



April 2023

# The Messenger

**ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
9349 E. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Raytown, MO 64133

## St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst  
Priest-in-Charge

Sherry Minzey  
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill  
Music Director

## Officers

Judy Taylor  
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin  
Junior Warden

David Macey  
Treasurer

Linda Gerding  
Secretary

## Service Times

Wednesday Zoom  
Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
10:00 a.m.



Dear Church family,

It's been an extreme pleasure to journey with all of you through these weeks of Lent. I sincerely sense we have drawn closer to Christ by our renewed sense of prayer, study and faithfulness in divine worship.

It has been awesome to see so many in attendance in our study of the Book of Common Prayer led by James Laney. As your pastor, I was thrilled to witness the hunger and thirst for God as we learned more about that red book that sits in the pew rack called the Book of Common Prayer. Our church is blessed with so many gifted leaders and James Laney's enthusiasm for teaching was contagious. My prayer is that we keep expanding in our faith as we use the treasure in our hands like the BCP to be transformed, renewed and empowered to serve our world.

Many thanks to all of you who makes the difference in the life and witness of St. Matthew Episcopal Church. We presently had a challenge with the loss of an altar guild member, but were so glad that one of our newly confirmed members, Peggy Sutherland, has agreed to serve with the altar guild. Peggy is a wonderful person and we are glad she joined us!

I wanted to mention that we have reactivated our local expression of the Order of St. Luke by offering healing prayer or prayer for others personal needs after each worship service. Rick Roberts is our local Order of St. Luke leader and Zella Forsythe is an intercessor who also prays with Rick for others who need it. I'm sure people have been touched by God by these prayers!

Palm Sunday was great but I'm headed now for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and the triumph of Easter.

Fr. Jeff

## THE SEASON OF LENT ~ 2023



St. Matthew's Friday Nights in Lent celebrated Stations of the Cross on March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31st at 6:00 p.m., followed by a light meatless meal. The Good Friday service on April 7th was at noon, then Stations was celebrated at 6:00pm but did not include a meal.

Stations this year were led by Linda Gerding, Patti McGill, and Judy Roberts. Attendees volunteered to coordinate the meals and attendance averaged about 8 per evening.

### The 12<sup>th</sup> Station-Jesus Dies on the Cross

**Patti McGill & Linda Gerding**



## ALTAR GUILD PREP'S FOR HOLY WEEK



It was no April Fool that Father Jeff asked parishioners to come on April 1<sup>st</sup> to help the Altar Guild prepare the sanctuary for Holy Week.

Instructions were given, and guided by the Altar Guild members, volunteers helped drape the crosses, prepare the Altar of Repose, and set the Altar.

After doing all this sacred work, the group went to Fiesta Azteca to enjoy fellowship and lunch together.

Linda Gerding, reporting







We aren't singing this wonderful old hymn on Easter Sunday but we should know the words. I'll be playing it during communion as a thoughtful, meditative song to enhance our prayers. It was written by Cecil Frances Humphries (b. Redcross, County Wicklow, Ireland, 1818; Londonderry, Ireland, 1895) who wrote poetry in her school's journal. In 1850 she married Rev. William Alexander, who later became the Anglican primate (chief bishop) of Ireland. She showed her concern for disadvantaged people by traveling many miles each day to visit the sick and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister also founded a school for the deaf. Thank you for your wonderful poem, Mrs. Humphries.

Patti McGill  
Music Director



### **There is a Green Hill Far Away**

**1 There is a green hill far away,  
without a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.**

**2 We may not know, we cannot tell,  
what pains he had to bear;  
but we believe it was for us  
he hung and suffered there.**

**3 He died that we might be forgiv'n,  
he died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heav'n,  
saved by his precious blood.**

**4 There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
he only could unlock the gate  
of heav'n, and let us in.**

## ST. MATTHEW'S COMMISSIONING OF NEW PARISH LEADERS AND RE-COMMISSIONING OF ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

On Sunday March 26, 2023 Fr. Hurst and St. Matthew's Parish Family recognized and commissioned the following parish leaders:

Judy Taylor	Sr. Warden	Rick Roberts	Stewardship
Carl Turlin	Jr. Warden	Judy Taylor	Evangelism
Linda Gerding	Clerk of the Vestry	Christina Brooks	Finance & Alt. Delegate
Dave Macey	Treasurer	Zella Forsythe	Convention Delegate
Jim Laney	Worship	Jason Brooks	2 <sup>nd</sup> Convention Delegate



Following that commissioning, Fr. Hurst officiated to re-commission 8 Lay Chaplains to St. Matthew's Community of Chaplains. The Parish was invited to be a part of this service as witnesses to each Chaplain's commitment. This will be the 22nd year St. Matthew's Community of Chaplains have been active to serve and visit as a ministry of "presence" and also provide a link from St. Matthew's parish family to home bound parishioners.

Those Chaplains being re-commissioned this year were:

**Carl Turlin, Patti McGill, Mary Cease,  
Linda Gerding, Brenda Laney, Jim Laney  
Zella Forsythe**



## AIDS WALK

We are excited that we are celebrating 35 years of *Uniting in Triumph* for **AIDS WALK Kansas City**. To be celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an **AIDS WALK**, anywhere in the U.S. is a remarkable fete in 2023. Because of your past support that is exactly what we are doing this year! **AIDS WALK 2023** will be held on **Saturday, May 6, 2023** at **Theis Park**, located at Oak Street & Cleaver Blvd. Registration opens at 8:00am, Welcome Ceremonies at 9:00 am and we WALK at 10:00 am sharp!

Linda Gerding will be collecting donations during April for this Walk, or if you want to join her at the Walk please let her know.

Blessings,  
Linda Gerding- Service & Community Outreach



## Flying Solo



On Saturday, March 18, eight of us went to see "Jesus Revolution" at B&B Lee's Summit. We were blessed to have Father Jeff and Brenda join us. The movie was emotional, educational and entertaining. Afterwards, we went to SPIN1Pizza where we enjoyed good food and good company.

Mary Cease



**Darrel & Beth Cook**  
**644 E. Meyer Blvd.**  
**KCMO. 64131**

**Yael & Beci Abouhalka**  
**9340 Walmer St.**  
**OPKS, 66212**

# COME *Worship* WITH US

## *Easter Sunday*

H E I S R I S E N

**St. Matthew's  
Easter Service at 10:00 a.m.**

### **Online Links**

#### **Online Giving Link:**

<http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>

#### **Facebook:**

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church |  
Facebook](#)

#### **St. Matthew's Website:**

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
\(stmatthewsraytown.org\)](http://stmatthewsraytown.org)

### **MAY**

#### **Messenger/Calendar Deadline**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

