

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger. Published Monthly

Volume 20 Issue 10—October 2023



**Saint Matthias Episcopal Church**  
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**Office Hours**

Monday-Friday  
10AM-4 PM

**Holy Eucharist**

Sundays at 8 AM

**Holy Eucharist**

Sundays at 10 AM

10 AM Services Streamed at  
[facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier](https://facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier)

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of presenting the Second Reading during our worship service at 8AM. For this occasion, the reading was a familiar passage, from Paul's letter to the Romans, Chapter 12:1–8. I am struck by its appropriateness, particularly as we turn our focus to Stewardship. I decided to take some time and dig deeper into what it might mean for all of us. I hope you will find what I discovered to be as meaningful for you as it is for me.

Romans 12:1-8 talks about offering oneself as a living sacrifice and the importance of one's gifts to serve others within the body of Christ. It emphasizes unity and diversity within the church. In Romans 12:1-8, the Apostle Paul presents a powerful call to a transformed life and active service within the body of Christ. This passage encourages believers to offer themselves as living sacrifices, each contributing their unique gifts for the greater good of the community. Let's explore the key themes and lessons from these verses, seeking to apply them to our daily lives.

Paul begins by urging us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This isn't about literal sacrifices, but a metaphor for dedicating our entire lives to God. He emphasizes the need for a transformed mindset, urging us not to conform to the patterns of this world, but to be renewed by the renewing of our minds. This transformation enables us to discern God's will, which is good, pleasing, and perfect. Just as a living sacrifice is set apart, so are we called to live differently in the world.

Transformation begins with renewing our minds through prayer, study of God's Word, and intentional reflection. We must strive to align our thoughts and actions with God's will, allowing our lives to shine as testimonies of His transformative power.

Paul introduces the concept of spiritual gifts and underscores the importance of humility. He warns against thinking too highly of ourselves and encourages us to view ourselves with sober judgment. Just as the body has many parts with different functions, so does the body of Christ. We are interconnected and interdependent, each contributing unique gifts. Humility is essential for maintaining healthy relationships within the body of Christ. Our gifts, whether big or small, have value in God's eyes. Let's embrace our roles with humility, appreciating the diversity that enriches our community. By valuing one another's contributions, we reflect the unity and love that Christ desires for His followers.

Paul lists various spiritual gifts and their corresponding roles within the church. These gifts include prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy. Each believer receives at least one gift, and they are to use them diligently and with sincerity. Our gifts are not meant to be kept to ourselves; they are tools for service. As we discover our unique strengths, let's embrace them with enthusiasm and use them for the common good. Whether we're nurturing, leading, or serving, our actions should be fueled by love and devotion. Through our service, we reflect the character of Christ and fulfill our purpose within His body.

Take time each day to renew your mind through prayer and Scripture. Seek to align your thoughts with God's truth and let it guide your decisions and actions. Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses, and approach others with humility. Appreciate the diverse gifts within our church community, valuing each person's contribution. Identify your spiritual gifts and consider how you can use them to serve others. Whether it's through teaching, encouraging, or practical help, let your actions be driven by a sincere desire to bless others.

**Romans 12:1-8 offers us a roadmap for a transformed life and active service within the body of Christ. By presenting ourselves as living sacrifices, renewing our minds, embracing humility and using our gifts for the common good, we participate in the beautiful tapestry of the Church. Let's commit ourselves to this journey of transformation and service, reflecting the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to a world in need.**

*Tim Adams, Vestry Member*



*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8*

Fellow Saint Matthians!

By the time we are collectively enjoying this October Messenger, we have already received our Stewardship 2023 Packet. Some of us may have already taken time to reflect on the meaning of Saint Matthias in our lives, completed both sides of the Pledge Card and returned it either via physical mail or placed it on our offering plate to be blessed. If you are such, I want to thank you for your love and generosity for supporting Saint Matthias, its Gifts, Ministries, and Services, and the Divine Love it imbues in all of us.

For those of us who have not yet carved out time to complete and submit our Pledge Cards, I want us to take a few minutes from our schedules, look at the world around us, and ask ourselves what does Saint Matthias provide us, provide our community, provide the world at large? Amidst the turmoil of our contemporary life (the devastation of climate change on our world, world hunger and poverty, and rampant violence), it is my sincere belief that we need more communities like Saint Matthias instilling in ourselves and the world Divine Love and Compassion.

As I have written previously, our financial pledges and volunteer work currently fund approximately two-thirds of the Saint Matthias operating budget (specifically, the beauty and depth of our worship services, the varied ministries supporting our parishioners and broader community, the staff payroll, the janitorial and maintenance of the church property, insurance costs, and other administrative and management costs).

As we look towards the future, however, we collectively aspire to reestablish a full-time rector for the parish. Funding for such a position is considerable and means that our financial pledges must grow from two-thirds of the operating budget to three-fourths. As such, we are targeting for our Campaign between 75 to 100 pledges totaling between \$350,000 to \$400,000 in income.

For those of us who have not yet completed our pledge cards, let us carve out time in the next few weeks to formalize our financial commitment to Saint Matthias for 2024. Let us also reflect on the varied ministries of which we can avail ourselves here at Saint Matthias ([Gifts, Ministries & Services — Saint Matthias Episcopal Church \(stmatthiaswhittier.org\)](https://stmatthiaswhittier.org)), and thereby re-introduce ourselves to the variety of activities for stewardship and preservation, fellowship and communion, and spiritual development and self-improvement. Most importantly, let us be inspired to offer ideas on how we can transform these ministries to address the pressing needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to Saint Matthias.

In sincere gratitude,

*Christopher Lavagnino*

Stewardship Campaign 2023 Chairperson

P.S. The last Sunday of our campaign is Sunday, November 19, 2023. Please send or submit your gifts by that date so that we may gather them together and bless them.



A Note from the Treasurer

August financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in St. Francis Patio. I will be working with our bookkeeper Liz Villalva and Carol McCracken to complete the accounting tasks required by the Bishop's office to be ready to begin our search for a new Rector. We are required to have an outside auditor perform our audit (we have had parish volunteers complete the audit in the past) and the Vestry must have the compensation package ready. These 2 tasks are in progress and are expected to be completed in early October. If there are any questions, please contact Mary Jean Christian at [mchristrd@yahoo.com](mailto:mchristrd@yahoo.com).

## PATIENT TRUST

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability--- and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually---let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

----*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

**Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ** (1881–1955) was a French Jesuit priest, scientist, paleontologist, theologian, philosopher and teacher. He was Darwinian in outlook and the author of several influential theological and philosophical books. He took part in the discovery of Peking Man.



## Pastoral Committee News

**Save the Date!** Sunday, November 5, 2023 5:00pm For the Annual Feast of Lights Evensong and Dinner. The Pastoral Committee has one fundraiser a year to support the ministries of the Pastoral Committee. This year we will once again have a service of evensong that includes the reading of the names submitted for memorial lights. The service concludes in St. Francis Patio when a member or members of our congregation are honored for their service to this church community over the past year(s). Immediately following the service there will be dinner in Lewis Hall. RSVP forms are included in this October messenger and the Sunday bulletins starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to seeing everyone on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

*The Pastoral Committee*



## **FEAST OF MEMORIAL LIGHTS EVENSONG**

**November 5, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

This service will offer a setting for all the names represented by the tree lights to be read.  
NOTE: You can also honor pet(s), 911 memorial, or veterans.

### **How to order lights**

Please use the form below for ordering. Please be prompt in your replies in order to facilitate the display of names in the worship bulletin. Form and payment can be turned into the church office or electronically through the church website.  
[www.stmatthiaswhittier.org](http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org)

### **ORDER FORM**

**I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ lights @ \$4.00 per light. Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for light(s)**

**I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ dinner tickets @ \$5.00/each or \$15.00/family**  
**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**(FEAST OF LIGHTS)**

**Please print clearly** the name(s) of honoree(s)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Any name submitted after *October 29* cannot be guaranteed to be listed.**

**Name of purchaser** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone #** \_\_\_\_\_

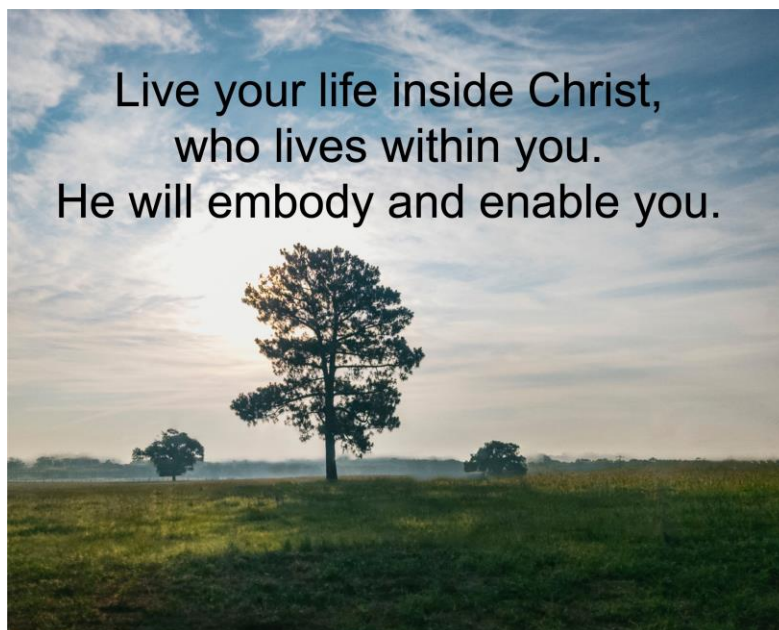
## Food for Thought

### Surrender

If, right now, you can find no hope but only suffering and desolation in the cross you've been handed to carry, then surrender your life and surrender your death to Jesus. You have nothing more to lose. Live your life inside Christ, who lives within you. He will embody and enable you. This is Jesus' way, the way of the cross.

By Br. Curtis Almquist, of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE)

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# ?? Bible Quiz ??

**Fill in the blank:**

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”



- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings

Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.)



Campbell.

“Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch.”

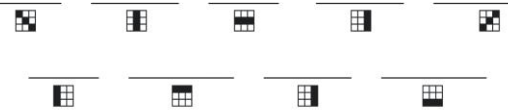


## SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion. What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

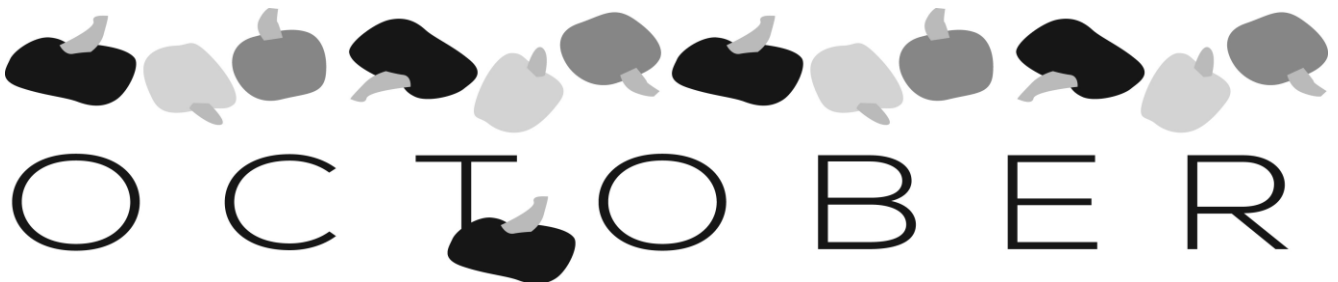
FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	do far EAST	the this up as
WEST that is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west





## PUMPKIN CARVING

### **Mark your Calendars!**

We are doing it again!! Last year there were carvers of all ages who appeared to enjoy themselves, so of course we have to try and have even more fun this year. The date for Pumpkin Carving will be Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> after the 10am service.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We want to make sure we have enough pumpkins for everyone. You can also email or call me if that is more convenient for you.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Kathy Adams, [ktouch52@gmail.com](mailto:ktouch52@gmail.com), 562-221-1700

## OCTOBER SERVICES, EVENTS, AND SMALL GROUPS

**SUNDAYS AT 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist** (in-person only)

**SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist** (in-person and streaming live at [facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier](https://facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier))

**BIBLE STUDY/MORNING PRAYER:** Wednesdays 10am, Chapel

**MEN EATING BADLY:** Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> , 8:00 a.m. Greenleaf Café. Contact Tim Adams.

**OUR TIME:** Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2pm. Contact Mary Jean Christian.

**VESTRY MEETING:** Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Lewis Hall.

**STITCHERY GROUP:** Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> , 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Contact Ellen Mykkanen.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING:** Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Chapel

**ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD:** Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact Diana Jimenez.

**BIBLIOPHILES GROUP:** Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.. Contact Charles Carrillo.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN:** Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> , 10:00 a.m. Chase Room. Contact Kathy Adams.

# CENTURY 21<sup>®</sup>

Cornerstone



**Alan Selmanaj**

Century 21 Cornerstone

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# October

## Sunday Worship at St. Matthias: October 2023

- October 1.** Proper 21 Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Psalm 25:1-8; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
- October 8** Proper 22. Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-14; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
- October 15** Proper 23 Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
- October 22.** Proper 24 Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9,(10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
- October 29** Proper 25 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

We look forward to offering our worship services on more than one platform for streaming in the near future. We are awaiting new equipment that will allow us to do so. So please be patient and stay with us till that happens.

OCTOBER 2023



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