



# The Ivy Leaf

December 6, 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.

## **This Sunday! Advent Lessons and Carols: *Inviting Hope***

Join our Day 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>

## Stewardship Update

To date over 70 households have made a financial pledge to support our parish for the upcoming year. In the weeks ahead our Stewardship team will be reaching out to encourage parishioners to complete a pledge before the end of the year. Last year, 136 households were able to make a financial pledge to support the ongoing mission and ministry of our parish.

It is always helpful if households can complete their pledge cards early. This allows our leadership to make informed budget decisions for the upcoming year and makes the task of follow-up much easier. Great thanks for all who have already pledged their financial support!

If for some reason your stewardship materials did not arrive, simply contact the parish office (650-342-1481 or [office@episcopalstmatthew.org](mailto:office@episcopalstmatthew.org)) and pledge information will be promptly provided.

## Messiah Holiday Concert Next Sunday

Next **Sunday, December 13 at noon**, our annual Messiah concert will premiere on Facebook Live. Tune in to see and hear performances by our Chancel Choir soloists, with Karen Hutchinson on the piano and Angela Kraft Cross on the organ.

## Christmas Pageant 2.0



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 have plenty of

costumes and we welcome students who may desire to make their own.

**Filming is on Saturdays 10:00-12:00 noon and Sundays 12:00-2:00 pm during Advent.**

If you would like to participate, please call, text or email Janine Gerzanics at 650-346-3026 or [j9gerz@gmail.com](mailto:j9gerz@gmail.com).

## **Shop And Give Back To The Day School**

**Five Little Monkeys:** Support a local toy store and give back to the school by shopping online at [Five Little Monkeys](#) between **December 1 – 10**. St. Matthew's will be the beneficiary of 15% of your pre-tax total. Use the code **MATTHEWS2020** at checkout.

**Boon Supply:** The Day School has partnered with [Boon Supply](#), with 40% of every purchase going back to the school. Boon Supply provides an assortment of unique lifestyle products. Participate by [visiting this custom link](#).

## **Christmas Altar Flowers**

This season, remember a loved one or give thanks with a donation to the Altar Guild for altar flowers. A \$35 donation supports this ministry and adds the name you specify to service bulletins Christmas week—as a memorial, or acknowledging an anniversary, birthday, or in thanksgiving. **Deadline for inclusion in Christmas service bulletins is Monday, December 21.** Please call Carol Kalb, Memorial Flower Chairman, at 650-578-9855 if you'd like to donate or have further questions.

## **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.

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