



## ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2015

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



#### The Collect

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sin, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### The Old Testament — Baruch 5: 1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

#### Canticle 4 , The Song of Zechariah

BCP, pg. 50

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
    he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us, \*  
    In the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
    Which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
    and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham, \*  
    That he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies\*  
    Might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
    All the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
    For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people\*  
    For the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
    Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, \*  
    And to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
    as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

#### The Epistle — Philippians 1: 3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

#### The Gospel — Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

## 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 Mark & Mara DiGiovanni's birthdays.

**BIRTHDAYS** (Dec. 6 - Dec. 12): Kent Moe, Christina Pratt, Jim Haring, Terri Hurst, Bob Griner, Debbie Vagasi, David Perkins

**ANNIVERSARIES** (Dec. 6 - Dec. 12): Richard & Grace Gilchrist, Herb & Kira Coats, Bob & Jennifer Stevens

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT** The bulletins are designed to be re-used each week. Please return them to the Narthex and take the lessons and announcements insert with you.

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT WHY WE SHARE A COMMON CUP AT THE EUCHARIST, RATHER THAN LITTLE INDIVIDUAL CUPS THAT ARE USED BY SOME DENOMINATIONS?** Do you know that any leftover bread must be consumed or buried; it cannot be thrown in the trash? St. Matthew's will offer an Instructed Eucharist to explain these and other aspects of how we celebrate Holy Communion. The Instructed Eucharist will take place on Saturday, December 12, from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

**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 [cherly756@yahoo.com](mailto:cherly756@yahoo.com).

**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 off the parish hall.

**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.

**FEELING CALLED TO VESTRY SERVICE?** Join Sr. Warden Mallard Benton and other vestry members in the choir loft @ 9:30 this Sunday 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.

**PRINTED COPIES OF BOTH OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND UPDATED PARISH DIRECTORY** will be made available for those who are unable to access these on-line. They can be picked up in the ante narthex or from the office.

**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.

*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  
& 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.**  
**\$10 donation per ticket  
Available after each service**

**LUNCH BUNCH  
COME CELEBRATE THE SEASON**  
Thursday, December 10, 2015 At Noon  
1910 Public House,  
Main Street, Old Lilburn

**THANK-YOU - FROM ROXANA BAPTISTE**  
I would like to thank everyone who supported me during the "Fundraiser for Roxana Baptiste" with special acknowledgement to the Brotherhood and the Outreach Committee. Words cannot express how grateful I am. I thank each and everyone. May God continue to bless you.

**THE SNELLVILLE ARTS COMMISSION** is pleased to announce that the Snellville Labyrinth will be dedicated at City Hall on January 30, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the labyrinth itself on City Hall grounds near the Veterans' Memorial with a reception to follow in the Community Room at City Hall. Mother Liz has agreed to give the invocation. **OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. MATT'S FOR THE GENEROUS DONATION OF \$1000 TO THE PROJECT.** If you wish to attend the celebration, please let Judy Leavell or Cheryl Wheeler know so that we can get a head count for refreshments.

## SERVING TODAY

**Vestry Person of the Day:** Todd Camden  
**EMS:** **8:00** Peggy Harrison, Judy Leavell, Noreen Richardson  
**10:30** Lynne Ulmer, Wilhelmina Wilson, Jack Denton  
**Lectors:** **10:30** Eric Prichard, Andrew Whatley  
**Verger:** **8:00** Sam Harrison  
**10:30** Anita Genung  
**Ushers:** **8:00** Ted Sokal & Norma Dove  
**10:30** Shirley Brown & Brett Johnson  
**EV:** Pat Kohler & Fay Lovell  
**Acolytes:** **8:00** \*\*Mara DiGiovanni, \*Blair Rector, Andrew Byron, Kunle Thomas, Natalie Stephens, Annie Jones  
**10:30** \*\*Michael Chapman, Alex Bean, Chris Donavon, \*James Pratt, David Camden, Emmanuel Mitchell, Eva Mitchell, Nadine Kumbu-Smart  
**Greeters:** **8:00** Donna Burton, Marlene Johnson, Ellen Pfeil, Connie Fidler, Jimmy Piechowiak  
**10:30** Caroline Tyler, Minnette Brown, Jim Sivert, Gail Woodruff  
**Altar Guild:** Heidi Byron, Anita Genung, Eudora Gardiner, Wilhelmina Wilson, Cheryl Wheeler, Lindsay Wheeler  
**Flower Guild:** Sylvia George & Beth DiGiovanni  
**Jr. Worship:** Sharon Ferrell & Allison Kruskamp  
**Nursery:** **10:15** Kira Coats, Abby Whatley, Melanie Thomas, Ashley W., Jessie H.  
**Communion Bread:** Eric Prichard  
\*\*M.O.M.S \*Senior Acolyte

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Sunday, December 6:**  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Breakfast  
9:30 am St. Nick Visit & Nativity Skits SS  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist  
11:45 am Coffee Hour  
12:30 pm EfM Class  
4:00 pm Youth Group  
**Monday, December 7:**  
7:00 pm Health & Wellness Committee Mtg.  
6:30 pm ECW Christmas Party  
7:30 pm Epiphany Choir Rehearsal  
**Tuesday, December 8:**  
6:00pm Centering Prayer  
6:30 pm EfM  
**Wednesday, December 9:**  
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 10:**  
6:00 pm Long Range Planning Mtg.  
**Saturday, December 12:**  
8:00 am Brotherhood  
9:00 am Altar Guild  
9:00 am St. Nick Breakfast with Santa  
10:00 am Flower Guild  
12:30 am Instructed Eucharist & Confirmation Retreat  
**Sunday, Dec. 13:**  
• Lessons & Carols 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
• Nativity Display 8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.  
• Confirmation at the Cathedral 4:00 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 18: @ 7:30 p.m.**  
The Sanctuary Choir & String Ensemble presentation of The Advent Christmas Portion of Messiah