



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Liturgy of the Word

January 3, 2021 10 A.M.

## INTROIT

In dulci jubilo

In dulci jubilo (*With sweet rejoicing*)  
 Let us our homage shew;  
 Our heart's joy reclineth  
 In praeseptio (*in a manger*)  
 And like a bright star shineth  
 Matris in gremio (*on his mother's lap*)  
 Alpha es et O. (*he is the Alpha and Omega*)  
 O Jesu parvule (*O tiny baby Jesus*)  
 I yearn for thee alway!  
 Hear me, I beseech thee,  
 O Puer optime (*O peerless boy*)  
 My prayer let it reach thee,  
 O Princeps gloriae (*O prince of glory*)  
 Trahe me post te. (*draw me to you*)

O Patris caritas (*O love of the Father*)  
 O Nati lenitas (*O graciousness of the Son*)  
 Deeply were we stained  
 Per nostra crimina (*through our sins*)  
 But thou has for us gained  
 Coelorum gaudia (*the joys of heaven*)  
 O that we were there!  
 Ubi sunt gaudia, where, (*Joys are there*)  
 If that they be not there?  
 There are angels singing  
 Nova cantica (*a new song*)  
 There the bells are ringing  
 In Regis curia (*in the court of the King*)  
 O that we were there!

Words: Heinrich Seuse (1295–1366) Music: Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795–1856)

## CHRISTMAS INVITATION TO WORSHIP

*The Presider lights the Christmas candle and then says the following prayer*

Glory to you, Giver of all good gifts! We offer you glad thanks and praise for every blessing from your love, and especially for the best gift of yourself in the child Jesus. **Amen.**

## HYMN

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child (247, *The Hymnal 1982*)

*Burden*

Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou lit - tle tin - y child, bye - bye, lul -

ly lul - lay. 1 O sis - ters, too, how may we do  
 2 He - rod the King, in his rag - ing  
 3 That woe is me, poor child for thee!

for to pre - serve this day this poor young - ling for  
 charg - ed he hath this day his men of might, in  
 And ev - ery morn and day, for thy part - ing nor

*Repeat Burden after verse 3*

whom we sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?  
 his own sight, all young chil - dren to slay.  
 say nor sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?

Words: Coventry carol, 15th cent. Music: *Coventry Carol*, melody from *Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*, 15th cent.;  
 harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,  
 "Save, O LORD, your people,  
 the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
 among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
 those in labor, together;  
 a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
 and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
     in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
 for I have become a father to Israel,  
     and Ephraim is my firstborn.  
 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
     and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
 say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
     and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."  
 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
     and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
     and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
     and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
 their life shall become like a watered garden,  
     and they shall never languish again.  
 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
     and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
 I will turn their mourning into joy,  
     I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
     and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
 says the LORD.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 84

Edward John Hopkins

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
     My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
     my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
     and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
     by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
     my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
     they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
     whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
     for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
     and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
 hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
 and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
 than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
 he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
 from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, \*  
 happy are they who put their trust in you!

**THE SECOND LESSON**

EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-19

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ALLELUIA**

(120, *Enriching Our Music 2*)

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the bass line providing a steady accompaniment.



Setting: South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana © Gobingca Mxadana.  
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Cantor: The LORD is King, and hath put on glorious apparel:  
The LORD hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.

*The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.*

## THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:13-15, 19-23

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

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

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

*Presider and People*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### *Presider*

In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, “God of love, hear our prayer.”

### *Intercessor and People*

Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and reconciliation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel's good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Multitudes of heavenly host proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for justice and liberation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, because there was no room at the inn. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, and at the last day gather us all in your eternal life. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the concerns and gratitude of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud. *[You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.]*

*Presider*

God of love, the feast of Christmas reminds us that you are with us at all times and in all places; hear our prayer, and send your Holy Spirit to guide us more certainly upon the way of your Holy Child, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

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

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **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](http://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

Angels we have heard on high (96, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

## 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 of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## CHRISTMAS BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Presider*

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Presider:** Let us bless the Lord.

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

## VOLUNTARY

Deck the hall (a la Mozart)

Arranged by Dan Coates

*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.*

**The Church Office** reopens Monday, January 4.

**Vestry Nominations are open!** Please get your nominations for parish leadership to Kyle Holton by January 11.

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### Serving Today

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert

**Musician:** Dr. Noah Horn

**Lectors:** Bill English, Bob Herdt

**Intercessor:** Jocelyn Tidwell

### This Week’s Prayer Intentions

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

Sally, Bonnie, Franklin

**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:**

St. Paul’s, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; St. Peter’s, Cheshire; For all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them, especially IRIS - Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, New Haven and the Let My People Go Ministry Network

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

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

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

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine

### 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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**ST. THOMAS’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL**

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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)