



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 19, 2021 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, **WELCOME!**

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service.

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.

Remember, 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.** It will be hard, but please save your social interactions for outside after the service.

Our expectation is that everyone who can be has been vaccinated against COVID-19. Be aware that the youngest among us cannot yet be vaccinated, and their parents will have made the tough decision to bring them to church anyway. Therefore, **please be extra careful about masking and social distancing when you are near children under 12 years old.**

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 all the 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.

INTROIT

Jerusalem surge et sta in excelso

Jerusalem surge et sta in excelso
et vide jucunditatem quae veniet tibi a Deo tuo.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

Words: Baruch 5:5, 4:36 Music: Heinrich Isaac (c1450–1517)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Presider says the following prayer as the Advent candles are lit

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, warm, kindly, and safe for all your children, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

TRISAGION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty (S 102, *The Hymnal 1982*)

The musical score is written for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal line.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*]

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.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
 and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15

The Song of Mary (*A New Zealand Prayer Book*)

Preisder and People

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
 my spirit rejoices in God my savior,
 for you Lord have looked with favor
 on your lowly servant:
 and from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

**You O Most Mighty have done great things for me:
 and holy is your name.**

**You have mercy on those who fear you:
 from generation to generation.**

**You have shown the strength of your arm:
 you have scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**You have cast down the mighty from their thrones:
 and have lifted up the lowly.**

**You have fulfilled the hungry with good things:
 and the rich you have sent away empty.**

**You have come to the help of your people
 for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
 the promise you made to our forbears:
 to Abraham and his children for ever.**

When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

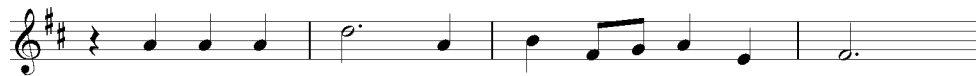
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord (427, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary* Copyright ©1962, Hope Publishing Company.
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THE GOSPEL

LUKE 1:39-55

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT

[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]

Presider and People

**Because of You, O God,
we are people of hope,
even though the night of winter is upon us.
Because of You, Divine Presence,
we are people of peace,
even though violent speech
and bared teeth surround us.**

Because of You, Christ who is coming,
we are people of joy,
even though the leaves have fallen
and the music has stopped.

Because of You, Spirit of Life,
we are people of love,
even though we see
the diminishment of human dignity all around us.

We call upon You, ever-blessed One,
for strength and purpose,
for gratitude and generosity,
for the grace to bring light,
and the nourishment of your grace,
and the thirst-quenching stream of your justice
into the world that You love
with an everlasting love.

Come among us and set us free. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

Intercessor and People

O Wisdom from on high, holy Word of God, you sustain the universe with infinite love and tender care. In this Advent season of longing and anticipation, we pray to you, saying, "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

Unite and uphold your universal church. Help your ministers, lay and ordained, carry the Good News of salvation to all who await the sign 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 oppression and strife, into the freedom of justice and peace. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Inspire all people to be grateful occupants and devoted caretakers of your wondrous creation. Help us preserve Earth's lands, waters, and atmosphere, and protect the creatures who inhabit them. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Accompany us as we navigate the losses of the pandemic and the uncertainties in our society. Help us find courage and companionship for all that lies ahead. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Comfort those who are grieving, lonely, discouraged, or depressed this holiday season. Help them find peace, joy, hope, and love. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Restore those suffering from sickness, poverty, violence, or addiction. Help them overcome adversity and find fullness of life. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Gather into your glorious presence those who have died. Help all Christians find resurrection in you. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Hear our additional prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, which we now offer either silently or aloud. *[You are invited to offer your prayer intentions.]*

Presider

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

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

Let us confess our sins to God. *[Silence is kept.]*

Presider 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.

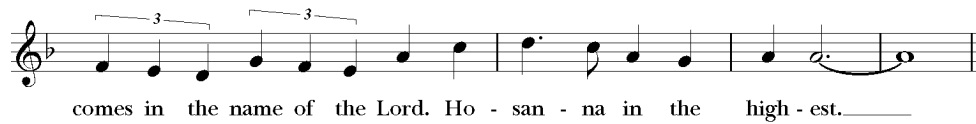
People: **And also with you.**

*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



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.

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

Et exultavit

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Words: Luke 1:47 Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), *Magnificat*, BWV 243 (c1733)

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

HYMN

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



(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



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

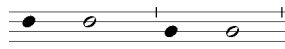


5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

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.



Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!



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

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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 the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

You may either exit the church or be seated for the Voluntary. You are invited to stay for fellowship.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in Eb major

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921), Op. 99 (1894)

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Announcements

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

Christmas Eve Worship. We'll have one service on Christmas Eve, at 5 p.m.

Christmas Offerings. 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 donate by check or using [this link](#). **For inclusion in the Christmas bulletin, we need your donation by TOMORROW.**

Coronavirus Concerns. Your parish leadership is concerned about the rising COVID-19 numbers but hoping to stay the course with in-person worship. Still, keep an eye on the Enews for any changes that might be coming.

Snow Closures. Snow season is approaching! In general, if New Haven restricts off-street parking, the church will be closed - but we will still have worship via Zoom. The decision to close will be conveyed via special Enews, Facebook, and the parish website.

Sunday Coffee Hour. Join us today after church for some social time with coffee and snacks, outside the church, after the service this Sunday. There will be no coffee hour at services on Christmas Eve, or the following two Sundays (12/26 and 1/2). To help plan coffee hour, please contact Denise Terry (terry.df@gmail.com).

Thursday Night Bible Study. The group is on hiatus but will return on January 6 with a program/format TBD. Stay tuned for more info.



Serving Today

Presider & President: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Eucharistic Minister: Ricardo Chavira

Lector: William English

Intercessor: Jennifer Herdt

Sacristan: Madeleine Anderson

Ushers: Gary Robison, Claire Scully

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Katie (Coleman), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially.

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 Church of the Province of Central Africa

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

China, Hong Kong, Macau

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Greg D'Andrea (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

Seminarian Interns

Ike Harijanto

Emma Wright

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

Ontoniel Reyes

Chris Vigilante

Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden)

Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

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