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.

Thanksgiving Day Service Online

Please join us this year for our Thanksgiving Day service, premiering on Facebook at **10:00 am Thursday, November 25**, and available after that on Facebook and the church website. Format will be Morning Prayer Rite 1, with sung canticles and hymns and organ prelude and postlude. Fr. Eric will officiate and Fr. Jay will preach. Happy Thanksgiving!

Advent Lessons and Carols: Inviting Hope

Join our St. Matthew’s School and Church family as we come together to welcome the season of Advent. Participants in our annual service—“virtual” this year—include both Day School and Church choirs and readers. Advent invites us to hope deeply as we watch and wait for the coming of God’s great love in Christ, born again in our hearts and minds. As we retell the story of prophecy and promise through scripture and song, our spirits are lifted up in joyful expectation of a better future made possible through our faithful action. May the lessons and carols, shared together by our communities, propel you toward the true joy of Christmas and a 2021 that brings healing to our suffering world. The service will be available to watch on **Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 pm and any time thereafter** on Facebook and YouTube:

Episcopal Church of St. Matthew on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/episcopalstmatthew
The Christmas Pageant 2.0
It is a time of change and uncertainty, but some things never change. Advent will soon be upon us and that means so will the birth of Jesus. One way we celebrate this birth is with our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve. While we cannot meet in person, we invite you instead to choose a part and sign up for a time slot to come to the church individually to be videoed. Individual videos will be edited together to form a complete pageant. Everyone is invited, and there are parts for everyone. The parts are as usual - Narrators, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Sheep, Angels, Gabriel, Innkeeper, Elizabeth, Wise Men, the Star, Donkey, Soldiers and Caesar.
We encourage families to join up together and, while we have plenty of costumes, we welcome students who may desire to make their own. The filming will take place on Sundays after 12:00 noon during Advent. Each recording will not take long, and families can be filmed together.
If you would like to participate, please contact Janine Gerzanics at 650-346-3026 or j9gerz@gmail.com. She will also be calling families individually starting this weekend.

Donate To Second Harvest Food Bank
Second Harvest Food Bank provides food to over 500,000 of our neighbors in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. This is double the amount that was given before the pandemic started in March.
One in ten of our neighbors receives food from Second Harvest. Many of our neighbors can’t afford to pay for housing and also put nutritious food on the table, including our cooks, cashiers, health care workers, and teachers.
Please donate today to ease the local food shortages by using Second Harvest’s website: https://give.shfb.org/donatenow.

Peace and love,
Deacon Lauren

Children’s Book Drive
St. Matthew's is collecting gently used or new books for Access Books Bay Area, an organization that provides books to under-resourced schools in the Bay Area. The need is particularly great during this time when there is limited access to books through schools and libraries due to the COVID pandemic. A collection box will be placed outside the school library on weekdays until December 12.
Criteria for book donations:
- gently used or like-new books, in good condition, less than five years old (no yellowed or torn pages)
- books for elementary K-6 children

Donations of new books may also be made through their Amazon wishlist.

The CASA Gift Drive Is Happening Now!
We ask again that you open your hearts and help put smiles on the faces of children living in foster care by buying a gift (or two) for the CASA Gift Drive. Please sign up to provide a gift for a child on our online CASA Gift Drive Spreadsheet.

Guidelines:
- You are welcome to sign up for more than one gift.
- Cap your spending on the gifts at $40, and we recommend a range of $25-$40 for a gift card unless otherwise specified.
- Tag your gift with the foster child's name ONLY.
- Do not include a "from" tag and please no post-its (they fall off).
- DO NOT wrap the gift.
- Gifts should be delivered to school during school hours and placed in the bins outside the library.

DEADLINE: All gifts must arrive at school by the morning of Friday, December 4th so CASA has time to deliver them before Christmas.

Thank you for your support of a great cause!

St. Matthew’s Holiday House Goes Virtual
Shop Now Through November 26

The Day School Parents Association is presenting its annual Holiday House online this year, and invites all members of the St. Mathew's community, plus friends and family, to participate. St. Matthew’s Holiday House brings together an array of online vendors offering an assortment of holiday gifts and decor including food and clothing items in addition to the latest Mustang Merchandise. Click here to shop.
**Gilead Is Next For Book Group**

Marilynne Robinson’s novel *Gilead* is next for the Book Group. Set in rural Iowa in the 1950s, its narrator is John Ames, a 76-year-old pastor who has recently been diagnosed with a serious heart condition that may end his life. It is a story of family (particularly fathers and sons), friendship, and faith—the first in a series of four books that Robinson has set in Gilead, each with a different narrator and perspective. The group will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday evening, January 13, 2021**, and all are welcome. (If you’re not officially in the group but would like to join, [rsvp to the church office](mailto:office@episcopalstmatthew.org) to get the link.)

**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 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](http://episcopalstmatthew.org/giving/donate-now).