
St. Matthew Today

Wed., August 23th, 2023

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 126th year

Concerts Appear to Work

Friday's Word

No, not the subject I promised last week. I want to talk about this: M.I.A. had a vision of Jesus.

M.I.A. (stage name) is a British rapper, with Tamil roots. I had never heard of her, but she is famous in younger circles.

She was Hindu, a great religion which proclaims some profound truths.

And she was happy with who she was. She disliked Christianity. She thought it was all foolishness.

But in 2017, she found herself alone in a place without phone access. She felt ill and was sure she was dying.

She said to herself, "This is it. I'm gone." But suddenly she saw a vision of Jesus before her. And she saw in him immense strength, "the power to save the world."

"This turned my world upside down," she said. "I knew he was real. I had no question about it."

She said, "Most of my fans were activists."

"They hated Jesus. I knew I would lose a lot. But I had no choice. I could not deny what I now knew to be true."

She didn't record another album for five years—until 2023. She had to take stock of where she was. She declared herself a Christian.

This is the way it happens. You may raise endless arguments against Christian faith, but they will carry no weight with M.I.A.

She *experienced* Jesus.

She *saw* him.

And there are millions who can say the same thing—including me.

No, it is not necessary to have a profound religious event to believe in Jesus.

But we all need to face the evidence. Jesus is real and working in the world.

You can deny it.

But you can't stop it.

It's reality. And I want to live in the real world.

God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com
revmaxb@tx.rr.com

This Sunday

I read an article called "Five Historical Truths that Tell Us Jesus Never Existed." It set me off.

Sermon title: "A Little Learning Is a Dangerous Thing."
Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

About the Concert

My e-mails all got bounced back over the weekend (too full) so I didn't get word on attendance or income from the concert. But I know it was successful and the concerts are doing what we wanted them to do.

They are a lot of work from quite a number of people—but it looks like the work is worth it. They seem to be a great way to draw outsiders into our midst. And we have a really good time.

The next one will be September 9—my "one-man show." The present title is "God, Grace and Gooseberry—the Musical."

Personal News

I had an ultrasound on Monday and it appears there are no longer blood clots in my leg. I can discontinue the heavy blood thinner.

I hope by the time you get this Curtis Anderson is home from the hospital. He has had pneumonia.

I know Charlotte Holder is getting better.

Carleen Wheeler is scheduled for some surgery this week.

Tracy Maxwell missed last Sunday—again because of a painful back situation.

I know Carol Bennett will be glad to get through with the mess of moving.

We give thanks for the Lord's work in the lives of our folk who are ill or dealing with any difficulty.

Great sermon from Mary last Sunday.

And great singing from Shannon.

Blake is back this Sunday.

Hey!—it lifts my heart to see you in a pew.

Be there this Sunday.

GOD BLESS—MB

East District Gathering with Bishop Saenz

Saturday, October 14th at 10 am

New World United Methodist Church

2201 N Davis Drive, Arlington, TX 76112

Clergy and Laity invited.

Mary's Corner

Beloved Church and Friends,

I owe you an apology. My sermon on Sunday about the irrelevance of the church to most young people failed to include the very important point that without all of you, there wouldn't be a church for them to find irrelevant. I would not be in church if not for you. And your love and life experience are just what these young souls are missing in their lives. I cannot wait to be in ministry WITH YOU as we show the next generations the blessings of being in fellowship with other people. I do not want to experience church without you!

It looks like we have another week to ten days of this oppressive heat. I see some temperatures in the 70's later next week, only reaching the 90's. I am looking forward to getting back to double-digit temperatures. Continue to stay indoors unless it is absolutely necessary and drink enough water to keep yourself hydrated. If you need anything we are available to assist. Also, our nemesis COVID is back with a vengeance. Hospital admissions remain very low but the new variant is very dangerous. Please be sure and wash your hands, stay home and rest if you are sick, and wear a mask if your immune system is compromised. There will be a vaccine booster for this new strain coming soon. I will keep you up to date on what is happening.

My love to all! I ask for your prayers as I travel this week to Arkansas for the funeral of a dear, life-long family friend. My mother and I will be leaving Thursday afternoon and returning Saturday.

Blessings, Mary
pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

Kids' News

Our story this week was about a Festival of Weeks. This is not something that we hear a lot about, but in looking closely, it resembles our Thanksgiving. The Israelites are instructed to celebrate with everyone. Their families, their servants, anyone who lives in their city, and immigrants among them, they were to remember the widows and orphans. Both the poor and the marginalized were included in this celebration and were allowed to enjoy and partake in the blessings of the land.

Today the festival is filled with prayers and thanksgiving to God for fruitfulness. Many people stayed up all night studying the Torah. The Book of Ruth is read during Shavuot. The story of Ruth reminds God's people of Ruth's sacrifices which were rewarded by God's steadfast mercy and love. The words are familiar: "Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." The primary purpose of this festival was for people to show gratitude for all they have.

This week, the kids enjoyed painting watering cans and next week we will fill them with painted flowers. This weather has taken a toll on our flowers, so we are painting wooden ones! See you Sunday.

Blessings, Mrs. Sue, Mrs. Vickie

Ladies of St. Matthew

Please join us for lunch on 9/21/23 at 11:30 am
RSVP by 9/18 to Veta McCulloch - 817-994-1629
vetamcculloch@outlook.com

Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast is served Sunday mornings at 10 am. Stay for service at 11 am. Come hungry. Leave fulfilled!

Chair Yoga

Join your friends at our free Chair / Standing Yoga class each Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10 am.

Give to Saint Matthew UMC

Please feel free to contribute in any way you can and help us in our efforts to continue spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world.

Scan the QR code with your phone to securely give online or visit our website at saintmatthewumc.com/give

