

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29th, 2023



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

32 N. Front St.

Sunbury, PA 17801

570-286-7002

The Rev. Dina Carter Ishler, Deacon in Charge

Welcome The Rev. Frederic Stevenson

stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com (office email)

reverenddina@gmail.com

Please visit us at stmatthew-episcopal.org

We are delighted to have you with us!

Please follow all COVID-19 restrictions.

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Eucharist Rite II

10:00 am

Prelude “Prelude”
Processional Hymn

Ludwig Von Beethhoven
#437, The Hymnal 1982

THE WORD OF GOD

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant and people say together

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Song of Praise

S-280, The Hymnal 1982

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons *The people sit.*

The Old Testament: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 15

Domine, quis habitabit?

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will
thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the

foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#656, The Hymnal 1982

The Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Frederic Stevenson

A brief time of silence after the sermon is held for reflection.

Nicene Creed *all stand and say together*

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped

and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People, Form II

BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin, Archbishop; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Audrey, our Diocesan Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Today in our Susquehanna Convocation Cycle of Prayer we pray for Resurrection Mission, Mt Carmel. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, and The Church of Pakistan (United)

Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially: our President, Joe Biden; our Governor Josh Shapiro, and our Mayor, Josh Brosnious; our State Representative Lynda Schlegel-Culver; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, and for our homebound members: Anita.

Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

Pray that they may find and be found by God. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for Stephen, Frances (Fran), Angela, Stan, Alexis, Tanya, Steve K., Weston, Church of the Redeemer, Mike B., Noelle, Christian, Dennis, Sandy, Rich, Linda, Nathan K., Nancy, Terry, Emily, and Ellen. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan D., Kara, Melissa, Janice and their co-workers.

I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially for Alverna.

Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

I ask your thanksgivings offered either silently or aloud. *Silence*
Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

BCP 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

BCP 360

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn

#477, The Hymnal 1982

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people may stand.

The Celebrant says The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

S-129, The Hymnal 1982

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. **Alleluia.**

The Agnus Dei

S-151, The Hymnal 1982

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn

#560, The Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing *The Priest blesses the People*

Recessional Hymn

#441, The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal *The Celebrant dismisses the People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “An Air for Trumpet”

Goerg Phillip Telemann

PARISH NOTES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2023

COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY: The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. We’re in need of volunteers to distribute diapers. Please contact Connie Kistler at kistinpa@ptd.net. Monetary donations are very much welcomed. Please give to the Treasurer, Tom Culver, in an envelope labeled Diaper Pantry. **Donations of diaper wipes and pull-ups are appreciated.** We covered 30 baby bottoms in January.

HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY: Is the last Saturday of each month. Please contact Nancy Shipman at 570-286-0430 to volunteer. Donations of canned fruits & vegetables are welcome.

PARISH NOTES *(cont.)*

The next Food Pantry will be held Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **Any donations are greatly appreciated.**

CHURCH SERVICE TIME: Church service time is **10:00 AM**. Masks are now optional.

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10AM to 2PM, and Thursday, 10AM to Noon.

CHILDREN MINISTRY: Please consider your participation & role in this vital ministry. If interested in working to teach our children and guide them in faith, please contact Anissa, 570-898-2275

ALTAR SERVERS: St. Matthew's is looking for altar servers of all ages for lay ministries of: **Eucharistic Minister** (someone who helps with communion from the altar and distributes the chalice), **Crucifer** (someone who carries the cross in procession) or **Lector** (someone who reads the lessons and the "prayers of the people"), and for the ministry of **Thurifer** (someone who dispenses incense with the thurible.) Please contact Anissa DeCaprio-Sanduta if interested.

LAY MINISTRIES: Anyone interested in participating with any of the Lay Ministries, please contact any Vestry member or speak with Mary Ann Loftus.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Interested in singing with the Choir? Choir rehearsals are held every Sunday after the Service. All are welcomed!

MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST: The monthly morning breakfast will be held on Feb. 5th at 9:00AM.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SUNDAYS: The first Sunday of each month will be Children's Activity Sundays, Feb. 5th starting at 9:30AM. Any questions, please contact Anissa DeCapria.

PANCAKE DINNER: "All You Can Eat", Tuesday, Feb. 21st, 4:00PM - 6:30PM, FREE WILL OFFERING - Proceeds got to Episcopal Relief Fund

"ALLELUIA SUNDAY": "Families with children" are encouraged to join us for "Alleluia Sunday", which will be the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, **Feb. 19th**. There will be a 'pop-up' kids' musical activity where they can choose an instrument to play to accompany one of our hymns, they will carry Alleluia banners during our processional and recessional hymns on the 19th and they will help us all remember we "retire" our Alleluias for Lent and then bring

PARISH NOTES (*cont.*)

them back joyfully at Easter. Please stay tuned for more info around this, and invite all the young people you know to participate!"

YOGA CLASSES: Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday starting at 7:00PM.

UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS: Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information

Sun., Feb. 5th: Monthly Breakfast Hour, 9:00AM

Sun., Feb. 5th: Children's Activity Sunday, 9:30AM

Wed., Feb. 15th: Vestry Meeting, 6:00PM

Fri., Feb. 17th: Boy Scouts Paint Night Fundraiser

Sun., Feb. 19th: Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM

Tues., Feb. 21st: Pancake Dinner, 4:00PM-6:30PM

Serving today's liturgy

The Rev. Frederic Stevenson, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Tina Schlegel, *Organist*, and St. Matthew's Choir

Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*

Roy Casey, *Eucharistic Minister*

Bill Bohner, *Lector*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

VESTRY MEMBERS

Mary Ann Loftus *Senior Warden*

Roy Casey (2021-2023) *Junior Warden*

Cyn Reid (2022-2024)* *Clerk of the Vestry*

Nathan Blanchard (2021-2023); Martha Bohner (2022-2024)

Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta (2021-2023);

Carol Lamparter (2022-2024); Pam Schlegel (2021-2023);

Lynda Schlegel-Culver (2022-2024); Fran Zartman (2022-2024)*

Charlie Schlegel *Senior Warden Emeritus*

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION IN 2023

Lynda Schlegel-Culver, Pam Schlegel, and Fran Zartman (Alternate)

(* indicates that the person must wait one year before running for vestry again in the final year of election)

SEXTON Sharon Baney

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Stephen, Frances (Fran), Angela, Stan, Alexis, Tanya, Steve K., Weston, Church of the Redeemer, Mike B., Noelle, Christian, Dennis, Sandy, Rich, Linda, Nathan K., Nancy S., Terry S., Emily, June, Nancy, and Ellen. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan D., Kara, Melissa, Janice and their co-workers. Also, please pray for all the departed, especially Alverna.

(Please notify Elaine Schlegel, or the Parish Administrator, Carla Treon, of anyone who needs prayers so they can be added for the next upcoming Sunday.)*

DONATIONS:

**You can now donate to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church "online" at the link listed: <https://diocesecpa.org/stewardship>

Or you may continue to mail your contributions to:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

32 N. Front St.

Sunbury, PA 17801

All tithes and offerings are greatly appreciated.

Mission statement: We are a community of welcoming Christian disciples worshipping in Sunbury and living the Gospel everywhere!

St. Matthew's is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania; the Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop.