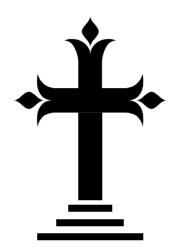
# Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church



101 Saint Matthew's Lane Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301 (864) 576-0424 www.stmatthewsepiscopal.org

#### Our mission is to preach, teach, heal and make disciples.

Sunday Services - 9:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M. Christian Formation - 10:15 A.M. Wednesday Evening Prayer & Healing Service - 6:30 P.M.

The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards, Bishop
The Reverend Robert L. Brown, Rector
The Reverend Paul R. Abernathy, Assistant Rector
Donna Simpson, Organist/Choir Director
Derek R. Langley, Director of Christian Formation
Lisa Fowler, Preschool Director
Michelle Pierce, Director of Communications
Jane Bird, Church Administrator
Allie Fowler & Melissa Pellin, Nursery

### The Second Sunday after Christmas Day, Celebrating The Feast of the Epiphany

## January 4, 2025 The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two The Word of God

Please talk to God in silence before the service; after the service talk to friends

**Prelude** 

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice!"

Trio: Gary Shultis, Max Painter, and Mark Simpson 14th Century German Carol, Arr. John F. Wilson) 1967, Hope Pub. Co.

**Processional** 

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Hymnal 128

**Opening Acclamation** 

BCP 355

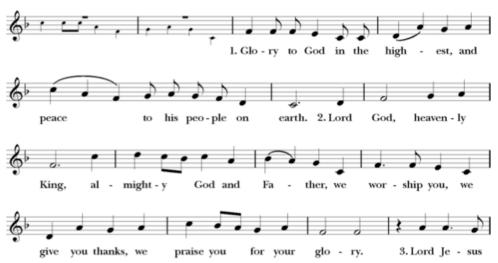
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity

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. *Amen*.

Gloria S-280





#### Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

#### The First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord is portrayed as a wondrous light. All people will be drawn to salvation by God's radiance.

#### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

#### **Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14** *In Unison*

- Give the King your justice, O God, \* and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- That he may rule your people righteously \* and the poor with justice;
- That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \* and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \* he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \* from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \* like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \* there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \* and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

- All kings shall bow down before him, \* and all the nations do him service.
- For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \* and the oppressed who has no helper.
- He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \* he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \* and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

The Epistle Ephesians 3:1-12

Writing from prison, Paul shares his revelation that through Christ, all people — including the Gentiles — are now called to be numbered among the saints.

#### A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians:

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord People: *Thanks be to God* 

**Gospel Hymn** "As With Gladness, Men of Old" Hymnal 119 (1-3)(4,5)

The Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Sermon** *"Christmas Gifts for the New Year"* The Rev. Paul Abernathy

Nicene Creed BCP 358

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.

#### Prayers of the People Form VI

**BCP 392** 

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sarah, the Archbishop to be of Canterbury; Sean, our presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; Andrew and Dorsey, our Bishops retired; Rob and Paul, our Priests; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

#### **Prayer for Spiritual Growth**

Gracious Father, we ask spiritual growth for ourselves, our families and friends, and especially for our family St. Matthew's. Grant us growth in understanding and willingness to be your Body in this world. Empower us to live the mission of Christ: to preach, teach, heal and make disciples. In joyful thanksgiving for the blessing of your presence in our lives, compel us to share you with everyone we meet. May our numbers increase, our commitment deepen, our lives be joyfully yours. Make us a God-centered people. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

#### **The Confession**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

#### The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen* 

#### **Peace**

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

#### **Holy Communion**

**Offertory Anthem** 

"O Come. Let Us Adore Him"

Based on a French carol and Adeste Fideles/arr. Patrick Liebergen. 2001, Hope Publishing Co.

#### **Offertory Hymn**

The Doxology, Hymnal 380 (verse 3)

#### The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C

**BCP 369** 

The people remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
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 him thanks and praise.* 

The Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

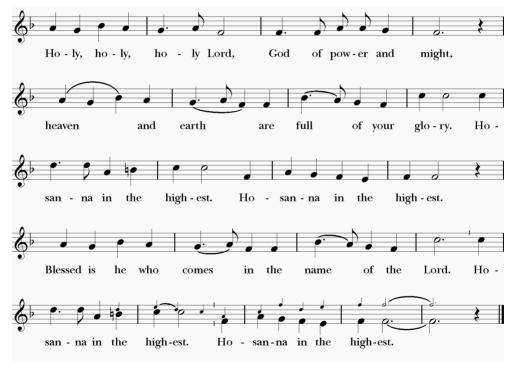
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus Hymnal S-125



The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to

his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN*.

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

People and Celebrant

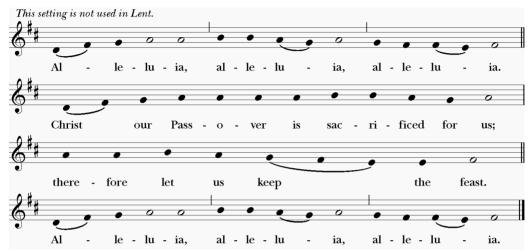
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

A period of silence is kept.

#### **Fraction Anthem**

Hymnal S-154



The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

#### **Communion Hymns**

"Bow Down/O Come Let us Adore Him" (arr. Dave Williams)

Bow down before the Lord, Worship Him, oh, worship Him. Bow down before our God. Enter in, oh, enter in. Consuming fire and sweet perfume. His awesome presence fills this room. This is holy ground, so come and bow down. Bow down, bow down, Bow down, bow down. O Come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. Christ, the Lord. For He alone is worthy. For He alone is worthy, Christ, the Lord. We'll give Him all the glory. We'll give Him all the glory. We'll give Him all the glory, Christ, the Lord.

<sup>&</sup>quot;What Star is This?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Brightest and Best"

<sup>&</sup>quot;What Child is This?"

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People* 

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory now and for ever. Amen.

#### **Blessing**

The priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord.

Amen

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

Amen

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

Amen

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen

**Hymn for Going Forth** 

"The First Nowell!"

Hymnal 109

#### Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### **Servers:**

Eucharistic Minister (Vested):

Eucharistic Minister:

Eucharistic Minister:

Andy Donnan

Lector:

Crucifer:

Crucifer:

Debbie Richardson

Torchbearers:

Eleanor Garrett, Mary Jo Garrett

Greeters:

Amy & Erwin Holbein, Jackie Bailey

Ushers:

Matt Cox, Larry Dodd

Stream/Tech Team: Doug Wishard Carol Wishard Jane Bird Ted Lucktenburg Parham Poost

Stream/Tech Team: Doug Wishard, Carol Wishard, Jane Bird, Ted Lucktenburg, Parham Poost Foroosh, Randy Mathis, Shep Miller, John McArthur, Debbie Richardson, Brett Reese

Vestry of the Month: Will Boyd, Nisha Bhatti

#### Birthdays and Anniversaries this week:

4	Dana Broughton		
5	William Word	8	Roy Wickersheim
	Jennie Cothran		Gary Shultis
	Nicholas Major	9	Eleanor Garrett
6	GiGi Garmise		Ethel Tortorice
	Nazeleh Pazani		Gail Ling
	Max & Gina Hamer (A)	10	Shannon Bishop
7	Braden Putnam		Charolette Giampino
	Leesa Simmons		

#### For a Birthday

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

#### For a Wedding Anniversary

O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants N. and N., that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Grace Church, Anderson

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
The Church in Wales

CCLI# 1900048

Jan 4	Epiphany Sunday One Service at 10 am.

- Jan 4 Soup-er Stew-pendous Epiphany Supper at 5:30 pm. In the gym.
- PreSchool 2026 Session Starts. Jan 6
- Jan 7 Wednesday Evening Healing Service with Eucharist. 6:30 pm.
- Jan 11 Return to Two Services, EYC and Bible Bread & Wine.
- Jan 13 Tuesday: New Evening Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm.
- Jan 14 Wednesday Evening Healing Service with Eucharist. 6:30 pm.
- Jan 18 Sunday Services at 9 & 11:15 am.

*Children's Formation* at 10:15 am. 6mo-5K to The Nursery, 1st-5th grade to Large Classroom. Adult Formation at 10:15 am in the Library.

Bible, Bread & Wine at 5:30 pm.

No EYC this night.

- Jan 19 Monday: Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed.
- Jan 21 Wednesday Evening Healing Service with Eucharist. 6:30 pm.
- Jan 25 Sunday Services at 9 & 11:15 am.

Children's Formation at 10:15 am. 6mo-5K to The Nursery, 1st-5th grade to Large Classroom.

Adult Formation at 10:15 am in the Library.

Bible, Bread & Wine at 5:30 pm.

EYC at 5:30 pm.

- Jan 28 Wednesday Evening Healing Service with Eucharist. 6:30 pm.
- Jan 29 Thursday: PreSchool Chili Cookoff & Silent Auction, 5 - 7:45 pm
- Feb 4 Wednesday Evening Healing Service with Eucharist. 6:30 pm.
- **Feb 17** Shrove Tuesday Low Country Boil, 6:00 pm, \$20 Adult//\$10 Youth, Free Childcare.

#### WORSHIP

#### Sundays:

Holy Eucharist, 9 & 11:15 am

**Christian Formation**, between services.

**Childcare** in the Nursery, 6 mos - 4 yrs

Episc. Youth EYC: 5:30 with Derek!

Bible, Bread & Wine, 5:30 pm. Kelly Rm.

#### Wednesdays:

Holy Eucharist w/ Healing, 6:30 pm.

#### Every Evening:

Compline, between 9 & 10 pm. Live on

St. Matt's Facebook.

#### SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP

Food Pantry & Free Medical Clinic:

Wednesdays: Welcome & Assist Clients

Permanent New Hours 9:30-11am

Contact Harvey Gloystein, 713-816-0112

**Tuesdays:** Setting Up for Wednesdays

Contact Heather Yevcak. 704-560-3905

**Brotherhood of St. Matthew's:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues./mo. 6:30 pm.

Restorative Yoga Class: Paused 'till 2026. Women's Bible Study: See Bulletin Insert

**Daughters of the King:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat./month. 2 pm.

Choir: Practice resumed in August.

Education for Ministry (EfM): Mondays, 6:00 pm.

Vestry: 3rd Tues/mo. 6:30 pm, Library Conf. Rm.



#### How to Support St. Matthew's with Online Giving and Beyond

Scan the OR Code or visit stmatthewsepiscopal.org/giving to donate online. Remember there are many ways to support St. Matthew's: pledges, stock gifts, online giving, or direct transfers such as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts.

Parish Prayer List Members of the Parish

Alex Garmise Debbie Townsend Debbye Edwards Deborah Smith Donnie Bird Don Davis Doug Wishard

Edith Webb **Ethel Tortorice** Florence Donnan Gail Stellar Gene Halford Geoffrey Thomas Glyn Shackelford Hazel Cannon

Jean Wales & Family Jerry Bowers Juanita Thaxton Karen Garber Kathleen Bonner

Kathleen Jennings Kate Price Katie Ponder Kim Cope Louise Rambo

Louise Wickersheim Lvnn Kerfoot Maria King Marie Urquhart

Mary File Mary Houck

Max & Angie Painter

Maxine Wood Neil Thomas Peggy Ewing Robin Hayden Ronnie Owens Sandi Spanitz Scott Garber Shirley Gould Susan Cherry-Casey Tom & Debbie Morton

Tracy Bankhead

Will Boyd

**Expectant Mothers** Deedee Thomson

**Babies & Families** 

Patrick Albert

Charlotte, Cara & Zach Brown Saylor, Jessi & Austin Hilton

Wendel Sullens

Friends & Family

Anita McGee Dr. Arturo Riojas Bart Owens

Bill Kerfoot Bill Lewis Boone Brooks BrianYanaconne Bruce Patrick

Carlos Anthony Frias, Jr. Father Charles Smith

Charlie Sasser Charlton Sv Chelsea Smith Chris Solem

Christopher Oxford Chuck and Pat Piazza Cindy Holtzman Dale Pretulak Danet Peterson

David and Nancy Church

David Morgan David Sanabria David Wright Deacon Samuel Dee Wolfe Detra Pevton Doug Frazier

Ed Bloomfield & Family

Elizabeth Greco **Emily Painter** Forest

Harriett Seabrook Janie and Ed Kelley

Jerry Joe Cartee Jovce Ford Joyce TD Justus Link Lib Hughes Lourdes Go Lourdes Loreto Lynn Fields

Mark Bonn

Mary Nelle Beckler Matthew Garrett Michael Szlepcsik

Nancy McCart Philip Watters Rakim Jr. Randy Mullis

Rocio Navarro Linares

Roger Go Ronny Thompson Rylan Buckley Savdet Didert Stacev Latronica Suzi King

Terry & Ronald Coleman

Tina Bain Tommy Tipton Tracie Powell Wilkin Travis & Kimberly Trish Wilson Wavne Fisher William Bracey

Military/First Responders

LT Anna Lee Van Abel CAPT Baxter Murray PVT Courtney S. Detwiler Jack Bankhead, Firefighter

CPO John Watters LT Joshua Van Abel CAPT Katie Donnan Katie Villatoro

LT Mason R. Beebe, IV CAPT Pace Murray Lt. Rebecca M. Beebe Officer Robert Molina 2nd LT Trevor Owens

Will Townsend **Kozimor Family** 

Missions/Missionaries

Drs. Rvan & Chelsea Porter Roberto & Cameron Vivanco

Laura & Jorge Estevez Education = HopeFood Pantry

Free Medical Clinic GoForth Recovery Kairos Prison Ministry

Safe Homes

St. Matthew's Preschool

1/4/26