

Saint Matthew Today

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AND PRAYER CORNER

At Saint Matthew UMC, we believe in open hearts, minds, and doors. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here.

08 Jul 2026



Jesus' invitation is simple and powerful: "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In this week's message, Rev. Mary Teague reminded us that these words were first spoken to ordinary people living under heavy burdens, people weighed down by religious expectations, political oppression, and the struggles of daily life. Christ's invitation was not reserved for the powerful or the successful. It was offered to everyone who longed for hope, healing, and peace.

Drawing on the familiar words engraved at the base of the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," Mary reflected on how those words echo the heart of Jesus. Christ welcomes those the world often overlooks. Our worth is not found in our nationality, status, accomplishments, or failures. We are welcomed because we are God's beloved children, created in God's image and invited into a life of grace.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to extend that same welcome to others. The church becomes a place where burdens are shared, strangers become neighbors, and every person is invited to experience the love of Christ. Together, we continue learning to open our hearts, offer hospitality, and live as a community where all can find rest, belonging, and hope.



St. Matthew UMC
2414 Hitson Ln.
Fort Worth, TX 76012

saintmatthewumc.com

**July 15: 10:30 am – Wednesday
Prayer Group and Bible Study**

**July 19: Brief One Council
Meeting after Church**

**Aug 9: Back to School Blessings
Sunday**

*But while he was still some
distance off, his father saw
him and his heart went out to
him, and he ran and fell on
his neck and kissed him...*

Luke 15: 21-22



A Word from the Pastor

Your Huddled Masses: An Invitation of Hope

In this week's sermon, inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28, we were reminded of God's enduring invitation: "Come to me, all of you who are weary, and I will give you rest." Jesus spoke these words to ordinary people burdened by oppression, uncertainty, and the struggles of daily life. His message was simple yet profound—bring your weariness, your fears, and your heavy burdens, and find rest in God's presence.

Drawing a connection between the crowds of Galilee and our modern world, the sermon reflected on moments when people set aside differences and recognize their shared humanity. The recent World Cup was offered as an example of communities gathering in celebration, reminding us that connection, joy, and hospitality are powerful forces for healing and hope.

As our nation marks its 250th year, we were encouraged to remember the welcoming spirit symbolized by the Statue of Liberty's famous invitation to the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." More importantly, we were reminded that God's welcome is even wider, extending unconditional love to every person.

The good news of the Gospel is that God does not define us by nationality, status, accomplishments, or appearance. God sees us simply as beloved children and invites us to extend that same grace to one another. In doing so, we become bearers of hope, peace, and Christ's love in the world.

Call to Action: There are two calls to action this week. First, take an intentional step toward welcoming, encouraging, or caring for someone outside your usual circle. Offer a kind word, share a meal, listen to a neighbor's story, or reach out to someone who may feel alone. As followers of Christ, we are called not only to receive God's love but to reflect it. Let us be people who open doors, build bridges, and remind others that they, too, are beloved children of God. In a world longing for hope, each act of grace can become a living invitation: "Come and find rest." Second, hold on to the hope of joy and hospitality displayed this summer during the World Cup. When the games are over, do not let that hope be lost. Jesus is the "light of all people. The light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it" (John 1: 4b-5, paraphrased). Don't forget to distribute your business cards to the folks you meet.

Love to all,

Mary



St. Matthew UMC
2414 Hitson Ln.
Fort Worth, TX 76012

saintmatthewumc.com

Kids' News

Why Is Doing the Right Thing So Hard?

Scripture: Romans 7:15–25

Have you ever promised yourself you would be patient, tell the truth, or be kind, and then found yourself doing the opposite? You're not the only one. Even the apostle Paul said he sometimes struggled to do what he knew was right.



Paul wrote that he wanted to do good, but sometimes he made the wrong choices instead. He wasn't pretending to be perfect. He was being honest. The good news is that Paul didn't stop there. He thanked God because Jesus helps us when we fall short and reminds us that God's love never gives up on us.

We all make mistakes. We might say something unkind, lose our temper, or forget to help someone who needs us. When that happens, we can ask God for forgiveness, learn from our mistakes, and try again. Every new day is another chance to grow in kindness, courage, and love because Jesus is with us every step of the way.

No one follows Jesus perfectly, and no one has to. God loves us, forgives us, and keeps helping us become the people we were created to be.

What We Learned

- Everyone makes mistakes sometimes.
- Jesus loves us and forgives us when we fall short.
- God's grace gives us a fresh start every day.
- With God's help, we can keep growing in kindness, courage, and love.

A Word from our Church Family

Thank you to everyone who helped lead worship, especially Kristi Moore, Blake Glass, and Julian Rodriguez. Julian's solo of Your Grace Is Enough was a beautiful reminder that God's grace carries us, restores us, and calls us forward in love. We are grateful for Blake and Kristi's faithful leadership in music each week, and we wish Blake a very happy birthday as he celebrated on July 4.

This week, we were reminded that Christ's welcome reaches across every boundary. The World Cup offers a glimpse of people from many nations gathering in joy. Travel, conversation, shared meals, and friendship can help us see beyond fear and division, allowing us to recognize the image of God in people whose lives and stories are different from our own. When we take time to know one another, we discover that God's love is often revealed through the relationships we build.

Thank you for being part of a church family that continues to welcome generously, worship joyfully, and serve faithfully. Every act of kindness, every song, every prayer, and every shared table helps tell the story of God's love at work through Saint Matthew.

Would you like to share a word with our church family in next week's newsletter? We'd love to hear from you. Email pastor@saintmatthewumc.com.

