

## To Know and Share God's Love

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Sunday, February 25, 2024**



### **EASTER FOOD DRIVE** **SUN, FEB. 25–TUES, MAR. 12**

Share God's love this Easter through the act of packing a reusable grocery bag with essential food items. Join us in achieving our goal of donating 225 bags to those in need this Easter. Pick up a bag Feb. 25th and drop off all donations before March 12. We encourage you include a notecard or drawing with a heartfelt message.

Sign up to sort food, purchase extra supplies, deliver bags, and more:  
[stmmts.org/EasterBags](http://stmmts.org/EasterBags)

### **LENT RESOURCES** **STMSTS.ORG/LENT**

We invite you to walk the Lenten journey with us at St. Matthew's. Visit the link above to find lots of resources: mid-week Bible studies, recipes, book and app recommendations, FAQ's, and the electronic version of the Lenten devotional, **Wandering Heart: A Journey Through Lent with Peter**. Printed copies of the devotional are also available by the front door.

## WELCOME

We know that going to church or to a new church for the first time can be nerve-racking. We want to help make your first experience at St. Matthew's a great one!

If this is your first visit to Saint Matthew's, we welcome you. Please join us between services for coffee, tea and refreshments in the Parish Hall. For more information about our community, visit our website [www.stmmts.org](http://www.stmmts.org). We are so glad you are here!



## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in communion. If you would like to receive, simply place one hand on top of the other, palms up, and the priest will place bread in your hand. You may then consume the wafer. If for any reason you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Would you like to learn more about baptism? Please visit our website: [stmmts.org/Baptism](http://stmmts.org/Baptism) or contact our office via email at [Office@stmmts.org](mailto:Office@stmmts.org) or phone at 703-430-2121.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

The Saint Matthew's intercessory prayer list is for those in or related to our community who are in need of prayer. It is designed so that all members of our community can pray for each other on an ongoing basis. In order to pray for those on the list, simply ask God to be with them and help them in any way needed - God knows what is going on, so we don't need to.

### Please pray for the following:

Zach, Arjun, Scotty, Brad, Myers Family, Phil, Terry, Kathy, Pat, Mary W., Sanjay, Susanna, Fabiano, McKeown Family, Viola, Harry R, Karter, Addie, Mercedes Family, Crystal, Benjamin, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Gina, Glo, James, Sean, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Rennie, Webster, Julia, Madison, Nora, Robert, Missy, Tom, Lynne, Arianna, Amy, Jackie, Ann, Kay, Jane, Panita, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Amelia, Kassadi, Kyle, Samantha, Dawn, Rudy, Kay, Clarissa, Huxsten, Dottie, Jonathan, Ageanna, Becky, RL, Priscilla, Darla, Gerry, Paul, Jenny, Reena, Sarah, Brandi, Barbara, Michael, Peggy, Cathleen, Ray, BMR, Asley, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Shelby, Marty, Verdun, Candace, Rusty, Anne, William, Billie, friends and family of Trevor Brown, firefighters and first responders.

If you or someone you care about are in need of Pastoral Care, please call 703-430-2121.

# 8 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.	
<b>God's mercy endures for ever.</b>	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	
Psalm • 22:22-30	
Second Reading • Romans 4:13-25	
Gospel • Mark 8:31-38	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form III	387
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
<b>The Holy Communion</b>	
Offertory	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus	362
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Angus Dei	407
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Dismissal	366

# 9:30 AM SERVICE

## The Word of God

Opening Song

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**God's mercy endures forever.**

Opening Prayer (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Walking on Water

Song • Something Beautiful

Gospel • Mark 8:31-38

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Prayers of the People

Peace

Announcements & Welcome

## The Holy Communion

Offertory

*(An offertory plate is not passed at this service. If you wish to make a donation, the collection plate can be found at the back of the church, or donations are accepted online at [www.stmmts.org/give](http://www.stmmts.org/give))*

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • If I Stand

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song • No One Like You

Dismissal

# 11 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. <b>God's mercy endures for ever.</b>	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	
Psalm • 22:22-30	
Second Reading • Romans 4:13-25	
Gospel • Mark 8:31-38	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
<b>The Holy Communion</b>	
Offertory Anthem • As I Went Down to the River to Pray	
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus • Hymnal S129 • Holy, Holy, Holy Lord	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #383 • Fairest Lord Jesus (all verses)	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Procession into the World • Hymn #344 • Lord, Dismiss Us (all verses)	
Dismissal	366





**SUPPORT BACKPACK BUDDIES**

### **BACKPACK BUDDIES/HRTS STERLINGHELP.ORG**

Share the message of HRTS and follow us on social media @hungerresponse. Also, Backpack Buddies will be packing on at noon on Tuesdays (Feb. 27) in the Classroom on the Hill.

We also accept donations of shelf-stable, single-serve pantry items (e.g. tuna, ramen, snacks, fruit cups).

If you'd like to learn more about how you can help fight childhood hunger in our community, please contact Hilary Hultman-Lee by email at [Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtserling.org](mailto:Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtserling.org)

**BREAD OF LIFE  
BOOK GROUP  
MONDAYS AT 7PM**



### **CO-ED BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM**

Join us in classroom four on Monday evenings during Lent as we read and discuss *Seven Words; Listening to Christ From the Cross*, by Susan G. Robb. We will begin each meeting with a short 10-12 minute video followed by a discussion of the video and corresponding chapter from the book.



*Providing dinner for fallen firefighter Trevor Brown's family.*

### **SUPPORT OUR FIREFIGHTERS STMTTS.ORG/BROWNFAMILY**

Thank you to all who have expressed interest in supporting our injured and fallen firefighters. St. Matthew's will be providing three dinners to the family of Trevor Brown. Please visit the link above to sign up.

If you'd like to make a financial donation, we join the Sterling Volunteer Fire Co. in directing all donations to [LFRF.ORG](http://LFRF.ORG).

**DELIVER FOOD FOR  
LINK FOOD PANTRY**



### **LINK FOOD PANTRY ST. MATT'S DELIVERY MONTH**

February is St. Matthew's month to assist with food deliveries. A great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus by delivering food to those in need in our community. Learn more and sign up at: [stmtts.org/LINK](http://stmtts.org/LINK)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

**FRIDAY  
FLASH**

Weekly Newsletter

Email [office@stmtts.org](mailto:office@stmtts.org)  
to be added to the  
distribution list today!

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY [STMTTS.ORG/WOMENSMINISTRY](http://STMTTS.ORG/WOMENSMINISTRY)

Letters from Love, Women's Small Group begins TODAY. Join Sara from 2PM-4PM in classrooms 1 & 2 at St. Matt's. Find more info at the link above.

Women Giving Back, Women's Volunteer Event on Sunday, April 28, 1PM - 3:30PM. RSVP is required using the link above.



## MEN'S GROUP SATURDAYS AT 8AM

All men are welcome to meet in the classrooms on the hill for fellowship, Bible study, and encouragement. We are starting a new book in March - The Gospel of Mark for Everyone by NT Wright.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT SAT., MARCH 16, 9:30 AM - 1PM

Join the men of St. Matt's for outdoor repairs, cleanup, and fellowship. Grilled food and refreshments will be served!

Want to learn more? Contact [mensgroup@stmtts.org](mailto:mensgroup@stmtts.org).

# Wandering Heart

coming soon

## LENT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

## LENT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Join us either Wednesday evenings at 7 PM or Thursdays at 12 PM for our Lenten Bible study groups starting Wednesday, February 21.

What can we learn from stories of wandering hearts in the Bible?

Where do we see ourselves in these stories? We will explore stories, make connections from our lives, and leave each week with a new practice to help us listen for God's voice.



## PODCAST NOW AVAILABLE

Love the sermon? Want to listen again or share with a friend?



## HELPING HANDS

Email [Office@stmtts.org](mailto:Office@stmtts.org) to be added to the email distribution list to assist members in need of meals or rides.





## YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS

**Faith Factory Unplugged:** 6-8th graders, 9:30 AM, classroom four. Bible study and life lessons.

**Donuts and Discovery:** Middle and high schoolers, 10:30 AM, classroom one. Donuts, Starting Point series, Palm Sunday Passion planning. Also, stay updated with Band App! Scan the QR code to join for group updates, chats, & event reminders.



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 12PM SPORTROCK CLIMBING

Middle & high school students and friends are invited to Sportrock. Find details on the Band App.



## EASTER CANDY NEEDED

The Easter Egg Hunt is a cherished tradition at St. Matt's. Help us fill thousands of eggs by donating individually packaged, small candy and toys. Place donations on the carts at the back doors.



## SUMMER 2024 YOUTH MISSION [STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION](https://stmtts.org/youthmission)

Register now for the youth mission trip, June 23-29, 2024. Rising sixth - twelfth graders (and chaperones) are invited. The goal this year is to help students navigate the many influences in their lives and encourage them to look toward Jesus, the greatest influencer of all time, so they use their influence to positively change their culture.

Find more details and register at the link above.



## PARISH WORK DAY SAT. MARCH 23, 9AM - 12PM

Join us as we help prepare the grounds and church for a glorious Easter celebration. Stop by for an hour or two - there are jobs inside and out for all ability levels. Coffee and donuts provided!





## 2 LENT

Second Sunday in Lent



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, February 25, 2024

### COLLECT

#### *Traditional*

O GOD, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### *Contemporary*

O GOD, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

WHEN ABRAM was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my

covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

---

## Refrain

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

---

### **Psalm 22:22-30** *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; \* stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. in the presence of those who worship him.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; \* but when they cry to him he hears them. 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \* “May your heart live for ever!”
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \* I will perform my vows 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \* and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; \* he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \* all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \* they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \* the saving deeds that he has done.

### SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

THE PROMISE that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he



grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

### GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

JESUS BEGAN TO TEACH his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

---

Scripture Text Bulletin Insert No. RCL 2021-09B-RCL. The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. Collects and Psalter translation are from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

Printed in the U.S.A.

B

Copyright © Church Publishing Incorporated



## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

### Sunday, February 25th

- 8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 10:30 am - Donuts & Discovery for Middle & High School Students
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 12:00 pm - Youth: Sportrock
- 12:30 pm - Young Professionals
- 2:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 2:00 pm - Letters from Love Women's Small Group
- 6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

### Monday, February 26th

- 12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
- 7:00 pm - Bread of Life
- 7:30 pm - Free to Live
- 8:00 pm - Compline

### Tuesday, February 27th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 10:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - Backpack Buddies Packing
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm - Vestry
- 8:00 pm - Compline

### Wednesday, February 28th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Lenten Bible Study
- 8:00 pm - Compline

### Thursday, February 29th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 11:00 am - Anam Cara (closed group)
- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline

### Friday, March 1st

- 7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers
- 8:00 pm - Compline

### Saturday, March 2nd

- 8:00 am - Girl Scout Thinking Day Troop 3388
- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- February 26th: Tony Solomon, AJ Glascock, Allison Gradich
- February 28th: Anthony Wallis, Brandt Zebrowski
- March 1st: Katie Robertson, Zach Greenlund, JQ Traum


## ATTENDANCE

February 18, 2024


Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	19	27
9:30 AM	31	138
11:00 AM	21	37
Faith Factory		23
Youth Group		8

## HELP SUPPORT


ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



**GIVE ONLINE**




[stmtts.org/give](https://stmtts.org/give)



**venmo**



[@stmttssterling](https://www.venmo.com/@stmttssterling)



**CASH OR CHECK**

Checks can be made payable to "St. Matthew's Church"

**For more ways to give and information on automatic giving:**

[stmtts.org/give](https://stmtts.org/give)

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In-Person & Online

**8:00AM** | This is a traditional communion service using Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

**9:30AM** | This is a vibrant communion service with our very own live band. If you are looking for a joyous family service with some of the best music around, this is the service for you.

**11:00AM** | A classic communion service with our fabulous choir. We use Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

**Compline (evening prayer)** Mon.–Fri. at 8pm on Facebook

**Online Worship**  
[stmmts.org/live](https://stmmts.org/live)

Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

## St. Matthew's Staff & Vestry

Rector, Rev. C. Robert Merola, Jr.  
Rob@stmmts.org

General Manager, Miriam Turner  
Office@stmmts.org

Audio, Livestream Coordinators,  
Mason Turner II, Mason2.Turner@stmmts.org  
Colin Leary and Kaylyn Burakowski

Bookkeeper, Jean DeFuria  
Bookkeeper@stmmts.org

Director Choir, Kevin Fletcher  
Kevin@stmmts.org

Dir. of Communications, Kathleen Bellamy  
Kathleen@stmmts.org

Director, Faith Factory,  
Hilary Hultman-Lee  
FaithFactory@stmmts.org

Office Assistant, Sue Reier  
Sue@stmmts.org

Seminarian, Kara Laughlin  
Kara.Laughlin@stmmts.org

Youth Ministry and Marketing Coordinator  
Ben Merola  
Ben.Merola@stmmts.org

### VESTRY

Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Sharon Muniz

Robby Stevens

Stephanie Zebrowski

### Service Volunteers

**Ushers** | Fred Brittain, Michael Horrigan, Justin Warnick, Sharon Ferguson, Lorenzo Martini

**Lectors** | Richard Henry, Kevin Fletcher

**Eucharistic Ministers LEMs** | Darrell Breed, Haley Elliott, Tom Leary, Gerry Wardell

**Tellers** | Dan Robertson

**Altar Guild** | Lisa Lintelman, Adrienne Miller, Anitrus Jones