



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

March 22, 2020

10 A.M.

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## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCE

*Officiant*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

## HYMN

Rock of ages (685, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,  
3 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,  
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;  
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

## THE CONFESSION

*Officiant*

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

*Officiant 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.

*Officiant*

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

## THE INVITATORY

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## VENITE

*Officiant and People*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \***  
    **let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**  
**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \***  
    **and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**  
**For the Lord is a great God, \***  
    **and a great King above all gods.**  
**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \***  
    **and the heights of the hills are his also.**  
**The sea is his, for he made it, \***  
    **and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

### **PSALM 23**

*Officiant and People*

**1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**

**3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

A Reading from 1 Samuel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The

LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Here ends the Lesson.

## **CANTICLE 9**

The First Song of Isaiah

*Officiant and People*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \***  
**and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \***  
**from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say, \***  
**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***  
**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \***  
**and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***  
**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

JOHN 9:1-41

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’

Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Here ends the Lesson.

*Officiant and People*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
 and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
 For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
 deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
 But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
 and his glory will appear upon you.  
 Nations will stream to your light, \*  
 and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
 Your gates will always be open; \*  
 by day or night they will never be shut.  
 They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
 The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
 Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
 ruin or destruction within your borders.  
 You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
 and all your portals, Praise.  
 The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
 by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
 The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
 and your God will be your glory.  
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## THE HOMILY

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Officiant and People*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

*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.**

Officiant: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**People: And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**People: Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**People: For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant: Let your way be known upon earth;

**People: Your saving health among all nations.**

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

*Officiant*

*(The Collect of the Day)* Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty)* God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. **Amen.** (*A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*, adapted)

*(A Prayer for Mission)* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and our prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The Officiant will add prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.*

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

HYMN

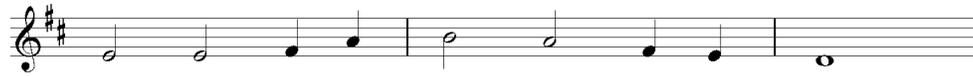
Come, thou fount (686, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my  
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er  
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good  
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering  
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me  
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from  
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt. Music: *Netleton*, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813;  
 harm. Gerre Hancock (b. 1934) Copyright ©1971 by Walton Music Corporation. International Copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

*The Officiant blesses the People.*

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

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

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Tocatta in C major

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562–1621), Tocatta (Ionian) no. 31

*After the Organ Voluntary, please stay online for virtual Coffee Hour.*



## Serving Today

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

**Musician:** Dr. Noah Horn

**Lectors:** Greg D'Andrea, Don Edwards

## This Week's Prayer Intentions

**Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:**  
all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

**Pray for those who have died.**

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

Grace Church, Hartford; St. Martin's, Hartford; St. Monica's, Hartford; ECCT Joint Leadership members of the Mission Council, Missionary Society, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry and Donations & Bequests

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

**In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:**  
Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

### Church Officers and 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 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

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## ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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