



# The Ivy Leaf

August 16, 2020

## **Welcome...**

to St. Matthew's. We're delighted to worship with you this morning, whether this is your first time here or your thousandth. The Episcopal tradition values all parts of the human person—heart, mind, and soul. We believe that all three are gifts from God, and God both sustains them and invites us to use them in God's service. Our passionate emotions, our questions and searching, our yearning for something deeper—God values them all, because God values all of us. Wherever you are on your journey in life, we hope you find something in this community that feeds your soul and strengthens you to share in God's work in the world.

## ***Sacred Ground***

### **A Film-Based Dialogue Series on Faith and Race**

As a part of The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice, our parish will embark upon a ten session program titled *Sacred Ground*. The series is designed to invite and support deeper conversations about race within our own faith community. *Sacred Ground* is designed to create a forum for thoughtful reflection as well as to provide opportunities to share stories and make deeper connections with fellow parishioners.

The series will begin with an initial informational session via Zoom on **Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 pm**. After the initial meeting we will divide into small groups (8-10 people). We plan to conduct four (of the ten) sessions before the end of the year. The first four sessions are scheduled for the weeks of: September 7; October 5; November 2; and November 30. To help judge if the series will be of interest a link that previews some of the video material is provided here:

<https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/syllabus-preview>.

To register for this series please email Victoria at the church office: [office@episcopalstmatthew.org](mailto:office@episcopalstmatthew.org). Victoria will then send you a link for the Zoom call on September 2, as well as the link and password for all of the course materials for the *Sacred Ground* series. The first assignment of the program will

be to watch the film *American Creed* (90 min.) in advance of the first meeting on September 2.

While the series is largely film-based followed by discussion, there are some readings assigned to each session as well. There are also two core books assigned to the course. They are *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman, and *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving (the readings are spread out over the length of the course).

As one can discern, this series has quite a bit more substance than our usual adult education offerings. And while the time commitment is greater—the program provides opportunities for timely conversations about race and faith. It is my hope that a significant number of parishioners will elect to join the *Sacred Ground* conversation. I look forward to our journey together!

Blessings, Fr. Eric+

### **Blessings and Prayer List Additions**

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

### **Contributions and Pledges**

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: [episcopalstmatthew.org/giving/donate-now/](https://episcopalstmatthew.org/giving/donate-now/).

### **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.shf.org/donatenow>.