



MATTHEW 25

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

— *Matthew 25:31–46* (NRSV)



Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):
A bold vision and invitation

Actively engaged in the world



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WHAT is a Matthew 25 CHURCH?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes and serve those who are marginalized or in need — people who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned, strangers, poor or oppressed in other ways and in need of welcoming.

HOW the **VISION** unites all Presbyterians

This work is a direct response to the good news of Jesus and a faithful expression of what it means to be Christ's disciples in this time and place.

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world by:

- Connecting and uniting the PC(USA), creating a spark that energizes and joins us in our common mission together.
- Showing our understanding as Presbyterian Christians that we are "saved to serve" those who need God and the radical love of Jesus.
- Celebrating and calling forth churches that actively engage the world.

WE INVITE YOU to join us
on this journey by choosing to become a
MATTHEW 25 church.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

The themes of the Matthew 25 invitation are grounded in the gospel. Jesus calls us to serve with and for "the least of these" — not as a group to be pitied, but as people who are deeply loved by Jesus. There are already PC(USA) congregations that identify themselves as Matthew 25 churches. We aim to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focuses:

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.
- **Dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL CHURCH HELP?

Our goal is to be a clearinghouse of resources, training materials, devotional and preaching aids, success stories, curricula and more — everything to help you transform your church, **grow in faith, make new disciples** and bring alive your commitment to "serve the least of these" in your community and around the world.

HOW DO WE BECOME A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH?

It's easy. The first step is to visit our website — pcusa.org/matthew25 — and sign up! Then, as you live out your commitment, we ask you to share the impact that your pledge has made: how your congregation is growing in faith, how you've discovered new passions and vitality, how new disciples are being energized and developed ... so like in the early church, your renewed faith will fan the flames and encourage other congregations and the community at large to also embrace our common mission.



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ABOUT THE MATTHEW 25 MARK

The circular shape represents unity and equality. Like God, a circle has no beginning and no end, and it symbolizes our continuing effort to help one another. The shape also suggests a globe that points to our engagement with the world.

The three interlocking figures represent the equality of all people without gender or race bias. They have their arms around each other, symbolizing friendship, protection and service. The number three suggests the three focus areas of congregational vitality, structural racism and systematic poverty, as well as the Trinity.

The color palette is bright, lively, friendly and energetic — suggestive of our active commitment.

Finally, **the legend** "Matthew 25" below the symbol is the literal identification of the mark. We use a handwritten font to make the point that active engagement in the world requires human effort.

