

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Christmas Eve

Pick-up Pageant & Holy Communion

December 24, 2025 4:00 pm

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS EVE 4PM PAGEANT SERVICE!

Whether this is your first visit to St. Matthew's, you've come several times now, or you're a long-time member, we are grateful for your presence and pray that your time with us will be enriching. Our clergy would love the chance to welcome you, and introduce you to the life of our community, and answer any questions you may have. To start that conversation, please fill out the printed Connection Card located in the seatbacks and place it in the offering plate during the Offertory portion of our worship. Alternatively, you can complete the same Connection Card online by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera. →

Connection Card



OUR WORSHIP TODAY

This bulletin will lead you through the service tonight. On a typical Sunday, service music not included in this bulletin would likely be found in the blue Hymnal located in between your seats. Items marked in the bulletin as BCP, followed by a page number, refer to the Book of Common Prayer (usually black or red), also in a book holder nearby. You will not need either book tonight.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We extend a warm welcome to families with children as we enjoy Christmas Eve together! As a special gift to our young friends, we have prepared some very special Christmas Eve "Busy Bags" full of fun Christmas-themed activities. If your child was not handed one as you arrived, please visit the lobby to get one now. Other resources available tonight include:

- The Baby's Nest (Balcony)** is a soundproof room with gliders and toys where you can still see and hear the service.
- The Nursery (Room B-16)** has licensed Nursery care providers available for ages 0 to 3 years.
- The Nurture Nook (Room B-15)** is a quiet space with gliders and supplies for nursing parents.
- The Lobby** is a great place to get some wiggles out. An area with fun snacks and bottles of water is available too.

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION (BREAD AND WINE)

All who seek Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion; you do not need to be a member of this or any church. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome at this table -- today and always.

If you wish to receive communion, the ushers will guide you forward toward the altar by row. As you approach the first server, cup your hands in front of you and the bread will be placed in your palm. As you move to the second server, you may either dip the bread in the wine before eating it OR eat the bread and then help the server guide the chalice to your lips to drink the wine. For those who do not wish to consume alcohol, please be assured that receiving the bread alone is to receive the full grace of the Sacrament. To receive gluten-free elements, please ask the first server as you approach. If walking to the front is a challenge, please notify an usher and we will be happy to bring communion to you in your seat.

Alternatively, people of all faiths (and none) may receive a blessing from a priest. To indicate your desire to receive a blessing, come forward with your row and as you approach the priest simply fold your arms across your chest. Above all, this is God's time to feed you, however you need to be fed. If today that means staying in your seat and not coming forward at all, we support you.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

Available in the lobby near the Welcome Desk, we have 12 Assisted Listening devices (wireless audio packs with headphones) for anyone wishing to experience the spoken word sections of today's service with a bit more clarity, or at a higher volume. Please feel free to take a wireless pack from a charging station, with headphones, back to your seat. The power button is on the top of the pack, near the headphone jack. Once the pack is on, we recommend using the arrow buttons to increase the volume level to 20 as a starting point. After the service, please return the pack to the charging station.

SUNDAY FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN SERVICES

On a typical Sunday after the 8am service, please join us in the lobby for a time of fellowship with coffee and donuts. At 9:15am, you may either stay in the lobby or participate in one of our Christian formation offerings. Check the yellow sign in the lobby for the "This Sunday" offerings. Typically: Adult Formation class with a rotating topic is in room B-18/19 (in the basement). Adult Gospel of the Day study class is in B-14. "Godly Play" for ages 3 yrs to 3rd grade in B-17. "Fusion" for Grades 4-6 in B-6. And "Beacon" for Grades 7-12 meet in the lobby and walk over to the Youth Center building together.

THE WEEKLY WORD & MORE

The parish newsletter (the Weekly Word) is available in the lobby or digitally on our website if you scan here → If you'd like to receive the Word in your inbox on Fridays, scan the QR code and then select "Click here to subscribe" on the page to stay in the know!

Our website



We pray that your visit to St. Matthew's will richly bless you and that you will come back again soon.
For more information about St. Matthew's, call the office at 512-345-8314 or visit our website, www.stmattsAustin.org.

ABOUT THE PICK-UP PAGEANT

What is a pick-up pageant? Well, it means you just pick up your costume in the lobby and you're in the pageant!

Children of all ages are invited and encouraged to participate as either an angel or a shepherd (you decide which). We have costumes of all shapes, colors, and sizes, so pick the one that you like best and put it on! Once you're dressed, you and your child sit in the normal chairs with the rest of the congregation. During the service, when you see the icon for your group (examples below) move to the front of the church and sit or stand with the other angels and/or shepherds. That's it, you're in the show! Have fun!

(All children will return to their seats during The Peace. Please return costumes to the lobby AFTER the service.)

Angel



Shepherd



Regarding Photography: Please refrain from taking photos during the pageant. The pageant is the presentation of the Gospel. Listen, watch, and, like Mary, store up these things in your heart, but please do not take photos. During The Peace the manger will be moved off the red carpet area and set up over by the east windows. If you'd like to take photos in the creche after the service, please feel free to do so! In addition, the full service will be available on YouTube at @StMattsAustinVirtual. You are welcome to share this link with family members and friends.

◆ 2025 PAGEANT CAST ◆

Mary - Mara Hindman

Joseph - Tommy Parnham

Magi - Leonard Klaic, Miles Hindman, Dawson Slaughter

Donkey - Porter Gentry

Innkeeper - Grace Parnham

Star - MJ Watson

Lead Angels - Skylar Gentry, Elizabeth Woolfolk, Emma Woolfolk, Henry Hager

Lead Shepherds - Beckett Saxton, Fritz Houstoun, Jack Wilhelm, Frank Appling, Addy Hager

Narrators - Margret Slaughter, Crosier Watson, Gibson Hickman, Henry Cook

Adult Helpers - Emily Slaughter, Monica Watson, Amanda Gentry

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love
Begotten

Arr. Mary Fullerton (b.1973)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Katie Leuba

☞ *Please stand and sing.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1 & 3)

Hymnal 83

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest; [**Refrain**]

THE OPENING ACCLAMATIONS

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

☞ *Please be seated.*

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Narrator 1: Tonight, we invite you to join us as we relive in our hearts a story that took place long, long ago. This night is like no other night, and this story is like no other story. Come with us now, with your heart and your mind, to a village just south of Jerusalem: a village called Bethlehem. For thousands of years, the houses of this little village have been gathered together on the hilltop, like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means "house of bread." This is the same village where King David was born so very long ago.

Narrator 2: In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night, it is overflowing with people seeking a place to eat and sleep. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw, while a weary steer leans and rests after the day's plowing. A sheep nearby is almost asleep. All is still in the little town.

☛ **Mary and Joseph enter, walking slowly down the center aisle.**

Narrator 3: As night gathers, the last few travelers come slowly up the road. Look! There is a young woman who is about to be a mother! She is walking with her espoused husband. They are Mary and Joseph from Nazareth. They have traveled for days to reach Bethlehem. They have come, like so many others, because the Roman Emperor decreed that each person should be counted and taxed.

Narrator 4: It is very late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room for them in the inn.

☛ **They are greeted by the Innkeeper. After a short conversation, the Innkeeper directs them to the manger. The innkeeper helps Mary and Joseph get comfortable, hangs up a lantern for them and bids them goodnight with a bow and exits.**

Narrator 4: The kind innkeeper invites them to take shelter in his stable with the animals. There they will be safe and warm.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1 & 2)

Hymnal 79

O, little town of Bethlehem, how still we see they lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God our King,
And peace to men on earth!

Narrator 1: Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box Joseph has filled with hay.

Away in a Manger (v. 1 & 2)

Hymnal 101

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

☛ **The lead shepherds move to warm themselves by the fire at the base of the cross.**

Narrator 2: In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch over their sheep. It is a cold night and they have built a fire to keep warm. One shepherd stands guard while another counts the sheep. One hears a wolf in the distance and goes to make sure the sheep are safe. The shepherds warm themselves by the fire and gaze at the beautiful stars overhead.

☛ **One angel appears and moves to the base of the cross.**

Narrator 3: All at once, the dark night is split by light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter! It is the face of an angel! The fearful shepherds hear sounds in the sky, and a voice says clearly, “Do not be afraid! Listen! I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people! This night, in the city of David, a Savior is born! He is Christ the Lord!”

☛ **Other LEADING Angels appear from their hiding places and join the first angel.**

Narrator 4: Suddenly, the sky is filled with angels who are praising God and singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and, good will to humankind!” The shepherds are amazed at the sight before their eyes! The angels tell the shepherds they will find the baby lying in a manger and invite the shepherds to come with them to worship the new king.



☛ **As singing begins, an adult pageant helper will invite all other angels in the congregation to come to the manger to see Baby Jesus. A parent is welcome to join their child if they are reluctant to come up on their own.**

Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 1 & 4)

Hymnal 96

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing through the night.
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Narrator 1: The shepherds are overcome with joy! They leave their flocks and run to Bethlehem to see this newborn King, sharing the wonderful news of his birth with their friends and family along the way.



☛ **As singing begins, an adult pageant helper will invite all other shepherds in the congregation to come to the manger to see Baby Jesus. A parent is welcome to join their child if they are reluctant to come up on their own.**

Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 2 & 3)

Hymnal 96

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Narrator 2: Shepherds and angels are not the only ones who come to worship the King. Magi from the East also come. They have traveled for a very long time to find this child who was born to be King. A bright star leads their way.

☛ **The star and magi enter and move down the center aisle. The star moves into position on the ladder near the manger. The magi stop in the center aisle and wait to present their gifts.**

We Three Kings (v. 1 & 2)

Hymnal 128

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star!
O... Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright:
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again.
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.
O... Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright:
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Narrator 3: When the magi found the child, they presented him with gifts of gold, sweet smelling frankincense, and bitter myrrh, brought from so far with much care. Then the magi knelt and worshipped the newborn King.

☛ **One at a time, the magi step forward and present their gifts to Mary, then step back and kneel.**

Narrator 4: So now we come, following that same bright star, to find that same Baby who is Jesus our King. Listen...watch...and remember that this is the true meaning of Christmas: that Christ, our Lord, God's special gift to us, was born on Christmas Day! Come now! Let us adore Him!

Joy to the World (v. 1 & 4)

Hymnal 100

Joy to the world! The Lord has come!
Let earth receive her king!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love!

☛ **Words of conclusion from the Rector will be followed by the dismissal of the shepherds, then the angels, then the rest of the characters upon the pronouncement of the peace.**

☛ *Please stand.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Katie Leuba

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1, 2, 5)

Hymnal 79

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

5. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

One-Time Donation
(pay with Stripe)



☞ *Please stand.*

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made a perfect human of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

☞ *Please be seated.*

EXPLANATION & DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Pastorale (from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel

☞ *After all have received communion, the congregation stands and sings*

What Child Is This

Hymnal 115

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. **[Refrain]**

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings, salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. **[Refrain]**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent the Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of God's holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you God's peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymnal 87

1. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ, the everlasting lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus our Emmanuel! **[Refrain]**

3. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, Light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! **[Refrain]**

THE DISMISSAL

Clergy dismisses the congregation. The People respond with these words

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

Paul R. Ford



OUR CLERGY, STAFF & VESTRY

Rector: The Rev. Katie Leuba
Associate Priest: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Benko
Assisting Deacon: The Rev. Bill Holder
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Jerry Chapman
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Seth Deleery
Director of Music: Dr. Jeff Vanderlee
Organist: Yung Sil Chun
8am Pianist: Lucy Zhu
Children & Families Musician: Mary Smith

Assistant to the Rector: Lena Carson
Finance Manager: Pat Brajnikoff
Office Manager: Susan Kerr
Parish Administrator: Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel
Communications Assistant: April Beaty
Sextons: Carly & Gabriel
Chef: Robert Mayberry
Head of Day School: Page Race
Wardens: Jenny Watson & Doug Webster
Vestry of the Month: Bob Ascott & Larry Simons

Contact information can be found on our website, www.stmattsaustin.org, or by calling the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS - See the Weekly Word for more details on these, and other parish events!

- Church office will be closed Dec. 24th and Dec. 25th
- Wednesday, Dec. 31st, 3pm-5pm – New Year's Game Night for All Ages; Youth Center
- Church office will be closed on Jan. 1 (New Years Day)

CHRISTMAS DAY/NEW YEAR SERVICES

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025

- 10:30am Christmas Morning Service

New Years Eve, Wednesday December 31st, 2025, 12:00pm; Service of Healing

Considering becoming an Episcopalian? Or curious to learn more about the Episcopal Church?

Contact Fr. Andrew Benko if you would like to know more, at: (318) 415-8131, or
abenko@stmattsaustin.org

OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are M - F, 9:00am - 4:00pm. Appointments to meet with clergy and staff are recommended. Contact office@stmattsaustin.org or (512) 345-8314 to set an appointment with clergy, and for staff, contact the staff member directly. Your clergy typically take Friday as their sabbath. During office hours, the receptionist can assist you in an emergency: (512) 345-8314. For after-hours pastoral emergencies, call or text the Rev. Katie Leuba directly: (440) 985-8982.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00am, Traditional Holy Eucharist (Rite I), Sanctuary
10:30am, Holy Eucharist with Music (Rite II), Sanctuary
Wednesday: 12:00pm, A Service of Public Healing with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
Every Evening: 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88579583087>)



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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8134 Mesa Drive, Austin, TX 78759

Telephone (512) 345-8314 | Fax (512) 346-2085

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