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From the Pastor

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist.
Return to me, for I have redeemed you." (*Isaiah 44:22*)

Matteo, my four-month-old son, depends on Mary Anne and me for everything. I'll be honest, he depends on his mother the most. Never in my life have I experienced such clear and absolute dependence of one person upon another. As a parent, I have found this stressful, exhausting, empowering, and joy-filled all at the same time.

Ironically, this experience has made me even more aware of our own great dependence on others. Our independence is a façade based upon trust that food/farmers, our jobs/economy and leaders are dependable and will serve our needs—and we are always in need. This isn't independence at all. And bizarrely, we trust in these things even knowing they are not always reliable.

Ultimately our greatest need and dependence, which we often ignore more than all of these other things, is our need for and dependence on God. As our provider, sustainer, and creator, dependence on God shouldn't be surprising, but our need is even greater than this immense foundation. We also know that we aren't good enough. Nothing and no one is as trustworthy as we need them to be, ourselves included. We need God for all of it. Matteo's immense need of us is the same as our immense need for God.

This Easter season we looked at God's redemption. We saw how God can take all of our brokenness, and all of the evil in the world and, through his grace, love, and justice, redeem it to be something good. The key part of this redemption is that it comes through a relationship with Jesus. We depend on God for every moment of every day. We depend on God as the source of goodness to bring order and life. We depend on God because we can't do it on our own.

Jesus' death on the cross, his resurrection, and ascension produced God's greatest work of redemption, not only because Jesus took on and conquered evil, suffering, and death, which is often all we hope for, but also because its ultimate result was reconciliation—the restoration of a relationship with God. Jesus used the brokenness to tear open the curtain that divided us from God. He used the death so that we might die to the sin that led us away from God.

... continued

From the Pastor *(continued)*

He used the suffering so that we might know and live in God's loving sacrifice. This redemption is so great because, in a relationship with God, all things can and will be redeemed, restored, resurrected.

So now the challenge is to live into that restored life with God wherein all things are redeemed. What does that look like for you right now? I would recommend three things. First, digging into and spending more time on your prayer life and looking for God's guidance in every matter, large or small. Then second, be open and watch for how God might be leading you. And third, respond with courage, faith and trust in God, whenever something new comes your way. If we can just live into these three things, we will see God's redemption at work.

“Put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.” (*Psalm 130:7*)

God bless you all.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Philip

We're Celebrating Our 75th Anniversary!

SAVE THE DATE: 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

September 24 at 3:00 pm | St. Matthew's Anglican Church

Please join in as St. Matthew's celebrates 75 years of Sharing Jesus' Love.

Special guest Bishop Andrew Asbil, Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto, and featuring the VIVA Chamber Singers.

All ages are welcome as we worship with Bishop Andrew Asbil, commemorate our past, and rejoice in this wonderful community.

Reception in the gymnasium following the service.

ANNIVERSARY PHOTO BOOK

The photo directory will be available in September for the parish.

SPECIAL EDITION OF MATT'S MEDIA: Submissions due June 1

For St. Matthew's 75th anniversary, Matt's Media will publish a Special Edition in September. As well as parish history, it will provide a glimpse into our individual and collective experiences with St. Matthew's.

May the Holy Spirit guide this work so we may best represent the Work of God in this community.

Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Marguerite Locke, Sharon Shao, Nancy Hurn, Bryan Tran, Tatiana Saliba, Kathie Oakden.



Wardens' Report

Karen Lee, Marguerite Locke and Sharon Shao

We have had a very busy few months of Lenten and Easter celebrations with lots of participation by many parishioners. The Wardens are delighted that so many have felt comfortable returning to in-person worship services and engaging in opportunities to visit and socialize at coffee hours, concerts, or special events like the Pancake Supper and Maundy Thursday dinner. It has also been very uplifting to have people volunteer for the planning and execution of these special events.

Many thanks to the leadership of Tyler Versluis and talented musical colleagues who performed for us at the concert on March 5, on Maundy Thursday, and for various Sunday services. The variety of musical selections has greatly enhanced our faith journey.

We are delighted to welcome our many newcomers. We pray that they will come to know St. Matthew's as their spiritual home.

Early in April, we were delighted to welcome back Tom Travaglini, our Sexton, from his medical leave. We are grateful to Grant Dunbar for his assistance during Tom's absence.

The return of all of our tenants in our church space and our own use of the premises has prompted a few basic repairs and maintenance items including: the exterior motion-sensor light at a gym door, plumbing repairs in the gym washroom, cleaning and purging of many items from Club Matt storage areas and from the choir rooms, removal of a stacked washer/dryer from the Out of the Cold program to allow for more storage space, repairs to the screen for the window above the sink in the gym kitchen, and spot cleaning of some of the lounge furniture. Our building is aging and requires constant upkeep to ensure it is safe and secure for our many activities.

The grounds of the church have had their spring cleanup by our contracted gardener. As in past years, the 'Annuals' will be planted to beautify our space as soon as weather permits.

Just a gentle reminder to all who enter and exit the church during "off hours," such as evenings, that the doors must be properly locked on exiting.

As we continue to journey through our 75th Anniversary Year, we want to thank all those who have given of their time and talent to the celebration preparations.

We give thanks to God for God's continued provision and care for St. Matthew's. Wishing you all a safe and relaxing summertime!

Financial Report: May 2023

Karen Lee, Marguerite Locke and Sharon Shao

Many thanks to the Parish for your support of this year's *Joyful Giving Campaign* as well as all the ways you are supporting our community with your time, talents and finances.

This year we have been burdened with a significant increase in our heating costs. This is largely due to the increase in rates by the utility company. We are actively assessing how we might be able to reduce our costs. Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of April 30, 2023.

Operating Fund	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Income	\$ 97,447	90,638	97,872
Expenses	\$ 106,811	96,076	101,760
Net Income	\$ -9,364	-5,437	-3,887

We wish to acknowledge the contributions of our Treasurer, David Oakden. Thanks Dave!

Camp Matt: August 14-18

Amanda Palias

HELP - Publicize summer camp!

Invitations and posters are available for you to invite family, friends and neighbours to participate. These can be picked up at the welcome table in the Narthex or call the office to get copies.

Camp Matt Campers: Sign up for Summer Camp, August 14-18 – See poster below.

HELP – Be a Camp Matt Volunteer!

Want to join a fun and creative team that will reach kids and make lasting memories? We are looking for volunteers ages 12+ for our first ever Summer Day Camp running Aug 14-18, 2023. There are a variety of roles for different areas of interest, including team leadership, drama, sports, crafts, prayer and more. Help out for a couple hours, half a day or the whole week! Please fill out the online form at <https://saintmatts.ca/summer-camp/> or sign up in the narthex at the welcome table or email family@saintmatts.ca.

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**Ends
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*Volunteer opportunities available for
ages 12+

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*Before and After Care available at
additional costs

- Arts & Craft
- Sports & Games
- Music & Worship
- Movies & Drama
- Snacks provided

**Bring your own lunch bag and
water bottle**

Register: www.saintmatts.ca
More info: family@saintmatts.ca



Camp Site:
**St. Matthew's Anglican
Church**

3962 Bloor Street W.
Etobicoke, ON
M9B 1M3
Tel: (416) 231-4014

Upcoming Events



THE NARNIA CHRONICLES

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Film viewing May 28, 2 pm

Discussion May 31, 7 pm

St. Matt's Sanctuary | 3962 Bloor St. W. | 416-231-4014
office@saintmatts.ca

Legacy Planning and Tea

June 6, 2 - 4 pm

Church Lounge

All are welcome, including friends and family



Wills & Power of Attorney



Funeral Planning



Spiritual Legacy



Financial Legacy

St. Matthew's Anglican Church - 3962 Bloor Street West - 416.231.4014 - office@saintmatts.ca

St. Matt's Pizza Party

Come and join us!

JUNE 23 | 5:30 PM

ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH | 3962 BLOOR ST. W.



Lenten Activities at St. Matthew's

Our annual Pancake Supper on February 21 of pancakes, sausage, maple syrup and ice cream preceded the beginning of Lent. Thank you to all chefs, servers, setters up and cleaners up.



Loonie-Toonie Jars, our Fundraiser celebrating our 75th Anniversary, were distributed to collect coins for 75 days.

Shrove Tuesday Worship in the church followed the Pancake Supper, during which last year's palm crosses were burned and reduced to ashes for use the following day, Ash Wednesday, which began our observation of Lent.

Weekly Lenten Bible Study of the 'Beatitudes' followed a half hour of Taizé music, in the church and on-line. Thank you Tyler, Amanda, Dawn, and Rev. Philip for their leadership.

On Palm Sunday the children waved palm fronds and crosses in a Palm Parade. They enjoyed breakfast afterwards.



Coffeehouse Concert: June 4

Songs from Southern Harmony: Sunday June 4 at 2 p.m. in the Gymnasium.

The hymn and tune book Southern Harmony was first published in 1835. It is notable for having originated or popularized several hymn tunes found in modern hymnals.



Musical Moments at St. Matthew's Presents

**June 4
2PM**

Songs from
SOUTHERN HARMONY

Coffeehouse Concert
Sunday, June 4
Doors open at 2 PM

Pay what you can (\$20 suggested)
Refreshments & Confections Included

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Lenten Activities at St. Matthew's

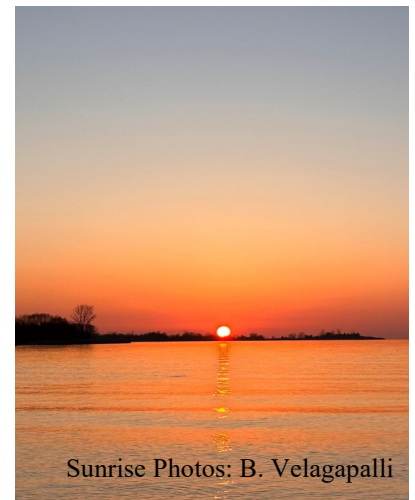
Maundy Thursday was celebrated with a Lamb/Seder Supper. Rev. Philip guided us through a Hebrew Seder, followed by a delicious meal offering Lamb, Turkey and Vegetarian options. Thanks to Tanya Marcon, Ann Marie Pupulin and Sharon Shao for organizing this meal, and thanks to all chefs, servers, dishwashers, set-up and take-down helpers.



Stripping of Altar took place in the Sanctuary afterwards, in preparation for the Good Friday Service.

Easter was celebrated at Sunrise on the beach at Marie Curtis Park, and at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in church. Our Easter Pageant with dessert Potluck took place the following Sunday, on April 16.

Thanks to Rev. Philip and Rev. Merv. for their leadership and to Tyler Versluis for inspirational music. Also thanks to Chancel Guild members for their invisible care of the Sanctuary: preparing the altar for Eucharist, changing altar frontals, providing flowers.



Sunrise Photos: B. Velagapalli

FAMILY ROOM New Ministry

Amanda Palias

A place for everyone, The Family Room is a family bible study where we learn together about God's goodness while sharing a meal. Activities and games for kids and youth will be provided.

In May we had a great turnout for our first event. It was an opportunity to come together as church family and talk about Jesus and how he shows up in our lives. The kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt, and the Lego table was a big hit! See you next month for more family fun.

Our next meeting is June 9 from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Led by Rev. Philip and Amanda. RSVP to family@saintmatts.ca by the morning of June 9.



GIFT Groups

Tuesday morning GIFT Group

Led by Ann Sim and Dorothy Sproule, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at Ann Sim's home.

Tuesday evening GIFT Group

Led by Dawn Mercer. Coffee or tea and discussion, usually arising from the Sunday readings and sermon, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Time together is at different homes (and online if circumstances require) so please call the office for further information.

These groups are open to anyone who wishes to participate and we encourage all to come and experience these special small group sessions.

More Ways to Share Your Memories & Experiences

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our church, we hope to share memories and experiences and post them on the special anniversary bulletin board in the Narthex. Is there a word or phrase that encapsulates what St. Matthew's means to you? Is there a memory you hold dear? A humorous recollection? A defining moment in your faith journey? Forms are available at the Welcome Table. Fill them out on the spot, or take them home to reflect and submit them later. Please put your completed form in the plastic holder on the 75th bulletin board in the Narthex, or leave them on the welcome table or the office. Thank you.



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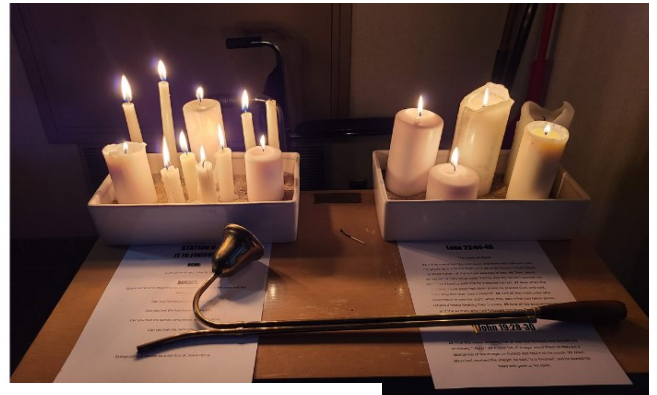
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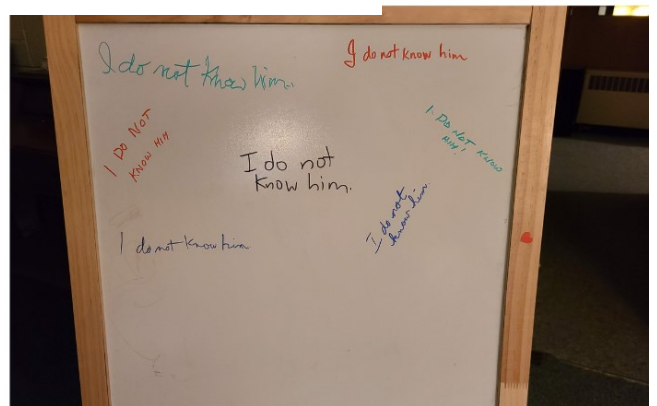
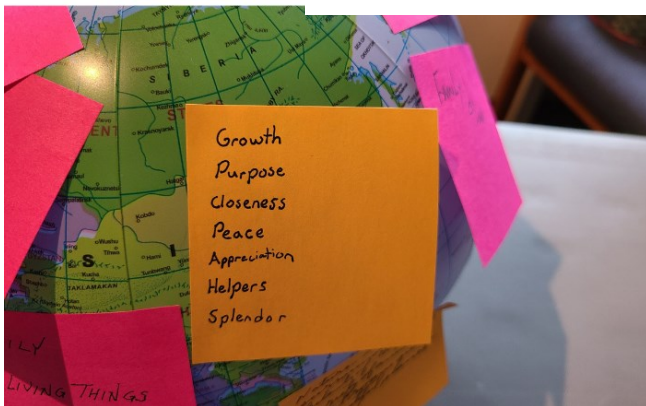
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Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross, an interactive prayer-walk, allowed us to pray, feel, reflect on and experience Jesus' crucifixion in a unique and meaningful way. The several Stations were placed throughout the building: Entrance, Narthex, church, Chancel, classrooms, Lounge. The walk was offered twice, once for a candle-lit evening experience and a second on Saturday afternoon which also allowed Messy Church children to participate in groups with a leader. Thank you to Tyler Versluis, Rev. Philip, the Chancel Guild members and many others for sourcing, setting up and taking down these Stations.



Stations of the Cross



Thank You to Our Photographers

Many thanks to the fabulous photographers who capture all our St. Matthew's moments so that we can share them now and years from now. Frequent contributors include Blessington, Lianne, Tyler, Bryan, Mary, and Deborah. Many others are also stepping in to take photos when there is a need and an opportunity and we are very grateful to all of you.

Please keep sending your photos to the office (office@saintmatts.ca) so that we can continue to enrich our publications and build our photo library. Labelling your photos with the event, people, and date is always appreciated.

Chancel

Mary Gleeson

Over the Lent/Easter season, our group was involved in church life in several different ways. As usual, we changed hangings and set up for the communion services weekly. This year, Tyler organized *Stations of the Cross*, a very moving and thought-provoking experience. Our members helped to gather the materials needed and assisted in setting up and dismantling the different stations. Thanks to Sandra Wilson, Pat Currie, and Gerry Tilker for assisting with this project.

The Friday before Palm Sunday, a group gathered in the Narthex, made palm crosses together, and refrigerated them so they would remain fresh. Palm Sunday arrived, and with it the task of setting out the palms in the church beforehand. Special thanks to Barb Landry for sharing her expertise in accomplishing this task while our flower convenor Sandra Wilson was back home in Australia.



Another experience, new to St Matthew's, was our Lamb/Seder supper blending the Christian & Hebrew traditions (see page 8 for pictures). We set out the communion and foot-washing elements for this special time together. After the dinner, a couple of our members assisted with the stripping of the altar, and later the cross was draped in black for the Good Friday service. Then it was almost Easter!! But beforehand, picking up the Easter flowers from the nursery, and setting them out in the church was necessary. Thank you to everyone who donated the plants to beautify our church, and also for taking them home to enjoy after the service. Another big thank you to ALL our members who faithfully perform their weekly duties without reminders, often just stepping forward on the spot. New members are most welcome to join this friendly group and participate in this rewarding ministry.

Not sure what time we're worshipping on Sunday?
Need to check information about an event?
Our website saintmatts.ca is a great resource.

What's Happening

Sun May 28	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: 2:00 p.m.	In person (Sanctuary)
Wed May 31	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe discussion: 7:00	In person (Sanctuary)
Sat June 3	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.	Sunset Grill
	Contact dave.oakden@gmail.com	1510 Dundas St. (Miss.)
	Youth: Guided hike & picnic	In person
	Messy Church: 4:00 p.m.	In person (Gym)
Sun June 4	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
♪ ♪	COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT: 2:00 p.m. (page 7)	In person (Gym)
Tues June 6	Legacy Planning & Tea: 2:00 p.m. (page 5)	In person (Lounge)
Wed June 7	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Fri June 9	The Family Room: 5:30 p.m. (page 9)	In person
Sun June 11	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed June 14	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Doctrine of Discovery 7:00-9:00 p.m.	In person
Sat June 16	Youth: Ultimate Frisbee	In person
Sun June 18	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed June 21	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m. (Indigenous Day of Prayer)	In person
Fri June 23	End of School Pizza Party Celebration: 5:30 p.m.	In person
Sun June 25	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. (Indigenous Sunday & Graduation Sunday)	In person & online
Wed June 28	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m. (last Wednesday service before summer break)	In person
Fri June 30	Youth: Escape Room	In person
Sun July 2	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. (Beginning of Summer Worship)	In person & online
Sat July 8	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.	Sunset Grill
July & Aug	Unity Worship each Sunday: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Sat Aug 12	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.	Sunset Grill
Aug 14-18	Camp Matt: 9:00-3:00, extended care available (page 4)	In person
Sun Sept 10	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Sat Sept 9	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.	Sunset Grill



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SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 24
3:00 PM

All ages welcome

Club Matt Children's Program

Lianne Thompson

The past few months have been packed full of exciting Club Matt programs and activities that strive to bring the truth of Jesus' love alive for all the children.

The *All about Jesus* program continued through March – with the children following Jesus' journey on earth with the stories of His preaching, healing, and miracles. Then we switched to a short segment on Jesus and Baptism – many activities with water, the Cross and new life helped all the children learn more about the importance of this sacrament and how we are all children of God.

Easter and the pageant!

There was SO much happening around Easter this year, and the children's involvement in the Good Friday and Easter Sunday programs resulted in some special adventures and activities, including building crosses and exploring the empty tomb.



Club Matt Children's Program *(continued)*

The *Easter Pageant* was held the week after Easter, and we had 22 children and youth taking part including five narrators (with one pre-recorded), four people portraying Jesus, and multiple disciples, guards and angels! It was truly joyous and as the conclusion to the pageant proclaimed: *We have seen Jesus struggle, get hurt and die, but now we see that Jesus is stronger than pain or death and that He shows his love and calls us by name.*

As always, we are grateful to Reverend Philip for his wonderful leadership, all the moms and dads who helped prepare their little ones, the Club Matt and Youth leaders for making it all happen, and especially the children and youth who brought the story to life.



Now, and looking ahead to Summer

At time of publication, we are in the midst of a new spring program called *We Are The Church* – about the lives and activities of the early Christians after Jesus' ascension. The stories are being linked directly to the stained-glass windows at St. Matthew's. The Club Matt Junior and Senior kids ask some amazing questions – you may even want to ask some of them about the windows they have looked at!

During the months of July and August when St. Matthew's has a combined service each Sunday, the Club Matt kids will be following a program called *Rock-Solid Followers*. With a camping/outdoors theme each Sunday, we will have fun and learn 10 truths about Jesus: how He loves us, brings joy, gives us wisdom, strength, and courage, and lots more!

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

The Club Matt team is always looking for people to assist with special events, help out leading in the program or supporting children. If you are interested in participating this summer or in the coming school year, please speak to Lianne Thompson – we would love to tell you more!

Messy Church

Linda Dickson

Messy Church has been a very busy place every month. We have, on average, 20 children who attend, along with parents and friends. Each time we also welcome new families who have come to join us. We have also welcomed two new members to our Planning Team.

We have spent time looking at our Journeys with Jesus.

The Easter Messy Church, themed “From Palms to the Cross to the Grave” had the children participate in a modified *Stations of the Cross*, and make family Resurrection Eggs to take home.

In April, “New Life” was the theme when we learned about the importance of water and the many bible stories which take place near and with water.

May’s Messy Church has been rescheduled to take place June 3, because local schools were holding Fun Fairs on our usual choice of the last Saturday. We look forward to seeing all our new and old friends.



St. Matt's Youth

With fellow parishioner Bryan Tran taking on the role of Youth Ministry Associate, our youth Sunday morning program at the 9:30 a.m. service has been a time of getting to know each other better and exploring our faith together.

Our Friday evening youth events continue to happen roughly every two weeks, typically on the first and third Fridays of the month. In June we are planning to enjoy the outdoors as the weather warms up, so look out for some Saturday afternoon events scheduled. We hope to continue having youth events over the summer, all depending on whether any youth are around to attend!

Recent events included board game nights and a video game night, where we had lots of fun and shared lots of laughter being creative and silly playing Jackbox party games *Fibbage* and *Quiplash*, and a movie night, where we watched *Testament: The Parables Retold*. We enjoyed a great discussion afterward about the Parables that were covered, with a special emphasis on The Parable of the Talents.

Many of our youth also went to the *Winter Radiate Retreat* at the Ontario Pioneer Camp. After surviving a harrowing six-hour drive through a snowstorm to get there, the youth had a great time (for real!) in the -20 to -40 degree weather. We studied the story of Peter, worshipped with an awesome local worship band, and explored the theme of the retreat: *Being Rooted in Jesus*. We also had fun with indoor and outdoor activities, drinking our fair share of hot chocolate, staying up way too late, and enjoying the amazing food that was provided. It was the first time attending a retreat for many of the youth and it was a great bonding experience for all.



Ashes: A Lenten Recital

This concert was performed on March 5, 2023, as part of our Concert Series: *Musical Moments at St. Matthew's*. It was a deeply meditative programme of music for organ, strings and harp revolving around T.S. Eliot's cycle of poems, *Ash Wednesday*, which the poet wrote after converting to Anglicanism in 1927. ('This poem deals with the struggle that develops when one who has lacked faith in the past strives to move towards God.' *Wikipedia*) To quote Tyler Versluis's program notes, "The concert begins with Widor's arrangement of Bach's *D minor prelude*, using the words "Miserere Mei" for emotional framing. These Latin words open *Psalms 51*, typically read on Ash Wednesday. We then hear John Thomas' *The Minstrel's Adieu to His Native Land*. Like a bard saying farewell to the kingdom of the living, Eliot's prose dictates a farewell to his previous worldviews. Next are excerpts from Frescobaldi's *Fiori Musicali* (Musical Flowers) and Nepumuceno's *Préce* (Prayer), which are intense, almost feverish expressions of religious meditation. The programme closes with the world première of *Ashes* composed by (our organist and music director,) Tyler Versluis, six reflections on each poem in T.S. Eliot's cycle."

Performers: We are grateful for the sublime performances of these superb musicians. Their extensive curriculum vitae are available from Tyler Versluis, St. Matthew's Church or Google search.

Emilie Gélinas-Noble, viola
Alanna Ellison, harp
Tyler Versluis, organ
Bruce Gleeson, recitation

The concert is available on St. Matthew's [YouTube channel](#).

Miserere Mei From <i>Bach's Memento</i> (1925)	Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) Arr. T. Versluis	Emilie Gélinas-Noble, viola Alanna Ellison, harp Tyler Versluis, organ
The Minstrel's Adieu to His Native Land	John Thomas (1826-1913)	Alanna Ellison, harp Bruce Gleeson, recitation
Fiori Musicali excerpts (1635) Toccata before the Mass Kyries and Christes Toccata before the Recercar Recercar with a sung <i>obligato</i>	Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)	Tyler Versluis, voice and organ
Préce (Prayer) (1887)	Alberto Nepumuceno (1864-1920)	Emilie Gélinas-Noble, viola Tyler Versluis, piano
Ashes (2022 - 23) Each movement is preceded by a reading of the respective poem from T.S. Elliot's poem <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Tyler Versluis (1989-)	Emilie Gélinas-Noble, viola Alanna Ellison, harp Tyler Versluis, organ Bruce Gleeson, recitation



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What Would Jesus Vote?

Tyler Versluis

In Canada we are pretty lucky that we only have to deal with four, maybe five political parties at our elections. In most European countries, there are often ten to fifteen parties vying for people's attention, all with varying policies, ideologies and statements.

Is the political spectrum really that complicated? Not really. Politics today are essentially a formalization of two central worldviews that have always been in conflict with each other: traditionalism and progressivism. "Traditionalists" typically base their worldview on the authority emanating from a perceived higher power – usually taking the form of a political state, a religious code, or a "natural order" of things. While some traditionalists are religious and base their worldview on that, others appeal to a universal natural order: that humankind is a part of nature, and that a healthy society follows the codes of nature to maintain order and balance. Traditionalists tend to value "wisdom" over "knowledge," and thus are more pluralistic in how they perceive the world. This means they are also more likely to believe in concepts like alternative medicine, holistic practices and conspiracy theories. A traditionalist tends to accept the fragmentation of the world, and thus values the smaller community unit (i.e. family, church, borders, regional) over the "larger picture."

"Progressives," on the other hand, begin their worldview with the autonomy of the human individual rather than an appeal to a higher authority. Unlike the traditionalist, they believe that the relief of human suffering and injustice is the most pertinent action, and thus take a "transcendent" approach to advancing society to eliminate as much suffering as possible for the individual. The progressive values "knowledge" over "wisdom" and accomplishes their goals largely through a collectivized scientific approach to solving problems and advancing their worldview. The progressive believes that history is on their side, as society naturally progresses rather than regresses. The progressive believes in the "larger picture", sometimes at the expense of their own natural community units.

You may have read the descriptions above and feel like you borrow a bit from both camps, or that you fall somewhere in between. In reality, political affiliation is a very personal and intimate facet of human identity. We often perceive the selection of political affiliation as a process of hard logic, of a Spock-like weighing of the facts of candidates and parties, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. Political affiliation is, like many things, the product of nature and nurture, and is largely based on how "open" and "closed" we are to unfamiliar things, people and experiences. We often base our political choices on irrational behaviour, such as desire to be part of an in-group, confirmation biases, and the oft-cited "gut feeling". Because political affiliation is so ingrained in people's personalities and identities, we should encourage the respect of those people who naturally oppose our own beliefs. In the context of faith, it is extremely important that we commune with those who share our beliefs, but your own worldview can be tempered and strengthened by listening to others with different viewpoints.

In Canada, we typically view Christianity as a conservatizing force. We are, like traditionalists, appealing to a high power in all our views, actions and meditations. On the other hand, progressivism as we know it has roots in Christianity, as it applied the transcendence of Christian charity to create concepts like the social security system and political solidarity to solve injustice.

...continued

What Would Jesus Vote? *(continued)*

Reading through the Beatitudes this past Lent made me realize that the kingdom of God seeks to disrupt and invert the evil structures maintained by humankind, where the cruel harass the innocent, the strong oppress the gentle, and the loud drown out the quiet. Modern politics, very often, maintains these structures. Their philosophies, and those of the world are empty when they exclude God from their equations. Traditionalists will justify xenophobia, intolerance and close-mindedness as “natural order”, while progressives throw the baby out with the bath water in their pursuit of elevating the individual beyond anything else.

Where else can we turn?

In 1919, in the aftermath of World War One, W.B. Yeats wrote pessimistically, “the centre cannot hold”. How can our centre hold if it is manmade? Jesus needs to be the centre of our world, or the foundation is faulty. We can see emanations of Christ in both so-called right-wing and left-wing thought, but our job is not to endorse either one, because, ultimately, our allegiances lie elsewhere. We are citizens of the kingdom of God – and whether our proclamations of the Gospel are labelled “right” or “left”, radical, or outdated, we are charged with holding to its centre.

Follow-Up to the Bishop's Motion at Vestry

At our recent Vestry on February 26, we agreed to support the Bishop's Motion to request the government to increase funding for OW (Ontario Works) and ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program). It is proposed that this increase would assist marginalized members of our community by providing more suitable financial support to reduce their vulnerability to food and housing insecurity at this very expensive time in our city.

If you are moved to have personal involvement with this issue, you might like to join with some other (St. Matthew's) folks who would like to explore some specific ways to act in support of this activity.

A sign-up sheet was circulated at Vestry, but there may be some who were not at Vestry who feel called to act in this issue.

Please call or email the office to add your name to the list. If you have already added your name to the list you will be contacted.



investia.ca

Member of Industrial Alliance group

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Know you Advise you Guide you

Valentine Tea

What a popular event! Every seat was occupied in the Lounge (previously known as the Parlour). Scones, jam, and whipped cream were served followed by tea and cookies. Nancy Hurn addressed the afternoon gathering with interesting facts gleaned from the Parish archives. Thanks to everyone who baked and served.



A Special Place: The Prayer Room

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

Many of you may have forgotten or may never have realized that, on the east side of the church, across from the Lounge, is our little Prayer Room. It has been a while since St. Matthew's has done anything formal in this space, but I know that people have long made use of it as a special place of quiet and escape. I will often recommend it to families before a funeral, or brides before a wedding as a place where they might centre themselves on God.

I would encourage you to use it as well.

Whether you are struggling or discerning and need some time alone with God, or if you are accompanying another through their prayer needs, the Prayer Room is a great place to find focus in our time with God and others.



Church Records

Deaths

Rev. Gail Marshall
March 16, 2023

Sandra Adye-White
May 2, 2023



Parish Life



Photos clockwise from top left:

Keeping connected through Matt's Media. Percy Jordan moved to Owen Sound to be closer to son Graham and looks forward to reading every issue of Matt's Media. Thank you, Graham, for letting us know how much Percy enjoys our parish publication.

Questions of Faith. Participants were very enthusiastic about this series. Ask them!

St. Matthew's "Flower Lady." Sandra Wilson tends to the flowers for Mother's Day.

Vestry 2023. Barb Landry, Rev. Philip, Dave Oakden and Kathie Oakden tend to the business of St. Matthew's during the 2023 Vestry meeting.

Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered over the phone, by email or via Zoom. If you would like to arrange for home communion, please contact Rev. Philip or the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.

Partners in Prayer: Should you desire prayer for yourself or for another person, please make details known to Bob Holloway at 416-253-4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca. If necessary, the request can be transmitted through the church office.

Cycle of Prayer: “Beloved, pray for us.” This is Paul’s way of asking the Thessalonians to pray for him (5:25) and it expresses the genuine need for believers to support one another through prayer. Each Sunday, we will be praying for individuals and families of St. Matthew’s in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names will be mentioned in our prayers and we will have the opportunity to support one another through prayer. Please take the time to remember these people during the week in your own prayers as well. If you do not wish to be included in our “Cycle of Prayer” please let the office know and we will be sure to keep your name off the list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew’s. If you would like a shawl for someone, please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca. If you are knitting shawls for this ministry, please contact the office to arrange to drop them off.

Join Us

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. BCP Service
(no service in July & August)

Messy Church

Next Messy Church dates:
June 3, 4 p.m.
September 30, 4 p.m.

GIFT Groups

Contact the office for information



Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Casual (in person & online)

11:00 a.m. Classic (in person & online)

12:10 p.m. Coffee Hour

Summer Worship (July & Aug)

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Unity Worship

Please note there will be no Wednesday service during July and August

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:30 - 3:30

416-231-4014
office@saintmatts.ca

Summer Hours begin June 26

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:30 - 2:30



The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent

416-231-3060 / philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca

The Rev. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant
Dr. Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist
Amanda Palias, Family and Discipleship
Ministry Associate
Bryan Tran, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Travaglini, Sexton/Verger
Lisa Tait, Administrator

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