

Monday, December 5th	. 7:00 PM	Bible Study on Zoom*
Tuesday, December 6th	. 7:30 PM	Prayer and Share on Zoom *
Wednesday, December 7th	. 12:00 PM	Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary.
Thursday, December 8th	. 9:00 AM	Morning Prayer on Zoom *
Saturday, December 10th	. 8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast in the Parish Hall.
Sunday, December 11th	. 7:45-8:30 AM	Rite I Holy Eucharist
	. 9:00-9:45 AM	Rite II Holy Eucharist
		with Contemporary Music
	. 9:00-10:15 AM	CGS Sunday School in the Atria.
<i>All services are held in the Sanctuary.</i>	. 9:00-9:45 AM	Middle School in the Conference Room.
<i>9AM service is accessible</i>	. 10:00-11:00 AM	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall.
<i>via Livestream.</i>	. 10:30-11:30 AM	Rite II Holy Eucharist with Organ

* Access Zoom meeting links by going to bit.ly/SMEC-Zoom-Gathering