

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 21A - October 1, 2023



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
32 N. Front St.
Sunbury, PA 17801
570-286-7002

The Rev. Dina Carter Ishler,
Priest in Charge

All are welcome here, and we are so delighted that you are with us. Please do not hesitate to let us know what your spiritual needs are, so that we may be present to you and continue to welcome you into our community.

We welcome you, with joy and gratitude, to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Whether you have been here many times, or this is your first time worshiping with us, we hope and pray that here you may know the invitation of our endlessly creating God towards a oneness of relationship, that you will enter deeper into communion with Christ and feel the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit guiding you as you journey onwards on the Way of Love. As individuals and as holy community we experience God's Self through our shared worship, prayer, song, silence, the lifegiving nature of the Sacraments, and all we do to tend to and serve those in the world outside our doors.

We are worshiping now in the season after Pentecost which is often described as the "long green growing season", for it is the longest liturgical season of the church year- beginning with the Feast Day of Pentecost, this year on May 28, and continuing through the Feast Day of Christ the King on November 26, immediately before the first Sunday of Advent on December 3.

We refer to this church season as a growing season because it is a time to focus on our spiritual growth as believing people who are hungry to know more. The scripture lessons we read during this time offer particularly rich formation through the stories of our salvation history as heard in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament); this year we are using "Track 1" for the Old Testament reading and psalm, which follows major stories and themes read mostly continuously from week to week, beginning in Year A (this year) with the book of Genesis. It is a time to let this wisdom, which also includes our New Testament reading (Epistle) and Gospel reading, settle into our souls as we invite it to transform us and form that 'firm foundation' that prepares us for our own witness in the world.

Faithfully- Mother Dina

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 21A
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:00 am

(Directions to stand, kneel, etc., in our services should always be considered an invitation. If you find any of these to be challenging, please worship in whatever pose may work for you, knowing you are always and already fully in God's presence.)

The Ringing of the Bells

We ring the sacristy bells five minutes before each service to invite us into the silence and reflection that helps to settle our souls for this time of shared and Spirit-filled worship.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude Music “Andante Grazioso”

W. A. Mozart

Processional Hymn

#437, The Hymnal 1982

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

The people and Celebrant 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 Gloria in Excelsis

S-280, The Hymnal 1982

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.*

A Reading from the Book of Exodus Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 *Attendite, popule*

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Epistle: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death-
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#343, The Hymnal 1982

The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Mother Dina

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

The 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 Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Today in our Susquehanna Convocation Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Mark's, Northumberland. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Lewistown, St. Andrew's in the Valley Episcopal Church, Harrisburg and The Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially our President Joe Biden; our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Mayor Josh Brosnious, and our Senator 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.

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 Mother Dina and family, Father Fred and family, Frances (Fran), Angela, Stan, Tanya, Steve K., Weston, Mike B., Noelle, Anita, Carole, President Carter, Terry S., Nancy S., Richard S., the Sterner family, Gretchen Rehberg (Bishop at The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, Washington), Erika, Mia, Zylar K., Betty, Nicolette, June, Barry I., Rich V., Kelsey, Max, Sue K., George T., Kerena C., Bishop Curry and family, Cyn R., and Mason. 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 _____.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your thanksgivings 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.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. **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.**

Celebrant

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.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

BCP 360

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.

Offertory Hymn

#450, The Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Celebrant 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.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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-130, The Hymnal 1982

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People.

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with **St. Matthew** and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 Fraction Anthem

S-151, The Hymnal 1982

The Celebrant says

These are 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

#685, The Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

The Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People **Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.**

Amen.

The Priest blesses the people.

Recessional Hymn

#690, 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 Music “Reassurance”

Chester Nordman

Serving today's liturgy

The Rev. Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Tina Schlegel, *Organist/Choir Director*

St. Matthew's Choir

Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, *Cantor*

Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*

Roy Casey, *Eucharistic Minister*

Kristen Lenig, *Lector*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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PARISH NOTES for October 1, 2023

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, October 7, 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](mailto: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 44 baby bottoms in September.

**HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY:** Is the last Saturday of each month. Please contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer. Donations of canned fruits & vegetables are welcome. The next Food Pantry will be held Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **All donations are greatly appreciated!**

**CHURCH SERVICE TIME is 10:00 AM.** Masks are now optional. Please follow any current COVID restrictions.

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

**MOTHER DINA'S OFFICE/PASTORAL CALLING HOURS:** Wednesdays, 11:30- 5:00pm (or text/call (717) 481-0708 to plan a time when we can be together. I love hearing from you!)

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY:** Please consider your participation & role in this vital ministry. If interested in working to guide our young people in their faith, please contact Mother Dina or Anissa, 570-898-2275.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** St. Matthew's is looking for altar servers of all ages for the ministries of: **Eucharistic Minister, Crucifer, Lector**

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| <b>and Thurifer.</b> Please contact Anissa or Mother Dina if interested.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>LAY MINISTRIES:</b> Interested in participating with Lay Ministries? Please contact any Vestry member or speak with Mary Ann Loftus.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>CHOIR REHEARSAL:</b> Interested in singing with the Choir? All are welcome- reach out to Tina Schlegel for more information.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS:</b> Volunteers are needed each month to sign up for a weekly coffee hour session. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Choir Room. Any questions, please contact Carol Hixson. This month's sign-ups are:<br>Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> - Lynda C.                      Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> - Martha B.<br>Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> - Janice Flory                Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Fran Z.<br>Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup> - Anissa                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>YOGA CLASSES:</b> Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday at 7:00PM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:</b> Please notify Elaine Schlegel, or the Parish Administrator, Carla Treon, of anyone who needs prayers so they may be added for the next upcoming Sunday.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST:</b> The monthly morning breakfast will be held on October 1 <sup>st</sup> at 9:00AM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SUNDAYS:</b> Starts Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> at 9:30AM. Any questions, please contact Anissa DeCapria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>PET BLESSINGS:</b> Sunday, Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> at 3PM, Pet Blessings will be held on the lawn at St. Matthew's. All pets/farm animals are welcomed but must be leashed or crated. Blessing Certificates and goodies will be given. <b>PLEASE JOIN US!!!!</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>ADULT BIBLE STUDY:</b> Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on Oct. 15th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS:</b> Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information<br><b>TODAY, Sun., Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>:</b> Pet Blessings, 3PM on the lawn<br>Sun., <b>Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>:</b> Adult Bible Study, 9AM<br>Tues., <b>Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>:</b> Octoberfest Dinner, 4PM-6:30PM<br>Wed., <b>Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>:</b> Vestry Meeting, 6:00PM<br>Fri., <b>Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>-Sat., Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>:</b> Diocesan Convention at the Penn Stater, State College, PA.<br>Tues., <b>Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>:</b> ECW meeting, Social Hall, 7pm |

## VESTRY MEMBERS

Mary Ann Loftus *Senior Warden*; Roy Casey *Junior Warden*;  
Cyn Reid *Clerk of the Vestry*; Nathan Blanchard; Martha Bohner;  
Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta; Carol Lamparter; Pam Schlegel; Lynda  
Schlegel-Culver; Fran Zartman\*  
Charlie Schlegel *Senior Warden Emeritus*

## DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2023

Lynda Schlegel-Culver; Pam Schlegel; Fran Zartman (Alternate)

SEXTON Sharon Baney

## DONATIONS:

**All tithes and offerings are most greatly appreciated, as we rely on your prayerful generosity to care lovingly for our physical space and to keep ourselves vital and active in our community through our worship, our witness, our outreach, and our presence.**

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

[stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com) (office email)

[reverenddina@gmail.com](mailto:reverenddina@gmail.com) (Mother Dina's email)

Please visit us at [stmatthew-episcopal.org](http://stmatthew-episcopal.org) and follow us on  
Facebook- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

*St. Matthew's is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania; The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop.*