

## Contents

This Week's Readings

## Rector's Ramblings

Advent is a season of preparation and hope. It is a time where we prepare for the yearly celebration of the birth of Christ and a time of preparation for His return. In this column, then, will appear short texts from writers far more adept than I, and who have delved into the great mystery of the Incarnation.

The first is from The Rt. Rev. Charles Grafton (1830-1912), 2nd Bishop of Fond du Lac.

"Now the Incarnation of God is an act by which God, taking upon Himself human nature, which is the consummation of created things, united creation in a new way to Himself. Creation was already united to God by God's indwelling power, but the Incarnation was a new and different mode of union. It was not something done which was to be laid aside. God joined human nature to Himself indissolubly. He will wear that nature for all eternity. It is the greatest grandest work of God. It is the completion of creation. For it is a passing on of Creation to a new stage of development. We believe that this greatest, grandest, noblest, most wonderful all-glorious work of God was from the very beginning in the Divine Thought. God always intended to become incarnate. To make the Incarnation an after-thought of His, or occasioned by man's sin, is to make this magnificent, glorious, grandest work of God dependent upon the sin of His creature.

We hold, therefore that the Incarnation was eternally purposed and that the sin of the

## The Good News

December 1, 2017



### Women's & Men's Breakfast

There will be no breakfast in December.

### Lewis Alfonso Garrison

It is with heavy heart that we announce the passing of Lewis Garrison on 12 November 2017 and the schedule of his Requiem.

Visitation will be held at St. Matthew's on 2 December from 10-11AM. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 2 December at 11AM. Inurnment will be at Evergreen Cemetery immediately following.

After the funeral rites, a reception will be held at Eastland Suites.

May Lewis' soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

### Advent Study

Adult Formation during Advent will focus on reading St. Maximus' the Confessor's "Four Hundred Chapters on Love/Charity".

This is not a long book, in the time of Maximus a "chapter" was roughly equivalent to what we might call "sound bites".

Since Advent provides us less Wednesdays this year, to complete this walk through the chapters together, we will meet on 12/6, 12/13, 12/27 and 1/3.

Creature did not baffle the work of the Creator. It may have been necessary for the manifestation of His love to come and die for us on the Cross, but it was ever His intent to consummate Creation by an Incarnation which would lead eventually in another state to a Kingdom or a sphere, where all sin would be abolished and pain and sorrow should be no more." -- Address to Council 1909, "The Works of Bishop Grafton" VIII, 272.

In Christ's love,

Dave Halt, Rector  
309-660-8515



### Ministry Links



St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of  
Springfield  
Rector's Blog

Copies of the chapters will be made available, but if you wish to purchase a copy they can be found at [Amazon](#).

### Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Worship Schedule 12/24

7:30AM Celebration of IV Advent.

4:30PM Evensong and Holy Eucharist for the Feast of Christmas.

10:30PM Candlelight Christ Mass. No hymn sing this year, we begin promptly at 10:30.

Christmas Day  
9AM Rite I Mass

### Midwest Food Bank

St. Matthew's will be volunteering at Midwest Food Bank on Wednesday, December 20.

We will work from 6-8PM, so mark your calendars for this evening of service and community building. All ages are welcome to help.

### Theology Uncorked

A new ministry of theological discussion for young adults will meet again on 10 December immediately following Evensong. Invite your friends and anyone who might be interested.

### Mission Leadership Team

St. Matthew's MLT will meet at 7PM on 12/11 in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend the meeting.

### The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:  
[Good News Daily](#)

### Serving Schedule

3-December

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Smith/Levine family, Char Wald, Carole Cox

10-December

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Susan & Jeff Clark

### **Outreach Opportunities**

#### **ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

Why the big white box in the hallway across from the office?

That's where we're asking you to place clean, gently used coats you no longer wear. We will deliver them to The Salvation Army's local headquarters for distribution to needy people this fall and winter. We'll also collect other gently used winter wear (gloves, hats, scarves). **THANK YOU!** The Outreach Committee

#### **MITTEN TREES**

It is an annual tradition at St. Matthew's that Christmas trees be trimmed with hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for children in need in the community. "Mitten Trees" have been placed in the Narthex and hallway outside the Parish Hall. Please help decorate them with store bought or handmade items during Advent and through the season of Christmas.

### **St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of December 3rd**

*Coffee Hour follows 10:00 a.m. worship in the Parish hall*

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters  
Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer  
Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Light supper for study members  
Wednesday-6:00 p.m.- Adult formation & CGS  
Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Holy Eucharist and breakfast  
Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

*Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.*

*If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.*

### **Readings for December 3, 2017**

Old Testament

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

*Qui regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.  
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?  
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.  
17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.  
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

#### The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of  
God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way  
you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of  
every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been  
strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any  
spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may  
be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is  
faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with  
great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and  
gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth  
to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch  
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that  
summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking

place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries December 3 - 9**

*Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*

Joel Gordon

### **Collect for the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever Amen.

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

