

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 15, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

August 20, 2023 10 A.M.

St. Thomas's Church Welcomes Everyone

Wherever you happen to be on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you here, and we invite you to participate as fully as you wish. There is a saying in the Episcopal tradition that answers many a question: "All may, some do, but none must." We gather to feast on Word and sacrament and song, to learn and inquire, to enjoy relaxed fellowship and find mutual support. And we are sent out to be the Body of Christ in the world, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

To participate in worship today all you need is this bulletin. If you are new or visiting, we invite you to consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a **nametag**, which will be waiting for you on the table inside the main entrance.

All church spaces are accessible. Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp are located in back of the building; a lift for access to the second floor is located at the stairway.

Restrooms are located on the second floor. Go through the double doors near the pulpit, upstairs to the second floor, and to the far end of the hallway. A **gender-neutral restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit.

Three seating areas at the front of the nave are reserved for **families with small children**: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the two areas in front of the front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and the St. Thomas's website. Bulletins are posted in the website's Bulletin Archive. To reduce printing, we encourage worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the service.

St. Thomas's Church is located on Eansketambawg (Quinnipiac) land. This acknowledgment compels us to pause: in gratitude for the Quinnipiac and other Algonquin-speaking stewards of the territory that is now Connecticut; in regret for Christianity's participation in the colonization of the Americas; and in faith that God's reconciling power will bring true healing to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

VOLUNTARY

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven (410, The Hymnal 1982)



Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971). Descant by permission of Novello and Company, Limited.

OPENING ACCLAMATION, SALUTATION, AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133

Presider and People

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, * when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head * that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, * and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon * that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: * life for evermore.

THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 11:1-2,29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

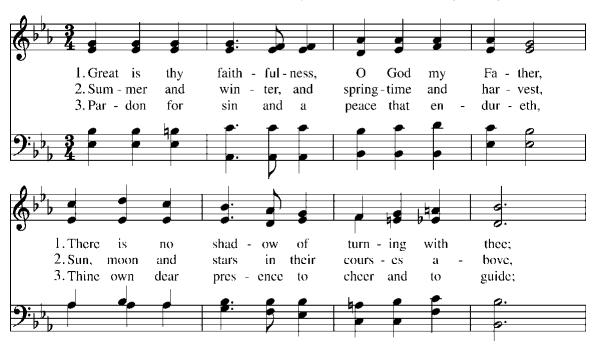
For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN

Great is thy faithfulness (189, Lift Every Voice and Sing II)





THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 15:21-28

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, all remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Presider and People

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Book of Common Prayer, Form I

Intercessor and People

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our towns, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us, O Lord, by your grace. Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Mary, Thomas, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**

The Presider will add petitions for the week and then offer the concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. [Silence is kept.]

Presider and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet your neighbors with a sign of peace, in whatever way seems welcome. You may then be seated for brief announcements.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

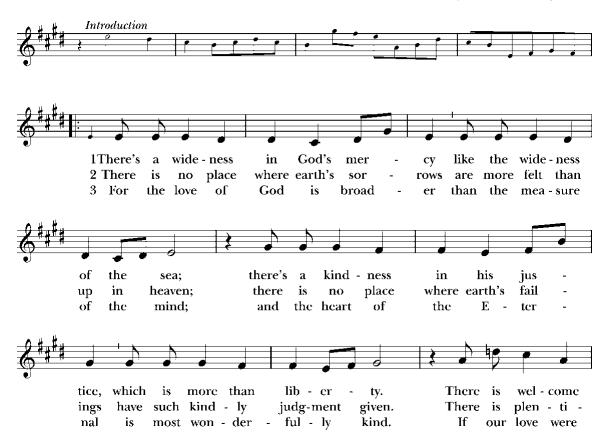
Your financial support is sincerely appreciated. To give online, go to the Church website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, simply <u>CLICK HERE</u>. Thank you!

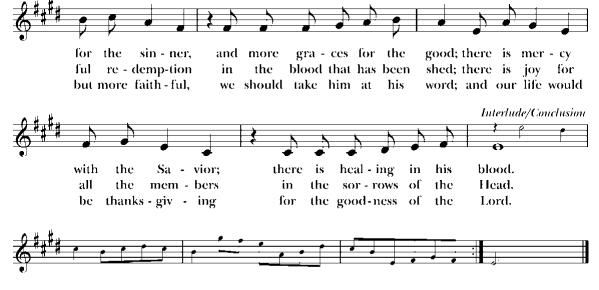
OFFERTORY SENTENCE

During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Ushers bring the gifts forward and the Presider sets the table. The People follow the Ushers and encircle the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If this is difficult for you, feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.

OFFERTORY HYMN

There's a wideness in God's mercy (469, The Hymnal 1982)





Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt. Music: St. Helena, Calvin Hampton (1938-1984). Copyright © 1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: SUPPLEMENTARY EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2 FROM THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider

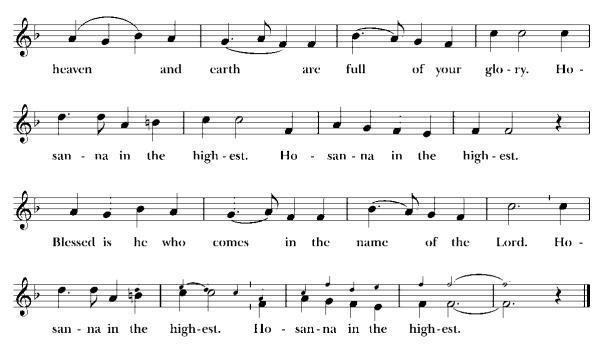
Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak, and those, broken and alone, whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first. Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord (S 125, The Hymnal 1982)





Music: From A Community Music; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider

Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them. He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore we proclaim our hope.

Presider and People

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory. Presider

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering, our fellow children of God. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

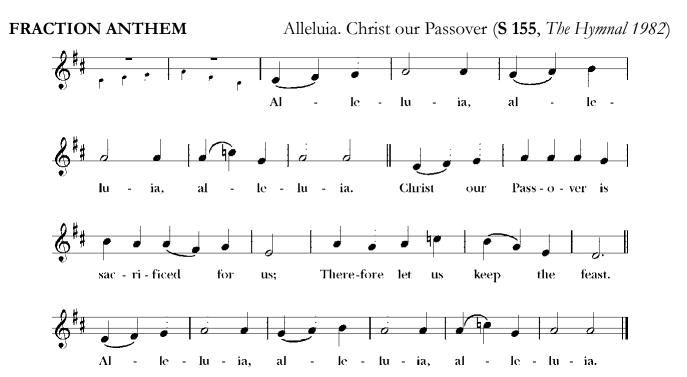
You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.



Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest and Eucharistic minister will come to you. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. To receive wine, please sip from the common cup, rather than intincting (dipping the bread into the wine). This is diocesan guidance. After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: All your works praise you, O Lord.

Presider and People

And your faithful servants bless you.
Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

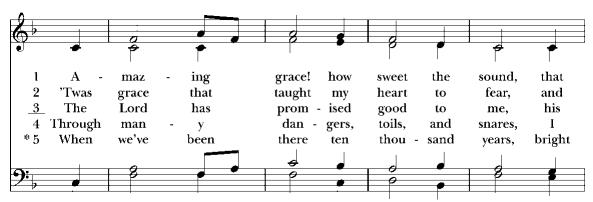
THE BLESSING

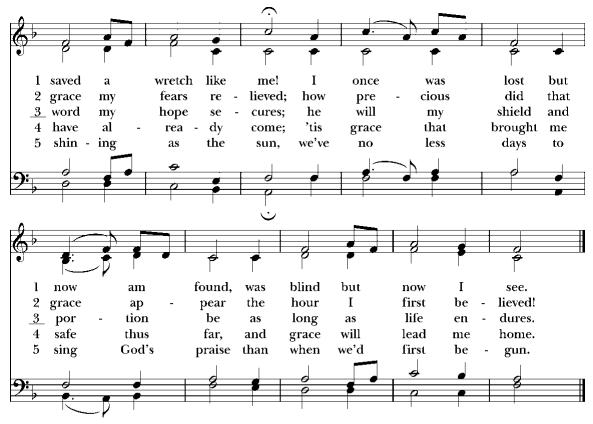
Presider: [The Presider blesses the People.]

People: Amen.

HYMN

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound (671, The Hymnal 1982)





The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

DISMISSAL

Presider: | The Presider dismisses the People.]

People: Thanks be to God.

You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G major

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 541

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Announcements

For all the latest news and information, see last week's edition of the Weekly Parish Enews. From the Parish website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), click Enews Archive for the latest edition or Enews (subscribe) to subscribe.

Transition Update

- The meeting with Amber Page Gehr, Diocesan Transition Officer, is tentatively scheduled in person for Sept. 24, following worship—stay tuned!
- On August 6, we launched a **process of reflection** and consultation that will enable us to articulate to candidates our identity and aspirations as a parish. Thank you for your robust participation during our coffee hour conversation. We will be holding other short meetings like this in weeks to come. We will also be sending out an electronic **parish survey**. Please help us imagine our future!
- We have submitted information to the diocese which will enable a **financial analysis** and determination of what we can afford by way of clergy compensation.
- We hope by early fall to begin **advertising the position** through diocesan channels. The diocese will gather applications and pass them along to the Vestry, who will review applications and interview candidates. While Bishop Jeff Mello must approve any offer that we make, the choice will be ours.
- The position will **initially be a time-limited Priest-in-Charge position**, which can in due course be converted to a Rector position if both parties wish to proceed.
- Feel free to reach out to any member of the Vestry with your questions and ideas.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

During our leadership transition, we will have a combination of lay-led worship and services led by supply clergy. Please join us!

August 20 Eucharist with Rev. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding

August 27 Morning Prayer led by Sheldon Campbell (w/sermon)

September 3 Eucharist with Rev. Nathan Empsall preaching and presiding

September 10 Eucharist with Rev. Mo Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding

September 17 Eucharist with Rev. Jill Morrison preaching and presiding

September 24 Eucharist with Rev. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding

This Sunday, we welcome **the Reverend Dr. Carolyn Sharp** as preacher and presider. Carolyn is a Hebrew Bible scholar and professor of homiletics at Yale Divinity School. She is the author of many highly-regarded books on the Hebrew prophets, including recent commentaries on Joshua and Jeremiah, and has a particular interest in biblical theology as a resource for preaching. She is also a longtime friend and member of St. Thomas's, now serving as volunteer assisting priest at St. John's Essex, close to her home in Old Saybrook.

On August 27, Sheldon Campbell will be preaching and leading the congregation in Morning Prayer. Sheldon Campbell was born in Tulsa, and grew up in Kansas City and Houston. He has an M.D. and Ph.D. from Baylor College of Medicine, and is currently Associate Chief for Laboratory Medicine at VA Connecticut Healthcare, and Professor of Laboratory Medicine at Yale School of Medicine, specializing in diagnostic microbiology, and where he's also an award-winning teacher. He was a lifelong Methodist prior to coming to St. Thomas, so it would be wise to pay particular attention to his sermons in case he tries to slip in any heretical ideas.

Donating Clothing for Loaves and Fishes. Our support for the clothing ministry is ongoing. Please be thoughtful in your selection of items. Current specific requests include: men's/women's jeans; men's short-sleeved shirts, sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks; spring and summer clothing. Bring donations to St. Thomas's (leave them in the tub at the Whitney Ave. entrance) or to Loaves and Fishes (Thurs-Sat, 9-11 a.m., in the driveway at 57 Olive St.).

Thursday Night Study Group, 7:30 p.m., on Zoom. The Thursday Night Study Group is now on hiatus for the summer. Stay tuned for fall plans.

Coffee Hour Hosting Sign-Up Link. Would you like to contribute to St. Thomas's coffee hour, but don't know how to operate the coffee maker? Do you have a treat from your kitchen or favorite neighborhood bakery that you would love to share, but you are not sure that you can manage a whole coffee hour? Sign up to be a coffee hour helper! It's easy: look at the signup sheet (electronic or paper) and sign up as a "Helper." Contact the coffee hour host to discuss what you can bring and how you can help out. Then, discover how fun it is to help make fellowship happen! Visit this link to sign up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee. Please contact Julie Kelly with any questions. Thank you for contributing to our time of fellowship!



Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Eucharistic Minister: Lector: Max Ballardo Intercessor: Bob Herdt

Sacristan:

Ushers: Gary Robison Coffee Hour: Linda Meyer Vestry Host: Max Ballardo

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Preacher-in-Residence

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

Church Vestry

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden) Linda Meyer (Junior Warden) Bill English (Treasurer) Denise Terry (Clerk) Madeleine Anderson Max Ballardo Claire Scully

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially: the people of Ukraine

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

Epiphany, Southbury; St. Paul's, Southington; Church musicians: organists; choirs and choir directors; bands; community chorister programs; parish and diocesan committees on liturgy, music, and worship

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Church of England

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Liberia, Sierra Leone

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL 830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 777-7623 ♦ www.stthomasnewhaven.org

Dr. Noah Horn, Music Director ♦ n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org
Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org