



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 27, YEAR A

Liturgy of the Word

November 8, 2020

10 A.M.

ANTHEM

My Lord, what a mornin'

My Lord, what a mornin',
when the stars begin to fall.

Done quit all my worldly ways,
join that heavenly band.

Words: Traditional Music: Harry T. Burleigh (1866–1949)

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

HYMN

Let all mortal flesh keep silence (324, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Let all mo - rtal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va - nish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

JOSHUA 24:1-3,14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether

the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 78:1-7

Robert Cooke

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA

(18, *My Heart Sings Out*)

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah!

hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!

hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah! Hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - - - jah!

Words and Melody: Traditional Caribbean. Arr. Mark Sedio (b. 1954) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 [www.augsburgfortress.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Cantor: At midnight there was a cry made: Behold the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him, Christ the LORD.

The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:1-13

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [*The United Church of Canada*]

Presider and People

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our guide and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor and People

As the leaves fall and the days shorten, we remember the uncertainties of our age, and we pray to God for the church and for the world.

Lend your wisdom to all Christians, and help all churches proclaim the Good News of your justice and mercy. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your vision to those whose political and business decisions affect people around the globe, and help them prioritize compassion, equity, and peace. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your strength to all who work to end marginalization and oppression, and help them find joy in their labors. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your vision to the human stewards of the living Earth, and help them safeguard its health for the future our children. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your gifts for ministry to all members of the St. Thomas's community, and help us serve and uphold one another and our neighbors. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your comfort to all who lack adequate food, employment, housing, or health care, and help our nation understand how its abundant wealth might be more fairly shared. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your holy light to all our loved ones who have died, and help us follow their pathway to your eternal presence. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear our prayers for those intercessions and thanksgivings that we now offer silently or aloud. [*You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.*]

Presider

God of rest and renewal, during this turn of the seasons, help us to remember that the cycle of birth and death is the means by which you cultivate new life, and send the peace of your assurance to all who seek and serve you, through Christ, in the Spirit of your blessed Church. **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

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (690, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

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

Presider and People

Almighty God, you promised through our Lord Jesus Christ that where two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be in the midst of them. We ask you to be in the midst of us now, though we are far apart, and to bind us to one another, and to you, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Just as you, Father, are in the Son, and he in you, so may we also be in you, and Christ in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.**

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in C minor

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), from *Das wohltemperierte Klavier*, BWV 847

After the Voluntary, 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.

ECCT Racial Healing, Justice & Reconciliation Ministry Network Gathering: Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Join the Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Ministry Network for their upcoming quarterly gathering on Guest Speaker: the Rev. Deacon Shancia Jarrett discussing Redlining and Race in Housing. [Registration here.](#)

Community | Conversation | Compline with the South Central Region of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut: Sunday, November 8, 7 p.m. Join with Episcopalians across ECCT’s South Central Region in a brief hour of conversation and prayer following our national elections. [Register today](#) for an hour in community, conversation, and Compline (night prayer).

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Musician: Dr. Noah Horn
Lectors: Max Ballardo, Bill English
Intercessor: Joann Sweasy

This Week’s Prayer Intentions

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

Pray for those who have died.

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

Christ & Holy Trinity, Westport; Trinity, Wethersfield; St. Paul’s, Willimantic, St. Matthew’s, Wilton; All deacons and the Deacons’ Council, and the Province I School for Deacons

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
the Church in the Province of the West Indies

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

Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

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

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ST. THOMAS’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

Church: (203) 777-7623 ♦ www.stthomasnewhaven.org

Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org