The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 27
November 8, 2026



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

32 N. Front St.
Sunbury, PA 17801
570-286-7002

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

"We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works he has done." -Psalm 78:4

We are so glad you are here to worship with us! Please know you are always completely welcome at St. Matthew's for <u>everything</u> we do- our fellowship, our mission and outreach activities, our regular Sunday worship at 10am, and our Wednesday services. All our contact information is listed at the back of this bulletin.

Our Worship follows the Episcopal tradition using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal 1982, both of which you will find in the pews. We create a comprehensive bulletin for each service with the intention of making it easier to follow along and participate; if you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask someone near you. At services with music, you will need your Hymnal to sing the hymns and service music- **<u>both are intended to be sung by everyone!</u>** Sometimes we include music from other hymnals in the bulletin.

During the long green season after Pentecost, there are two 'tracks' each week for Old Testament readings and a Psalm chosen to accompany the particular lesson. We're using Track 1 this year, which follows major stories and themes, read mostly continuously from week to week. In Year A we began with Genesis. (lectionarypage.net.)

<u>All</u> are welcome at the Lord's Table. Place your hands together to receive the bread and you may take a sip of wine directly from the chalice. We also have individual cups available that contain a small amount of wine and a wafer (the consecrated bread); please put your hands in front of you as if you were praying if you'd like this option. **Intinction (dipping the bread in the chalice) is not permitted.** Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward to the altar and cross your arms.

Blessings to you on this holy day and always- Mother Dina

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost- Proper 27
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:00 AM

We ring the sacristy bells ten minutes before each service to signal we are entering into a time of reverent silence, respectful of those gathering and praying around us. This helps us all prepare "to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 96:9) We will greet each other at the Peace!

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude **"Give me oil in my lamp"** **Traditional**

Processional Hymn **#436, The Hymnal 1982**
"Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates"

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**
"Glory to God in the highest"

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 of the Day.
O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify

ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 Joshua Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve

foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-7 ***Said in unison.***

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.
5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church at Thessalonica
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn **#68, The Hymnal 1982**

"Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear"

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for

us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily **Mother Dina**

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

The Nicene Creed **BCP 358**

All rise in body and/or spirit and say together

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 IV

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Today in our Northwestern Region Convocation Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Jame's, Bedford. For the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Luke's, Scranton; St. Andrew's, Shippensburg; and Clergy of the Diocese of the Susquehanna. For the Diocese of Kajo Keji, we pray for St. John Mondi Parish. *Silence is held.*
Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for our President Donald Trump, our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver, our State Representative Mike Stender, and our Mayor Josh Broscious; and for the well-being of all people. *Silence is held.*
Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence is held.*
Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for those who have asked for our prayers: Mother Dina and family, Father Fred and family, David and Matthew, Frances, Mike, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Becky, Amanda and Easton, AmberLynn, Daya, Arabella, Derick, Noelle, Dean, Fred, Barb, Carol, Baby Ruby and family, Miranda, Weston, Peter, Jill, Mike, Ed, Diane, Leon, Mary, Vanessa, Maddy, Angela, Rich, Richard, Jane, Sheila, Zach, Chelsea, and for those whose needs are

known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan, Kara, Melissa, Janice, Patrick, and their co-workers, and for all serving in our military, especially Ann, Jayden, Nick, and Gaylen, and in law enforcement for Brian, Jake, Sarah, and Ryan.
Silence.
Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence is held.*
Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Griffey, Terry, Beverly, and Joyce, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence is held.*
Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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

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.

Offertory Hymn **#596 , The Hymnal 1982**

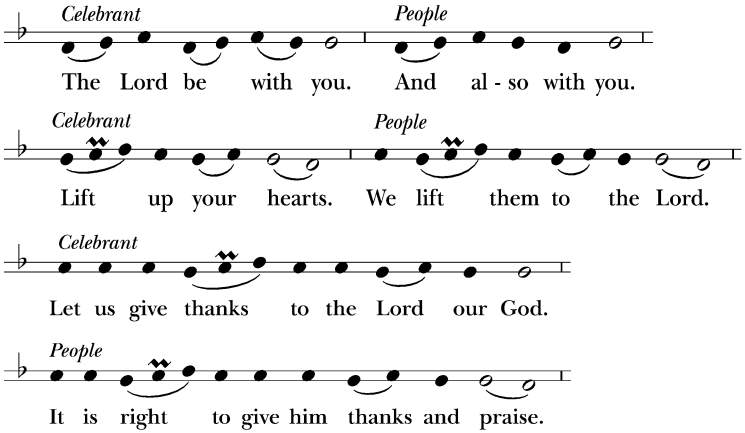
"Judge eternal, throned in splendor"

The Presentation of the Offerings **#380, v.3, The Hymnal 1982**

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B **BCP 367, #120, The Hymnal 1982**



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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 by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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 "Holy Holy Holy" 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."

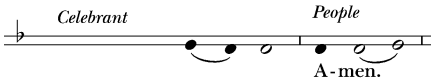
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

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.**



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The Lord's Prayer 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 Fraction Anthem #761, vs. 1, Wonder Love and Praise
"All who hunger gather gladly"



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 Hymns **#620, #439, The Hymnal 1982**

"Jerusalem, my happy home"

"What wondrous love is this"

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

The people and Celebrant pray together

Dearest Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we all cannot receive communion in the consecrated bread and wine, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with our hearts, souls, and minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

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 **#398, The Hymnal 1982**
"I sing the almighty power of God"

The Dismissal *The Priest dismisses the People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People **Thanks be to God, and all God's people say, Amen!**

Postlude **"Morning Hymn"**
The Church Hymnal for the Church Year, 1917

<u>Serving today's liturgy</u>
The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant*
Patrick Ishler, *Director of Music Ministry;* St. Matthew's Choir
Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer;* Fran Zartman, *Flute*
Bill Bohner, *Lector*

Roy Casey, Erica Driscoll, Dana Kelly, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Amber Kuczynski, Danny and Jacob Renn, *Worship Assistants*
Carter Ishler, *Livestream*; Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

PARISH NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2026

COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY: The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Our needs are: volunteers to distribute diapers; diaper wipes, pull-ups, and sizes 5 and 6 diapers; and monetary donations (please place in envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry.") **We covered 77 baby bottoms in October!** **Contact:** Connie Kistler at kistinpa@ptd.net.

HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY: The next Food Pantry will be Saturday, Nov. 28, 2026, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **All donations are greatly appreciated, especially canned fruits and vegetables.** **We fed 42 families in October!** Contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer.

CARLA'S OFFICE HOURS: Carla is having cataract surgery and may not be in the office for her usual hours for the next few weeks. Please reach out to Mother Dina if you need anything, especially before coming over to the office.

MOTHER DINA'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, 11:30am until 5pm or so. Call, text, or email me any time- **I love hearing from you!**

ALTAR SERVERS: St. Matthew's is looking for altar servers **of all ages** for the ministries of: **Eucharistic Minister, Crucifer, Torch Bearers, Lector, Thurifer, etc.** Please contact Mother Dina if interested in participating in these or ANY of our other ministries!

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS: 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:

Nov. 8- Danny & Jake R. Nov. 15- Bishop Kevin visit
Nov. 22- Caseys Nov. 29- Pam & Lynda

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Please notify Elaine Schlegel, or the Parish Administrator, Carla Treon, of anyone who needs prayers so they may be added for next upcoming Sunday.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir rehearsals will be on Thursdays at 5:30PM. All are welcome to sing with us- no musical experience necessary!
YOGA CLASSES: Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday at 7:00PM. $5.00 per class.
WEEKDAY SERVICE: Our week-day service of Holy Eucharist will be held on Wednesdays at Noon. All are welcome!
CHRISTMAS FLOWER SIGN-UP is here. A Flyer for ordering Poinsettias along with sign-up sheets will be located in the Narthex, the Social Hall, and the Choir Hall. **DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 9th.** Please contact Mary Ann Loftus with any questions.
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – St. Matthew's will be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year. Supplies will be in the parish hall. **Please bring your shoebox on or before 11/15**, so they can be blessed by Mother Dina… any questions please contact Mary Ann Loftus.
ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on Nov. 15th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.
BISHOP KEVIN VISIT: Bishop Kevin will be visiting us on Nov. 15. Please come and greet/meet with him. All are welcome!
BRASS CLEANING: Please join us in brass cleaning on Nov. 15, during coffee hour. We appreciate any and all help provided!
VESTRY MEETING: The monthly Vestry Meeting will be held on Nov. 19th at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall.
PIE SALE: A Pie Sale will be held Nov. 25. All pies are 9". **Must Pre-Order.** Pick-up after 4pm. Details to follow.
UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS: Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more info: Mon., **Nov. 9:** Deadline for Christmas Flower Orders Tues., **Nov. 10:** "Episcopal 101", Social Hall, 5:30PM Weds., Nov. **11**: Weekday Eucharist, Noon Sun., **Nov. 15:** Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM Sun., **Nov. 15:** Bishop Kevin visit, meet and greet coffee hour Sun., **Nov. 15:** Brass cleaning during coffee hour

Sun., **Nov. 15:** Deadline for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Blessing, 10:00 AM
Weds., **Nov. 18**: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
Wed., **Nov. 18:** Vestry Meeting, 6:00PM
Thurs., **Nov. 19**: Takery, 4:00PM-5:00PM, Cameron Park
Wed., **Nov. 25:** Pie Sale, must pre-order, pickup at 4:00PM
Weds., **Nov. 25**: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
Sat., **Nov. 28:** His Disciple's Food Pantry, 9:00AM-11:00AM

Vestry Members: Fran Zartman, ***Senior Warden;*** Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, Matthew Strauser, ***Junior Wardens;*** Mary Ann Loftus, ***Clerk of the Vestry;*** Nate Blanchard, Ric Haines, Carter Ishler, Dana Kelly, Pete Kistler, Tina McGee.
Sexton: Sharon Baney; **Parish Administrator:** Carla Treon
Director of Music Ministry: Patrick Ishler

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 may now donate to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church "online" at the link listed: https://diosusquehanna.org/donate/

Or you may continue to mail your contributions to:
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 32 N. Front St., Sunbury 17801
stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com (office email)
reverenddina@gmail.com (Mother Dina's email)
Please visit us at stmatthew-episcopal.org and follow us on Facebook: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
To connect with our livestreamed services, please go to our YouTube channel: @St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB

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St. Matthew's is part of the Diocese of the Susquehanna;
The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop Diocesan;
The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, Assistant Bishop.

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