



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 10, 2017 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. Though other churches make the claim, ours really is the Best Coffee Hour in Connecticut. Please consider filling out a blue visitor information card (found in your pew rack). You can request a name tag using the form in the pew rack or the sheet at the entrance. Next Sunday your new name tag will be waiting for you on the table in the foyer inside the main church entrance.

To follow along with the service all you need is this service bulletin.

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

For the celebration of Holy Eucharist, the People gather around the altar. While this may be unfamiliar to you, most find it to be a powerful experience of true communion at our common table.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. There are usually two communion stations, one at each front corner of the altar. **Gluten-free bread** is available at each station. **Non-alcoholic wine** is available only from the single server at the center of the altar. 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.

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

Church Phone: (203) 777-7623 www.stthomasnewhaven.org
Day School Phone: (203) 776-2123 www.stthomasday.org

The Rev. Keri Aubert—Priest-in-Charge pastor@stthomasnewhaven.org
Simon Jacobs—Director of Music and Organist music@stthomasnewhaven.org
Julie Kelly—Administrator, Parish and Property administrator@stthomasnewhaven.org
Matthew Babcock—Seminarian Intern
Gina Panza—Head of Day School gpanza@stthomasday.org
Eric Gregory Snow—Day School Chaplain chaplain@stthomasday.org

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden heiland, BWV 659
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymn 59: Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding, *The Hymnal 1982*

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 - pect - 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)

OPENING ACCLAMATION & PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

A parishioner says this prayer as another lights two advent candles

Come, O Holy One, as the water of life and refiner's fire! Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice that in all the creation and among every people your peace may be established and your joy abound, through Jesus our Deliverer. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (*sung by the choir*)

Missa super dixit Maria

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
 when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.
 The grass withers, the flower fades;
 but the word of our God will stand for ever.
 Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good tidings;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
 lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"
 See, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (*sung by the choir*)

Benedixisti, Domine

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
 you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
 and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
 and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
 that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
 and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Plainsong Tone I.2

SECOND LESSON

2 PETER 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymn 444: Blessed be the God of Israel, *The Hymnal 1982*



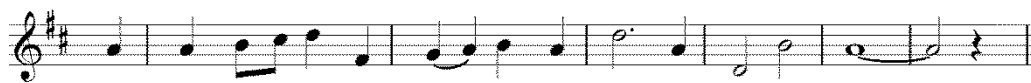
1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On pri - son - ers of dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace.____
 the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day.____
 O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease.____

Words: Michael A. Perry (b. 1942), alt.; para. of *The Song of Zechariah*;
 Music: *Thornbury*, Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

GOSPEL

MARK 1:1-8

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

After the Sermon, there follows a short period of silent reflection. Then 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Priest

O Wisdom from on high, Holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. In this Advent season of anticipation and longing, we pray to you, saying, “O come, O come, Emmanuel.”

Intercessor

Inspire and strengthen your universal church. Help your ministers, lay and ordained, carry the Good News of salvation to all who await the signs 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 injustice and conflict, into the freedom of justice and peace. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Inspire all people to be grateful occupants and faithful keepers of your wondrous creation. Help us protect and preserve the earth, its lands and waters, and all its inhabitants. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Uphold and guide 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, or depressed this holiday season. Help them find peace, joy, hope, and love. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Sustain those troubled by sickness, poverty, or violence. Help them overcome adversity, so that they may be renewed. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Bring into your glorious presence those who have died. Help all people 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.

Celebrant

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Priest

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

Priest 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.**

*The People greet one another with a sign of peace, and then are seated for brief announcements. After the announcements, the People remain seated for the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the collection is taken.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Fuit homo missus a Deo

*Fuit homo missus a Deo, cui nomen erat Joannes.
Hic venit in testimonium,
ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine,
et pareret Domino plebem perfectam.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

This man came as a witness,
to give testimony about the light,
and to prepare for the Lord a perfect people.

Words: John 1:6-7, alt.; Music: G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)

During the singing of the Offertory Hymn, the Ushers carry the gifts forward. The People follow and encircle the altar. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Small children may sit with a caregiver on the floor in front of the altar. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If you are unable to stand, you may sit in one of the chairs arranged near the altar, move to the front row of pews, or remain where you are.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Hymn 54: Savior of the nations, come!, *The Hymnal 1982*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397);
tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938);

Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpus (1560?-1616)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

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

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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 AND BENEDICTUS *(sung by the choir)*

Missa super dixit Maria

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

God of power and might,

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

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, the mother of Jesus, 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

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, for ever and ever. Amen. |
|---|---|

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

AGNUS DEI *(sung by the choir)*

Missa super dixit Maria

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis
pacem.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away 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. 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 any station. Non-alcoholic wine is available from the server at the center of the altar. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

How beautiful upon the mountains

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;
that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Words: Isaiah 52:7; Music: John Stainer (1840-1901)

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

THE POST-COMMUNION 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.**

THE BLESSING

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

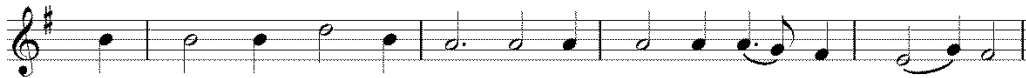
Hymn 65: Prepare the way, O Zion, *The Hymnal 1982*



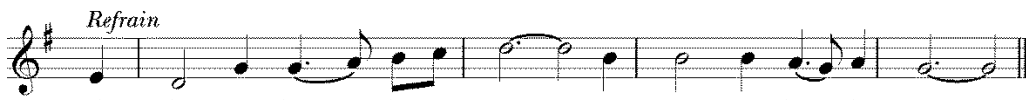
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999);
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

DISMISSAL

Priest: *[A priest dismisses the people.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sinfony (from *Messiah*)
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

*Unless otherwise indicated, all printed music and anthem texts are used by permission.
Reprinted under CCLI License #11291249. All rights reserved.*

About Today's Service Music

Today's mass setting, Hassler's *Missa super dixit Maria* (best translated as *Mass based on "Mary said"*) is sung by the choir, as a special offering for the season of Advent. Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612) was a German-born composer, organist, and organ-builder of the late Renaissance period. He was one of the first to study in Italy, and was heavily influenced by the Venetian School of composers of the late sixteenth century.

Missa super dixit Maria is based on musical themes from Hassler's motet, *Dixit Maria*, which sets the incarnation text of Luke 1:38 (Mary said to the Angel: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me, according to your word). It was very common for composers of the period to write masses based on their own liturgically-themed pieces, and the two are often performed together.

Announcements

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

It’s Stewardship Season! Don’t forget to return your pledge card. If you’ve already returned it, thank you!

TODAY: Lector/intercessor training after church. This is a REQUIRED training, so please come if you can. For those who can’t make it, a makeup session will be scheduled for January.

Christmas Flowers Offerings: Please submit all donations by next Sunday, December 17. Please consider donating to the Christmas Flower Fund! Besides the importance of flowers to our beautiful Christmas celebration, you can make a gift in honor or memory of someone important to you. Giving envelopes are in the pews; you can also donate via the DONATE button on the St. Thomas's website, or by scanning the QR code on an "I give electronically" chit in the pew rack.

Our Last Sunday Forums for Advent: December 17 – The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp: THE MAGNIFICAT. Dr. Sharp will also be preaching during the 10 a.m. service. What does Mary’s “song of reversals” tell us about humility and power? The Rev. Carolyn Sharp, Ph.D., is a professor at Yale Divinity School who teaches the poetics and theology of Hebrew Scripture texts as resources for preaching. She will lead a discussion of this beloved New Testament text, which has its roots in the Song of Hannah. Afterwards, worship will *twice* include the *Magnificat*: a choral setting and a hymnodized setting.

Thank you!!! to all who helped to make our ever-wonderful Lessons & Carols service more beautiful than ever! Thanks especially to Simon Jacobs and the St. Thomas's Choir for the glorious music, and to Sally Edwards and Matt Babcock for the church decorations.

Alternative Giving for Christmas. Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Please consider making a donation in their honor to the nonprofit of your choice. One easy option is to click on the DONATE button on our website - from there you can donate to some of our favorite groups: Episcopal Relief & Development, Loaves & Fishes, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the St. Thomas's Day School Scholarship Fund. In addition, Katherine Vaillancourt & Derek Stefanovsky are collecting funds for the Anglican school and hospital we have joined them in supporting in Northern Malawi—contact them directly. **Let's see how far St. Thomas's can spread Christmas cheer!**

Don’t forget to order your luminaries. See Wednesday’s Enews for details. There is an order form at the main church entrance.

Evening Prayer at St. Thomas's – Every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Are you interested in deepening your life of prayer while building relationship with our community? Please join us every Tuesday night in the Lady Chapel, as we lift the joys and concerns of our community. Our service begins at 6:00PM, and all are invited.

Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus Winter Concert. Did you know that the CtGMC rehearses in our gym? Did you know that their performances are FABULOUS? Let's support them even more with a great turnout for their winter concert, which is scheduled for performances on December 10, 16, and 17. More information is at www.ctgmc.org.

Looking Ahead: Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation Class. Have you yet to be confirmed? Were you confirmed in another tradition, and would you like to explore more deeply what it means to be an Episcopalian? Were you confirmed in The Episcopal Church but wish to reaffirm your statement of faith? Keri is now assembling a group of people in these categories for a preparation class the will begin around February 1. If you're at all interested, please contact Keri now.

IRIS Winter Clothing Drive. IRIS is collecting coats, hats, gloves, scarves, & boots for members of refugee families. They are especially in need of boots (all children's sizes and men's sizes 6-10.) Items may be new or gently used and cleaned. St. Thomas's will have a collection box—look for more information to come.

Christmas Office Closing. The church office will be closed Friday, December 22, through Monday, January 1.

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

Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Julie Kelsey
Preacher: Matthew Babcock, Seminarian Intern
Assisting: The Rev. Keri Aubert, Priest-in-Charge
Organist and Choir Director: Simon Jacobs
Emcee: Dr. Dorothy Asch
Eucharistic Minister: Ricardo Chavira
Crucifer: Michael Dunlap
Torchbearers: Christopher Martinez, Katherine Schilling
Lectors: Jennifer Herdt, Susan Fernandez
Vestry Host: Don Edwards
Sacristans: Valerie Echols, Sara Misgen
Ushers/Greeters: Drew McDermott, Gail Curran, Katie Coleman
Coffee Hour Hosts: Gary Robison, Alexandria Robison, Julie & David Kelsey, Lanna & Ned Moore, Megan Ifill

The sanctuary candles for Advent were funded by a gift in memory of Jan Marenholz.

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, including:
Dorothy, Greg, Katie, Lee, Luann, Marilyn, Parke

Pray for those who have died

In St. Thomas's Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
Dwight Miller, Anthony Stowers, Ned Moore, Lanna Moore, Lucille, Beatrix, Josephine

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
Christ Church, Bethany; St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield; For the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk

Prayer for Knowledge of God's Creation (BCP, p. 827): Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Officers and Vestry
Joann Sweasy (Senior Warden)
Don Edwards (Junior Warden)
Alexander Scherer (Treasurer)
Sarah Insley (Clerk)
Anne Harrison (Assistant Treasurer)
Laura Bower-Phipps
Michael Fournier
Daniel Harrison
Martha Deeds Hogan
Kevin Johnson
Chris Martinez
Tom Radice
Jennifer Regan
Christopher Ritacco
The Rev. Keri Aubert (Priest-in-Charge)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests
The Rev. Dexter Cheney
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan
The Rev. Julie Kelsey
The Rev. Bill Loutrel
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp
The Rev. Lee McGee Street
The Rev. Dr. Parke Street
The Rev. Dr. Lynda Z. Tyson

Church Ministry Coordinator
Dr. Dorothy Asch—Volunteer Lay Assistant

Day School Board of Trustees
Gina Panza—Head of School
The Rev. Keri Aubert—President, Day School Corp.
Jonathan Macey (Chair)
Gina Criscuolo (Vice-Chair)
Tracey Meares (Treasurer)
Jeralyn Fantarella (Secretary)
Alex Babbidge
Frank Chang
Don Edwards
John Forrest
Jennifer McTiernan
Eileen O'Donnell
Kenneth Paul
Kathryn Scherer
Denise Terry

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

(203) 777-7623

www.stthomasnewhaven.org

