



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist
with the Holy Baptism of Cooper Thomas Martinez

December 18, 2022 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, WELCOME!

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service and any time you are inside, regardless of vaccination status. Our expectation is that everyone who can be has been vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Very young children and people who are immunocompromised lack vaccine protection, so your continued diligence is appreciated.

There is no mechanical air exchange in the church portions of the building. We are eager to limit occupancy of smaller spaces, so please avoid the Sacristy and Vesting Room, and please do not linger in the narthex (the area inside the main doors), restrooms, or hallways. The Lounge has high efficiency air filters but no mechanical air exchange.

All church spaces are accessible. Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp are located in back of the building; a lift for access to the second floor is located at the stairway.

Restrooms are located on the second floor. Go through the double doors near the pulpit, upstairs to the second floor, and to the far end of the hallway. A **restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit. All restrooms are all-gender single-use.

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.

After the service, please stay for food and fellowship. Coffee hour is hosted either outside behind the building (exit via the side door facing Cliff Street and walk around to the back) or in the Lounge (exit via the double doors near the pulpit and go upstairs to the second floor; the Lounge is at the end of the hall). Children may unwind in the kindergarten playground behind the building.

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 nave are reserved for **families with small children**: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the two areas in front of the front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

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

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her

Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN

How bright appears the Morning Star (497, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn-ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
 2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a
 3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
 pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
 fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
 the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
 In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:
 phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
 Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608). Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

Presider: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Presider: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: **One God and Father of all.**

Presider

Come, O Holy One, as the beloved child, Emmanuel! Soften our hearts and open our arms for your coming that we may make this a place worthy and warm, kindly and safe for all your children, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

239, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*

Leader
 Ky - ri - e

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e

Chri - te

e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i -

son. Ky - ri - e

son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri -

e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

(o)

Music: Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1938), *Freedom Mass*. Based on traditional African melodies. Copyright © 1975 Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by permission.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 *(sung by the Choir)*

David Hurd

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.



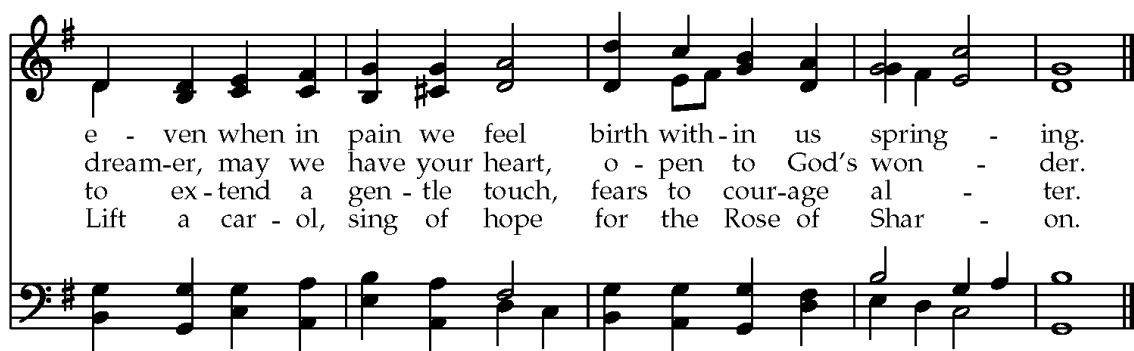
1 Ma - ry, when the an - gel's voice called you high - ly fa - vored,
 2 Jo - seph, in your dark-est night, an - gel mes - sage hear - ing,
 3 Old and sage E - liz - a - beth, birth an - ti - ci - pat - ing,
 4 God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your child - ren mat - ter.



dread and joy in your heart mixed, pon - dered there and sa - vored.
 you cast not your love a - side, scorn and an - ger fear - ing.
 nur - tur - ing your cous - in's will, you taught hope - ful wait - ing.
 From op - pres - sion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.



May we learn to wel - come all that our life is bring - ing,
 When a loved one brings us grief, rips our world a - sun - der,
 So, as wo - men long have done, may we nev - er fal - ter,
 Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, 'tho all seems bar - ren.



e - ven when in pain we feel birth with - in us spring - ing.
 dream - er, may we have your heart, o - pen to God's won - der.
 to ex - tend a gen - tle touch, fears to cour - age al - ter.
 Lift a car - ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Shar - on.

Words: Carol Goodwin King © 1997 Carol Goodwin King. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Music: *Tempus adest floridum*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. Tom Whittemore © Tom Whittemore.
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THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1:18-25

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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. Then all stand.

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR HOLY BAPTISM

The Presider says

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The candidate is presented by his Parents and Godparents

I present Cooper Thomas Martinez to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Presider asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Presider

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

The Presider asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the child

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as our Savior?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer: I do.

The Presider addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People: We will.

The Presider then says these or similar words

Let us join with this child and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: 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.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Presider: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People: I will, with God's help.

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE AND FOR THE WORLD

Presider

Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth, and for the welfare of the whole world.

Intercessor

Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open his heart to your grace and truth. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send him into the world in witness to your love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Unite your church and all your people. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of every nation and land. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Protect the earth and all its inhabitants. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Help us fulfill our baptismal promises through service to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deliver all who live in danger, sickness or need. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Hold the living and the dead in the communion of all your saints. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Presider

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Presider blesses the water, first saying

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Presider continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Presider touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The Presider pours water upon the candidate, saying

Cooper Thomas Martinez, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Presider prays over the candidate, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Presider uses chrism to mark the sign of the cross on the person's forehead, saying
Cooper Thomas, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

A candle lit from the Paschal Candle is presented to the newly baptized with the words
Receive the light of Christ as a sign of the new life enkindled within you.

Presider

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Presider and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

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 financial support is sincerely appreciated. We will not pass a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online, go to the Church website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If viewing this document electronically, simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Keep your lamps

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.

Christian, journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Words: Traditional Spiritual Music: André J. Thomas (b. 1952), 1982

*During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Presider sets the table, and the People come forward to encircle the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If this is difficult for you, please feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Blest be the King whose coming (74, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Descant

3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
 God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
 God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All

barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
 God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

things are in his hand, all a - ges and all

power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
 Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
 bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Federico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), alt. Copyright © 1974, by Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Harmonization Copyright © 1984, Ronald Arnatt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930).

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

Celebrant *People*
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
 It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

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

Holy, holy, holy, Lord (256, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)

Leader
(piano) Ho - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow'r_ and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

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, 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

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God (271, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)

Leader

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:

Response

grant us peace.

Music: Eugene W. Hancock (b. 1929). Copyright © 1992 Eugene W. Hancock.

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

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of communion, the priest will come to you. Extend your hands, and the priest will place the bread in them. Please return to your seat before you raise your mask to consume it. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Ave Maria

Ave Maria gratia plena Dominus tecum
benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus.

Sancta Maria ora pro nobis peccatoribus
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Words: Luke 1:28,31; Petrus Canisius (1521–1597), 1555 Music: Charles-François Gounod (1818–1893), 1859

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION 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.**

ADVENT BLESSING

Presider


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 he 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 his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**


HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel (56, *The Hymnal* 1982)


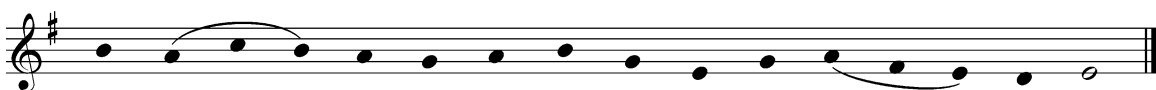
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church.

VOLUNTARY

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her
 Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

Announcements

For all the latest news and information, see last week's edition of the *Weekly Parish Enews*. From the Parish website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), click **Enews Archive** for the latest edition or **Enews (subscribe)** to subscribe.

A graphic illustration of a nativity scene under a starry night sky. In the center is a stable with the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus. To the left, a line of people leads a donkey and oxen. To the right, three camels are led by a man. In the background, a small town is visible on the left and a church on the right. The title 'Christmas at St. Thomas's' is at the top, with the address 'St. Thomas's Episcopal Church, 830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven' below it.

Christmas at St. Thomas's
St. Thomas's Episcopal Church, 830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24, 5:00 P.M.
Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist with St. Thomas's Choir
In person (face masks required) & on Zoom (meeting ID: 2506069964)

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25 – No Worship

Feast of the Holy Name: Sunday, January 1, 10:00 A.M.
Holy Eucharist (simple service without formal music)

We have returned to our pre-pandemic practice of gathering around the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. Please follow the instructions at the appropriate point in the bulletin.

Christmas Offerings to St. Thomas's. Please consider making a seasonal gift to the church. You may designate it as general donation, or direct it to the flower fund or the music fund. All memorial and honorarial gifts will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin and the Enews. Giving envelopes are in the pews and at the doors; you can also donate by check or online using [this link](#). For inclusion in the Christmas bulletin, we must have your donation by **TOMORROW, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19.**

SAVE THE DATE: Concert in Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of St. Thomas's Church: Sunday, January 29, 4 p.m. Details to come.

Parish Prayer List. Every week, the Enews includes a list of Prayer Intentions. The hope is that parishioners pray these intentions during their regular prayer practice. Included with the Prayer Intentions is our Parish prayer list, which includes parishioners as well as others we are asked to pray for. On January 1, we are clearing out that list and starting over. If there is someone you would like to include, please email Keri+ or Julie. Because folks don't always remember to tell us when a person can come off the list, we will remove them after three months unless you request otherwise.

Celebration of Kwanzaa, St. Luke's Church, New Haven: Wednesday, December 28, 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the ECCT Racial Healing, Justice & Reconciliation Ministry Network. If you plan to attend, please use the registration link in the Enews.

Save the Dates: Upcoming Ordinations. Day School Chaplain Jill Morrison will be ordained priest on Saturday, January 7, at 10 a.m. at Christ Church Quaker Farms, Oxford, CT. Meg Stapleton Smith, this Parish's sponsee for ordination, will be ordained priest on Tuesday, February 14, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas' Church, Bethel, CT. Your prayers and presence are requested.

Sunday School. The children of St. Thomas's will present a pageant on Christmas Eve at the 5 p.m. service. We will have one practice on Sunday, December 18 from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. Please meet in church in the area under the cranes. Please be in touch with Denise Terry if you have any questions.

It's Nominations Season. Our Parish Annual Meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, February 5. An important task is electing parish leadership, and to that end we're recruiting Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates. To make a nomination, contact Senior Warden Jennifer Herdt or Keri+.

Thursdays during Advent: Advent Unbound: A Companion to Pádraig Ó Tuama's "Poetry Unbound": 7:30pm, December 1, 8, 5, & 22. See the Enews for details.

Winter Weather is Coming! In case of inclement winter weather, rather than cancel church altogether, we will switch to Zoom only. See the Enews for details.

Register today for a 2-Day VISIONS, Inc. Workshop. VISIONS Inc. is offering workshops for those interested in expanding ideas & creating community around concepts of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. See the Enews.



Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Eucharistic Minister: Madeleine Anderson

Lector: Jenny Chavira

Intercessor: William English

Sacristan: Claire Scully

Usher: Claire Scully

Coffee Hour: Max Ballardo & Trudi Schultz

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

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

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
the people of Ukraine

Pray for those who have died.

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

St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgeport; For the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Anglican Church of Korea

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical

Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Madeleine Anderson

Valerie Cicero

Claire Scully

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Day School Board of Trustees

John Forrest (Chair)

Greg Mokotoff (Vice-Chair)

Christopher Cavallaro (Treasurer)

Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)

Renu Boatwright

William English

Robert Herdt

Ken Paul

Robert Tait

Chris Vigilante

Susan Zhang

Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden)

Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org

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Dr. Noah Horn, Music Director ♦ n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org
Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org
Gina Panza, Head of School ♦ gpanza@stthomasday.org