



The Ivy Leaf

November 29, 2020

Welcome...

to St. Matthew's as we observe the season of Advent. These four weeks before Christmas are a time of watchful waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. During Advent, we look back to Jesus' birth two thousand years ago, and we look forward to his coming again to make all things new. We also look to the present, creating room for Jesus to be born anew into our own lives, our own world.

Wherever you are on your path in life, we are glad you are here! We hope that you find something in this community that feeds your soul through this season of waiting and hope.

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>

or

St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC446wxwEnaNzvtISRr0yiaw>

Handel's *Messiah* Recital

This year's *Messiah* performance presents Chancel Choir soloists in a recital of selections from Handel's masterpiece, with Karen Hutchinson at the piano and Angela Kraft Cross at the organ. The work will premiere [on Facebook](#) at **noon on Sunday, December 13** and be available afterwards on [the church website](#).

Selections will include:

Overture - Piano

Fugue - Organ

Recitative - Tenor: Comfort ye, my people

Chorus: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

Recitative & Aria - Contralto: He shall feed His flock

Aria - Soprano: Come unto Him, all ye that labor

Chorus: Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth

Christmas Pageant 2.0



It is a time of change and uncertainty, but some things never change. Advent is here and that means the birth of Jesus will be soon. 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. **The final pageant will premiere on [Facebook Live](#) at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve.**

If you would like to participate, please contact Janine Gerzanics at 650-346-3026 or j9gerz@gmail.com.

Pledge Envelopes Available

Weekly 2021 pledge envelopes are available now. If you ordered a set, we will mail yours to you. If you haven't yet ordered but would like a set, please contact the church office.

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](#).

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/.