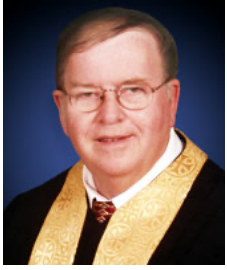


# SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



## Max's Corner

First—and most importantly—we'll gather this Saturday at 11:00 AM for the memorial service for Dan Mitchell. I know there are food plans, though I admit that's not my department. But I trust it's being

handled. Our love and prayers go out to Dan's family.

My thanks to Winston Dietrick-Kirkpatrick for leading last Sunday's liturgy in his usual distinguished fashion, and to Rev. Dr. Steve Langford for a truly fine sermon. I know you enjoyed it—I certainly did, watching from home.

Mary and I were both away last Sunday, but we're both back this week.

I attended the closing of First Presbyterian Church in Grand Prairie—the last church I was part of before entering ministry. I worked with the youth there, and it was a joy to see eight or ten of them at the service. The loss of that church is simply sad. They no longer had enough members to sustain.

### Discovering God – Class Resumes

This Sunday at 9:45, we continue our series on *Why We Are Here*. Most people go through life unsure of their purpose, but I believe an answer is available. If life has a purpose, then so do we. Join us as we talk about what that might be.

Breakfast follows at 10:30. It's a Winston Sunday—feel free to help out. And worshippers, come early and eat!

### This Sunday – Ascension & Communion

It's Ascension Sunday, when we remember Jesus being lifted up as His followers watched. Luke says He promised to return. In John's Gospel, He makes that same promise. This week, I'll be preaching about the Second Coming—but likely in a way you've never heard it before.

Here are some questions to consider:

- Does God see this world as a failure?
- Or does He love it exactly as it is?
- Does God want to end the world, or use it?
- And what about *you*—why are you here?

Let's worship together—and expect good things.

God Bless—MB

## Mary's Corner

Greetings to all in the name of Jesus Christ!

Peace and love to you, my siblings, from my heart to yours. I have missed you all and am so very grateful for the chance to take a short sabbatical. I hadn't realized how much my spirit needed rest and renewal. It's so easy for all of us to get deeply entrenched in the day-to-day business of life that we forget to stop, breathe, and be present in the blessings we're given.

I return to church this Sunday, revived and renewed. I look forward to sharing with you the things God placed on my heart while I was away.

Don't forget—we'll be celebrating the life of Dan Mitchell this Saturday, May 31 at 11:00 a.m. here at the church. Lunch will follow.

Blessings to all,  
Mary



## Service for Dan Mitchell Saturday, May 31 at 11:00 AM

We will gather to celebrate the life of Dan Mitchell on Saturday, May 31 at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary, with a lunch to follow in the fellowship hall. Dan was a faithful member of Saint Matthew, and we give thanks for his life and legacy. All are welcome as we honor his memory and surround his family with love and prayer.

# Friday's Word



by Rev. Max Brennan, Senior Pastor

May I gripe a little?

There is just so much Christian silliness around.

I heard David Jeremiah in a sermon on YouTube—you know, big church in California, 10,000 on Sunday mornings. He was talking about how Jesus, at His Second Coming, will bring all the dead back to earth and set up His kingdom here.

**Back to earth?!** And all of these people will be reunited with their dead bodies?

Can you imagine some poor soul saying, “O God—after the joy of heaven, I’ve been shoved back into my old dead body and I’m back in Oklahoma!”

And it’s not just rich TV preachers pushing this stuff. Respected scholar N. T. Wright says much the same thing.

Where do they get such a strange, unlikely scenario?

**Where else?** The Book of Revelation.

We’ve got this script for a *Star Wars* movie tacked on to the end of our Bible.

Preachers, it’s a problem.

I know most of you feel like you have to defend Revelation and all its flights of fancy.

Yes, it’s in the Bible.

It’s historically important. But—

It is theological hokum.

Worse than that, it’s **dead weight on the Gospel**. If you mix this nonsense with the teachings of Jesus, it pulls the Gospel down with it.

Stop defending it.

Stop conflating the Jesus who told us to love our enemies with a Jesus who cuts off the heads of His enemies with a sword.

**Revelation has nothing to do with the teachings of Jesus or the future history of God’s creation.**

It’s time to be honest—both to God and about God.

**Give people Jesus.**

More about this on Sunday

[saintmatthewumc.com](http://saintmatthewumc.com)  
[revmaxb@tx.rr.com](mailto:revmaxb@tx.rr.com)

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# Kids' News

## “The Lost Son Comes Home”

This Sunday, we explored one of Jesus’ most powerful parables—the story of a father’s love and forgiveness, found in Luke 15:11–32.

Jesus tells us about a man with two sons. One day, the younger son made a bold demand: “Father, give me my share of the inheritance.” And just like that, he packed his bags and set off to live life his way.

At first, the younger son had fun—he traveled, partied, and spent all his money. But soon, he found himself broke and hungry. He took a job feeding pigs, and it wasn’t long before he realized: even the pigs were eating better than he was.

That’s when he remembered his father’s love. “I will go home,” he said, “and ask for forgiveness.”

Meanwhile, the older brother stayed and worked hard alongside his father. So when the younger son finally returned and the father threw a huge party to welcome him, the older brother was angry. “I’ve been here the whole time. Where’s *my* celebration?”

But the father said something beautiful:

**“This brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”** – Luke 15:32

The story reminds us that God’s love is bigger than our mistakes. It meets us with open arms—whether we’re returning home or learning to forgive.

### What We Learned

- ✓ God’s love is always waiting for us—no matter how far we wander.
- ✓ Forgiveness can be hard, but it brings healing.
- ✓ Sometimes we feel like life is unfair—but God’s grace is for *everyone*.
- ✓ We can be like the father—ready to forgive, love, and celebrate others.

Whether you’re heading off on vacation or staying close to home this summer, remember: God’s love goes with you. See you in church Sunday! ❤️



### Did you know?

**Chair Yoga is offered Tue., Thur., Fri. at 10:00 AM**

Looking for a gentle way to improve flexibility, balance, and strength? **Chair Yoga** is a low-impact exercise perfect for all ages and abilities, providing the benefits of yoga while seated or using a chair for support. Whether you’re recovering from an injury, managing mobility challenges, or simply looking for a relaxing way to move, this class is for you!