



## ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.



#### The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### The Old Testament — Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

#### Psalm 25: 1-9

BCP, pg. 614

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

#### The Epistle — 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

#### The Gospel — Luke 21: 25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

## PRAYERS

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR COPY OF PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** on the shelf in the narthex to use during your personal devotional time.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY** are given to the glory of God In celebration of Jim Raasch's birthday

**BIRTHDAYS** (Nov. 29-Dec. 5): Paula Witter, Eleanor Lee, Mark DiGiovanni, John Bateman, Holly Bond, Lillie Robinson, Karl Cassell, Mara DiGiovanni, Akin Thomas, Ian Prichard, Benjamin Butler, Alyssa Carr, Abby Donavon, Jim Raasch, Heidi Byron, Matthew Sutton, Chris Donavon, Max Beck, Flora Cox, Candler Whitehead, Annie Jones, Zakk Sanders, Oliver Gyger, Shirley Jones, Nancee Cekuta

**ANNIVERSARIES** (Nov. 29-Dec. 5): Alford & Kay Morgan, James & Kelley Wallace, Chuck & Vickie Conway

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

- ◇ **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** in the parish hall today from 9-9:30, hosted by the Camden Family and/or;
- ◇ **COFFEE HOUR** in the parish hall or out on the patio following the 10:30 service for coffee and fellowship.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FEELING CALLED TO VESTRY SERVICE?

Join Sr. Warden Mallard Benton and other vestry members in the choir loft @ 9:30 this Sunday and throughout November to have your questions answered. Vestry elections will be held during the Annual Parish Meeting in January, 2016. Nominations are now open for both Vestry and Diocesan Council.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your offering envelopes are now available and ready for pick-up in the parish hall. Also, as a reminder, please always write your envelope number on all checks written to St. Matthew's with an explanation in the memo section.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS OFFERING

Flowers for decorating St. Matthew's for Christmas services are made possible by your generous donations. If you wish to donate toward flowers, forms will be available in the narthex. Please make your check payable to St. Matthew's for Christmas Flowers. Forms may be placed in the collection plate or left in the office. The Deadline is December 14th.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR SENIORS** It's that time of the year to spread some Christmas cheer! We are providing presents for 10 seniors this year. Please grab a tag off the Christmas Board and return presents by December 13th. Please place your gifts in Christmas Gift bags and place tag inside the bag. If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Wheeler at cheryl756@yahoo.com.

### COME CELEBRATE THE SEASON!

#### Lunch Bunch gathers

Thursday, December 10, 2015 At Noon  
1910 Public House  
Main Street, Old Lilburn  
Take a breather during the seasonal rush to gather with old and new friends for good food and conversation.

### ANNUAL ST. MATTHEW'S FALL DRIVE "COATS FOR KIDS" AND "SHOES 4 KIDS"

Now through January 2016, outreach is collecting new & gently used shoes & coats for children. Your donations will be brought to Place of Seven Springs who will disperse them to those in need amongst our community. Donations are being collected in the foyer outside the parish hall.

### Santa / St. Nicholas Breakfast

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
1520 Oak Road, Snellville,  
GA 30078

### Pancake Bar, Ornament Craft, Photo with Santa, Story Time

1yr-5<sup>th</sup> Grade \$4

Adults \$5 ~ Family \$20

Tickets sold at the door.

### Proceeds Benefit

St. Matthew's Nursery

Contact Amanda Livermont,  
Cathy Chapman, Carey Holbrook,  
Kira Coats, Mona Livermont, or  
Jennifer Papadatos  
for questions or  
volunteer opportunities!  
678-491-7457 (Amanda)

### THE SANCTUARY CHOIR AND STRING ENSEMBLE

#### Presents

The Advent Christmas portion  
of  
**Messiah**  
on  
**Friday, December 18, 2015**  
at  
**7:30 P.M.**

**Rehearsals continue on  
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**If you sang with us last year,  
please join us again.**

You do not have to be a member of the choir to take part in this joyful event. If you sang Messiah in high school, college or want to learn the voice part with a study CD, please talk to a choir member or Dan. The concert was a great church event last year and we want to continue the tradition. The performance also serves as a fundraiser for the music program and charity.

## SERVING TODAY

**Vestry Person of the Day:** Becky Olbon

**EMS: 8:00** Mark Allen, Sam Harrison, Nancy Allen

**10:30** Maxine Stutes, Jack Denton, Althea Benton

**Lectors: 10:30** Lynne Kiker, Mona Livermont

**Verger: 8:00** John Williamson

**10:30** Michael Chapman

**Ushers: 8:00** Clay Olbon, Mutty Dixon

**10:30** Don & Lynne Ulmer

**EV:** Arlean Golden & Ed Walsh

**Acolytes: 8:00** \*\*Mara DiGiovanni, \*Nate Olbon, Derek Kiddoo, Andrew Byron, Kimberly Kiddoo, Lindsay Wheeler

**10:30** \*\*Lynne Kiker, Jay Jones, Stephen Prichard, Katie Jones, \*Alyssa Hervis, Liz Colinger, Katelynne Prichard, Ian Prichard, Chris Donavon

**Greeters: 8:00** John & Heidi Bryon, Phyllis Lowery, Janis Williams, Jimmy Piechowiak

**10:30** John & Diane Eberhart, Jay Jones, Levi Livermont

**Altar Guild:** Val Biggs, Sally Ellis, Arlean Golden, Nancy New

**Flower Guild:** Sylvia George & Beth DiGiovanni

**Nursery: 10:15** Kira Coats, Abby Whatley, Melanie Thomas, Ashley W., Jessie H.

**Communion Bread:** Tasha Jones

\*\*M.O.M.S \*Senior Acolyte

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

#### Sunday, November 29:

8:00 am Eucharist  
9:00 am Breakfast  
No Junior Worship or Sunday School  
10:30 am Family Sunday w/children sermon  
11:45 am Coffee Hour  
12:30 pm **NO** EfM Class

#### Monday, November 30:

7:30 pm Epiphany Choir Rehearsal

#### Tuesday, December 1:

6:00pm Centering Prayer  
6:30 pm EfM

#### Wednesday, December 2:

10:00am Healing Service  
11:15 am WWW  
4:00 pm Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
6:00 pm DIVE Bible Study  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir/Messiah Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Guy's Night Out (Trivia)

#### Thursday, December 3:

10:00 am Knit, Purl & Pray  
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg.  
7:00 pm Finance Committee Mtg.

#### Friday, December 4:

7:00 pm First Fridays

#### Saturday, December 5:

9:00 am Altar Guild  
10:00 am Flower Guild

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Monday, Dec. 7 @ 6:30

ECW Christmas party at Beth Still's

#### Saturday, Dec. 12

Santa/St. Nicholas Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.

#### Sunday, Dec. 13

Nativity Display 8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

#### Friday, Dec. 18: @ 7:30 p.m.

Messiah Advent Christmas Portion  
The Sanctuary Choir and String Ensemble