



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEASON OF CREATION (YEAR B, WEEK 1): EARTH SUNDAY

Liturgy of the Word

September 12, 2021 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, **WELCOME!**

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service. The building remains closed, and the restroom is available for emergency use only.

ALL are invited to receive Holy Communion. As a pandemic safety precaution, the People will be offered bread but not wine. Remember, the sacrament is complete and efficacious even when received in one kind only. Instructions are included below at the appropriate point in the service.

After the service you are invited to stay for socially-distanced fellowship.

SEASON OF CREATION

Christians around the world have begun to recognize the period from September 1 (the Global Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to October 4 (St. Francis of Assisi Day) annually as **Creationtide** or the **Season of Creation**. Anglican, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox Christians observe this time as one for prayer and action on behalf of the natural environment. Among the leaders in the movement are the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and the World Council of Churches. The Season of Creation website is at www.seasonofcreation.org. Information about The Episcopal Church and Creation Care may be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care.

The 2021 Season of Creation theme is “A home for all? Renewing the *oikos* of God.” The Season of Creation website offers this: “*Oikos* is the Greek word for ‘home,’ or ‘household.’ By rooting our theme in the concept of *oikos*, we celebrate the integral web of relationships that sustain the well-being of the Earth.”

St. Thomas’s is recognizing the Season of Creation on the four Sundays from September 12 through October 3. Our liturgy includes special elements from a variety of sources. The readings are those suggested by *The Season of Creation: A Preaching Commentary*. For Year B, the readings are “the Word series,” and the four Sundays are, in order: Earth Sunday, Humanity Sunday, Sky Sunday, and Mountain Sunday.

VOLUNTARY

Le cygne

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921), *Le carnaval des animaux*, 1886

At the invitation of the Presider, all stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP [Hildegard of Bingen, in “2020 Celebration Guide,” a Season of Creation resource]

We gather in the Name of the one Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures! Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in us all.

HYMN

All creatures of our God and King (400, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our



1 sing; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:

Refrain

O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Copyright ©1985 by G. Schirmer, used by arrangement of G. Schirmer, Inc.
 Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
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OPENING ACCLAMATION [*Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation and Various Rites and Prayer for Animals,* the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music]

Presider: Blessed be the God of all creation.

People: **And blessed be God's Holy Name for ever and ever. Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** [*Collect for Vocation in Daily Work, the 1979 Book of Common Prayer*]

All are seated.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 33:1-9

Presider and People

- 1 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; *
it is good for the just to sing praises.
- 2 Praise the LORD with the harp; *
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.
- 3 Sing for him a new song; *
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.
- 4 For the word of the LORD is right, *
and all his works are sure.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; *
the loving-kindness of the LORD fills the whole earth.
- 6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, *
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.
- 7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *
and stores up the depths of the sea.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; *
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to pass; *
he commanded, and it stood fast.

THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 1:18-23

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN

All things bright and beautiful (405, *The Hymnal* 1982)

Descant

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Repeat Refrain

he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky,
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958)
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THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-14

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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. At the bidding of the Presider, all stand.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]

Presider and People

**Holy One, root of all life, Spirit of Creation,
the Love that spreads the stars across the sky:
Yours is the ground on which we stand.
Yours are the hands that fashioned us.
Your Spirit is the wind that lifts us,
You are the thirst-quenching river of life.**

**In Jesus, we see a life lived in you and for you.
We affirm our desire to follow him,
to step gently in the world,
to love what you love,
to shine light in dark places
and bring your future
of justice and peace into being.**

**Through the gift of your Spirit,
empower us to love the world with your love;
to look deeply at our waste and abuse of Creation;
to repent of our divisions, harsh thoughts, and selfish actions;
to cherish each creature, every mountain, all the waters,
the shining deserts, the woods green and deep,
and to see ourselves as part of the
immense, connected web of life
that reflects your grace and love.**

**We honor you and praise you, Creator God,
today and evermore. Alleluia! Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [*Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation and Various Rites and Prayer for Animals,* the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music]

Intercessor and People

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

In the beginning, **God was.**

Here and now, **God is.**

In the future, **God will be.**

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us, that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth; and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died. God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd of these your sheep, hear the prayers of praise, celebrations, and concern that we now offer in the stillness of our hearts. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider

Eternal God, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN [*“Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation and Various Rites and Prayer for Animals,” the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music*]

Presider

Let us confess our sin against God and God’s creation. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider and People

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.**

**We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth
as you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. Then be seated for brief announcements and the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the altar is prepared.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. We will not be passing a collection plate today; one is located near the usher for use as you depart. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Presider: Let us return to God with grateful hearts the gifts that God has given to us.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And God said: Let the earth bring forth
the living creature after his kind;
cattle and creeping thing,
and beasts of the earth after their kind.

Straight opening her fertile womb,
the earth obeyed the word,
and teemed creatures numberless,
in perfect forms and fully grown.

Cheerful roaring stands the tawny lion.

In sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears.

The nimble stag bears up his branching head.

Let the earth bring forth the living creature

With flying mane and fiery look,
impatient neighs the sprightly steed.

The cattle in herds already seeks his food
on fields and meadows green.

And over the ground, as plants,
are spread the fleecy, meek and bleating flock.

Unnumbered as the sands
in whirl arose the host of insects.

In long dimensions
creeps with sinuous trace the worm.

THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: SPECIAL FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]

Presider: God dwells in you.

People: And also in you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift our hearts to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

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

Presider

Creating God, in the beginning, you spoke the world into being. You said, "let there be light," and there was light enough to illuminate every darkness. You formed galaxies of stars and the microscopic world of the atom; You ordered the universe and brought majesty and purpose from chaos. Amid the shining stars you placed the sweet green earth. At your command, the earth brought forth the multitude of living things, and you breathed your spirit into all of us.

We praise you together with every creature, small and great, to sing in joyful harmony:

Presider and People

Holy, holy, holy:

God of mercy, giver of life:

Glory to you, maker of all that is living;

Let the birds of the air sing your glory.

Let the creatures of the deep sing your glory.

Let the dwellers of the earth sing your glory.

Alleuia! Alleuia! Alleuia!

Gracious God, when we had forgotten who we are, you sent Jesus to live among us. He spoke to us of the lilies of the field, of your care for the sparrow, of planting and harvest, of the simple life of love and service. He proclaimed your love that turns the world upside down, and brought healing to the damaged world through his life, his death, and his rising again.

On the night before he died, he sat at table with his friends. He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This bread is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he lifted the cup and said, "This is my blood, given for you. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." We remember him now and his promise of new life:

Dying, you destroyed our death;

Rising, you restore our life.

Let your kingdom come among us.

God of love, let your Spirit rest upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, so that we may be nourished by your grace and fed to do love's work.

Presider: We pray because of Jesus,
People: Who shows us the way;
Presider: We pray in the strength of the Holy Spirit,
People: Who binds us to one another and to you;
Presider: We pray to you, Creator of everything that is,
People: Here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,	as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.
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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.

*You may be seated. **All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church.** Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. **Special pandemic precautions are in place for Holy Communion.** The People come forward roughly from closest to farthest, while maintaining social distancing. You will be offered bread only. Approach the priest with your hands extended, and the priest will place a wafer in them. Do not consume the wafer immediately. Instead, return to your seat and then raise your mask to consume the wafer.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.
For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

After all have received communion, the People remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

HYMN

O praise ye the Lord (432, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him up - on earth;
*3 O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanks - giv - ing and song

re - joice in his word, ye an - gels of light;
in tune - ful ac - cord, all ye of new birth;
each ju - bi - lant chord re - ech - o a - round;
to him be out - poured all a - ges a - long!

ye hea - vens, a - dore him by whom ye were made,
praise him who hath brought you his grace from a - bove,
loud or - gans, his glo - ry forth tell in deep tone,
For love in cre - a - tion, for hea - ven re - stored,

and wor - ship be - fore him, in bright - ness ar - rayed.
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
and sweet harp, the sto - ry of what he hath done.
for grace of sal - va - tion, O praise ye the Lord!

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt., based on Psalm 148 and 150 Music: *Laudate Dominum*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER [*Enriching Our Worship 2*]

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

Faithful God,
in the wonder of your wisdom and love
you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels,
and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.
We thank you for feeding us with this bread.
May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may embody your desire
and be renewed for your service
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

BLESSING [*“2021 Celebration Guide,” a Season of Creation resource*]

Presider

May God who established the dance of creation,
who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives and the Church
to reflect God’s glory in creation.
And may God’s blessing be upon you, now and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve all of God’s creation.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

L’éléphant

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921), *Le carnaval des animaux*, 1886

After the Voluntary, you are invited to stay for socially distanced fellowship.

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Announcements

Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and “like” St. Thomas’s on Facebook.

Welcome, Ike and Emma! St. Thomas's is fortunate to be hosting TWO seminarian interns from Yale Divinity School this year. Ike Harajanto (who will work primarily with Noah) and Emma Wright (who will work primarily with Keri) bring a wealth of gifts to share with St. Thomas's over the next nine months. As you can, please offer them your welcome and support.

Please Consider Helping! Please consider offering Afghan refugee assistance through IRIS and Hurricane Ida and Haiti earthquake assistance through Episcopal Relief & Development.

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Lectors: Bill English

Intercessor: Claire Scully

This Week’s Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:

those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

Pray for those who have died.

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

St. John’s, Stamford; Calvary, Stonington; St. Mark’s, Storrs;

The Province of New England: the Dioceses of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Western Massachusetts; their bishops, clergy, parish and diocesan staff, and congregations; Provincial Synod; all Provincial Networks

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical

Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Ghana, Nigeria

Leadership at St. Thomas’s

Church Vestry

Greg D’Andrea (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Valerie Garlick

Claire Scully

Sara Zampierin

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

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The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

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Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden)

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Gina Panza (Head of School)

ST. THOMAS’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org