

## Contents

This Week's Readings

## Rector's Ramblings

### Annual Book List

Ok, so I've never done one before, so it can't really be called "annual", but if I do one next year it can be. Anyway, it is a new year, Lent is quickly approaching, and I usually have a couple of conversations regarding recommended reading material during that time. So, in the interest of meeting that need, and maybe taking up a bit of space on a week that kept me busy enough to not write an article... I think it mostly the former though.

The list is representative of books that have challenged or influence me during 2017. It should come as no surprise that my coursework has had an influence on my reading in the past year.

### 10 Books for 2018

1. "Hymns and Homilies of St. Ephraim the Syrian" by St. Ephraim the Syrian.
2. "Man the Target of God" by Archimadrite Zacharias.
3. "An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith" by St. John of Damascus.
- 3a. "I Love Therefore I Am" by Nicholas Sakharov.
4. "The Crucifixion" by Fleming Rutledge.
5. "The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque" by Sidney Griffith.
6. "The Hidden Origins of Islam: New Research into its Early History" by Karl-Heinz Ohlig and Gerd-R. Pruin.

## The Good News

January 12, 2018



### Theology Uncorked

We next meet in the Rector's Study on 14 January following Evensong. Our topic: The Baptism of Christ.

See Joe Norton if you have any questions.

### Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall on 13 January at 8:30 AM.

Men's Breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall on 20 January at 8AM.

### Adult Formation

Will meet January 17, 24, & 31. For these three weeks we will work through the book of Ruth. Watch this space for the Lenten Study subject.

### Time to Update the Directory

In early 2018, we need to publish a new Congregational Directory, and so it is time to gather updates and new information. We will leave 1 copy of the old directory out for you to examine - if your information is incomplete, inaccurate, or missing we ask that you fill out the reporting sheets provided. If you have a photo (.img format) to include, send it to the Office ([office@stmattsbldm.org](mailto:office@stmattsbldm.org)) and if you want to have a photo taken at no charge, see Gary Ploense.

### The Daily Devotional Reading

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

### Serving Schedule

7. "The Feasts of the Lord" by Metropolitan of Nafpatkos Hierotheos Vlachos.

8. "The Challenge of Jesus" by NT Wright.

9. "How the West Won" by Rodney Stark.

10. "Lawrence in Arabia" by Scott Anderson.

Happy reading and if you wish to discuss any of these, I am glad to do so.

In Christ's love,

Dave Halt, Rector  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

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

14-January

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: Ann Sokan

E.M.: Bob Kohlhasse

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Baughan Family

21-January ONE SERVICE ONLY - Annual Meeting

9:00 AM

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: Martha Carroll

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: (Noels - MLT?)

### **Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the canons Sunday, January 21st, 2018 the Eucharistic Community of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will hold it's Annual Meeting. That day we will have only one morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. Following worship, all are invited to meet for a simple Coffee Hour - hosted by the current MLT and the meeting.

Annual meeting includes presentation of the 2018 Budget, Election of 3 MLT (Mission Leadership Team) members and one lay delegate to Synod, along with distribution for the annual Book of Reports.

### **Outreach Opportunities**

#### ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

In January and February of the new year, let's help The Salvation Army collect nonperishable food items to help needy people get through the winter. Here are suggestions:

Canned fruits & vegetables

Canned soups

Peanut butter

Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)

Macaroni & cheese boxes

Box dinners

Any nonperishable food items

We will continue to collect and deliver gently used coats and other winter items to The Salvation Army through January. Thank you all so very much for your continuing generosity.

**St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of January 14th**

*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 participants

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult Formation & Catechists of  
the Good Shepherd

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast

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

Saturday - 8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

Saturday - noon through evening - Symphony Auditions

*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 January 14, 2018**

Hymns: #477, #126, #440, #439, #535

Old Testament

1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli.

The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is

listening." So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."]

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Domine, probasti

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!



17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*

to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

### The Epistle

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

### The Gospel

John 1:43-51

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

**Birthdays & Anniversaries January 14 - 20**

*Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*

Brent Baughan

Harry Bray  
Bradley Dyson

**Collect for January 14th**

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that thy people, illumined by thy Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

