

About the Music Ministry

Music is an integral part of the parish life at St. Matthew's Church, existing to transform and joyfully connect people with God and each other through worship, formation, mission, education and fellowship.

During the choir season (September through June), the worship experience at St. Matthew's is enriched by the music offered by our choirs. A diverse repertoire of music spanning the eras of music is offered each week.

Our graded **Chorister Program** is open to any children elementary and middle school. Our Cherubim (elementary age) and Seraphim (middle school age) choirs rehearse on Wednesday late afternoons, with supper for children and their families in between. The chorister's music curriculum is based on the RSCM Voice for Life training scheme. Choristers sing monthly, on major feast days and for Family Worship services.

(About the Music Ministry, cont.)

Our **Adult Choir** is open to those in high school and older. They sing on most Sunday mornings, for special services, and rehearse on Wednesday nights. Members of the adult choir make up the **Compline Choir**, which leads music for Compline services held on the last Wednesday of the month.

Our **Handbell Choir** is open to anyone in high school and older and rehearses on Mondays. They play their own repertoire and frequently accompany the choirs and congregation, playing in worship monthly.

There are also opportunities for those parishioners not regularly involved in the music program to share their talents as a solo instrumentalist or vocalist. *Membership in all of our choirs is volunteer and open to anyone, regardless of religious affiliation or background, including those who are not members of the parish.*

For more information about our Music Ministry, please contact:

**James Douglas (Jim),
Director of Music Ministry
(609) 737-0985 ext. 4, or at
music@stmatthewspennington.org**

Music at St. Matthew's

Fall 2017-Winter 2018

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
300 South Main St.
Pennington, NJ 08534
609-737-0985
www.stmatthewspennington.org

The Rev. Barbara K. Briggs, *Rector*
James Douglas, *Director of Music Ministry*
Loretta Varhley, *Assistant Organist*

The Chorister's Prayer

Bless O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*"O sing unto the Lord a new song:
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth."*

-Psalm 96:1

Compline

is a candlelit and meditative service that concludes the Daily Office. It includes chanting by Officiant and Choir, a confession of sins, psalm(s), reading(s) from scripture, verses and responses, the Lord's Prayer, collects which ask for God's protection during the night to come, and the canticle Nunc dimittis, or Song of Simeon. The collects may be followed by a time of silence, along with free intercessions and thanksgivings.

Choral Evensong

is a centuries old tradition dating back to the Protestant Reformation that combines two of the daily monastic offices, Vespers and Compline. Like the structure of Morning Prayer, the office of Evensong is a composed of canticles, psalms and prayers, sung mainly by the Officiant and Choir. The Congregation joins in the singing of prayers and hymns.

Lessons and Carols

is a service that celebrates the story of the birth of Jesus, told in readings from Scripture with carols, hymns and anthems sung by Choir and Congregation. Services of Lessons and Carols are offered during Advent and Epiphany and they tell the story of the anticipation of His coming, His birth and the appearance of God's glory in His birth.

COMPLINE

(Services will be held in the Sanctuary of St. Matthew's.)

Wednesdays @ 7:30pm

September 27, 2017

October 25, 2017

November 29, 2017

Music of Lassus, Douglas and Parry



St. Matthew's Church is an affiliate of the Royal School of Church Music in America.

CHORAL EVENSONG

(Services will be held at the location where indicated.)

Sunday, October 1, 2017

5:00pm, Bethlehem, PA

Sung by the Combined Choirs of St. Matthew's Church & Church of the Holy Spirit, Harleysville, PA at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, PA.

Music of Dyson, Paulus and others

Sunday, December 3, 2017

4:00pm, Princeton, NJ

Sung by the Combined Choirs of St. Matthew's Church & All Saints' Princeton at All Saints' Church, Princeton.

Music of Sanders, Dyson and others

LESSONS AND CAROLS

(Services will be held in the Sanctuary of St. Matthew's.)

Sunday, December 17, 2017

10:00am

Advent Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

Music of Palestrina, Warlock, Fishell and others

Sunday, January 14, 2018

10:00am

Epiphany Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

Music of Palestrina, Jacques, Moore and others