



The Ivy Leaf

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

Welcome...

to St. Matthew's as we begin our journey through Holy Week. This ancient Christian custom invites us to walk with Jesus through the last week of his life, from his royal entry into Jerusalem through the intimate last supper with his disciples, his arrest and trial, his death on the cross, and ultimately to his triumph over death on Easter morning. It is a week of intense, roller-coaster emotions, through which we come to encounter and experience anew Jesus' death and resurrection. We are glad you have joined us for this holy time, and we hope you will participate as fully as you can in our services this week. Please see the schedule below for dates and times.

We extend a particular welcome to all those who are new to our parish this morning. Wherever you are on your journey in life, we hope you find something in this community that feeds your soul.

Message From Deacon Lauren

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At St. Matthew's, we are a community of faith united in God's love. We now come together in various virtual ways since we cannot see each other face to face. Even though this is our temporary reality, I encourage to you to stay true to your faith in loving yourself and others, just as Jesus has always loved us: unconditionally.

Here is a portion of a prayer from Florence Nightingale's tribute in *Holy Men and Holy Women*, which I have found encouraging: may each one of us "shine as lanterns of hope in the darkest hours of pain and fear; through Jesus Christ, the healer of body and soul, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. *Amen.*"

We come together with the common thread of love and hope even during these trying times of sheltering in place. Please know that my prayers are with each and every one of you at this time.

Peace and love,
Deacon Lauren

Holy Week and Easter Services and Activities

Church services will be live-streamed on Facebook Live and available afterwards on the church website, except where noted:

<https://episcopalstmatthew.org/category/sunday-service-videos/>

Maundy Thursday, April 9

9:30 am Fr. Eric's Holy Week Storytime: Watch video on the website

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist - Live-streamed

Good Friday, April 10

9:30 am Fr. Eric's Holy Week Storytime: Watch video on the website

12:00 noon Good Friday Service - Live-streamed

Holy Saturday, April 11

6:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter - Not live-streamed; watch video on the website

Easter Sunday, April 12

9:30 am Fr. Eric's Holy Week Storytime: Watch video on the website

10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Live-streamed

Holy Week Storytime With Father Eric!

Our families have been "seeing" each other on Zoom every Sunday morning at 9:30 as we watch Father Jay's wonderful Children's Chapel stories together. Those will continue, and you can watch the videos on our website:

<https://episcopalstmatthew.org/category/childrens-chapel-storytime/>.

As an additional treat Father Eric has put his felt board skills to work and created some beautiful videos to tell the story of Easter, beginning on Maundy Thursday (4/9) and continuing on Good Friday (4/10) and Easter Morning (4/12). You can watch these on our website as well or join other families in our Zoom watch party at 9:30 am each of the three days!

Please email Claire Fry at claire@loudandclaire.com for links to join the Zoom meetings and feel free to share this information with anyone anywhere who might be in need of family-friendly spiritual sustenance and community.

Zoom Meeting Advisory

Several St. Matthew's groups have been using the Zoom meeting platform to get together virtually. Unfortunately, the surge in online Zoom gatherings has attracted a new type of online troll: the "Zoom-bomber." Zoom-bombers join online church services, university classes, and other virtual gatherings and barrage them with offensive language and images. A safety tip: Click only on links from known parishioners seeking to join your Zoom conference.

Blessings and Prayer List Additions

Names for blessings and prayers can be submitted by emailing or calling the church office: office@episcopalstmatthew.org or 650-274-0795.

Giving to St. Matthew's During the Pandemic

Our new reality of sheltering in place is having an impact on church finances. St. Matthew's counts on plate collections during weekly Sunday services to keep the budget in balance. Please consider making a weekly or monthly donation to the church to help us make up the current shortfall. Donations may be made online at episcopalstmatthew.org/campaigns/giving/ or by mailing a check to the church office. Church mail continues to be processed.

Thrift Shop Donations

Closed for regular business, The Shop asks that donations be made by appointment only -- please don't leave your items at the door! Contact: Diana Dykes, 650-796-3177.