

MORNING PRAYER

CHRISTMAS TWO

JANUARY 3, 2021

PRELUDE: "Once in royal David's city" from the Choir of King's College, Cambridge

OPENING SENTENCE

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. *Revelation 21:3*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.***

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

V: Lord, open our lips.

R: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

Alleluia

JUBILATE PSALM 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

***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.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

***For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

THE PSALM APPOINTED: PSALM 68 *Exsurgat Deus*

- ¹ Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- ² ***Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.***
- ³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.
- ⁴ ***Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!***
- ⁵ Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- ⁶ ***God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.***
- ⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- ⁸ ***The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.***
- ⁹ You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- ¹⁰ ***Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.***
- ¹¹ The Lord gave the word; *
great was the company of women who bore the tidings:
- ¹² ***Kings with their armies are fleeing away; *
the women at home are dividing the spoils.***
- ¹³ Though you lingered among the sheepfolds, *
you shall be like a dove whose wings are covered with silver, whose feathers are like green gold.
- ¹⁴ ***When the Almighty scattered kings, *
it was like snow falling in Zalmon.***

- 15 O mighty mountain, O hill of Bashan! *
O rugged mountain, O hill of Bashan!
- 16 ***Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountain, at the hill which God chose for his resting place? *
truly, the LORD will dwell there for ever.***
- 17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; *
the Lord comes in holiness from Sinai.
- 18 ***You have gone up on high and led captivity captive; you have received gifts even from your enemies, *
that the LORD God might dwell among them.***
- 19 Blessed be the Lord day by day, *
the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.
- 20 ***He is our God, the God of our salvation; *
God is the LORD, by whom we escape death.***
- 21 God shall crush the heads of his enemies, *
and the hairy scalp of those who go on still in their wickedness.
- 22 ***The Lord has said, "I will bring them back from Bashan; *
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea;***
- 23 That your foot may be dipped in blood, *
the tongues of your dogs in the blood of your enemies."
- 24 ***They see your procession, O God, *
your procession into the sanctuary, my God and my King.***
- 25 The singers go before, musicians follow after, *
in the midst of maidens playing upon the hand-drums.
- 26 ***Bless God in the congregation; *
bless the LORD, you that are of the fountain of Israel.***
- 27 There is Benjamin, least of the tribes, at the head; the princes of Judah in a company; *
and the princes of Zebulun and Naphtali.
- 28 ***Send forth your strength, O God; *
establish, O God, what you have wrought for us.***
- 29 Kings shall bring gifts to you, *
for your temple's sake at Jerusalem.
- 30 ***Rebuke the wild beast of the reeds, *
and the peoples, a herd of wild bulls with its calves.***
- 31 Trample down those who lust after silver; *
scatter the peoples that delight in war.
- 32 ***Let tribute be brought out of Egypt; *
let Ethiopia stretch out her hands to God.***
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 ***He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.***
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.
- 36 ***How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!***

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM JEREMIAH 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH BENEDICTUS DOMINUS DEUS; LUKE 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

***He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.***

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

***He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.***

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

***Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.***

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

***To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.***

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

***To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN #79: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (VV. 1, 3, 4 & 5)

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY

David Nichols

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,

the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

his only son, our Lord.

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.***

***He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.***

*He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

V: The Lord be with you.

R: *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

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*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Anne our Bishops with all bishops, priests, and deacons. We pray for parishes in our Diocese, especially Church of the Ascension Fork, Advance, Christ Church, Albemarle, and All Souls', Ansonville. We also pray for Pastor Holman and Dickerson Chapel AME.
Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for our President, our Congress, and our State Government. We pray for an easing of violence and for the spirit of peace to prevail. We pray for the ministry of Re-Entry House Plus.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We pray for the work of the Eno River Association.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable in Orange County. We pray for inmates, first responders, and healthcare workers. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Comfort those who mourn, especially Jeff & Blythe Thompson at the death of Jeff's mother, Lillian Thompson; and Jane Fruehwirth at the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Garton. We pray for those in our parish family, especially: Katherine, nearing the end of her life; for Jackie, Mildred, Katherine, Lois, Tom, Molly, Jim, Rowen & Jan, Ann, Anne, Daisy, Tom, Champe, Keyon, Andy & Barrie, Patrick, Laura, Sandra, Bartow, Robert, Tricia & Don, Nell, Janice, Kim & Sandy, Ludie, and Camille.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Lillian and Dorothy, that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, you Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #98: UNTO US A BOY IS BORN! (VV. 1-4)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday (1/3): Christmas Two (Formation Programming begins again on January 10)

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 9:15am

Monday (1/4):

- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Tuesday (1/5):

- **Morning Silence** (Worship Zoom); 7:30am Gathering for Silent Meditation
- **Staff Meeting** (Meeting Zoom); 10:00am
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Wednesday (1/6):

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 8:00am
- **In-Person Eucharist** (Memorial Garden); Noon
- **For Those Who Live Alone** (Meeting Zoom); 5:00pm / Margaret Brill hosting
- **Choir** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Thursday (1/7)

- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Friday (1/8)

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 8:00am
- **Awareness Through Movement** (Meeting Zoom); 9:30am
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Sunday (1/10): Epiphany One: The Baptism of Our Lord

Worship and Formation

- **9:00** Gathering (Worship Zoom)
- **9:15** Morning Prayer (Worship Zoom)
- **10:15 Faith Formation for the St. Matthew's Family: The Feast of the Epiphany** (Formation Zoom)

Youth Group (Formation Zoom); 4:00pm

PLEASE MASK UP IF YOU COME INTO ANY OF THE BUILDINGS ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY!!

IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR EUCHARISTS

Our next, in-person, outside Eucharist is scheduled for Wednesday, the 6th at Noon. It will be in the Memorial Garden where we can accommodate 24 easily. To sign up, first fill out [the health screening form here](#). Masks are required and physical distancing must be observed. We expect to continue having Wednesday Eucharists as long as the weather allows.

FAITH FORMATION FOR THE ST. MATTHEW'S FAMILY ON JANUARY 10

Join us on Sunday, January 10th at 10:15am on the Formation Channel as we resume our program year by celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany, or "Three Kings Day," when we commemorate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child and the revelation of God with us in Christ. We will learn about how Christ appears to us in our own day, and how we can welcome him into our homes and lives with an Epiphany House Blessing.

SABBATH AS RESISTANCE: LIVING FROM REST IN A CULTURE OF BUSYNESS

Between the New Year and Lent St. Matthew's will be hosting a book study to explore the Biblical roots and modern meaning of Sabbath: Taking Rest to Live from God. Our text will be Walter Brueggemann's phenomenal book, *Sabbath as Resistance*. Through reading, questions, and discussion we will explore how to follow Christ in living an unhurried life that gives time to abide in God and care for others. "Good relationships are grown in the soil of good rest" - Alan Fadling. If you are interested, please contact the facilitator of this group, Nick Gallegly, at nick.gallegly@gmail.com. Classes will be on Thursday nights from 7:30-8:30 starting January 14. Places are limited.

AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® January 8, 15, 22, & 29 and February 12, 19, & 26

Awareness Through Movement® classes resume in mid-January. Betty Wolfe plans to teach a few each of standing, sitting, and on the floor lessons. Please email her bettylwolfe@gmail.com with questions. All are welcome to explore these enlivening opportunities. Come expand your neuromuscular bandwidth!

May we enter 2021 gently!

ST. MATTHEW'S PODCASTS ARE BACK: [HTTPS://STMATTHEWSHILLSBOROUGH.ORG/PODCAST/](https://stmatthewshillsborough.org/podcast/)

- THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY I: Acts 2:37-47.
Amy and David discuss the early church as described in Acts Chapter 2, shortly after the Pentecost event.
- THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY II: ACTS 4:32-5:11
We continue our look into the community in the early Church of Acts. This week I'm joined by Father Robert and we discuss the story of Ananias and Sapphira, who lie to Peter about the amount of their money they are giving to the fledgling Church. We discuss why the call to honesty and truthfulness in the church community is so critical and why this story unfolds the way that it does. We also talk about what possibilities might open up for the Church today if we took on a posture of extreme truthfulness and charity within the community.
- ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY: AN INTERVIEW WITH JENNIFER PEAK
- ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY: AN INTERVIEW WITH EDWARD WRIGHT
- THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY: ACTS 6:1-7

ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

Providing Beef Stew to Orange Congregations in Mission Food's Pantry is a commitment St.

Matthew's has made and kept for years now. Bring your donated items by the church anytime. Drop them in the basket under the alcove of the Hayden Building or leave them by one of the doors.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all who are sick, or in any need or trouble, remembering especially the following members of our parish family: Katherine Nelson, Jackie Fredericks, Mildred Pruessing, Lois Horn, Tom Vail, Molly Zaragoza, Jim Fesperman, Rowen & Jan Grant, Ann Burdette, Anne Weaver, Daisy Huffman, Tom Sinn, Champe Davis, Keyon Hutson, Andy & Barrie Wallace, Patrick Craft, Laura Middlebrooks, Sandra Poffenbarger, Bartow Culp, Robert Fruehwirth, Tricia & Don Hill, Nell Schrader, Janice Stratton, Kim Richardson & Sandy McBride, Ludie White, and Camille Izlar.

And these others for whom our prayers are desired: Melanie Maupin, Betsy Zaragoza, Derek Kendall, Harry Dula, Mathew Thomas, Arnold Thomas, Gail Clifford, Erin Vaughan, Bob Caldwell, Baylor Pisano, John Charton, Lucy Gradowski, Ken Foland, Savannah Fonvielle, Colleen Paisley, Ben Mueller, Richard Haase, Linda Saterfield, Chip Joyner, John Logan, the Spurlocks, the Tuckers, Anna Lawrence & Dan Bass, Fred Edoughs, Timothy, Gogi, Bob, Laura Merrill, Jeannine Beardslee, Brooke Harnisch & Dan Roberts, Amy, Evelyne Accad, Amalia, Maddie Powers, Joe & Pat McDonald, Allie, John & Rachel Hougom, Richard Stevens, Mary Beth, Sam Hammond, Mary Armbrester, Karl & Janice Eicher, Knox Efland, Coleman Sale, and Boardman Lloyd.

We pray for all doctors and nurses, service workers, inmates, and the unemployed. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children.