



January 4, 2026

GROW

Going Deeper Spiritually. Our first meeting of the New Year will be Thursday, January 8, 2026. After that, we will resume meeting every second and fourth Thursday. If you would like to receive a link to the meetings, please contact Ellie Britt at (305) 776-8989 or ellie451@yahoo.com. Meetings start with chitchat at 9:45a and commence at 10a to finish at 11:30a.

Clingman Forum returns from Christmas break. Clingman Forum is back! Please join us for our collegial after-church conversation about theology and scripture and their interface with our lives and the daily news. We'll gather from 11:10 a.m. to noon Sunday, January 4, immediately following the 10 o'clock Eucharist.

To stay informed about all our adult education programming, contact Robin Garr (robingarr@gmail.com) to join our email or text list.

Virtual Adult Education: God's Ghostwriters. Who are the unnamed co-authors and collaborators behind the work of the four New Testament evangelists we know as Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul? A crowd of unknown scribes, secretaries, and copyists – most of them undervalued and enslaved people – helped produce some of the earliest manuscripts of the Bible, writes biblical scholar Candida Moss.

Moss, whose influential book, *God's Ghostwriters: Enslaved Christians and the Making of the Bible*, was named this month as the recipient of the 2026 Grawemeyer Award in Religion. Her book brings to light the labor of unnamed individuals who remain integral to the content of the New Testament.

Join us in Virtual Adult Education via Zoom on Monday, January 5, from 6-7:15p, as we view Moss's April 2024 talk at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue in New York City and discuss her work.

If you participate regularly, you are already registered and will receive an invitation on Monday morning with Zoom login information. If you would like to join our email or text list, contact Robin Garr (robingarr@gmail.com).

Women in Conversation. The group will not meet during Christmas. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 6, 2026, from noon to 1:30p at the church. We'll discuss a short sermon about the Epiphany by Richard Rohr, found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYaDUincl6s>. For more information, contact judith.fischer@louisville.edu

Monday Bible Study with the Rector at 10a in the library. Bible Study resumes Monday, January 5. We begin with chit-chat and then progress into a discussion of scripture. All are welcome.

SERVE

January is a food collection starts in January. Yes, SNAP benefits have resumed, but there is still a need for high caloric foods for families in west Louisville. During the month of January, you can help meet this by leaving food donations for St. George's and Calvary Food Pantries in the shopping cart in the narthex. All non-perishable staples such as canned (with flip-top lid cans), jarred, and dried foods are requested. Calorically dense foods such as canned meats and peanut butter, and ready-to-eat side dishes are preferred. Donations of paper products, toiletries, and laundry supplies are also always welcomed and will be allocated to low-income senior citizens. Please do not donate clothing.

WORSHIP

Illuminations. The story of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus seeking refuge in faraway Egypt – one of three Gospels available for our use this Sunday – offers us rich food for thought in our own troubled times, when refugees look for safe places around the world. Our readings for the Second Sunday of Christmas offer comfort for those who put their faith in God while they face fear, poverty, and oppression. As our first reading, we turn to the prophet Jeremiah, speaking to Israel in exile. The people have been forced to migrate to their enemy's capital, leaving behind the ruins of Jerusalem and the Temple, yet they trust that God one day will lead them back home, turning their sorrow into gladness, their mourning into joy.

To read this week's Illuminations, visit: <https://www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/sermons-and-illuminations>.

Consecrated Communion is available to be picked up during office hours. Consecrated wafers are in sealed bags in Myll Chapel if you would like to come to pick up a package for yourself and your family. If you are interested in receiving communion, but are unable to drive to the church, contact Kelly at kkirby@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org.

10a Wednesday Healing Eucharist. The service is held in Myll Chapel. The service is also streamed on our Facebook page.

Daughters of the King prayer box. Please email your prayers regarding a person of concern to Sarah Johansen, dsjohansen99@gmail.com. Requests remain on the confidential prayer list for 1 month unless otherwise requested.

Listening-assist technology in the nave. If you have a hearing aid that is t-coil compatible, our listening-assist system feeds audio into your hearing aid. To learn more, visit the Accessibility/Inclusivity page on our website: [stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/accessibility-inclusivity](https://www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/accessibility-inclusivity).

Weekly Prayer List. Helen Jones and Tom Pike, Barbara Kamer-Thompson, Peace Kara, the Kasey family, Fred and Marilyn Keith, Alan Wernecke and Kett Ketterer, the Keyzer-Viitamama family, Loise Kimama, Susan Kimbrough, the Kirby family.

Prayers for Pastoral Care. Janelle, Kevin Wardell, Candis Crocker, Karl, Len Pacitti, Granville, Beverly Nichols, Emily, Lynn Miller, Anne, Vicky Spencer Rouse, Tay Wilkins, Jane Clippinger.

We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces.

LAY SUNDAY MINISTERS SERVING THIS WEEK

Altar Guild

Marilyn Keith
Ann Hines
Marilyn Scholl

8a Librarian

10am Eucharist

Delilah Niehaus	Acolyte
Holden Niehaus	Acolyte
Emerson Niehaus	Acolyte
John Shelby	Lector
Robin Garr	Lector
Rick Lotz	Intercessor
David Lee	Eucharistic Minister
Jan Scholtz	Eucharistic Minister
Ann Yates	Eucharistic Minister
Mark McNally	Usher
Robin McNally	Usher
Chris Newton	Greeter Welcome Desk
Sally Macdonald	Greeter 10a Narthex
Barbara Lee	Greeter 10a Entrance
Peggy Woolley	Godly Play - Story Teller
Lauren Ceresa	Godly Play - Door Person
Jon Hardy	Librarian
Faith Huff	Eucharistic Visitor to Dottie Rohrer

5pm Eucharist

Martha Ash	Lector
Amy Currie	Intercessor
Bess Cleveland	Usher
Russ Weis	Eucharistic Minister 5p

GENERAL NOTICES

Parish office hours. Monday through Thursday, 9a – 3p; Friday 10a – 12p.

Weekly 12-step and other meetings at St. Matthew's. Al-Anon on Tuesdays at 6:30p (Lounge); AA on Tuesdays at 6:30p (Clingman Chapel); Ladies AA on Fridays at 11:30a (Meeting Room A); evening AA on Fridays at 6:30p (Clingman Chapel); Newcomers' AA on Fridays at 6:45p (Lounge).

Survivors of Suicide (SOS). The group meets every Thursday at 7:30p in the Lounge. There's no meeting on the fifth Thursday of a five-week month.

Library hours. The library is open for self-checkout Sundays from 8:45a–12p, and a librarian is there from 9:15–9:45a, and from 11:15a–12p. For a weekday appointment, call 895-3485 or email library@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org. Books on the narthex cart may be borrowed by filling out a card as instructed.

Church archives. The parish archives have a large collection of historical images and materials that document the history of St.

Matthew’s. Ask the archivist for help, when they are present, or arrange an appointment by emailing archives@stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org

Visioning videos: Sharing Our Story. Where we have been influences where we’re headed. If you’d like to learn more about St. Matthew’s past, please click here: stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/church-history-archives

Episcopal News Service newsletter. This newsletter reports the latest news on the Episcopal Church’s mission and ministries in the U.S. and abroad. Current advocacy efforts on immigration, the crisis in Gaza and other human rights issues are covered. <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup/>

Joanne Coleman is a Notary Public. As a service to our parishioners, Joanne is available to notarize documents. If you have need of these services, make an appointment with Joanne during her office hours.

Service bulletins are available online to download. Go to our website homepage: www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org.

The parish directory is online. You can access the parish directory online, through our app (St. Matthew’s Episcopal – found on Android Play Store and Apple Store). If you have never accessed the directory online before, or you experience any issues, contact [Joanne Coleman](#).

Bulletin and eSpirit announcements. Submission deadline is Tuesday at 12p. Please send submissions to [Charles Frank](#).

Do you subscribe to the eSpirit? To receive a digital version of the announcements, visit: stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/espirit/

St. Matthew’s App. Free on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Financial statement for the month ending November 30.

	November		YTD		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
TOTAL INCOME	73,415	62,297	756,659	671,227	765,730
TOTAL EXPENSE	64,945	68,518	809,339	794,312	897,017
Released from Restricted Funds	(7,929)	(4,362)	(89,274)	(101,190)	(131,450)
NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)	16,399	(1,859)	36,594	(21,895)	163



ST. MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist10am

Second Sunday after ChristmasSunday, January 4, 2025

It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship. Remember to turn off or silence all phones. Thank you.

The Word of God

Prelude: The Old Year Now Hath Passed AwayJ. S. Bach

People stand as able.

Opening Hymn: Angels from the realms of gloryHymnal 93
Regent Square

Opening Acclamation

PresiderBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
PeopleAnd blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Children in kindergarten through the fifth grade may choose to follow the cross to Godly Play during the Song of Praise.

Song of PraiseS-280
Robert Powell

Collect of the Day

PresiderThe Lord be with you.
PeopleAnd also with you.
PresiderLet us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First ReadingJeremiah 31:7-14

The People are seated

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.
PeopleThanks be to God.

Psalm84:1-8



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O God of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for your courts;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, *
by the side of your altars, O God of hosts,
my Ruler and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house; *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you. *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find
it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height; *
the God of gods will be revealed in Zion.

7 O God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God, *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The Saint Helena Psalter Translation

Second ReadingEphesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us

for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.
PeopleThanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Earth has many a noble cityHymnal 127
Stuttgart

The People stand as able.

Holy GospelMatthew 2:13-15,19-23

Remain standing

DeaconThe Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

DeaconThe Gospel of our Savior.
PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

SermonThe Rev. Jan Scholtz

Nicene Creed

The People stand as able

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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
who 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.**

Prayers of the People

After each petition, the People respond **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

All stand as able.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

A Word of Welcome

The People are seated

Birthday Collect

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Holy Communion

During the offertory, please consider the gifts God has given you, and give generously. Your gift will help us continue vital ministries, and we really need money in this unusual moment in history. Our online giving works well, as does our text to give option. Please use this link for online giving.
<https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/5QFR9K/>

Offertory Anthem: *The Work of Christmas* Dan Forrest
When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among neighbors, to make music from the heart.

Presentation Verse **Hymnal 124, stanza 5**

To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night, to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The People remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

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

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus **S-129**

Robert Powell

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel as the prayer continues

The Presider 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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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,

Presider and People

**We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

The Presider then continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Matthew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

Fraction Anthem **S-155**
Gerald R. Near

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All who seek God and are drawn to God through Christ are welcome to receive communion. If for any reason you do not desire to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail and cross your

arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask the priest giving out bread. You are welcome to receive both bread and wine, or just bread. Christ is fully present in both or either the bread and wine..

Music during Communion: *Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light*
German hymn, 17th c.

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning. O shepherds, greet that glorious sight, our Lord a crib adorning. This child, this little helpless boy, shall be our confidence and joy, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Eucharistic Visitors may be commissioned.

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

People and Presider

Almighty and everliving 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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn: *As with gladness men of old* **Hymnal 119**
Dix

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Salvation Now is Come to Earth* J. S.Bach