



The Ivy Leaf

September 27, 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.

Our Labyrinth Is Installed!

Our outdoor labyrinth, installed in honor of the Feast of St. Matthew, has been completed! Look for it near the bell tower on the Baldwin Avenue side.

The design is based on a Classical 7-Circuit pattern, and it is built using almost 300 feet of pro-Manila rope and 250 landscape stakes. To see our video showing the construction process, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/episcopalstmatthew/videos/356204745756729/>

Labyrinths have ancient roots and have become symbolic of the holy pilgrimage — the journey we make within life's larger spiritual quest. They can be found across many faiths and cultures around the world. Modern research indicates walking a labyrinth can offer many health benefits to encourage relaxation, reduce stress, lower blood pressure and to welcome calm in anxious times.

Labyrinths are about the journey, at least as much as the destination. The path weaves and meanders toward a central point. A labyrinth is not a maze. Labyrinths have one way in and one way out. So you don't need to think too hard about where you're going, only to be present in the moment. The bends can slow down pace and breath, inviting moments for insight and wonder. Spiritual teachers believe it offers a tool to go to the deep places of balance and wholeness. For some, the labyrinth evokes the image of communion, "that Christ may dwell in us, and we in Christ." For others, it may be a place to pray or to play.

All are welcome to walk the Labyrinth. Please use safe social distancing for good health practice and to share this sacred ground with others.

Blessing of the Animals 2020

Next **Sunday, October 4**, after our regular virtual worship service at 10:00 am, our clergy will move to the front lawn for the blessing of dogs, cats, and all other faithful household companions. Starting at **11:00 am** and continuing until 11:30 am, households are invited to find a place in our parking lot and then proceed with their pets to the front lawn. Clergy will observe safe social distancing and offer a blessing for your beloved household animals. Parishioners should wear masks and follow the course of travel laid out on the lawn while adhering to safe social distancing.

During the parade of animals, Philip will play festive music, appropriate for the Feast of St. Francis, on our memorial bells.

Parish Town Hall Meeting on 4 October 2020

Join us at **noon** via Zoom next Sunday, **October 4**, for an update about our Parish and School. We will provide an update of parish finances along with a review of the ways to engage with St. Matthew's online. Participants will have the opportunity to meet our Interim Head of School, Ralph Wales, and we will have the opportunity to share the state of reopening plans for both the Church and School. There will also be ample opportunity to ask questions. A Zoom link will be provided in the *Ivy Leaf* the week of the meeting.

Bishop's Ranch Autumn Retreats for Individuals and Families

During select weekends this fall, The Bishop's Ranch will offer lodging and meals in a weekend getaway retreat format for individuals, couples, and families seeking a safe and familiar place of respite. Overnight stays are available for 2-3 nights on these dates:

October 2-4 (space still available but registration closes Monday, September 28)

October 9-11

October 16-18

October 23-25

Oct 30- Nov 1

More information is available here: [Bishop's Ranch Retreats](#).

UTO Ingathering in Pandemic Time

Our traditional Fall United Thank Offering ingathering won't be in person on a Sunday morning this year, but contributions to the good work UTO grants enable can be made via mail and online, by **Sunday, October 25**.

You can donate by using this link: <https://unitedthankoffering.org/give/> (in the “Diocese” box, put California, and in the “Parish” box, St. Matthew’s); or, by mailing a check to St. Matthew’s, made payable to the League for Service, with the memo line labeled “UTO”. For more about UTO, see this month’s *Tau Cross* newsletter: [The Tau Cross](#).

Book Group: *Little Fires Everywhere* for October

The St. Matthew’s Book group has chosen to read *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng and meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 28, at 7:00 pm** to talk about it. All are invited to join.

The novel “traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio. The story explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, the ferocious pull of motherhood, and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.” (*Excerpted from the book jacket.*)

Little Fires topped the *New York Times* best-seller lists and was included on many “Best Books of the Year” lists. It’s also available in audio and electronic formats, and a video series is available on Hulu or Amazon Prime.

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.

Contributions and Pledges

Your generous financial support helps St. Matthew’s 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/.

Need Continues for Second Harvest Food Bank

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, the Food Bank has seen dramatic 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>.