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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

For this last newsletter before Christmas, I would like to share one of my favorite pieces of poetry. This from Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Ring out, wild bells, to the
wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty
light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let
him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the
new,
Ring, happy bells, across the
snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the
true.

Ring out the grief that saps
the mind
For those that here we see no
more;
Ring out the feud of rich and
poor,
Ring in redress to all
mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying
cause,
And ancient forms of party
strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of
life,
With sweeter manners, purer
laws.

The Good News

December 20, 2019



Steven Ward

It is with sadness that we announce that Steven Ward passed away this week. Funeral services will be in St. Louise on January 25th.

A Memorial Gathering will be held in St. Matthew's Parish Hall on December 28th from 1-3 PM.

Please keep Danielle in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead.

Father of all, we pray to you for Steven, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Men's Breakfast

Men's fellowship breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall, Saturday morning, December 21st, at 8:00 AM.

Carol Sing

We will have a Christmas Carol sing during coffee hour on December 22nd. Please bring your favorite cookies to share on this day and join in the singing of our favorites.

Ring out the want, the care,
the sin,
The faithless coldness of the
times;
Ring out, ring out my
mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place
and blood,
The civic slander and the
spite;
Ring in the love of truth and
right,
Ring in the common love of
good.

Ring out old shapes of foul
disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust
of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of
old,
Ring in the thousand years of
peace.

Ring in the valiant man and
free,
The larger heart, the kindlier
hand;
Ring out the darkness of the
land,
Ring in the Christ that is to
be.
--Tennyson, *In Memoriam*

May the Christmas bells ring
in your heart and mind this
season.

Dave+
309-660-8515

Advent - Christmas Season Services

December 24th (Tuesday)

12:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Day Eucharist (with hymns)

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist

December 25th (Wednesday)

9:00 a.m. Christmas - Rite I Eucharist

December 26th (Thursday)

7:30 a.m. Feast of St. Stephen

December 27 (Friday)

7:30 a.m. Feast of St. John the Apostle

January 1st (Wednesday)

9:00 a.m. Feast of the Holy Name

Epiphany Eve

On Sunday, January 5th, we will celebrate Epiphany at Funk's Grove. We will begin with Evensong at 5:30 PM at Funk's Grove Church and then move to Sugar Grove for the burning of the greens that decorated the church, caroling, hot beverages and treats. All are invited to bring any greens that need disposing.

We are also inviting the other congregations in our Deanery.

Bishop Election

As was announced after our last Diocesan Synod, Bishop Daniel has called for the election of a new bishop for the Diocese and announced his own retirement in June of 2021. The Standing Committee of the Diocese, who is responsible for holding the election, has published a letter updating us on the process to elect the XIIth Bishop of Springfield.

That letter can be found [here](#).

More importantly they have asked that we keep this election in our prayers, and they suggest the following prayers for our use. We will use one of these each Sunday as part of the Prayers of the People.

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield

[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)

Find us on Instagram--stmatbslm

Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - BCP page 818, #13

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the choosing of a bishop for this Diocese. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Adapted from BCP page 818, #12

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH for December 2019.

Head Start is one of the featured agencies supported by Outreach at St. Matthew's.

Head Start is a federal funded program that works to educate children and empower families. Through education and community resources, Head Start families make the transition from dependence to independence. Our goal is to break the cycle of poverty for the children in our program.

Winter Needs

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!

Mitten Trees

It is an annual tradition at St. Matthew's that Christmas trees be trimmed with hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for children in need in the community. "Mitten trees" have been placed in the Narthex and hallway out side the Parish Hall. Please help decorate them with store bought or handmade items during Advent and through the season of Christmas. They will be delivered to the Boys and Girls Club in January.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

22-December 2019

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Kathryn Morris

10:00

Acolyte: Jack Pitts

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer (Cookies & Carols)

24-December 2019

12:30

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

9:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Thurifer: John Stoffer

E.M.: Jack Pitts

29-December 2019

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Pam & Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Nona & Harlan Noel

Coffee Hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall.

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

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

Tuesday-12:30 p.m.-Christmas Even Day, with hymns

9:00 p.m.-Candlelight Eucharist

Wednesday-9:00 a.m.-Christmas Day Mass

Thursday -7:30 a.m.-Feast of St. Stephen

Friday-7:30 a.m.-Feast of St. John the Apostle

Saturday-

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The office will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan.

** 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 December 22, 2019

Hymns: #72, #56, #66, #68

Old Testament

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered

despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and

unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Birthdays & Anniversaries December 22 - 28

Anniversaries

Karyn Smith & Robin Levine

Birthdays

Holly Dyson

Hally Brenneman

Dedications for this week:

The Memorial lamp is lit in loving memory of

Sara E. McDaniel

by Phyllis & Dave Halt

The Sanctuary lamp is lit in loving memory of

Phyllis & Marc Feaster

by Morris Feaster

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

