

THE TAU CROSS

Regathering for Live Worship

If all things go as planned, on Sunday, July 12th at 9:15 a.m., we will cautiously gather for an outdoor live service on the front lawn of our grounds. We have submitted a plan for regathering with our Diocese and will venture to adhere to all of the safety protocols required by the County of San Mateo. Both our Diocese and the County have been thoughtful and cautious in advocating a strong concern for the safety of the entire community.

As of this writing, our outdoor service will be limited to 100 individuals. All participants will be required to wear masks. Since we have the space, we will be organizing for 10 feet of social distance between each individual or household group. People will be encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets for the lawn. Initially, neither congregational singing nor communion will be allowed. We will be required to take a temperature check of everyone entering the worship space and record the names and contact information for everyone in



attendance (to be used in contact tracing if someone who attended the service tests positive for Covid-19). The County of San Mateo has strongly recommended that anyone over the age of 50 refrain from attending indoor

services. This caution is not absolute, but it encourages individuals in the older age brackets to carefully consider the risk level and their

comfort with participation in our outdoor worship service. Sunday School and all other permutations of live church group gatherings will not be permitted.

I must admit that reading the above paragraph, listing all the rules and procedures that we intend to adhere to, sounds more oppressive than exuberant. Our commitment to safety does not mean that we will abandon our sense of creativity in attempting to make our return to live worship joyful and Spirit-filled. We have a goal to shorten our outdoor service to about 30 minutes. While congregational singing will be prohibited, we will find some way to have one

or more soloists add vocal color. Fr. Jay has already been thinking about what elements of percussion we could add to the service to foster participation. Our bells will be utilized for worship as well.

With the outdoor service scheduled for 9:15 a.m., we will move our online Children's Story time to 10:30 a.m. We will continue to provide our now traditional livestream service but will adjust the start time to 11:00 a.m. In the midst of a changing landscape, this is our first step towards regathering for in-person worship. In advance, I thank you for your patience as we work through all of the details that will allow us to assemble again as the visible

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body of Christ. I suspect that for the time being, many will elect to continue to worship with our online virtual service. Whichever service format best suits your needs, I look forward to our ongoing journey together.

Blessings,
Fr. Eric+

Nobody's Free Until All Are Free

I have a photo of Jackie Robinson taken on April 15th, 1947, the day he broke the color barrier of Major League Baseball. The image shows Robinson coming out of the dugout at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn for his first at bat. This moment sets the tone for the change America experiences in the next 20+ years. It's a quiet image, a sacred moment, captured on black and white film. Robinson looks down at this bat as he steps onto the field. His teammates stand distant. Some of them refused to play with him and carried resentment in their hearts. The crowd doesn't seem expectant; it's as if they are purposely ignoring history. Robinson begins the lonely journey to the batter's box.

The defenses of long-established beliefs often hang on a fearful fallacy that our world would "go to hell in a hen basket" if we were proven wrong. The comfort in being correct sometimes creates an aversion towards the possibility of another truth. People and institutions have justified their prejudice and racist policies under the guise of maintaining law and order – the status quo. When Jackie Robinson stepped up to the plate in 1947, a time when the ideology of segregation and the plague of racism infested everyday life more overtly than they do today, he did more than break the color line. His dignified presence and on-the-field success challenged the established paradigm of white supremacy. Robinson won over hardened hearts and widened the conversation of civil rights in mainstream American society, from churches

and schools to coffee shops and living rooms. He was not afraid to speak out against racial injustice, urging "complete freedom," and he encouraged people of color to protest second class citizenship.

Many of us hold in our hearts the experience of racial discrimination, internalized oppression, and micro-aggressions, which are held in tension with stories of survival, resistance, and spiritual growth. God made one race...the human race. But today we're burdened by narratives of dominance and victimhood that create imbalance and limit our capacity to live into our God-given fullness. Unpacking the layers of separation requires a self-examination of our own power, privilege, and prejudice, against the backdrop of the complex fluidness of culture, location, and historical context. Discrimination and unconscious biases exist in real and hurtful ways.

But with all the focus on rights today, perhaps we really need to focus on responsibility. I care for you because it makes us better together. Embracing responsibility not only offers individual purpose and meaning, but it makes our world better because we establish connection. I can know your story, and you can know mine. If we know the stories of one another, we can learn to care for one another in deeper, more authentic ways. Justice speaks to restoring balance. If we're trying to examine all of the systemic injustice



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that abounds, that work begins first in the heart. Ultimately, balance invites us to look inward and examine who we are now. How we are perceived becomes another's truth unless they know otherwise. Our own reactivity may be the door blocker to relationship. Consider how we experience family, love, laughter, and faith – or perhaps the absence of it – and how that truth affects civil society and our value of togetherness.

The silence of Jackie Robinson walking to his first at-bat contrasts with the loudness of the moment. By all accounts, he was a family man, an athlete with a fighting spirit, a generous teammate, and a follower of Jesus who had deep faith and great moral character. Robinson took responsibility to live into God's great love. Not many people could have walked forward in that moment like Jackie Robinson did. Ten months after Robinson crossed the MLB color barrier, President Truman signed Executive Order 9981 to desegregate the US Armed Forces. Robinson's courage inspired others, and his life became infused with our shared story. His tombstone bears his quote, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

Change flows naturally through the arc of life. Sometimes it happens more rapidly than we would like. It's easy to feel as if the world is in chaos. But there's a bigger picture. The challenge is to live into love. As we see images of our people facing forward, many choosing to march peacefully or to be prayerfully proactive, the loud images reflect volumes of quiet expression of hearts seeking a restoration of balance. Live into love.

Fr. Jay+

You Are Not Alone

One prayerful practice that I do daily to help me feel connected to God is to pray the Anglican Rosary. The prayer that I use to give me strength and connection to God is entitled, "Saint Patrick's Breastplate." My favorite part of the prayer is found in the fourth "week" as the sections of the rosary are called:

I bind unto myself today the power of
God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear
to harken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand
to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
his heavenly Host to be my guard.

For these words to reach my unsettled heart, mind and soul, I need to relinquish my control and to have faith in God. "For in Jesus Christ...the only thing that counts is faith working through love." (Galatians 5:6)

I got a glimpse of God's love shining forth during my chapel time with the children on Sunday, June 14th. I asked them, "What does St. Matthew's Church mean to you?" One child said, "praying to God" and another said, "angels." Some talked about the beautiful stained-glass windows in our church. One child's response that really resonated with me was, "How important the people are that make up St. Matthew's." I couldn't agree more!

The primary reason I asked the children that question is because we are going to create "St. Matthew's Land" around the Magnolia tree in the courtyard this summer. Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing in objects (nothing too precious, something you can part with) that represent St. Matthew's for you. The children will contribute with various coordinated art projects. I'm excited to see what

Continued on next page

St. Matthew's means to each of you and how collectively as a parish we build something together even as we are apart right now.

Please have continued faith that we will get through the many challenges that we are facing right now through our continued faith in Jesus Christ. One simply needs to follow God's path towards love and to be able to trust in God. I pray that God's illuminating rays of love may fill you with faith, trust, and hope. I close with a prayer "For the Absent" from our Book of Common Prayer, page 830:

O God, whose fatherly care reacheth to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech thee graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to thee, may be bound together by thy love in the communion of thy Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace and love,
Deacon Lauren

Children and Family Programs in Full Swing!

Our Zoom Children's Chapel meetings have been a great success with many parish families joining every Sunday morning at 9:30 am* for fellowship and storytime! If you know of any families outside the parish that might benefit from this fun program please share the link with them, all are welcome.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/782826950>

Grownups need fun time too! All are welcome to join the Fellowship Parents Group at our next Game Night on June 27th at 8:30 pm, we will be Zooming and playing free online Scattergories.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81015733980>

*Moves to 10:30 am starting July 12th

Prayers of the People

During the Prayers of the People portion of the Sunday Service, we ask for God's redemptive presence in the church, the world, our community, and individual lives. If you would like to add a name to be read during the Prayers of the People at an upcoming Sunday Service, please email the church office at office@episcopalstmatthew.org.

Watch the Sunday Service Livestream

10:00 am on July 5th and
11:00 am starting July 12th



Facebook Videos Live webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalstmatthew/live/>

No Facebook account is required to watch the livestream with the URL above and it is also a good archive of all of our past livestreamed videos.

Watch on your TV: Download the Facebook Watch TV App, available on many streaming devices (Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, for example) and search the church's name.

Contributions and Pledges to St. Matthew's

Your generous support helps St. Matthew fulfill its mission: to live God's love, to share the Gospel, and to grow spiritually. Thank you for continuing your giving during these times. Contributions and pledges can be mailed to the church or made online at:

<https://episcopalstmatthew.org/giving/donatenow/>

Need Continues for Second Harvest Food Bank



As the COVID-19 crisis continues, the Food Bank is seeing substantial increases in need as community members are furloughed, losing hourly wages, and forced to deplete savings while still providing for their families. If you are able to provide financial support, donations can be made online here:

<https://give.shfb.org/donatenow>

You Shop, Amazon Gives amazon smile

If you haven't already, please consider designating St. Matthew's as the beneficiary of your Amazon orders. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you are familiar with--the same products, prices, and service. To learn more, go to [AboutAmazonSmile](#). Amazon Smile is now available in the mobile app! Go to Settings in the app to link to your Smile account.

Mayor Goethals To Speak At Independence Day Service

We will commemorate July 4th with a special Morning Prayer video service complete with patriotic hymns. We look forward to hearing San Mateo Mayor Joe Goethals speak at the service, premiering on Facebook and the parish website at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 4th.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Best wishes to the graduates in our parish, as they move on to new adventures!

College



Ted Catlin graduated from Brown University with a degree in Architecture. His future plans include making the world a better place.



Zack Hammer graduated from Boston College, majoring in Communications with minors in English and Filmmaking. He is job hunting for a position in marketing, PR, or communications.



Miles Brooks graduated with high honors from Wesleyan University in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies and is seeking employment in his field of study.

High School



Christian Carter graduated from Palo Alto High School and is attending Lafayette College in the fall.



Zoe Hammer graduated from Mercy High School Burlingame and will matriculate at Marquette University's School of Nursing on an honors scholarship.



Sofia Quinton graduated from Mercy High School San Francisco with honors and is heading to Sonoma State University in the fall, where she will study Social Justice.



Owen Stephenson graduated from Sacred Heart Preparatory and will attend USC in the fall.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Best wishes to the graduates in our parish, as they move on to new adventures!

Middle School



Elizabeth Powell
graduated from St.
Matthew's Day School and
will attend Menlo School in
the fall.



Rowan Watan graduated
from St. James Catholic
School in San Francisco and
will attend Lowell High
School in the fall where his
studies will include JROTC,
Japanese, and photography.



We Also Congratulate Our Day School 8th Graders!

Francesca Ceora Arbelaez
Morgan Marston Buckley
Walton Travis Cheung
Finlay Joseph Coulson
Amelie Dalporto
Hannah Clare Doll
Claire Bailey Felton
Alexis Claire Fenton
Michelle Guzman
Che' Yasin Harmon
Warren Hsiao
Elizabeth Michele Kearns
Marisa Hope Kelly

Shikha Devika Kini
Tyler Lahl
Colton James Lum
Kevin Ryan Macy
Lauren Matsuda
Brianna McKay
Yamato Onozato
Cyrus Patel
Alex Arjun Pavate
Elizabeth Catalina Powell
Alexandra Lucia Precourt
Marguerite Adair Robison
John Andrew Roche

Audra Rodgers
Owen Alexander Sam
Finlay Scott
Alexandra Marie Siegfried
Tate Willam Alec Steven-
Schneider
Kenneth Cooper Strausburg
Cayden Jun-Jie Tu
Ethan M. Weinshel
Emily Clair Winters
Ashley Jane Wong

Milestones

In Memoriam

Martha (Marty) Paton

April 10th

Marty passed away on Good Friday at 99 years old. Marty and her late husband Tom were faithful and active parishioners for many decades, until health challenges prevented Marty's attendance at Sunday services. She was a proud and loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother to her two sons and their wives, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She was a woman who did not take "no" for an answer, and always thought the impossible was possible. Her family and friends greatly miss her, but take comfort in knowing that she is in God's hands.

Audrey Ard D'Elia

May 1st

Audrey was a faithful, active, beloved, and generous member of St. Matthew's parish for her entire life, which spanned nearly 91 years. Audrey's family has been part of St. Matthew's for most of the church's existence. Her mother Violet Cuthbert Simpson was an active parishioner when the cornerstone of the new church building was laid after the 1906 earthquake. Following in her parents' footsteps, Audrey married Bob, her late husband of 63 years, at St. Matthew's. Their five children were baptized, confirmed, and attended Sunday School, and several of their 14 grandchildren graduated from the Day School. Audrey is remembered for the twinkle in her eye, her quiet yet resilient demeanor, and her dedication to raising and caring for her family. She is dearly missed by her family and friends.

Lance Bosschart

May 14th

Lance belonged to St. Matthew's since his childhood. He was an acolyte when Fr. Wylder was the rector, and married Jeanne at the church in 1963. He served on the Vestry. As a Stanford-trained engineer, Lance was mechanically inclined, much to St. Matthews' eternal benefit. When the church buildings suffered major earthquake damage in 1989, Lance was central to their restoration. He was a fierce advocate for preservation of the original plans of the renowned architect Willis Polk, who designed the church sanctuary after the 1906 earthquake. Lance continually consulted on improvements to St. Matthew's throughout the rest of his life, including the construction of St. Matthew's Hall, the preschool construction at Charles House, and the recent refurbishment of the bell tower. His deep knowledge of every corner of the buildings and what lays beneath them has been invaluable to every project the church has undertaken in the last 30+ years. He was especially pleased with preserving the east-facing altar in the sanctuary and building the playhouse that now graces Charles House. He is deeply missed by his wife Jeanne, the rest of his family, and his friends.

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!

Sunday Service Livestreamed on Facebook
10:00 am on July 5th and
11:00 am starting July 12th

*The Rev. Dr. Eric Kimball Hinds, Rector
The Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan, Associate Rector
The Rev. Lauren P. McCombs, Deacon
The Rev. Amber Stancliffe Evans, School Chaplain*

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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 beth.vonemster@gmail.com. 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.

Upcoming Events

July 4th July 4th Video Service

July 12th In-Person Sunday Services Resume at 9:15 am

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