

THE GREAT LITANY



On the first Sunday in Lent, at 10:15 am, we begin our service by immersing ourselves in the words of an

ancient text. The Great Litany is an intercessory prayer with many petitions that covers a wide breath of human needs and concerns. At St. Matthew's, our practice is for a lone cantor to intone the petitions with the entire congregation singing in response. While the form of the litany has its origins in the 5th century, the first English language rite was prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the 16th century. It has been used with only slight modifications ever since.

The penitential nature of The Great Litany makes it well suited for the season of Lent. Its length is the primary reason that we limit our use of The Litany in worship on the first Sunday. Although we will not use The Great Litany again in our corporate worship during Lent, the text can be revisited for personal prayer and devotion. The full text is on pages 148-152 of the 1979 version of The Book of Common Prayer.

For those unfamiliar with The Great Litany, it begins with an invocation of the trinity:

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mercy upon us.

A series of deprecations follows, which seek deliverance from all types of evil and spiritual harm. After an initial *Spare us good Lord*, the congregation responds nine times with *Good Lord, deliver us* (sample provided).

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever. Spare us, good Lord.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil, Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment, Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine, Good Lord, deliver us.

The heart of The Great Litany contains twenty-two petitions (six included here):

Fr. Eric's Message	1
Taize	2
Coffee Hour	2
Food Bank	2
Women's Spirituality	2
Baptisms	2
CELEBRATE Sundays	2
Angelic Faces	3
Family Dinner Group	3
Youth Group	3
Amazon Smile	3
Confirmation etc.	4
Get to know Congregation	4
Lenten Bible Study	5
Campus Cleanup	5
Freedom Seder	5
Help Wanted: Layout	5
Multifaith Songfest	6
Prayer Day	7
Upcoming Events	8

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

In addition to reading the full text of The Great Litany in the BCP, you can listen to several sung versions online.

It is my hope that within the cadences and rhythms of this ancient prayer, you might find peace, solace and refreshment during the season of Lent.

Blessings, Fr. Eric+

TAIZÉ CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, March 6 at 7pm, Side Chapel

Everyone is invited to attend this ecumenical service characterized by meditative silence, repetitive songs, scripture and prayer. Taizé is the first Tuesday of every month (year around) in the side chapel. Be sure to save these upcoming dates for future Taizé services: April 3 and May 1. To sign up for reminder emails, please visit <https://episcopalstmatthew.org/worship/taize-candlelight-service>.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

The rotation for bringing treats to coffee hour after the Sunday service is as follows:

March 4: A-D

March 11: E-J

March 18: K-P

March 25: Q-S

We ask you to please put the food you are bringing on a paper plate (rather than in a package) and place it on the table in Julia Beylard Hall.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK AND ST. MATTHEW'S

When you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few extra canned goods or other non-perishable items. You can leave your food donations either in the basket at the back of the church or at the church office. These donations will be placed in a Second Harvest collection barrel for pick-up.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and thank you for your donations.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a women's spirituality group. We meet every week throughout the year at Charles House on Mondays at 9:15 am. This is a small group opportunity to reflect on scripture, God's presence in our lives, the challenges of discipleship, and to engage in prayer. For more information, please contact Rev. Lindsay or Ginger Fortmiller via the church office.

BAPTISMS

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact the church office or talk to a member of the clergy. Future baptism dates are March 31 (Easter Vigil) and May 20 (Pentacost).

CELEBRATE SUNDAYS

During the year we have once again identified CELEBRATE Sundays. On these Sundays at the 10:15 service, there is no church school; instead, children and youth participate actively in the liturgy as ushers, greeters, readers, acolytes and more! These services are a great opportunity for our congregation to connect intergenerationally.

March 25: Palm Sunday

May 20: Pentecost

ANGELIC FACES: MARTHA PHILLIPS AND AL TAIRA

For the past 8 years, St. Matthew's has been continually blessed with this very special couple and their darling twin daughters, Veronica and Mika. Upon moving to San Mateo from Seattle, they immediately found a comfortable church home at St. Matthew's and enrolled Veronica and Mika at the Day School. Martha serves on the school board where she is in charge of the joint school/church building and grounds committee. She said that this gives her the opportunity to keep an eye on our beloved gardens. Martha's outgoing personality and go-getter attitude propelled her into numerous other volunteer roles, including in the Thrift Shop, on the Hospitality Committee and as Secretary of both the League for Service and the Garden Guild. She is also a ringer in the Bell Choir, a greeter and a lector. Martha served on the Vestry as Day School Liaison and one year as Junior Warden. She also



organized two gala fundraisers.

You can find Al's warm personality and kind smile greeting and welcoming parishioners at the south door on Sunday mornings. Al also enjoys doing the lector readings. He and Martha are both active participants in the parent group. Al is dedicated to his job as Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at the Dorothy

E. Schneider Cancer Center at Mills Hospital.

We are so very grateful to Martha, Al and their beautiful girls for making St. Matthew's their home church. They continue to have that "can do, what can we do to help" attitude whenever our church needs them. Whatever they do, it is done well and always with a loving smile.

If you have an idea for a parishioner to be profiled in this column, please contact Darlia Clerico at darliahclerico@gmail.com.

With gratitude and blessings, Darlia Clerico

YOUNG ADULT & FAMILY DINNER GROUP

Young adults and families with school age children gather for a potluck dinner, fellowship, play time for the children and adult conversation for the grown-ups. We gather for dinner the second Friday of every month from 6-8pm in Julia Beylard Hall. Our next dinner will be March 9. Be sure to RSVP to Rev. Lindsay at lmhills@episcopalstmatthew.org or through the Facebook event so we know you are coming! And mark your calendar for upcoming dinners on April 13 and May 11.

YOUTH NEWS

All Things 3G!

Middle School and High School youth are invited to participate in YG3, a collaborative youth group including St. Paul's (Burlingame), Transfiguration (San Mateo) and St. Matthew's. To get more information about YG3 simply subscribe at <http://eepurl.com/c2NC6L>.

March 4 – NO GROUP

March 11 – St. Matthew's (4-6pm)

March 18 – Lunch and Hike (12-4pm)

March 25 – NO GROUP

April 1 - NO GROUP

SMILE!

We are always looking at ways to increase financial support of the parish. We are excited now to be linked to Amazon.com! Simply visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1186209>, log into your Amazon account when prompted, and set St. Matthew's as the organization you wish to support. Then, whenever you do your Amazon shopping, go to smile.amazon.com. The website functions exactly like regular Amazon, but St. Matthew's will instantly receive .5% of all of your purchases! It's a win-win: whenever you shop there for the things you normally buy, St. Matthew's receives funds to support parish ministries.

CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION, RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Confirmation is a sacramental rite of the church whereby the Holy Spirit, invoked at one's baptism, is strengthened. Confirmation usually happens between junior high and high school age, but adults can also be confirmed if they have not been confirmed in another tradition.

If you have been baptized and confirmed in a different tradition, you are invited to be received.

Reception is when the Bishop acknowledges your Baptism/ Confirmation in a different denomination, but into the Body of Christ, and welcomes you officially into the Episcopal Church.

Those who are baptized, confirmed and or received into the Episcopal Church, but have for whatever reason fallen away from their faith or desire to strengthen their commitment to Christ and his Church, are invited to participate in the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

These courses will be offered during the Easter Season through Pentecost. If you are interested in participating, please let a member of the Clergy know, and we will provide further information about the session times. Confirmation, Reception, and Renewal of Baptismal Vows for adults and Juniors/Seniors in high school will occur in June 2 (Grace Cathedral) or at St. Matthew's during the Bishop's visitation in the fall.

A Confirmation program for Youth in grades 7-10 will begin in the fall of 2018, with Confirmation occurring in late spring 2019. Please contact Rev. Lindsay to be added to the contact list.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CONGREGATION

(Adapted from the pages of Vanity Fair by the Rectorina, Anne Hinds. Please contact Anne at anne.hinds@oracle.com to make suggestions for future subjects of this column.)

This month's subject: Evan Powell, Senior Warden. Married to Erika for 13 years and father of Sixth Grade Day School Student Elizabeth. We find out about fatherhood, building a company, a wartime Bible and who are "the Dawgs."

What brought you to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church?

Friend, looking for community

How long have you been at St. Matthew's?

5 years

What is your current state of mind?

Jet lagged

What is your favorite journey?

Fatherhood and the similar one of growing a company from idea to customers

What is your greatest fear?

Drunk drivers or North Korea

What secret ambition do you have?

Barcelona midfielder, the American Iniesta

What trait do you most deplore in others?

Entitlement

What is your greatest extravagance?

Travel with the family

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Confidence

Which living person do you most

admire?

Geeks like Elon Musk and social activists such as Malala Yousafzai

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Interesting

What is your greatest regret?

Traveling for my start-up when Mom died

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Erika and Elizabeth

When and where were the happiest?

Birth of Elizabeth and then the last few years in San Mateo

Which talent would you most like to have?

Real programming skills

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Shyness

If you could change one thing about your family, what would it be?

More time together

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Marrying Erika, never missing a payroll

What is your most treasured possession?

Grandfather's wartime Bible

What do you regard as the lowest depths of misery?

Losing purpose

Where would you like to live?

Mars

What is your favorite occupation?

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Founding CEO

What is the quality you most like in a person?

Pleasant candor

Who are your favorite writers?

Neil Stephenson,

Ann Leckie, Andy Weir, Hemingway

Who is your favorite hero of fiction?

Mark Watney

What is it that you most dislike?

Complacency and bureaucracy

How would you like to die?

Surrounded by Family

What is your motto?

How about them

Dawgs! (University of Georgia)

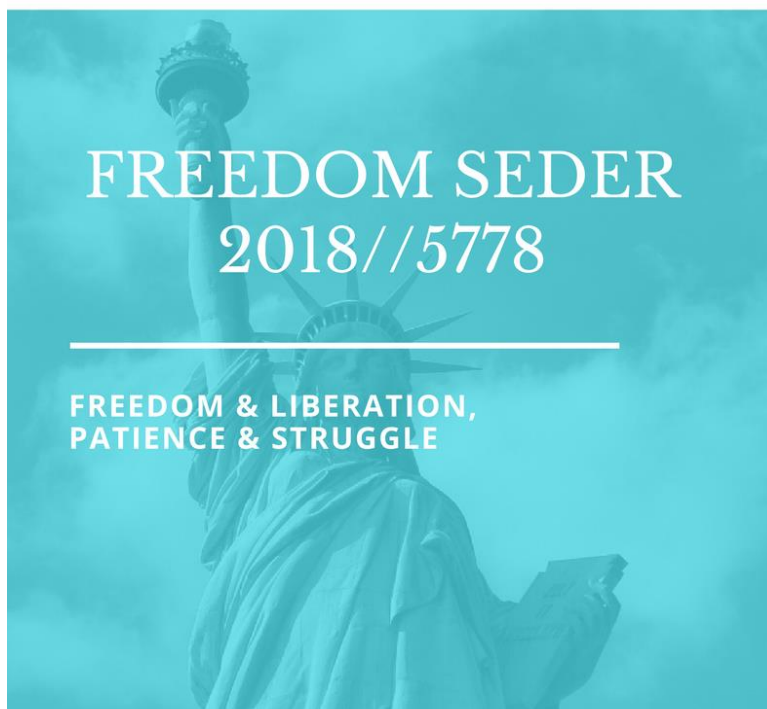
HELP WANTED – NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

We are in search of a volunteer to perform the layout of this newsletter. If you have experience with newsletter layout or similar background, and would like to find out more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact the newsletter editor, Beth von Emster, at beth.vonemster@gmail.com or (650) 464-5114.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

During the season of Lent, we will explore the life of Jesus using insights from the book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg. We will gather in the Conference Room of St. Matthew's Hall from 9:10am—10:00am on Sunday, March 4th, 11th, and 18th. The book by Marcus Borg is the same title that we will use in our conversations with Temple Beth El. Each session will be a distinct unit so that you can drop in for any or all of the sessions.

Please join us for the 2018 Peninsula Freedom Seder, come learn and celebrate the traditions of Passover with the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition.



March 25, 2018//9 Nissan 5778
Congregational Church of Belmont

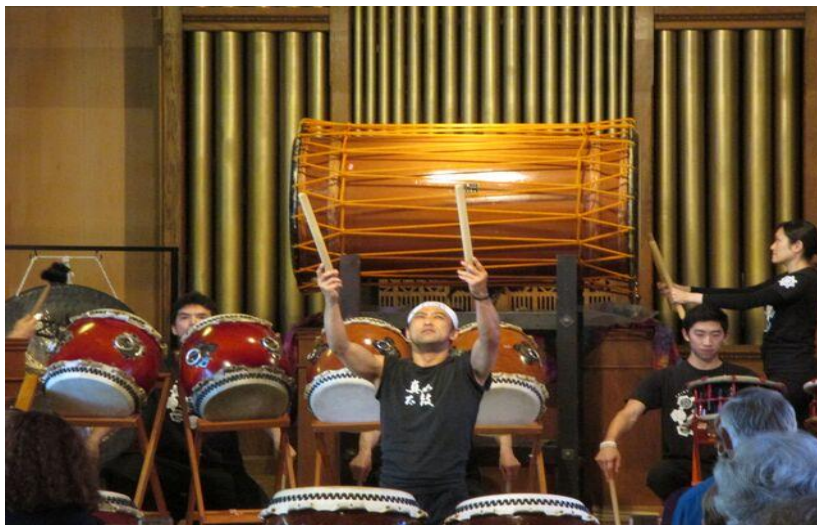
People of all faiths are welcome!

Sunday, March 25th at 4pm, a vegetarian dinner will be served
Congregational Church of Belmont - 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002
\$20 per adult, \$15 for children 12 years old and under

Advanced registration required: <https://jcrc.org/news-events/events/peninsula-freedom-seder>
For More Information, Contact Sarah Fields: sfields@jcrc.org or 650-847-1715



Peninsula Multifaith Coalition
Presents our 5th Annual
MultiFaith Song Fest
Sunday, March 4, 2018, 3-5 p.m.
Peninsula Sinai Congregation
499 Boothbay Ave., Foster City, CA. 94404



Shinnyo-en Buddhist Taiko Drummers at 2015 Song Fest

The Joy of Music Unites Us!

Bring your choir, your cantor, your chants, your songs to share and join us!

PSC is a kosher facility so they will provide the desserts. We can bring fresh fruit, veggies (no dips) and drinks to share.

For more information or to confirm your group, contact Rev. Kristi Denham at revkristi@aol.com or (650) 218-3126

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew

Lord, Hear our PRAYER

Join us for a multi-sensory morning of prayer for the whole family. Especially suited for families with children under 5th grade.



March 10th

9:00am - 1:00pm

Julia Beylard Hall

SEE REV. LINDSAY OR JANINE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP

THE TAU CROSS

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew
is a family called by Christ . . .

*to live God's Love,
to share the Gospel,
to grow Spiritually*

Come celebrate with us!

Service is at 8:00 am & 10:15 am each Sunday

*Morning Prayer, 9 am, Tuesdays & Thursdays
Rite I Holy Eucharist, 9 am, Fridays*



The Tau Cross is the monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew. We welcome submissions that have a connection to the parish. Inclusion is at the discretion of the staff and may be edited for space or clarity. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month and may be sent by email to Beth von Emster at bvonemster@yahoo.com or deposited in the Tau Cross mailbox in the church office. Entries should follow these guidelines: Include title of event or article; 200 word maximum description including when, where, cost and contact information as applicable. Avoid abbreviations and other "insider" lingo. Further guidelines and tips available upon request. Tau Cross Staff: Editor, Beth von Emster; Associate Editor, Marilyn Callaghan; Layout & Design //dadalab.com

Upcoming Events

March 3	Campus Cleanup
March 4	Lenten Bible Study
March 6	Taizé Service
March 9	Young Adults and Families Dinner Group
March 10	Prayer Day
March 11	Lenten Bible Study
March 18	Lenten Bible Study
March 25	Palm Sunday; CELEBRATE Sunday
March 29	Maundy Thursday
March 30	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Vigil
April 1	Easter

Or Current Resident

*The Rev. Dr. Eric Kimball Hinds, Rector
The Rev. Lindsay Marie Hills, Associate Rector
The Rev. Amber Stancliffe Evans, School Chaplain*

CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW EPISCOPAL
ONE SOUTH EL CAMINO REAL
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA 94401
TEL: 650.342.1481
WWW.EPISCOPALSTMATTHEW.ORG

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Mateo, CA
Permit #254