



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 1, 2019 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. Please consider filling out a blue visitor information card (located in the pew rack). You can use the form to request a nametag, and next Sunday it will be waiting for you on the table just inside the main church entrance.

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)** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the red double doors at the front of the church.

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.

To follow along with the service you will need this service bulletin as well as The Hymnal 1982 (the blue book in the pew racks). In The Hymnal 1982, hymn numbers beginning with "S" are in the front section of the book.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 645, 1731

INTROIT

Vigilate

Vigilate nescitis enim
quando dominus domus veniat
sero an media nocte an gallicantu an mane
vigilate ergo ne cum venerit repente
inveniat vos dormientes
quod autem dico vobis omnibus dico vigilate.

Watch—for you do not know
when the master of the house will come,
in the evening, midnight, cockcrow, or at dawn.
Watch therefore, or else when he comes suddenly,
he may find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.

Words: Mark 13:35-37 Music: William Byrd (c1540–1623), 1589

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

Officiant  *People* 
 O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 
 O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 
 O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 
 O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

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

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


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

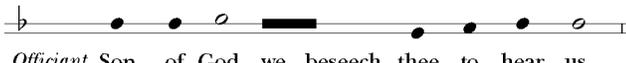
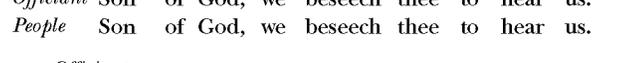
People 
 Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

(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,

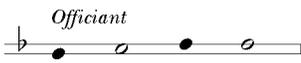
People 
 We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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

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

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

S-86, *The Hymnal 1982*

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.

PSALM 122 (*sung by the Choir*)

Hubert Parry

- 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.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve (546, *The Hymnal 1982*)

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

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 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, after which the People remain seated for the **Offertory Anthem**, and during which the collection is taken.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Drop down, ye heavens, from above

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people;
my salvation shall not tarry.

I have blotted out as a thick cloud,
thy transgressions:
Fear not, for I will save thee;
For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Words: Rorate caeli (The Advent Prose) Music: Judith Weir (b. 1954), 1984

*During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the People stand, the Ushers carry the gifts forward, and the altar is prepared. **During the season of Advent, rather than gathering around the altar, the People remain in the pews for the Eucharistic prayer.***

OFFERTORY HYMN

Blest be the King whose coming (74, *The Hymnal* 1982)

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 [_____ 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

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-161, *The Hymnal 1982*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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 a side 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.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

I was glad

I was glad when they said unto me,
We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is builded as a city
that is at unity in itself.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls,
and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Words: Psalm 122:1-3,6-7 Music: Hubert Parry (1848–1918), 1902

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

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

ADVENT BLESSING

Presider

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May Christ, whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at the second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us (61, *The Hymnal 1982*)

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

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Advent Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 5 P.M.

*Sung by the St. Thomas's Choir
with favorite congregational carols.*

*All are invited to a reception following,
hosted in honor of the St. Thomas's Choir.*

Advent Lessons & Carols is one of the most beautiful services of the year. This year the service will be followed by a reception hosted in honor of the St. Thomas's Choir. This is a great "entry" service for people who are new to the church. Please plan to come, and invite your friends.

ADVENT BEGINS TODAY

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent is like New Year's Day in the Church. As is traditional, our service will begin with the Great Litany chanted in procession.

Liturgical Color

In the Anglican tradition, there are two acceptable colors for Advent: purple and blue. Here's what the Society of St. John the Evangelist says about using blue for Advent:

As way to mark this season of expectation and hope, we wear blue vestments. This is a recovery of an ancient English tradition stemming from Salisbury Cathedral, and so it is referred to as *sarum blue*. (Sarum being the ancient Latin name for Salisbury.) While the deep blue conveys a feeling of solemnity, because of its association with the Blessed Virgin Mary, it also conveys the Advent themes of hope and expectation. On the Third Sunday of Advent, we see hints of pink on the vestments, marking that Sunday as *Gaudete Sunday*, reflecting the opening words of the ancient introit appointed for the day: *Rejoice in the Lord, always!*

We prefer to reserve purple for Lent and use blue for Advent. This makes it clear that Advent, while a season of contemplative preparation, does not share the penitential aspect of Lent.

Readings, Sermon, and Prayers of the People

Like last year, we will use a portable lectern, set up in front of the altar, for the readings, sermon, and prayers of the people. The handheld mic will be set up in the mic stand.

Communion in the Pews

For the four Sundays of Advent (and, as usual, for Christmas Eve services) the congregation will stay in the pews for the Eucharistic prayer. Communion "in the round" will return on Christmas Day. Advent is a season of contemplation, and many find worship more contemplative from the pews. Cushions are available for those who wish to kneel.

Eucharistic Prayer

As is our practice, we will use Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship*, the official Episcopal Church resource offering expansion language options to the *Book of Common Prayer*. It is a popular choice for Advent because of its language about the nativity: "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."

Announcements

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

A message from the Wardens...

Congratulations, Rev. Keri Aubert, now officially installed as our Rector. We were thinking about how the congregation could demonstrate our commitment to Keri’s leadership and to the parish. There are many ways to express gratitude at St. Thomas’s—we depend on members of the parish to work as ushers, sacristans, coffee hour hosts, musicians, educators, outreach coordinators, Vestry, and so much more. We also depend on the parish for financial support. If you have not made or renewed your pledge, this is the time to do it. And, it would be a lovely gesture to make a special donation in Keri’s honor. What Keri needs going forward is a strong parish comprised of sustained volunteers and a solid financial foundation. We are the ones who can provide this.

Thank you from Kyle Holton, Senior Warden, and Denise Ann Terry, Junior Warden

Next Delight Night: Friday, December 6, 6 p.m., in the Lounge.

Join us for a POTLUCK followed by a CAROL SING. Hot chocolate, anyone? A good time should be had by all!

The Connecticut Gay Men’s Chorus Holiday Show.

December 7 at 4 pm and 8 pm at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center and December 14 at 8pm at the new theater at West Haven High School. Tickets are available on their website, www.ctgmc.org.

Season of Racial Justice and Reconciliation Book Group.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 15, at 7:30 p.m., in the Lounge. (We’re taking December off.) We will be discussing the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Look for details next week.

Christian Community Action. The Sunday School children are putting together “Blessing Bags” for people who lack reliable housing. Help by donating new long athletic socks, individually wrapped standard size bars of soap, individual tubes of toothpaste, deodorant, and travel size shampoos and lotions.

Loaves & Fishes. Please donate non-perishable food items.

Alternative Giving for the Holidays. As you plan your Christmas/holiday gift list, please consider alternative giving - that is, consider making a donation in the recipient’s honor to the charitable organization of your choice. One great option is the Episcopal Relief & Development Gifts for Life program. If you’re interested in food insecurity, consider Loaves & Fishes or the Connecticut Food Bank.

Our Little Free Library always needs books. Just pop them in yourself.

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

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Choir Director & Organist: Dr. Noah Horn
Eucharistic Minister: Chris Martinez
Crucifers: Kyle Holton, Eden Holton
Chalice:
Lectors: Jennifer Herdt, Jesse Stricklan
Intercessor:
Vestry Host: Kyle Holton
Ushers: Gary Robison
Sacristans: Kyle Holton & Kids
Counters: Kyle Holton, Linda Meyer
Coffee Hour Hosts: Sally & Bill Nanfeldt, George Shelton

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
Bonnie, Drew, Dwight, Franklin, John, Sally

Pray for those who have died.

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

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

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

mission agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion

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

Myanmar, Thailand

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Officers and Vestry

Kyle Holton (Senior Warden)
Denise Terry (Junior Warden)
Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)
Linda Meyer (Clerk)
Thomas Hogan
Elizabeth Peters
Alexandria Robison
Catherine Stricklan
Joann Sweasy
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 Panza (Head of School)
The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)
Gina Criscuolo (Chair)
John Forrest (Vice-Chair)
Tracey Meares (Treasurer)
Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)
Alexander Babbidge
Christopher Cavallaro
Don Edwards
William English
Jeralyn Fantarella
Kenneth Paul
Tony Reyes
Kathryn Crabb Scherer
Denise Terry
Heather Tookes Alexopoulos

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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Will Parker, Day School Chaplain ♦ wparker@stthomasday.org