ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Liturgy of the Word

December 26, 2021 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, WELCOME!

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

O little town of Bethlehem
Dan Coates

HYMN

The first Nowell (109, The Hymnal 1982)





6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: The First Nowell, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

The Presider lights the Christmas candle and then says the following prayer

Glory to you, Giver of all good gifts! We offer you glad thanks and praise for every blessing from your love, and especially for the best gift of yourself in the child Jesus. **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray. [Silence is kept.]

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

PSALM 147

Preisder and People

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; * he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; * he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; * who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; * he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, * his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!

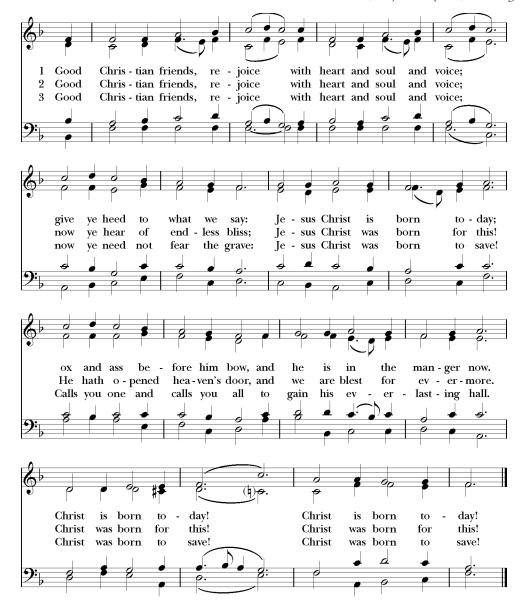
THE SECOND LESSON

GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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



THE GOSPEL JOHN 1:1-18

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN

God rest you merry, gentlemen (105, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Keyborad and guitar should not sound together.

Words: London carol, 18th cent.; Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission



Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

HYMN



Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901) Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935) Copyright ©1984, Horace Clarence Boyer. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

HYMN

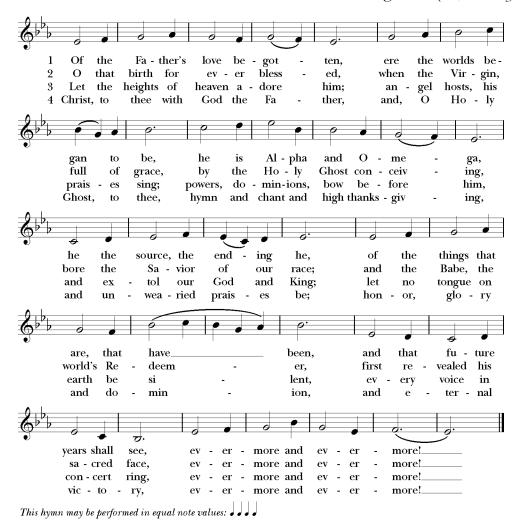


Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

HYMN



Words: Source unknown, 19th cent. Music: Venite adoremus, melody adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944); harm. Leo Sowerby (1895-1968) Copyright ©1941, Leo Sowerby. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: Divinum mysterium, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956), harm. Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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 baptisim 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 Rev. Keri Aubert]

Presider

In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, "God of love, hear our prayer."

Intercessor and People

Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and reconciliation. God of love, hear our prayer.

By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants. God of love, hear our prayer.

The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel's good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Multitudes of heavenly host proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for justice and liberation. God of love, hear our prayer.

Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, because there was no room at the inn. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry. God of love, hear our prayer.

You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, and at the last day gather us all in your eternal life. God of love, hear our prayer.

Hear the concerns and gratitude of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud. [You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.]

Presider

God of love, the feast of Christmas reminds us that you are with us at all times and in all places; hear our prayer, and send your Holy Spirit to guide us more certainly upon the way of your Holy Child, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

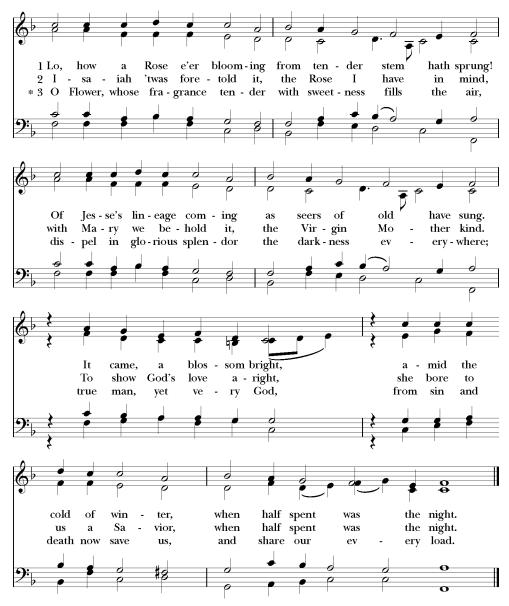
Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

You are invited to exchange with one another a sign of peace.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. 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 can simply <u>CLICK HERE</u>. Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!



Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr, Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940 Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Es ist ein Ros, melody from Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

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.

A PRAYER OF COMMUNION [The Rev. Keri Aubert]

Presider and People

God of abundant love, we thank you for nurturing us with this holy gathering of holy people. When we are alone, remind us of the communion we share with one another and with you. When we are hungry, show us the banquet that you are preparing for the redemption of the world. Keep peace in our hearts, so that we can sow peace on the Earth, walking in gladness the way of your beloved child, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

VOLUNTARY
O holy night
Dan Coates

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Christmas Offerings

Jakki Flanagan & Keri Aubert, in memory of Mary Ann & Pat Flanagan, Ginny & AJ Aubert, and Dorothy Asch

James Mansfield, in memory of Robert & Sharon Mansfield, Kenneth & Caroline Mansfield, and Roy Graham & Sally Lawson

Don & Sally Edwards, in thanksgiving for Our Parish Musicians

Dwight Miller

Gary Robison

And heartfelt gratitude to ...

Denise Terry and the Children of the Parish, for tonight's pageant and the joy you always set in our hearts

The St. Thomas's Choir, for helping us to worship God in the beauty of music (* Section Leader)

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Jennifer A. Herdt	Ike Harijanto	* Noah Horn	Robert Herdt
Alexandria Robison	Linda Meyer		* Samuel Kidd
* Maggie Lieberman	Heather Robison		
* Sherezade Panthaki	* Julia Cavallaro		



Wishing you and yours a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED NEW YEAR!

Announcements

Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and "like" St. Thomas's on Facebook.

Along with the Day School, the church office is closed until Monday, January 3.

Our Rector, the Rev. Keri Aubert, is on sabbatical for the month of January. The Rev. Dexter Cheney is graciously providing pastoral and liturgical leadership. To keep up with the latest parish events and information, please see the most recent edition of the Weekly Parish Enews. From the Home page of the Parish website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), you can go to the Enews archive or subscribe to have future editions delivered to your email inbox.



Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Lector: **Intercessor:**

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

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

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially.

Pray for those who have died.

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

Mark's. Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville; St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; For soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

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

Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

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)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Seminarian Interns

Ike Harijanto Emma Wright

Day School Board of Trustees

John Forrest (Chair)

Greg Mokotoff (Vice-Chair)

Heather Tookes Alexopoulos (Treasurer)

Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)

Christopher Cavallaro Luk De Volder Don Edwards William English Jeralyn Fantarella Robert Herdt Ontoniel Reves Chris Vigilante Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden) Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

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