

**Rector's Ramblings**

"The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'"-- Psalm 29.9

As I took Murphy for his morning walk today, a gentle breeze was blowing from the southwest. It was quite refreshing, and a change from the winds that blew through our neighborhood last night. It was then that this verse came to mind.

Being careful not to confuse the creation with the Creator, the Psalmist compares the voice of the LORD with a powerful wind storm. While the effects of the wind on the natural world are described in detail, it is the response of the people of God to the voice of the LORD that is important for the Psalmist. The people gathered in the midst of the storm, hearing the voice of the LORD, all cry "Glory!" It is right and proper to praise God and give him glory in all things, for "The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever."

As I pondered this verse on my walk, I thought about how the Lord was in the "still small voice" that the Prophet Elijah heard. It is true that God speaks with that voice and the voice that "breaks the cedars of Lebanon." Yet, how often do we desire only to hear the "still small voice"? How often do we seek only the gentle breeze that refreshes, calms, and comforts as opposed to the powerful wind that gets our attention and shakes us to our core, leaving the only response to be a cry of "Glory" and obedience?

Each voice is filled with the grace of God, and as Christian people we need God to speak into our lives with both voices. The question is always, are we listening?

With love and blessings,

Dave+  
309-660-8515

**Ministry Links**

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield  
Rector's Blog (new)  
Find us on Instagram--stmattsbldm  
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

**The Good News**

July 10, 2020



**Continuing Worship Guidance**

*St. Matthew's is authorized to have 40 individuals present at any given service.*

**With this new information we will be returning to our regular, or normal, schedule Sunday morning. There is no need to make reservations for these services.**

**For the near future, coffee hour must take place outside, and is tough to plan on short notice. A short fellowship time will take place outside following the service.**

**The guidance regarding masking and singing (below) still holds.**

1. All are reminded to take their own health issues into consideration when deciding whether to attend. Also, stay home if you have any symptoms that are not associated with a chronic health issue.

2. Most services will be spoken/read services. A cantor is allowed to sing, but congregants are asked to refrain.

3. All individuals who are in the building must maintain physical distance and have a face covering, unless actively leading a portion of the service.

4. Each service will have color coded seats in the Nave. Families are allowed to sit together.

5. Only the restrooms in the addition will be available for use.

**6. The 10AM service will continue to be streamed "live" on Facebook. If you are uncomfortable being in the worship space and still wish to commune, communion will still be available via the "drive-through" for 30 minutes after the service. It is expected that "drive-through" communion will not continued to be offered after the 28 of June.**

**Current Schedule for the week:**

**Sunday 7:30AM Rite I Holy Eucharist**

**10:00AM Rite II Holy Eucharist (also streamed)**

**Thursday**

**7:30 AM Morning Prayer with Holy Communion**

**July 12th, the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10):**

**Sunday Eucharist Outline is [here](#).**

**Full Service is [here](#).**

*Added Note: Please bring your own printed copy, or electronic device from home to avoid cross contamination in the Nave.*

Both bulletins have the music included, so there is no need to touch the hymnals.

**Worship on July 26th**

**This will be Fr. Dave's last Sunday at St. Matthew's. There will be a 7:30AM service on this day, but no 10AM service.**

**On Sunday afternoon, the Bishop will celebrate a service of Confirmation and Pastoral Leave-taking at 4:30PM. Fr. Dave will be the preacher at this service, and it will be streamed.**

**Theology Uncorked**

Will meet this Sunday at 6PM. Weather permitting we will meet outside. Please bring a lawn chair.

**Outreach Opportunities  
ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

**A Big Thank You for your support of Advent! We have received confirmation that his funds arrived and school is in progress.**

**Mark Your Calendar**

A wedding shower for Emily Lavikoff and Roger Ayers is being planned for Saturday, July 18th, at 3 PM. Everyone is invited. For questions, please call Dianne Wunderle (660-9653) or Shelley Brenneman Carter (275-3183).

**The Daily Devotional Reading**  
is available by clicking of the link below:  
[Good News Daily](#)

**Worship Serving Schedule**

As noted above in the Phase III Reopening/Recovery article: all servers volunteer directly with Fr. Dave for the masses on Sunday.

We will resume traditional scheduling as events allow.

Thank you again, and may God bless you.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries July 12 - 18**  
*Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*  
Conner Bennett  
John Gibson  
Tori Roberson  
Doug Dyson

**Dedications for this week:**

**6th Sunday after Pentecost, July 12th**

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through 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