



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR C

Service of Holy Eucharist

March 27, 2022 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, WELCOME!

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service. Our expectation is that everyone who can be has been vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccine protection is not available to the very young or the immunocompromised, so your continued diligence is appreciated.

Please enter the church through the main doors and exit via the side door that opens onto Cliff Street. Please use the Ramp Door only if you need it. After the service, you're invited to the parking lot for coffee, snacks, and socially-distanced fellowship. Children may unwind in the playground.

The church spaces are not ventilated. The sanctuary provides room for social distancing, but we are eager to limit occupancy of smaller spaces. Therefore, **please avoid the sacristy and vesting room, and please do not linger in the narthex (the area inside the main doors), the restrooms, or the hallways.**

ALL are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. As a pandemic safety precaution, the People will be offered bread but not wine. Remember, the sacrament is complete and efficacious even when received in one kind only. Instructions for Holy Communion are included below at the appropriate point.

If you are new, please consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a nametag, and next Sunday it will be waiting on the table inside the main entrance.

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.

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.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and the St. Thomas's website. Bulletins are posted in the website's Bulletin Archive. To reduce printing, we encourage worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the service.

St. Thomas's Church is located on Eansketambawg (Quinnipiac) land. This acknowledgment compels us to pause: in gratitude for the Quinnipiac and other Algonquin-speaking stewards of the territory that is now Connecticut; in regret for Christianity's participation in the colonization of the Americas; and in faith that God's reconciling power will bring true healing to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

VOLUNTARY

Intermezzo

Joseph Rheinberger (1839–1901), Sonata no. 8 in E minor, Op. 132 (1882)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Presider

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

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.**

- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his
 2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and
 3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -
 4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,
 al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
 vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels
 I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.
 as his friends and loves us as we are.
 but a face, a per - son, and a name.
 cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

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THE GOSPEL

LUKE 15:1-3,11-32

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

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So Jesus told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I

will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, all remain seated for a period of silence. At the bidding of the Presider, 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 [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

Intercessor and People

Even the most barren landscapes contain seeds of life awaiting a season favorable for emergence. With gratitude for God's creative and re-creative power, we pray for the church and for the world.

We pray for Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic church, that all who proclaim Jesus' name may find unity of purpose in humble service to others. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for all in authority around the world, including the elected and appointed officials of this nation, that they may see in every person the image of God. We pray especially for the President and Vice-President, Congress, Supreme Court, governors of all states, and mayors of all towns. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for all that you have created and named good, especially the land, sea, sky, and life surrounding us, that it may be cherished in the present and preserved for the future. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray that our nation will continue the turning necessary to resolve its sinful legacy of slavery and racism, that all Americans may at last attain the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for St. Thomas's Church and Day School, that we may continue to cultivate our unique gifts for making this a better world. During this period of Lenten preparation, we pray especially for our inquirers: Christy, Madeleine, and Ben. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for the children and youth of this and every community, that they may know love and safety, and grow in wisdom and kindness. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that they may find solace, strength, and healing. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for those who have died, that they may join the saints in your eternal glory. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for the intercessions and thanksgivings that we now name before you, either silently or aloud. [*You are invited to offer your prayer intentions.*]

Presider

God of compassion, hear the prayers of your people: help us look past the temporary desolation of our earthly trials, and reach toward the eternal majesty of your heavenly kingdom, where all divisions dissolve, all creation prospers, and all believers rejoice; we pray through our redeemer Jesus Christ, in our advocate the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

*Please remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. You may then be seated for brief announcements and the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the altar is prepared.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. We will not be passing a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. 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 may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Deep river

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

Oh don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?

Words: Traditional Music: Harry T. Burleigh (1866–1949), 1917

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You may be seated. All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. Special pandemic precautions are in place for Holy Communion. The People come forward roughly from closest to farthest, while maintaining social distancing. You will be offered bread only. Approach the priest with your hands extended, and the priest will place a wafer in them. Do not consume the wafer immediately. Instead, return to your seat and then raise your mask to consume the wafer.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Wash me throughly

Wash me throughly from my wickedness,
and forgive me all my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults,
and my sin is ever before me.

Words: Psalm 51:2-3 Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876), c1840

After all have received communion, all stand for the hymn.

HYMN

There's a wideness in God's mercy (469, *The Hymnal* 1982)



1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure



of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy
ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would



with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt.
Music: *St. Helena*, Calvin Hampton (1938-1984) Copyright ©1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Presider

Bow down before the Lord. [*Silence is kept.*] Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who stand before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

You may be seated or exit. You are welcome to stay for fellowship.

VOLUNTARY

Scherzoso

Joseph Rheinberger (1839–1901), Sonata no. 8 in E minor, Op. 132 (1882)

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Announcements

Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and "like" St. Thomas's on Facebook.

To keep up with the latest parish events and information, please see the most recent edition of the Weekly Parish Enews. From the Home page of the Parish website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), you can go to the Enews archive or subscribe to have future editions delivered to your email inbox.

Easter Flower & Music Offerings. Your gift contributes to our beautiful Easter celebration, *and* it may be made in honor or memory of someone important to you. All donations will be listed in the Easter Vigil and Easter Day bulletins and in the April 14 Enews. Giving envelopes are at the doors; you may donate by check or online (by clicking the DONATE button on the St. Thomas's website). Please indicate whether your gift is for flowers and/or music. **For inclusion in the Easter bulletins, we must have your donation by MONDAY, April 11, at noon.**

Coffee Hour. You are invited to consider hosting coffee hour at St. Thomas's following Sunday worship. You may either prepare coffee (and tea, cocoa, etc.) in the church kitchen or bring it from a local retailer. Treats optional! To sign up for one or more weeks: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABA92CA0F49-coffee>. /Contact Jennifer Herdt at jherdt44@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for contributing to our time of fellowship.

"My Beloved is Mine": The Elm City Consort joined by Schola Antiqua of St. Thomas's featuring Sherezade Panthaki, soprano. St. Thomas's Church, Sunday, April 3, 5 p.m. Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/my-beloved-is-mine-music-inspired-by-the-biblical-song-of-songs-tickets-296698421967>. An exploration of how the sensual texts of Song of Songs have inspired composers over several centuries. Music by Lassus, Schütz, Buxtehude, Purcell, Handel and more. The audience is required to wear masks throughout the performance. Singers will perform without masks based on vaccination status and Covid testing before the performance. A free will offering will be collected.

Bible Study, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. We're currently using the Women in the Bible course from Yale Divinity School. Details in the Enews.

Young Adult Episcopalians in the greater New Haven Area (YAE): Stations of the Cross Walking Tour and Dinner: April 8, 2021, 5:30 PM, Downtown New Haven. Young Adult Episcopalians is planning a Stations of the Cross Walking Tour on the New Haven Green (with dinner following). See the Enews for links.

The Way of the Cross for Holy Week. Building Faith (Virginia Theological Seminary) has created a video version of the Way of the Cross. **Keri** also created a Way of the Cross video that you can just click and play. It lasts about 30 minutes. Enews for links.

ECCT Annual Spring Training & Gathering - In progress! Through Saturday, April 2 (workshops online; plenary online and in person). The hybrid plenary on April 2 will feature the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers discussing God's invitation to *A Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other and the Spirit of Transformation*. See the Enews for links to information and registration.

Holy Week & Easter

PALM SUNDAY ♦ APRIL 10

10 A.M. Liturgy of the Palms, Procession with Bagpipes, & Holy Eucharist
The service will begin on the Robbins Hall lawn (weather permitting)

MAUNDY THURSDAY ♦ April 14

7 P.M. Liturgy of the Word & Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY ♦ April 15

7 P.M. Good Friday Liturgy

HOLY SATURDAY ♦ April 16

7 P.M. The Great Vigil of Easter & Holy Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY ♦ April 17

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist

ALL SERVICES IN PERSON AND STREAMING ON ZOOM:
<https://zoom.us/j/5185223842> (USUAL CHURCH LINK)



Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Lector: William English

Intercessor: Madeleine Anderson

Sacristan: Madeleine Anderson

Usher: Gary Robison

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for this year's inquirers:

Christy, Madeleine, Ben

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Katie (Coleman), Leon (Denise Terry's brother-in-law), Lily (Madeleine Anderson's mother), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:

the people of Ukraine

Pray for those who have died, especially:

Sister Kathleen Franklin (Denise Terry's aunt)

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

All Saints', Meriden; St. Andrew's, Meriden; Christ Church, Middle Haddam; St. George's, Middlebury; The Program & Budget Committee, Faith & Order Commission; Convention planning committee; Convention worship committee

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

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

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Valerie Garlick Claire Scully

Sara Zampierin

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Music Intern

Ike Harijanto

Day School Board of Trustees

John Forrest (Chair)

Greg Mokotoff (Vice-Chair)

Heather Tookes Alexopoulos (Treasurer)

Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)

Christopher Cavallaro Luk De Volder

Don Edwards William English

Jeralyn Fantarella Robert Herdt

Otoniel Reyes Chris Vigilante

Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden)

Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

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