

## To Know and Share God's Love

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

**Christ the King Sunday**  
**Sunday, November 26, 2023**

## Christmas service times

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES** **STMTTS.ORG/CHRISTMAS**

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday so please note the four special service times for Christmas Eve.

#### **Sunday, December 24**

8am - Advent IV Peaceful Worship

11am - Children's Pageant

8pm - Festival Worship with Band

11pm - Classic Worship with Choir

#### **Monday, December 25**

10am - Christmas Day Worship

## GIVING TREE

ADOPT A FAMILY OR PICK A SINGLE GIFT

### **GIVING TREE 2023** **GIFTS DUE DECEMBER 10**

Make someone's Christmas brighter by shopping for a family or a single toy/gift. Single items will go to Women Giving Back & Sterling MS.

- Choose a tag from the tree and shop for the chosen item.
- Drop off labeled, unwrapped gifts by December 10
- If you select a family, please note which family you select.
- Invite a friend to donate a toy.

More info: [stmtts.org/givingtree](http://stmtts.org/givingtree)

## 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:

Flood Victims, MaryLea, Alan, Nishah, Marty, Damar, Jeremy, Kyeron, Abigail, Verdun, Candace, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Gina, Glo, James, Sean, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Sites Family, Frank, Tess, Brian, Mike, Zach, Paine, Arjun, Scotty, Brad, Myers Family, Phil, Terry, Kathy, Bobby, Elijah, Philip, Pat, Bob, Mary W., Tonia, Bronwyn, Sanjay, Susanna, Fabiano, Lawrence Family, McKeown Family, Viola, Harry R, Karter, Addie, Mercedes Family, Crystal, Benjamin, Shaumbey, Ruth, Remmie, Webster, Julia, Charlene, Dustin, Chris, Madison, Nora, Robert, Missy, Gerry, Tom, Lynne, Arianna, Amy, Jackie, Ann, Kay, Jane, Panita, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Saint, Amelia, Kassadi, Kyle, Woll Family, Samantha, Dawn, Ruby, Kay, Clarissa, Priscilla, and Jonathan.

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

## 8 AM SERVICE

### The Word of God

Opening Prayer	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Holy God	356
Collect of the Day (contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	
Psalm • 100	
Second Reading • Ephesians 1:15-23	
Gospel • Matthew 25:31-46	
Sermon	Kara Laughlin, Seminarian
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form III	387
Confession of Sin and Absolution	359-360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

### The Holy Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*(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))*

*All things come of thee, O Lord,*

***And of thine own have we given thee.***

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	364
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World	366

## **The Word of God**

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song •

Song •

Gospel • Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon

Kara Laughlin, Seminarian

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.stmtts.org/give](http://www.stmtts.org/give))*

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song •

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song •

Dismissal

# 11 AM SERVICE

## The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #484 vs. 1 & 2 Praise the Lord through every nation

Acclamation and Collect for Purity 355

Gloria • S280

Collect of the Day (Contemporary) Insert

Lessons

First Reading • Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms • 100

Second Reading • Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel • Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Kara Laughlin, Seminarian

Nicene Creed 358

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution 360

Peace 360

Announcements & Welcome

## The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem •

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A 361

Sanctus • S130

The Lord's Prayer 364

Breaking of the Bread 364

Invitation to Communion

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn • #336, Come with us, O blessed Jesus


Post-Communion Prayer 365

Blessing

Procession into the World • #460 vs. 1, 2, 3 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Dismissal 366



A collage of various coffee drinks, pastries, and desserts.

## COFFEE HOUR EVENTS

### COFFEE HOUR

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30AM for fellowship, connection, and special treats!

**November 26** - National Cake Day  
Join us for a selection of different cakes as we celebrate Christ the King and National Cake Day.

**December 3** - Make a fresh Advent Wreath to celebrate the season.

**December 10** - Donuts, Christmas card making, and Backpack Buddies Packing! Fun for all!

**December 17** - Wear your favorite Christmas sweater & enjoy hot cocoa.

A dark red banner with white text and a sprig of holly on the right side.

## PARISH WORK DAY

### PARISH WORK DAY SAT., DECEMBER 16, 9AM-12PM

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

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

A blue banner with a white church building in the background.

## FRIDAY FLASH

Weekly Newsletter

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

An orange-bordered box with a green leaf icon above the text.

## GIVING TUESDAY

SUPPORT  
BACKPACK BUDDIES

### BACKPACK BUDDIES/HRTS [STERLINGHELP.ORG/SUPPORT](http://STERLINGHELP.ORG/SUPPORT)

1 in 4 children in Loudoun County Schools is food insecure. That means someone in your child's classroom won't have enough to eat this weekend. The children in our local schools need our help!

Join us on November 28th for #GivingTuesday, a global generosity movement that transforms communities when they work together for a worthy cause, and together we will help fight childhood hunger right here in Sterling.

Become a Giving Tuesday Ambassador for HRTS by visiting the link above.

A red banner with a white star and a person holding a smartphone in the background.

## CHRISTMAS

SCAVENGER HUNT / ROAD RALLY

### CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT SAT., DEC. 16, 3PM - 5:30PM [STMTTS.ORG/HOLIDAYRACE](http://STMTTS.ORG/HOLIDAYRACE)

Grab your family, or a team of friends and hop in the car! Together you will race to find Christmas sights and sounds in the Sterling area then meet back at St. Matt's for holiday treats and prizes! Plan your costumes now!



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

### CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS DUE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Remember a loved one or give thanks for blessings received through the dedication of Christmas flowers.

Donations of any amount are graciously accepted as we decorate the church to celebrate Christmas. Submit a dedication online at [stmmts.org/flowers](http://stmmts.org/flowers).

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

### CHILDREN'S PAGEANT [STMSTS.ORG/PAGEANT](http://STMSTS.ORG/PAGEANT)

The link shown above will provide all the details on rehearsal times. Rehearsals will take place during the 9:30 service. Communion will be offered to the children at the end of rehearsal. Find all details online!

Sunday, December 3, 10, and 17:  
Rehearsal at 9:30 - 10:45 AM  
Saturday, December 23: Dress  
Rehearsal in the Parish Hall at 3 PM.  
Sun., December 24: Children please  
arrive at 10 AM to get into costume.  
The pageant begins at 11 AM.  
Questions? Contact Kara at  
[Kara.Laughlin@stmmts.org](mailto:Kara.Laughlin@stmmts.org)



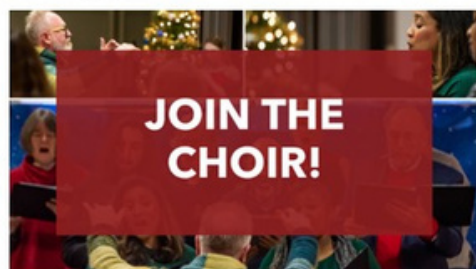
### ADVENT WREATH MAKING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 10:30 AM

Join us in the parish hall at 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 3 to make a fresh Advent Wreath. It will be a wonderful addition to your holiday preparations.



### EXPERIENCE ADVENT

This Advent, as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, let us remember the importance of the Advent wreath. Beginning on November 29 and continuing each Wednesday in Advent, we invite you to join us at 7 PM. Together we will explore the meaning behind each of the four Advent candles: hope, peace, joy and love.



Join the Christmas choir: Thursdays at 7:30PM. All are welcome.





## YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

### **YOUTH GROUP STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEEVENTS DONUTS & DISCOVERY**

Middle and high school students are invited to join Ben on Sundays at 10:30am in classroom four for donuts and discussion.

### **YOUTH TRAMPOLINE PARK SAT., DEC. 9, 3:30PM - 6PM COST: \$31**

Trampolines, go-karts, games and more. Middle & High School youth are invited to join Ben for an afternoon of fun at Launch Trampoline Park in Herndon. Meet at the church by 3:30 PM for carpooling. RSVP: **STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEEVENTS**


### **SCAVENGER HUNT SAT. DEC. 16, 3:00PM - 5:30PM**

Join Ben and your St. Matt's friends to race around Sterling finding Christmas sights and sounds. Meet back at St. Matt's at 5PM for holiday treats and to celebrate the winners!

### **LOCK-IN AND ESCAPE ROOM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Meet at church at 3:30 PM and let the fun begin with a trip to Escapology. Then join Ben and Kassidy to spend the night at church with lots of food, fun, games, and more!

RSVP for all youth events:  
**STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEEVENTS**



## 2024 YOUTH GROUP SUMMER MISSION TRIP

### **SUMMER 2024 YOUTH MISSION 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  
**STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION**

## JOIN US FOR FAITH FACTORY!

STARTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3  
PRE-K - 5TH GRADE

### **FAITH FACTORY STMTTS.ORG/FAITHFACTORY**

Faith Factory is St. Matthew's Sunday morning programming for students ages four - fifth grade. It's a chance for kids to learn about God's love for them through Bible stories, relationship building, singing songs, art projects, and more! Students are invited to meet our Faith Factory teachers, Ms. Alex (pre-K - 2nd grade) in classroom three and Ms. Hilary (3rd - 5th grade) in classroom one. Questions? Contact Hilary at [FaithFactory@stmtts.org](mailto:FaithFactory@stmtts.org)



The Lessons Appointed for Use on the  
**Last Sunday after Pentecost**



**Christ the King**

Year A  
RCL

**Track 1**

*or*

**Track 2**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 25:31-46

**The Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**The Psalm**

## **Psalm 100**

### *Jubilate Deo*

- 1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; \*  
serve the LORD with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 For the LORD is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

*or*

## **Old Testament**

### **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

(See Above)

## **The Psalm**

### **Psalm 95:1-7a**

#### *Venite, exultemus*

- 1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
- 3 For the LORD is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

## **The Epistle**

### **Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## **The Gospel**

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

### Sunday, November 26th

8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service  
9:30 am - Festival Worship Service  
10:30 am - Donuts & Discovery for  
Middle & High School Students  
10:30 am - Pageant Read Through for  
Speaking Parts  
11:00 am - Classic Worship Service  
2:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous  
6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

### Monday, November 27th

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

### Tuesday, November 28th

9:30 am - All Ages Read Together  
10:00 am - HRTS Packing/Moms Group  
12:00 pm - Backpack Buddies Packing  
1:30 pm - Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 pm - Education for Ministry  
7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal  
7:30 pm - Vestry  
8:00 pm - Compline

### Wednesday, November 29th

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

### Thursday, November 30th

#### Thanksgiving Day

9:30 am - All Ages Read Together  
11:00 am - Anam Cara (Closed Group)  
7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal  
8:00 pm - Compline

### Friday, December 1st

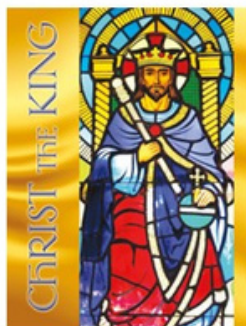
7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers  
8:00 pm - Compline

### Saturday, December 2nd

8:00 am - Men's Group  
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous  
8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November 26th: Dee Carter, Kayla Hart,  
Cordelia Laughlin  
November 27th: Caden Lesser  
November 28th: Sarah O'Connell  
November 30th: Mark Kelly, John Nixon  
December 1st: Katy Massa  
December 2nd: Allen Tuttle, Bart Ecker



Thank you to those who have made financial gifts and those who have increased their regular recurring donations. We are grateful for your support of the ministry work here at Saint Matthew's.

## HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES

### GIVE ONLINE

[stmmts.org/give](http://stmmts.org/give)

### VENMO

@stmmtssterling



### CASH OR CHECK

Checks can be made payable to "St. Matthew's Church" and placed into the collection plate

For more ways to give and  
information on automatic giving:

[stmmts.org/give](http://stmmts.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**

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 Coordinator,  
Mason Turner II, Mason2.Turner@stmmts.org

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**

Sara Warnick, Senior Warden  
Andrew Wright, Junior Warden  
Caitlin Dronfield  
Kristin Drummond  
Bob Henry  
Sharon Muniz  
Robby Stevens

### **Service Volunteers**

**Ushers** | Dee Carter, Justin Warnick, Sharon Ferguson

**Lectors** | Martha Olson, Kevin Fletcher

**Eucharistic Ministers LEMs** | Richard Henry, Haley Elliott, Heather Tomaszek, Carolyn Wright

**Tellers** | Dan Robertson

**Altar Guild** | Richard Henry, Ann Lowden, Sue Reier