



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

November 29, 2020

10 A.M.

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

The invitation to worship is sounded with the ringing of the bell.

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.**

HYMN

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us (61, *The Hymnal* 1982)

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 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 wor - thy 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: Philip Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Copyright ©1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

KYRIE ELEISON

112, *Enriching Our Music 2*

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.**

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

David Hurd

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **People: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA

(120, *Enriching Our Music 2*)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana © Gobingca Mxadana.
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Cantor: For all they that look for thee shall not be ashamed, O LORD.
Make known to me thy ways, O LORD, and teach me thy paths.

The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 13:24-37

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor and People

O Wisdom from on high, holy Word of God, you sustain the universe with infinite love and tender care. In this Advent season of longing and anticipation, we pray to you, saying, “O come, O come, Emmanuel.”

Unite and uphold your universal church. Help your ministers, lay and ordained, carry the Good News of salvation to all who await the sign of your coming. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Lend your wisdom and compassion to those in authority around the world. Help them lead those held captive by oppression and strife, into the freedom of justice and peace. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Inspire all people to be grateful occupants and devoted caretakers of your wondrous creation. Help us preserve Earth’s lands, waters, and atmosphere, and protect the creatures who inhabit them. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Shepherd the people and ministries of St. Thomas’s Church. Help us listen closely to you, and follow where you lead. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Comfort those who are grieving, lonely, discouraged, or depressed this holiday season. Help them find peace, joy, hope, and love. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Restore those suffering from sickness, poverty, violence, or addiction. Help them overcome adversity and find fullness of life. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Strengthen healthcare workers, first responders, and all whose labors are essential during this coronavirus pandemic. Help them find courage to face the difficult days that yet lie ahead. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Bring into your glorious presence those who have died. Help all people to find risen life in you. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Hear our additional prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, which we now offer either silently or aloud. [*You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.*]

Presider

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, come and shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death; O Emmanuel, God with us, come and save us, O Lord our God. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is especially appreciated at this time. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you can simply [CLICK HERE](#). Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come, thou long-expected Jesus (66, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Stuttgart, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

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

A PRAYER OF COMMUNION *[The Rev. Keri Aubert]*

Presider and People

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

ADVENT BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Öffne dich

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze,
Jesus kommt und ziehet ein.

Open yourself, my whole heart,
Jesus comes and enters in.

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!

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 the Anthem, you are invited to stay online for virtual Coffee Hour. Please see the Parish Enews for the latest announcements and information.



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Announcements

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

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Check the Enews for a prayer for Advent and a variety of other Advent resources. Next Sunday, our 10 a.m. worship will be a **Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent.**

Stewardship Season. If you haven’t, please read the Stewardship Special Enews. Thanks for your ongoing support!

Please consider **Alternative Giving** for those on your Christmas list this year. Suggested non-profits are highlighted in the Enews – and St. Thomas’s can even help you make those donations. Our Sunday School children are particularly advocating for donations to the **Clean Water** program of Episcopal Relief & Development’s Gifts for Life program.

In addition to its more usual business, October’s **Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut** passed three resolutions that further the cause of equity and inclusion in ECCT: Details are in Wednesday’s Enews.

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Musician: Dr. Noah Horn

Lectors: Catherine Stricklan, Bob Herdt

Intercessor: Jennifer Herdt

This Week’s Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:
Bonnie, Sally, Franklin, Ken

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
all who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who work in healthcare and those who have lost their livelihood

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 Lusitanian Church

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

Myanmar, Thailand

Leadership at St. Thomas’s

Church Vestry

Kyle Holton (Senior Warden)

Denise Terry (Junior Warden)

Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)

Linda Meyer (Clerk)

Greg D’Andrea

Bill English

Chris Martinez

Alexandria Robison

Catherine Stricklan

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Day School Board of Trustees

Gina Criscuolo (Chair)

John Forrest (Vice-Chair)

Heather Tookes Alexopoulos (Treasurer)

Eileen O’Donnell (Secretary)

Alexander Babbidge Christopher Cavallaro

William English Jeralyn Fantarella

Linda Meyer Kenneth Paul

Denise Terry (Parish Junior Warden)

The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

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