



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

November 27, 2022

10 A.M.

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

**Please remain masked and observe social distancing** throughout the service and any time you are inside, regardless of vaccination status. Our expectation is that everyone who can be has been vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Very young children and people who are immunocompromised lack vaccine protection, so your continued diligence is appreciated.

**There is no mechanical air exchange in the church portions of the building.** We are eager to limit occupancy of smaller spaces, so please avoid the Sacristy and Vesting Room, and please do not linger in the narthex (the area inside the main doors), restrooms, or hallways. The Lounge has high efficiency air filters but no mechanical air exchange.

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

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

**ALL are invited to receive Holy Communion.** Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. 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 for Holy Communion are included below at the appropriate point.

**After the service**, please stay for food and fellowship. Coffee hour is hosted either outside behind the building (exit via the side door facing Cliff Street and walk around to the back) or in the Lounge (exit via the double doors near the pulpit and go upstairs to the second floor; the Lounge is at the end of the hall). Children may unwind in the kindergarten playground behind the building.

If you are new, please consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a nametag, and next Sunday it will be waiting on the table inside the main entrance.

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

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

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**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.

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**Happy New Year! It's Advent!** Today, the First Sunday of Advent, is the first day of the new church year. According to *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians* (Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors), Advent is "The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for 'coming.' The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ in power and glory." For the next year (year A of the Revised Common Lectionary), Matthew will be the primary source of our Gospel readings. During Advent we are using Eucharistic prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship*, the expansive language supplement to the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*. It includes this line: "To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God." Mary's inclusion is both appropriate to the season and one small corrective to the omission of women from the salvation histories usually recounted in our liturgies.

## INTROIT

Zion hört die Wächter singen

Zion hört die Wächter singen,  
das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,  
sie wachet und steht eilend auf.  
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,  
von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,  
ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.  
Nun komm, du werthe Kron,  
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn.  
Hosianna!  
Wir folgen all zum Freudensaal  
und halten mit das Abendmahl.

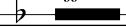
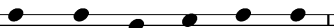


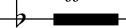

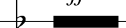

Zion hears the watchmen sing,  
her heart leaps for joy within her,  
she wakens and hastily arises.  
Her glorious Friend comes from heaven,  
strong in mercy, powerful in truth,  
her light becomes bright, her star rises.  
Now come, precious crown,  
Lord Jesus, the Son of God!  
Hosanna!  
We all follow to the hall of joy  
and hold the evening meal together.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608), 1599    Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 140 (1731)

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

## THE GREAT LITANY

S 67, *The Hymnal 1982*

<p><i>Officiant</i></p>  <p>O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>Have mer - cy up - on us.</p>
<p><i>Officiant</i></p>  <p>O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>Have mer - cy up - on us.</p>
<p><i>Officiant</i></p>  <p>O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful,</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>Have mer - cy up - on us.</p>
<p><i>Officiant</i></p>  <p>O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>Have mer - cy up - on us.</p>

*Officiant*

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Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

*People*

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preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

*Officiant*

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From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

*People*

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Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

*People*

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We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

*Officiant* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.  
*People* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

*Officiant*

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O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.  
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

*Officiant*

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O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

*Officiant* O Christ, hear us. *People* O Christ, hear us.

Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1583?), alt. Copyright © 1927 Wallace Goodrich, Secretary for the Joint Commission on Church Music.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*The Presider says the following prayer as the Advent candle is lit*

Come, O Holy One, as the morning light after a wakeful night! Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us an accounting of our lives; help us to love you and love one another in all we do, and so clothe us with your light that we may bring others to love you also, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

# KYRIE ELEISON

**239, Lift Every Voice and Sing II**

Leader Ky - ri - e

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri -

Chri - te

e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i -

Ky - ri - e

son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri -

e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

(o)

Music: Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1938), *Freedom Mass*. Based on traditional African melodies. Copyright © 1975 Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by permission.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
    “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- 2 Now our feet are standing \*  
    within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
    that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,  
    the tribes of the LORD, \*  
    the assembly of Israel,  
    to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
    the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
    “May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls \*  
    and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions’ sake, \*  
    I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
    I will seek to do you good.”

**THE SECOND LESSON**

ROMANS 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Reader:**       The Word of the Lord.

**People:**       **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

*Descant*

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

## THE GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 24:36-44

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if

the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

**Presider:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*All are seated.*

## **THE SERMON**

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

## **AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT**

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

*Presider and People*

**Because of You, O God,  
we are people of hope,  
even though the night of winter is upon us.**

**Because of You, Divine Presence,  
we are people of peace,  
even though violent speech  
and bared teeth surround us.**

**Because of You, Christ who is coming,  
we are people of joy,  
even though the leaves have fallen  
and the music has stopped.**

**Because of You, Spirit of Life,  
we are people of love,  
even though we see  
the diminishment of human dignity all around us.**

**We call upon You, ever-blessed One,  
for strength and purpose,  
for gratitude and generosity,  
for the grace to bring light,  
and the nourishment of your grace,  
and the thirst-quenching stream of your justice  
into the world that You love  
with an everlasting love.**

**Come among us and set us free. Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Presider*

Let us confess our sins to God. *[Silence is kept.]*



*Presider and People*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. 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. You may 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; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website ([www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!*

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Yarmouth Rock

I hear the seagull's cry before I see  
His outstretched wings against the sun-drenched sky;  
And hearing, shield my eyes to watch him fly  
From who knows where, straight toward, then over me.  
The water, satin smooth and gray before,  
Is now a lace-trimmed corduroy and blue,  
As wind and tide surround this granite pew  
With life and secrets from an unknown shore.

The Spirit sighs, "Be watchful and aware;  
These are not merely seagull, wind and tide,  
But holy gifts, revealing you abide  
In God's eternal, steadfast, gracious, care.  
Remember, when your strength and vision fail,  
This holy place, these gifts. Love will prevail."

Words: Sally Edwards (1940–2022) Music: Gabriel Rhys Simerson (b. 1998), 2022

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

## OFFERTORY HYMN

Comfort, comfort ye my people (67, *The Hymnal* 1982)



The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing the main text and the second and third columns containing additional text for different parts of the hymn.

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm* 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal* 1982.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

<p><i>Celebrant</i></p> <p>The Lord be with you.</p> <p><i>Celebrant</i></p> <p>Lift up your hearts.</p> <p><i>Celebrant</i></p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p> <p>And al - so with you.</p> <p><i>People</i></p> <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p><i>People</i></p> <p>It is right to give God thanks and praise.</p>
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### *Presider*

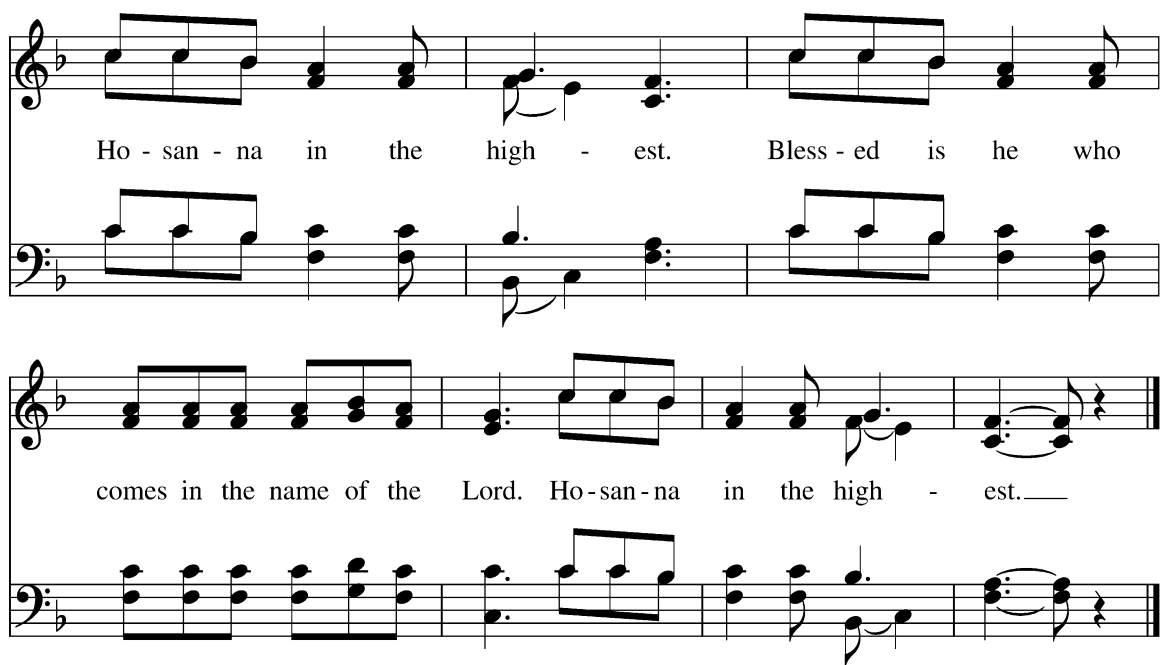
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

### SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord (256, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)

<p><i>Leader</i></p> <p>(piano) Ho - ly,</p> <p>Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of</p> <p>pow'r_ and might,</p>	<p>Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of</p> <p>heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.</p>
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Music: Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928), *Freedom Mass*. Based on traditional African melodies. Copyright © 1989 Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by permission.

### *Presider*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, Thomas, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

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

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

## FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God (271, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)

The musical score for the Fraction Anthem is written in 6/8 time and G major. It consists of four staves. The first staff is the Leader's part, with lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have'. The second staff is the Response, with lyrics 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have'. The third staff is the Leader's part, with lyrics 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:'. The fourth staff is the Response, with lyrics 'grant us peace.'.

Music: Eugene W. Hancock (b. 1929). Copyright © 1992 Eugene W. Hancock.

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

***All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of communion, the priest will come to you. Extend your hands, and the priest will place the bread in them. Please return to your seat before you raise your mask to consume it. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest.***

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

Öffne dich

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze,  
Jesus kommt und ziehet ein.  
Bin ich gleich nur Staub und Erde,  
will er mich doch nicht verschmähn,  
seine Lust an mir zu sehn,  
daß ich seine Wohnung werde.  
O wie selig werde ich sein!

Open yourself, my whole heart,  
Jesus comes and enters in.  
Even though I am only dust and earth,  
yet he does not scorn  
to reveal his joy to me,  
so that I may be his dwelling.  
O how happy will I be!

Words: Erdmann Neumeister (1671–1756), 1714    Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 61, 1714

*After all have received communion, all stand.*

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider:     Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**God of abundance,  
you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us  
with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## ADVENT BLESSING

*Presider*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

1 “Sleep - ers, wake!” A voice a - stounds us, the  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her  
 3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: “A -  
 heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she  
 saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!” Mid - night’s peace their  
 wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her  
 harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -  
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -  
 ci - ty’s por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: “The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
 rious: her star has is risen, her light grows bright.  
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride-groom is in  
Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, In-car-nate  
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de-

sight. Al-le-lu-ia! Your lamps pre-pare and  
Word, Al-le-lu-ia! We fol-low all and  
light: Al-le-lu-ia! There-fore we sing to

has-ten there, that you the wed-ding feast may share."  
heed your call to come in-to the ban-quet hall.  
greet our King; for ev-er let our prais-es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

## DISMISSAL

Presider: *[The Presider dismisses the People.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

## VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland  
Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

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## Announcements

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

*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](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), you can go to the Enews archive or subscribe.*



**Today the St. Thomas's Choir is premiering a musical setting of Sally Edwards' poem "Thin Place," composed by Gabriel Rhys Simerson and entitled "Yarmouth Rock."** This piece is the offertory anthem today. It seems particularly appropriate that we will offer this on the First Sunday of Advent, since it contains the text "Be watchful and aware." If you don't know Gabe, he's a former member and continuing friend of St. Thomas's. After singing in our choir during high school, he left CT for studies at American University in Washington, D.C. He currently serves as Director of Music and Organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Burke, VA. See Thursday's Enews for Gabe's words about this piece.

**Today we are returning to our pre-pandemic practice of gathering around the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer.** This act of gathering, along with our invitation for all to receive communion, has long been important expression of this church's theological understanding of the hospitality extended at God's heavenly banquet.

**A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent: Sunday, December 4, 5 p.m.** This year, our beloved and beautiful Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent returns to a Sunday evening. Please help us spread the word by inviting your friends and neighbors. We hope to see you there!

**175th Anniversary Banner.** The beautiful new banner celebrating the 175th anniversary of St. Thomas's Church was installed Wednesday, along with a new set of flags. Thanks to: Velerie Cicero for her design of our 175th anniversary logo and the banner to match!

**Thursdays during Advent: Advent Unbound: A Companion to Pádraig Ó Tuama's "Poetry Unbound" 7:30pm, December 1, 8, 5, & 22.** Join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2506069964>. "God becoming incarnate in a human being is too astounding, too dazzling, too impossible an event to merely celebrate on a single day. Poetry (and podcasts!) can help!" – The SALT Project. We're gathering to discuss poems that reflect on the season of Advent, using Pádraig Ó Tuama's podcast "Poetry Unbound" as our guide. To participate: read the short devotional (email Keri to receive a copy of the booklet); read/listen to one or more of the three poems/podcasts for the week; join the conversation on Zoom. See the Enews for links to the poems and podcasts.

**Updated Parish Directory.** The updated parish directory is available. A password is required to open the document; to get the password, email Keri, Julie, or a vestry member. You can always find the directory on the St. Thomas's website. From the main page, click the Parish Directory button.

**Winter Weather is Coming!** In case of inclement winter weather, rather than cancel church altogether, we will switch to Zoom only. If we switch to Zoom only, we will spread the word by 9 a.m. via Facebook, the website, and a special edition of the Enews. Be sure to look for this before you leave home on a Sunday morning after a Saturday night storm.

**Our formal Stewardship Season has concluded, but it's no too late to participate.** For details, see our three Enews Steward Specials. In short, please consider whether you will start giving or change your giving. If the answer is YES: inform Parish Administrator [Julie Kelly](#); and, if you will give automatically/electronically (highly encouraged!), set up your payment via the Donate button on the website or your bank's bill pay portal. For all that you give to support the ongoing life of our community, THANK YOU!

**Coffee Hour Hosting. Link to sign up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee>. Thank you!

**A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play by the Second Chance Players. Friday, December 2 at 2pm and 7pm, \$15, Nelson Hall Theater at Elim Park.** The Rev. Mo Lederman, formerly of St. Thomas's, has put together this new theater group, which includes our current Junior Warden Linda Meyer. See the Enews for details.

**Region-Wide Advent Offering - All Are Welcome.** From Regional Missioner Rachel Thomas: As Advent is a season of preparation for the inbreaking of Jesus, the Episcopal Church has developed an Advent study series to help us reflect on how we are preparing to make flesh the Beloved Community of God's dream. Each week will we look at the lectionary readings for the preceding Sunday. The Rev. Rachel Thomas will facilitate the Monday evening group, which will take place on Zoom from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm beginning November 28. Email her at [rthomas@episcopalct.org](mailto:rthomas@episcopalct.org) to receive the link.

**Free Upcoming Anti-Racism Training. Kaleidoscope Institute** is offering another 4-session cohort in December for those in ECCT seeking to embrace and enact the vision of Becoming Beloved Community. The dates are: December 3, 4, 10 & 11. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)



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## Serving Today

**Presider:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Music Director:** Dr. Noah Horn  
**Eucharistic Minister:**  
**Lector:** Jenny Chavira  
**Intercessor:** Max Ballardo  
**Sacristan:** Madeleine Anderson  
**Usher:** Bob Tait  
**Coffee Hour:** Madeleine Anderson

## This Week's Prayer Intentions

### Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Dwight (Miller), Katie (Coleman), Leon (Denise Terry's brother-in-law), Lily (Madeleine Anderson's mother), Tom (Linda Meyer's father)

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

**Pray for those who have died.**

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

Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany; Postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry and its members

### In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

### In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical

#### Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Myanmar, Thailand

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

### Church Vestry

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)  
Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)  
Bill English (Treasurer)  
Denise Terry (Clerk)  
Madeleine Anderson  
Valerie Cicero  
Claire Scully  
The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

### Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney  
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

### Day School Board of Trustees

John Forrest (Chair)  
Greg Mokotoff (Vice-Chair)  
Christopher Cavallaro (Treasurer)  
Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)  
Renu Boatwright  
William English  
Robert Herdt  
Ken Paul  
Robert Tait  
Chris Vigilante  
Susan Zhang  
Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden)  
Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)  
Gina Panza (Head of School)

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The Rev. Keri Aubert, Rector ♦ [k.aubert@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:k.aubert@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Dr. Noah Horn, Music Director ♦ [n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ [j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Gina Panza, Head of School ♦ [gpanza@stthomasday.org](mailto:gpanza@stthomasday.org)