THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Episcopal Church in Garrett County worshipping at St. Matthews's Episcopal Church the episcopal diocese of maryland 10 A.M. \$\delta\$ November 30, 2025

St. Matthew's and St. John's Episcopal Church Christmas Poinsettia Memorial Flowers

Please indicate below the number of plants you would like to order and the names of those family members and loved ones in whose memory they will be placed and return it to the church (P.O. Box 303 or P.O. Box 414, Oakland, MD 21550) with your check by Monday, December 15th.

Ordering _____ Plants @ \$20.00 each.

In Memory Of:

Given By: (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Be thankful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord.

During the service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE READING: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Celebrant

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant I see you.
People We are here.

Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant 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.

People Amen.



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: St. Thomas, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861)

OPENING PRAYER

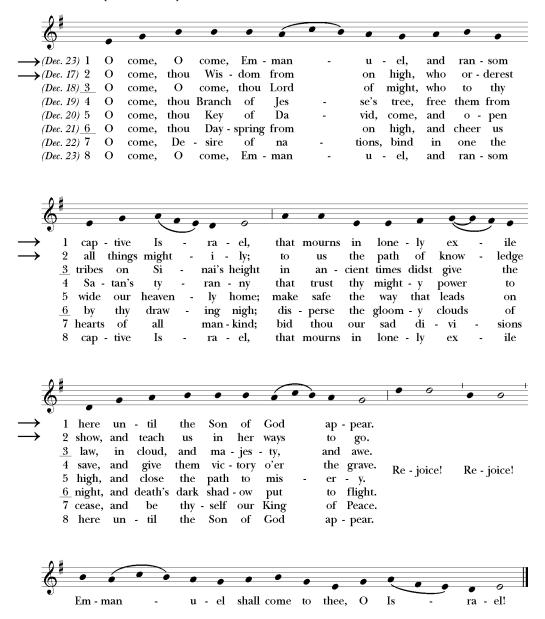
Celebrant

Father, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we come together to hear your word and to receive your sacrament. Keep us mindful that we are one with you and each other and help us to live our lives joyfully sharing the grace you have shown us and the life you have brought us. Mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do; and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Response

We offer ourselves to you, O Lord, and to each other, that we may serve in your Name. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 56 (vs 1 & 2) O come, O come, Emmanuel



The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890);

acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Copyright: Words: © The Church Pension Fund

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

PSALM 122 Laetatus sum

I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Now our feet are standing * within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city * that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.

For there are the thrones of judgment, * the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls * and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions' sake, * I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, * I will seek to do you good."

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader People The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Advent- Gospel Acclamation



All standing,

The Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Celebrant People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Celebrant

The Gospel of the Lord.

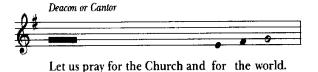
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All stand for

THE NICENE CREED

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE





Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us true repentance; forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and grant us the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy Word. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please warmly greet one another with the peace of Christ

Parish Life

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) N. as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Please stand as the Offering is brought to the Altar Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the

Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.

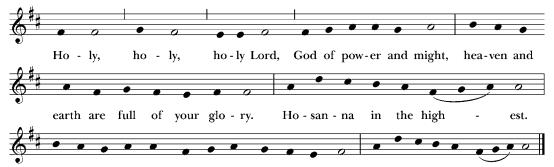
Celebrant We thank you, Lord, for the beauty of this earth, our island home. We thank you

especially for this place in which we live; for our lakes and our forests, our farmland, and the life which flourishes here. Guide us in the care of all you have given us, especially in our care of each other. You have given us much, and for that we are grateful. And so we join with Angels and Archangels, and all the company of heaven,

evermore praising you, and singing:

Hymn S-124

Holy, holy, holy Lord



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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."

Recalling now his suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption. Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.

As we come to this table, Lord, grant that we may share your Spirit together, renew our strength, and reveal your love to a waiting world because we were here. 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.**

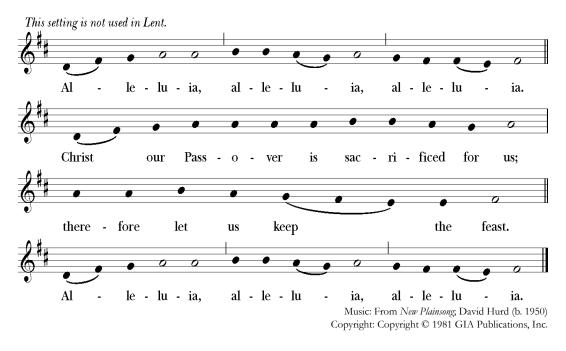
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celebrant and People

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 S-154 Christ our Passover



All here are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our tradition is to receive both bread and wine, sharing the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips. You may receive the bread only, if you prefer. After consuming the bread, simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine. You may also "intinct" by dipping the bread into the chalice. If you desire only a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when you come to the rail.



Words: Att. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Muisc: Sumner, Arthur Henry Biggs (1906-1954) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

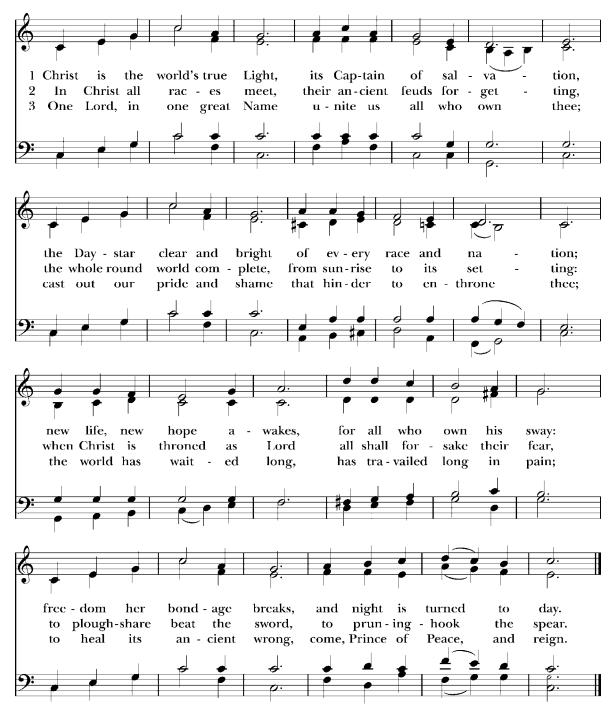
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

THE BLESSING



Words: George Wallace Briggs (1892-1955), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *St. Joan*, Percy E. B. Coller (1892-?). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

announcements

christmas decorating

We will be decorating for Christmas at St. John's on December 7th and at St. Matthew's on December 21st, immediately following the service. Please bring finger foods or cookies to share!

the annual, occasionally annual, christmas party at the rectory

Please join us on **Sunday, December 14th**, from **6-9PM** for a light buffet, wine and beer, fellowship and holiday cheer at 217 G Street, Mountain Lake Park. No RSVP necessary. Directions and additional details can be found in the enews.

longest night

A Longest Night Service will be held on **Sunday, December 21st at 7 pm.** Please join us for a time of reflection, music, and healing prayer.

christmas eve services

The early Christmas Eve service will be held at **St. John's** this year at **7 PM**. The late service will be held at **St. Matthew's** at **10:30 PM**.

stephen's table

Our next meal will be a Christmas ham dinner and will be served on **Thursday, December 18th from 5-6:30 pm**. We expect another large turnout for that meal, so please consider lending a hand if you are able. If you can help in any way, contact **Kip Senholzi** at **kwsenholzi@comcast.net**, or simply show up and have some fun with us! The **Nearly New** will be open during this time, also.

it's in the bag

Volunteers for It's in the Bag meet each Wednesday at 11 am at St. John's throughout the school year to pack and deliver over 360 bags of weekend food to the youngest and most at-risk children across all of the county's elementary schools, head start, and early head start programs. If you are interested in volunteering for this vital and rewarding ministry, contact Linda Eisenhart at LLeisenhart@gmail.com or show up on a packing day.

rotary christmas project

The Rotary Christmas Project supports children in need. Please take a tag from the Rotary Christmas Tree and return the gift to us, **unwrapped and with the tag attached** by **Sunday, December 7th**. You can also bring them to church with you at St. John's on the 7th and we will get the gifts to St. Matthew's for the Rotary pickup.

seekers

The Seekers are still collecting **non-perishable food** to replenish the food pantry at the Oakland Town Hall. They fill the pantry at least twice per month. If you are able to help, please bring your donations to the church.

food pantry

We still need one or two more people who can be available for an hour or two on a rotating schedule to provide groceries to families in need through the food pantry at St. John's. The need for food is still great, even with SNAP benefits being restored and we need a few more volunteers to be able to handle this increase. For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, please contact **Cindy Stacy** at **443-756-4792**.

nearly new

The Nearly New is in need of cashiers. When we do not have cashiers, we have to close the store. If you are interested in lending a hand, even only to be a substitute to keep the store open, please let us know in one of the following ways:

Send an email to **nearlynewcrew@gmail.com**Contact **Kathy Zimmer** by cell at **412-287-7483** or by email at **kathyzimmer24@gmail.com**Contact **Maryn Fisher** by cell at **240-409-6845** or by email at **mhffisher@comcast.net**Contact **Inlie Heatman** in her of fees at **201-234-2510**.

Contact Julie Hartman in her office at 301-334-2510 ext. 3 or by email at:

episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com

ministers of today's service

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee Reader: Kendall Ludwig

Chalicist:

Coffee Hosts:

prayer list

We pray each Sunday and Thursday for members, relatives and friends of this faith community who have asked for our prayers. You may call Julie in the Church Office at 301-334-2510 ext. 3 or email your request to:

episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com

Let us pray to the Lord and for each other, especially for Chip Lee; Nancy Ihloff; Ron Peterson; Michael Marine; Bonnie Winters; Kathy & Elon O'Connor; Mary Ely; Karen Wooddell; Smith Lantz; Barb Riley; John Jorgensen; Hugh & Dolores Andrew; Jessie Harris; Dave Arnold; Mary Ann Crawford; John Amato; Michael Null; Bernie Ferguson; Regina Ray; Liam Wallace; Madalyn Hoffeditz; Megan Morin; Marshall Stacy; Sharon Pyle; Butch Virts; Roberta Seward; the Hodge-Williams Family; Don Loomis; John & Brenda Rathgeb; Frances Sharpless; Laura Tasker; Walt Tasker; and for all whom we hold in our hearts this day.

(Silence)

In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St. Michael & All Angel's, Baltimore; St. Paul's, Baltimore; Nativity & Holy Comforter, Cedarcroft.

We also pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers.

In the Anglican communion we pray for the Anglican Church of Australia.

For relatives and friends of this faith community serving the victims of disasters and political unrest around the world, for those who are in harm's way in war zones, and for those who are working for peace everywhere.

For all victims of natural disaster, terrorism, war, economic and environmental injustice and addiction.

Members of our Faith Community for whom we are praying

Jeff Arnold, Linda Ludwig Baker; Lexie Byrne; Joseph R. Clark, Sr., Dave Culler, Susie Culler, Carolyn Germain, Kathleen Gibbs, Larry Glatt, Amy Harmon, Stephanie Hawtof & Kevin Rissell; Kolby Hefner, Samantha Hodge-Williams; Dan Jonson, Smith Lantz, Kim Lovett & Family, Madeline Meister, Brenda Rathgeb, Kat & Matt Rayner, Kip Senholzi, and Gavin Tasker.

also

Little ones have a place at St. Matthew's!

Our Sunday school and nursery are upstairs in the Parish Hall. Please ask anyone for directions.

Stay in touch with us digitally!

To receive the Parish E-news, please add your name, address, phone number, and email address to the guest register just inside the door of the narthex, or use the form on our website home page at www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org. When you are not able to be with us on Sunday, you can watch the livestream at 10 a.m. on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays of the month.

In case of rare snow closures or sudden changes in our worship schedule, we will send an email to our address list announcing the change.

Please note that we delete addresses that report as nonexistent and cause our emails to bounce back. Make sure you add episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com to your computer's address book to ensure that our email does not end up in your spam folder.

Sunday, November 30th at St. Matthew's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 am Sunday School upstairs in the parish hall Coffee hour in the chancel immediately

following the service

Thursday, December 4th at St. Matthew's

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II - The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

Sunday, December 7th at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II10 am Sunday School downstairs

Coffee hour in the fellowship room immediately following the service

Christmas decorating following the service

sunday schedule

December 7th St. John's
December 14th St. Matthew's
December 21st 10am St. John's
December 21st 7pm Longest Night St. Matthew's
December 28th St. Matthew's

weekly

1st and 3rd Sunday at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 am Sunday School downstairs

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at St. Matthew's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 am Sunday School in the Parish Hall

Monday

11:30 am - 1 pm Brown Bag Blessings in the parish hall

Wednesday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

11 am It's in the Bag Packing at St. John's

Thursday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Friday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

Saturday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

monthly

third Sunday

6 pm EpiscoPals (none scheduled at this time)

monthly

12 noon Seekers- parish hall- no meetings at this time

next-to-the-last Thursday

5 - 6:30 pm Stephen's Table (December 18th)

The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

the episcopal diocese of maryland

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 126 East Liberty Street Oakland, Maryland 21550

St. John's Episcopal Church 5234 Maryland Highway Oakland, Maryland 21550

Office phone: 301-334-2510 ext. 3

Website: www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org E-mail: episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com Parish office hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

clergy

The Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent

Bishop of Maryland

The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

Rector, St. Matthew's; Vicar, St. John's

The Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch

Assistant Priest for Christian Formation, St. Matthew's

staff

Julie Hartman

Parish Administrator

Krysta Huxford

Senior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mark Ludwig

Junior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mike Voelkel

Senior Warden, St. John's

Gladys Virts

Junior Warden, St. John's

Leah DeLauder

Music Director

vestry/advisory board members

St. Matthew's Vestry St. John's Advisory Board

Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch ~ Assistant Priest

Mary Jane Fike ~ St. Matthew's Julie Hartman ~ Parish Administrator Dane Huxford ~ St. Matthew's

Krysta Huxford ~ Senior Warden, St. Matthew's

Rev. Dr. Chip Lee ~ Vicar, St. John's/Rector, St. Matthew's

Mark Ludwig ~ Junior Warden, St. Matthew's

Liz Morin ~ St. Matthew's Leslie Roper ~ St. Matthew's Larry Shipe ~ St. John's

Mike Shirey ~ Treasurer, St. John's Gladys Virts ~ Junior Warden, St. John's

Mikey Virts ~ St. Matthew's

Mike Voelkel ~ Senior Warden, St. John's Bonnie Winters ~ Treasurer, St. Matthew's

Good news to share with our supporters of the Garrett County NAACP Scott Robinson Memorial Scholarship!

• Since its inception in 2021, the scholarship has provided support to 11 students, and last year two recipients transferred to 4-year colleges.

• Each awardee now receives \$2,000 per academic year, renewable for up to three

years, with a \$500 incentive for returning students.

• The Garrett College program was expanded last year to include students at Allegany College of Maryland. For 2025-2026 there are four awardees, two at each college, an one of the ACM students is renewing for the 2nd year and will receive \$2,500.

Thank you, and we hope you will continue to provide donations to this important cause



To donate online, scan the QR code or go to http://www.gcnaacp.org/scholarship.

Checks with GCNAACP Scott Robinson Memorial Scholarship on the memo line can be made to the CollegeBound Foundation and mailed to:

CollegeBound Foundation 2507 N. Howard St. Suite 200 Baltimore, MD 21218

Contributors have made available a matching fund of \$6,000 so that your November and December donations will be doubled!

The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

A Believing Community Diverse in its Faith; Unified in its Purpose

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
126 East Liberty Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550

St. John's Episcopal Church
5234 Maryland Highway
Deer Park, Maryland 21550

301-334-2510 www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org

