



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2015
8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.



The Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Old Testament — Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Canticle 3 , The Song of Mary

BCP, pg. 50

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

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 — Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Gospel — Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

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 by Gail & Ted Sawyer in loving memory of Ruth & Roy Ekholm; and by Marsha Elixson in memory of Toivo Elixson.

BIRTHDAYS (Dec. 20 - Dec. 26): Margaret Morrison, Clair Hildebrant, Arlean Golden, Susan Adkins, Charlie Holbrook, Phillip Matteson, Beth Still, Janis Taylor, Dedeh Laval, Leah Hervis, Sydney Bassey, Michele Futch, Cindi Bateman.

ANNIVERSARIES (Dec. 20 - Dec. 26): Olu & Yemi Odugbeson, Olawale & Tracie Fakorede, Russell & Ann Bronaugh, Gary & Heather Pratt, Fred & Sara Angeletti

PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES SCHEDULE



CHRISTMAS EVE:

Thursday, December 24, 2015

5:00 p.m. - Family Service with the Cherubs

7:30 p.m. - Family Service

10:30 p.m. - Hymn Sing

11:00 p.m. - Festive Holy Eucharist with incense

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Friday, December 25, 2015

Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.

THE NEW ADVENT WREATH STAND is given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for her first year of ministry at St. Matthew's by Mother Liz.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH please welcome The Rev. Marshall Benjamin Day (Fr. Ben) as our supply Celebrant and Preacher at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

BAPTISM SUNDAY IS ON JANUARY 10, 2016. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION.

THE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING will be on Sunday, January 24th with a combined service at 9:30.

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.

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, OUR PARISH HAS A FOCUSED FOOD DRIVE FOR THE SOUTHEAST GWINNETT COOP. We will be collecting canned meats (salmon, beef, ham) and canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, mixed fruit, applesauce). Bags will be handed out after the services, so please fill and return them to the collection barrel outside the Parish Hall. Thank you!

Your St. Matt's Member Number - for accounting purposes, we have assigned each member a number. For those with pledge envelopes, your member number matches the number on the pledge envelope. Whether you completed a pledge card or not, you have an assigned number. Please write this number on your checks for any contribution you make to St. Matthew's, so that we can ensure accurate posting to your account. Please note: if you requested pledge envelopes for this year, they are in the Parish Hall. **Please pick them up.**

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: Peggy Haring

EMS: 8:00 Samuel Harrison, Ralph NeSmith, Mark Allen

10:30 Charles Kumbu-Smart, Nancy Allen, Sheila Ferrell

Lectors: 10:30 John Williamson, Dan Mitchell

Verger: 8:00 Gregory Andrews

10:30 Gini Peterson

Ushers: 8:00 Karen Wilson & Doug Mendrala

10:30 Jay Jones & Samantha Renfro

EV: Arlean Golden & Ed Walsh

Acolytes: 8:00 **Susan Kiddoo, Chad Williamson, Anthony Nwosu, *Kimberly Kiddoo, Derek Kiddoo, Nate Olbon

10:30 **Andrea McFarland, Alyssa Hervis, Katie Jones, *Ian Prichard, Akira Bristol, Rachel McFarland, Saima Chavenet, Iris Camden

Greeters: 8:00 Mark & Julie Franke, Becky & Clay Olbon, Jimmy Piechowiak

10:30 Minnette Brown, Shirley Brown, Gail Woodruff, Jim Sivert

Altar Guild: Joan Kengla, Jan Nabors, Susan Savage, Fay Lovell, Minnette Brown, Norma Dove

Flower Guild: Janis Williams

NO Jr. Worship

Nursery: 10:15 Cathy Chapman, Abby Whatley, Elizabeth Livermont, Jake C., Olivia G.

Communion Bread: Eric Prichard

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday, December 20:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Breakfast

9:30 am NO Sunday School

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

11:45 am Coffee Hour

12:30 pm EfM Class

4:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, December 21:

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 553

7:30 pm Epiphany Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 22:

6:00pm Centering Prayer

6:30 pm EfM

7:00 pm Al-Anon 8:00 pm AA

Wednesday, December 23:

10:00am Healing Service

6:00 pm DIVE Bible Study

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

7:00 pm Guy's Night Out (Trivia)

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Family Service

7:30 pm Family Service

10:30 pm Hymn Sing

11:00 pm Festive Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 26:

8:00 am Brotherhood

9:00 am Altar Guild

10:00 am Flower Guild

Sunday, Dec. 27:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Breakfast

9:30 am NO Sunday School

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

11:45 am Coffee Hour

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED December 24 - January 1 and will re-open on January 4th. **Have a safe and happy Holiday!**