

Associate Rector's Report:

Wow, what a year it has been. I was just getting my bearings and then ... COVID-19 happened. And it put our lives, individual and corporate, into a spin. What we thought was going to be a passing phenomenon has turned into a season of disorientation and uncertainty. But it has also been a season in which we have been offered an opportunity; an occasion to reflect, reveal, ponder, and expose how we have been living our lives, not just individually, but corporately.

Over these past, now eleven months, we have become specialists in working with technology to reach the community. I remember that first Saturday evening, with Amanda, Steve, aka Bob Ross, Andrea and Karen arranging the Coil Chapel to bring worship to the St. Matthew's community. Figuring out the best shot and the background and even learning to "Go Live!" What an experience this has been; both joyous and frustrating. But we have endured and not just endured but persevered.

COVID is not the only challenge that St. Matthew's has had to endure this year. The retirement of Mother Liz, our beloved rector and leader for the past six years was a shock and a surprise for many, and the community will miss her guidance and presence within and among us. We wish her God's abundant blessings in this new season of her life.

While this past year has brought many changes, adjustments, and transitions to the community, I know this community is resilient and strong. Actually, I sense a determination, a resolve really, within this community to create, form, and shape a purpose-filled community of people who are endeavoring to follow the way of Jesus. A community which is striving to build unique and innovative ways *"to continue the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ by serving the greater community...and witnessing to the healing power of God's love."* That is my charge, my hope, and my prayer for St. Matthew's.

Lastly, I want to express what an honor and privilege it is to be the Associate Rector here at St. Matthew's and to be joining with you and contributing with you in the Kingdom work that you are accomplishing.

Grace & Peace,

Fr. Tommy Matthews