



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, YEAR C

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 30, 2018 10 A.M.

If you are new or visiting ...

Welcome! After the service, please come to Coffee Hour (in the Lounge on the 2nd floor) for food and fellowship. Though other churches make the claim, ours really is the Best Coffee Hour in Connecticut. Please consider filling out a blue visitor information card (found in your pew rack). You can request a name tag using the form in the pew rack or the sheet at the entrance. Next Sunday your new name tag will be waiting for you on the table in the foyer inside the main church entrance.

To follow along with the service all you need is this service bulletin.

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

Education for All Ages takes place from 9 to 9:45 A.M. on most Sundays during the academic year.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and St. Thomas's website. Sunday bulletins are posted on the website's Bulletin Archive. We aim to reduce printing by encouraging worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the order of service.

Restrooms for men and women are located on the second floor. Go through the red double doors at the front of the church, up the stairs to the left, and to the far end of the hallway. An **all-gender restroom (with baby changing table)** in the Vesting Room, located opposite the red double doors at the front of the church.

For the celebration of Holy Eucharist, the People gather around the altar. While this may be unfamiliar to you, most find it to be a powerful experience of true communion at our common table.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. **Gluten-free bread** is available at each communion station; **non-alcoholic wine** is available from the chalice bearer at the center. Any difference will be explained during the announcements.

To receive Holy Communion hold out your hands, and the server will place bread in them. If you wish to receive wine, please sip it from the common cup, using both hands to guide the chalice to your lips.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The first Nowell (109, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 The first No well the an - gel did say;
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star;
 3. And by the light of that same star;
 4. This star drew nigh to the north west,
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3. three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4. o'er Beth - le hem it took its rest,
 5. full rev - erent ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3. to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4. and there it did both stop and stay
 5. and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3. and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4. right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5. their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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)

Alternative Refrain
Descant (others unison)

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press.
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OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Presider says the following while the Christmas candle is lit

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Angels we have heard on high (96, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

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.**

All are seated.

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 147:13-21 (*said by all*)

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.

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

What child is this (115, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where
 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Mary's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-18

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated.

THE SERMON

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

Intercessor and People

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

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 darkness and 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.

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.

The People greet one another with a sign of peace, and then are seated for brief announcements. During the singing of the Offertory Hymn, the Ushers carry the gifts forward. The People follow and encircle the altar. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Small children may sit with a caregiver on the floor in front of the altar. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If you are unable to stand, you may sit in one of the chairs arranged near the altar, move to the front row of pews, or remain where you are.

OFFERTORY HYMN

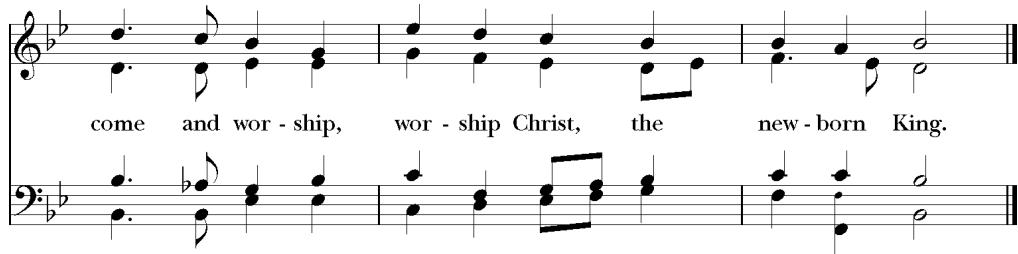
Angels, from the realms of glory (93, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
yon - der shines the na - tal star: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his shall ap - pear:



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

THE HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, 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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [____] and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast.
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. Please proceed to the most conveniently located station to receive communion, and then return to your seat via the center aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at each station, non-alcoholic wine is available from the chalice bearer at the center. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.

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

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into ones 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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Good Christian friends, rejoice (107, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: [*The Deacon dismisses the People.*] [*Alleluia, Alleluia!*]

People: **Thanks be to God. [Alleluia, Alleluia!]**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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Christmas flower offerings were made by:

Jami Carlacio

Don & Sally Edwards

Jakk Flanagan & Keri Aubert, in memory of Mary Ann & Patrick Flanagan and Joe Aubert

The Hagens/Herdt family, in memory of Hilde Hagens

James Mansfield, in memory of Sharon Mansfield, Leon Brunelle, Roy Graham, Sally Lawson, Kenneth & Caroline Mansfield

Joann Sweasy, in memory of Josephine Zynel

Don & Denise Terry, in memory of Thomas V. Farrell

During this Christmas season, we give thanks to the St. Thomas's Choir and Choristers:

(section leaders are marked with an asterisk)

Soprano
Alexandria Robison
Audrey Dunlap
Carolyn Brunelle
Genevieve Nuttall
Isabel Dunlap
Jennifer A. Herdt
Kathryn Crabb Scherer
Linda Meyer
* Maggie Lieberman
Rebecca Stoll
* Sherezade Panthaki

Alto
Anne Harrison
Constance T. Cahill
Cora Marieke Hagens
Erika V. Nemeti
* Evanna Lai
Sarah Insley-Say

Tenor
Alexander Scherer
Chandler H Riker
Dawn Lorentson
Mark Branch
* Paul Berry

Bass
* Andrew Hon
Daniel Harrison
Emerson Katz-Justice
Fred Imbimbo
Gabriel Simerson
Harrison Buck
Sam Brock

Chorister
Adam Hagens
Audrey Dunlap
Madison Thompson
Cora Marieke Hagens
Isabel Dunlap
Ryan Nemeti



*We look forward
to seeing you
in 2019!*

Announcements

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

Christmas Office Closing. The church office will be closed through Monday, January 1.

Save the Date: Next Parish Social: Friday, January 5, 6 p.m. Come for a festive Three Kings celebration!

2019 Pledges are still being accepted! If you've already turned in yours, thank you!

THANK YOU to all who make possible our Christmas worship: acolytes, sacristans, and ushers; lectors and intercessors; all involved with the Pageant; the Choir; the Church decorators; and the Church staff.

For more information and announcements, see our website and last week's Weekly Parish Enews.

Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Deacon: The Rev. April Alford-Harkey
Preacher: Robert Laughton
Organist: Carol Grazette
Eucharistic Minister: Sara Misgen
Crucifer: Madison Thompson
Lectors: Judy Thompson, Bob Herdt
Intercessor: Claire Scully
Vestry Host: Chris Martinez
Sacristans: Judy & Madison Thompson
Ushers: Gary Robison & Family
Counters: Chris Martinez, Mark Cicero

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Officers and Vestry
Joann Sweasy (Senior Warden)
Don Edwards (Junior Warden)
Diana Empsall (Treasurer)
Martha Deeds Hogan (Clerk)
Anne Harrison (Assistant Treasurer)
Constance Cahill
Daniel Harrison
Dawn Lorentson
Chris Martinez
Jennifer Regan
Alexandria Robison
Kate Schilling
The Rev. Keri Aubert (Priest-in-Charge)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests
The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Church Ministry Coordinator
Dr. Dorothy Asch—Volunteer Lay Assistant

Day School Board of Trustees
Gina Panza—Head of School
The Rev. Keri Aubert—President, Day School Corp.
Gina Criscuolo (Chair)
Frank Chang (Vice-Chair)
Tracey Meares (Treasurer)
Jeralyn Fantarella (Secretary)
John Forrest
Alex Babbidge
Don Edwards
Jonathan Macey
Eileen O'Donnell
Kenneth Paul
Kathryn Crabb Scherer
Denise Terry
Heather Tookes Alexopoulos

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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The Rev. April Alford-Harkey, Deacon ♦ a.alfordharkey@stthomasnewhaven.org

Dr. Noah Horn, Music Director ♦ n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org

Julie Kelly, Parish & Property Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org

Gina Panza, Head of Day School ♦ gpanza@stthomasday.org