

**Rector's
Ramblings**

The Season of Advent is quickly approaching, and I wanted to get ahead of it with a couple announcements.

1. The Lectionary for Holy Eucharist changes to Year A on 1 December this year. So, we start a new three-year cycle of readings for Sundays on that day.

2. The Daily Office Lectionary changes to Year Two on that same day. For those who are doing two readings with Morning Prayer the Gospel usually becomes the second reading in Year Two.

3. We all know that as much as we would like to slow down and experience a calm and quiet Advent preparing for Christmas, the holiday buzz makes it almost impossible. Therefore, I am trying to design our liturgical experiences as times we can slow down and simplify in this season. No, the structure and content will not change, but we will intentionally leave out some

The Good News

November 21, 2019



Midweek Activities

There will be a celebration of Holy Eucharist for Thanksgiving Day at 5:30 on this Wednesday.

Beginning in Advent our Wednesday gathering will focus on "Who is Mary?".

FRIDAY 11/22 - Fall Cleaning at St. Matthew's

On Friday, November 22nd the building will be closed so the Sanctuary floors can be professionally cleaned and sealed. Please plan NOT to enter the building on those days so that the surfaces can properly dry.

Thanksgiving Schedule

There will be only one service on Sunday, November 24th. All of the St. Matthew's family will worship together at 9:30 AM and immediately after, celebrate Thanksgiving with a traditional potluck meal. A sign-up is posted in the main Hallway for meal organization.

**Qualified Charitable Distributions and
Required Minimum Distribution Gifts**

The tax law permits anyone 70½ or older to make a direct

of the "extras" including entrance and exit processions. We will also take advantage of more time for quiet within the service itself.

4. In keeping with the above, Evensong is an excellent opportunity to soak in quiet reverence amongst Scripture and music.

Wishing you a Holy Advent.

Dave+
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Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)

Find us on Instagram--stmattsblm
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

transfer of IRA balances up to \$100,000 per year to a charity like St. Matthews. For most donors, these qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) make it possible to net an ever-greater tax benefit because those dollars will never hit your adjusted gross income (AGI). Since you would have paid income taxes on that distribution, this strategy offers significant benefit to those who would have given that amount regardless. Added bonus: QCDs go toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD). Bear in mind, though, that QCDs must come from IRAs; they cannot come from 401(k)s. Please contact your tax adviser as to whether this strategy is right for you. They can help advise you on the specific compliance rules to qualify and rollover strategies if your retirement funds are currently held in a 401(k) or similar investment. Also, most brokerage firms will assist you with these transactions and will either disburse the checks directly to the charities, or send the checks to you to pass along.

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH for November 2019.

Thanks for your generous donations of food for the MIDWEST FOOD BANK's Thanksgiving meal giveaway for local residents in need known as The Big Give. Overall, 20 churches (including St. Matthew's) have collected an abundance of traditional Thanksgiving meal items. In light of the very generous donations of canned and boxed items received, the Food Bank would like to ask those still wishing to support The Big Give to purchase \$15 turkey cards at Hy-Vee and Schnuck's. To date, about half of the 2,500 needed turkeys have been donated. Please consider supporting this vital community need. THANK YOU! The Outreach Committee

Updated ways to assist Oakland School are found on their [PTO News](#)

ALSO FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

As you go through your coat closet, do you find a jacket that you're tired of wearing but that is still in pretty good condition?

Do your kids' coats no longer fit?

Bring your gently used winter wear to church and put it in the big white box in the hallway opposite the main office. The Outreach Committee will deliver your donations to The Salvation Army for distribution to people in need. Thank you!

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

24-November 2019

9:30 ONLY

Acolyte: Jack Pitts

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.:

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: replaced with Thanksgiving Potluck

1-December 2019

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Thurifer:

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.:

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Debbie Leighton & Patty Pitts

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of November 24

*Today, Coffee Hour is replaced with the annual Thanksgiving
Potluck for all attending*

Sunday-9:00 a.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (for Children)

9:30 a.m.-Worship

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-11:00 a.m.-Private Music Lessons *

Tuesday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

5:30 p.m.-Thanksgiving Eucharist

Thursday -Thanksgiving

Friday-Holiday, Office closed

Saturday-

Office Hours: Monday through Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

** Authorized Group--St. Matthew's guests*

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Readings for November 24, 2019

Hymns: #494, #451, #290, #555

Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm 46

Deus noster refugium

1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be overthrown; *

God shall help her at the break of day.

7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *

God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *

what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,

and burns the shields with fire.

11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth."

12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The Epistle

Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Gospel

Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross;

but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Birthdays & Anniversaries November 24 - 30

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Grace Johns
James Messer
Jack Pitts

Dedications for this week:

*The Memorial lamp is lit today in remembrance of
Phyllis Feaster & her son, Marc Feaster
by Morris Feaster*

Collect for Christ the King Sunday, November 24th

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

