



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, YEAR B

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 31, 2017 10 A.M.

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## If you are new or visiting ...

**Welcome!** After the service, please come to Coffee Hour (in the Lounge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. There are usually two communion stations, one at each front corner of the altar. **Gluten-free bread** is available at each station. **Non-alcoholic wine** is available only from the single server at the center of the altar. 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.

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## ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

Church Phone: (203) 777-7623

[www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)

Day School Phone: (203) 776-2123

[www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)

**The Rev. Keri Aubert**—Priest-in-Charge

[pastor@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:pastor@stthomasnewhaven.org)

**Simon Jacobs**—Director of Music and Organist

[music@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:music@stthomasnewhaven.org)

**Julie Kelly**—Administrator, Parish and Property

[administrator@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasnewhaven.org)

**Gina Panza**—Head of Day School

[gpanza@stthomasday.org](mailto:gpanza@stthomasday.org)

**Eric Gregory Snow**—Day School Chaplain

[chaplain@stthomasday.org](mailto:chaplain@stthomasday.org)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Septième Noël  
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

*At the ringing of the bell, please stand.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymn 93: Angels, from the realms of glory, *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:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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

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

Hymn 421: All glory be to God on high, *The Hymnal 1982*

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from  
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther  
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -  
hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be  
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -  
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who  
to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for  
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and  
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,  
your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.  
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.  
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Words: Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.; para. of *Gloria in excelsis*;  
Music: *Allein Gott in der Höh*, melody att. Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); harm. Hieronymus Praetorius (1560?-1629)

## 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.*

## 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*)

*Laudate Dominum*

- 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!**

**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.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

Hymn 156: Arise and shine, the prophet sang, *Voices Found*

1 A - rise and shine, the pro - phet sang;  
 2 God's ris - ing sun will light the way,  
 3 You will not need the sun by day

your light has come, the mes - sage rang.  
 as peo - ple stream to dawn - ing's ray.  
 nor moon by night, to light your way;

The shroud of dark - ness stripped a - way,  
 Your o - pen gates will nev - er close,  
 God's glo - ry and e - ter - nal might

God's glo - ry brings a bright new day.  
 in bus' - ling day or night's re - pose.  
 will be your ev - er - last - ing light.

Words: Patricia B. Clark, para. The Third Song of Isaiah © Gemini Press International.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Music: Wareham, melody William Knapp (1698-1768), alt; harm. *Hymns: Ancient and Modern*, 1875,  
 after James Turle (1802-1882).

## GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-18

Priest: 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.

Priest: 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*

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

Hymn 98: Unto us a boy is born, *The Hymnal 1982*



1 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -  
2 Cra - dled in a stall was he with sleep - y cows and  
3 He - rod then with fear was filled; "A prince," he said, "in  
4 Now may Ma - ry's son, who came so long a - go to  
\*5 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -



1 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the  
2 ass - es; but the ve - ry beasts could see that  
3 Jew - ry!" All the lit - tle boys he killed at  
4 love us, lead us all with hearts a - flame un -  
5 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the

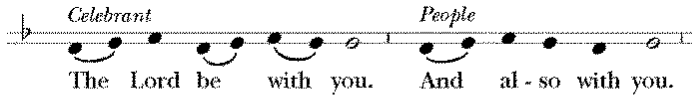




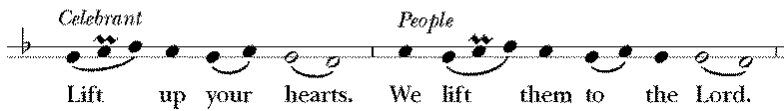
1 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.  
 2 he all men sur - pass - - - es.  
 3 Beth - le - hem in his fu - - - ry.  
 4 to the joys a - bove \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
 5 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.

Words: Latin carol, 15th cent., tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt.;  
 Music: *Puer nobis nascitur*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879-1943)

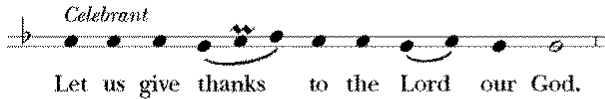
## THE HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B



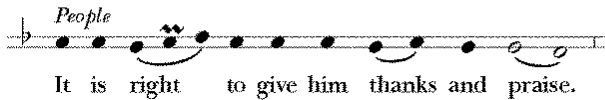
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Presider*

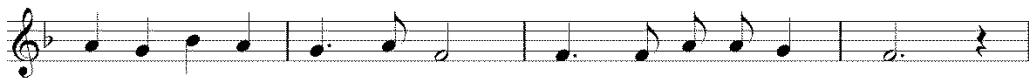
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

### SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

S-125, *The Hymnal 1982*



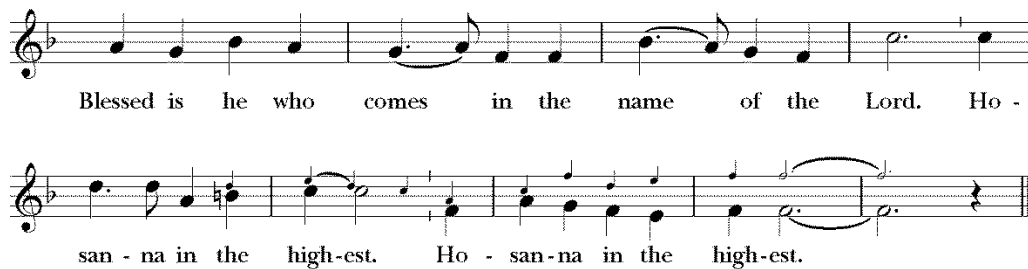
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*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 Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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.*

## FRACTION ANTHEM

S-155, *The Hymnal 1982*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

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

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Please proceed to the most conveniently located station to receive communion, and then return to your seat via a side aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at any station. Non-alcoholic wine is available from the server at the center of the altar. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.*

## ORGAN MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Prelude on the Coventry Carol  
Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

*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 one thing 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


Hymn 86: O Savior of our fallen race, *The Hymnal 1982*



1 O Sa - vior of our fall - en race, \_\_\_\_\_  
2 O Je - sus, ve - ry Light of Light, \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Re - mem - ber, Lord of life and grace, \_\_\_\_\_  
4 To - day, as year by year its light \_\_\_\_\_  
5 For from the Fa - ther's throne you came, \_\_\_\_\_  
6 O Christ, Re - deem - er vir - gin - born, \_\_\_\_\_



1 O Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's face,  
2 our con - stant star in sin's deep night;  
3 how once, to save our fall - en race,  
4 bathes all the world in ra - diance bright,  
5 his ban - ished chil - dren to re - claim;  
6 let songs of praise your Name a - dorn,



1 O Son who shared the Fa - ther's might be - fore the world knew  
2 now hear the prayers your peo - ple pray through - out the world this  
3 you put our hu - man ves - ture on and came to us as  
4 one pre - cious truth out - shines the sun: sal - va - tion comes from  
5 and earth and sea and sky re - vere the love of him who  
6 whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit

(After stanza 6)

1 day or night,  
 2 ho - ly day.  
 3 Ma - ry's son.  
 4 you a - lone.  
 5 sent you here.  
 6 ev - er - more.      Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Gilbert E. Doan (b. 1930); Music: *Gonfalon Royal*, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947)

## DISMISSAL

Priest: *[A priest dismisses the people.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Postlude on 'Adeste Fideles'

Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

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*Christmas flower offerings were made by:*

*Frank Coppola*

*Greg & Valerie Echols, in memory of departed family and friends*

*Don & Sally Edwards*

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

*Joan Hogan, in memory of Evelyn C. & John H.*

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

*Robert Tait, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Norman Tait and Jerry Tait*

*Don & Denise Terry, in celebration of the children of St. Thomas's*

*The Barn Sale, in memory of Jan Marenholz*

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

(section leaders are marked with an asterisk)

| <b>Soprano</b>     | <b>Alto</b>      | <b>Tenor</b>   | <b>Bass</b>   | <b>Chorister</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Carolyn Brunelle   | Constance Cahill | Mark Branch    | Dan Harrison  | Audrey Dunlap    |
| Kathryn Scherer    | Vedica Chopra    | Jim Brown      | Tom Hogan     | Isabel Dunlap    |
| Audrey Dunlap      | Cora Hagens      | Simon Lee*     | Andrew Hon*   | Alicia Gopal     |
| Isabel Dunlap      | Anne Harrison    | Dawn Lorentson | Fred Imbimbo  | Adam Hagens      |
| Jennifer Ellis     | Sarah Insley-Say | Eben Pariser   | Emerson       | Cora Hagens      |
| Jennifer Herdt     | Evanna Lai*      | Chandler Riker | Katz-Justice  | Ryan Nemeti      |
| Maggie Lieberman*  | Erika Nemeti     | Alex Scherer   | Gabe Simerson | Madison          |
| Sherry Panthaki*   |                  | Dylan Shah     | Charlie Tyson | Thompson         |
| Alexandria Robison |                  |                |               |                  |
| Rebecca Stoll      |                  |                |               |                  |

**Announcements**

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

**For more information and announcements, see our website and the most recent Weekly Parish Enews.**

**The church office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.**

**2018 Pledge Cards are still being accepted!**

**Our Next Parish Potluck Social: This Friday, January 5, 6 p.m.: Twelfth Night Celebration!**

**Twelfth Night**, celebrated on January 5 in the Church of England, is a festival marking both the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas and the night before the Epiphany (the day the wise men visited the baby Jesus). A popular Twelfth Night tradition was to have a bean and a pea hidden inside a Christmas cake; the man and woman who find the bean and pea become king and queen for the night. This tradition lives on in New Orleans, where friends gather for king cake parties.

Whoever gets the slice with the "king" (usually a miniature baby symbolizing the Christ child) hosts the next party. On Twelfth Night Epiphany Day, many Christians chalk their doors with a pattern such as this, "20 † C † M † B † 17." The numbers refer to the calendar year; the crosses stand for Christ; the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M, and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), and they are an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, May Christ bless this house. As the Israelites in the Old Testament marked their doors to be saved from death; likewise, the Epiphanytide practice serves to protect Christian homes from evil spirits until the next Epiphany Day. This act also represents the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Magi (and all Gentiles); it thus serves as a house blessing to invite the presence of God in one's home.

**For the January 5 Potluck**, the Edwards/Chavira family will provide: three King Cakes, two Wassail bowls (mulled wine and mulled cider), chalk to be blessed and taken home, and a selection of Christmas puzzles. If someone comes who plays the piano, we will learn and sing a lovely carol, "This Christmastide (Jessye's Carol)." The Kings and/or Queens who find the baby Jesus in their cake will be responsible for planning the next Potluck on February 2.

## Serving Today

### Serving Today

**Presider:** The Rev. Julie Kelsey

**Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert

**Organist:** Simon Jacobs

**Emcee:** Dr. Dorothy Asch

**Eucharistic Minister:** Michael Dunlap

**Crucifer:** Ricardo Chavira

**Lectors:** Jenny Chavira, Craig Bottiger

**Intercessor:** Claire Scully

**Sacristans:** Val Echols

**Usher/Greeter:** Gary Robison

### Church flowers and decorations for Christmas:

Sally Edwards, Judy Thompson

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

### Church Officers and Vestry

Joann Sweasy (Senior Warden)

Don Edwards (Junior Warden)

Alexander Scherer (Treasurer)

Sarah Insley (Clerk)

Anne Harrison (Assistant Treasurer)

Laura Bower-Phipps

Michael Fournier

Daniel Harrison

Martha Deeds Hogan

Kevin Johnson

Chris Martinez

Tom Radice

Jennifer Regan

Christopher Ritacco

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Priest-in-Charge)

### Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

The Rev. Julie Kelsey

The Rev. Bill Loutrel

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

The Rev. Lee McGee Street

The Rev. Dr. Parke Street

The Rev. Dr. Lynda Z. Tyson

### Church Ministry Coordinators

Dr. Dorothy Asch—Volunteer Lay Assistant

### Day School Board of Trustees

Gina Panza—Head of School

The Rev. Keri Aubert—President, Day School Corp.

Jonathan Macey (Chair)

Gina Criscuolo (Vice-Chair)

Tracey Meares (Treasurer)

Jeralyn Fantarella (Secretary)

Alex Babbidge

Frank Chang

Don Edwards

John Forrest

Jennifer McTiernan

Eileen O'Donnell

Kenneth Paul

Kathryn Scherer

Denise Terry

*A very  
HAPPY  
CHRISTMASTIDE  
and a  
BLESSED NEW YEAR  
to all!*

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## ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

(203) 777-7623

[www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)