



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

Liturgy of the Word & Imposition of Ashes

March 2, 2022      7 P.M.

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**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.

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**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.

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## INTROIT

Call to remembrance, O Lord,  
Thy tender mercies and Thy loving kindness,  
which hath been ever of old.

Call to remembrance

O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth,  
but according to Thy mercy, think Thou on me,  
O Lord, for Thy goodness.

Words: Psalm 25:5-6    Music: Richard Farrant (d. 1580)

*At the invitation of the Presider, all stand.*

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

JOEL 2:1-2,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;

gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
“Where is their God?”

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM 103

*Presider and People*

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \***  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \***  
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins \***  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \***  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \***  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness \***  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \***  
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \***  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
    nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
    nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
    so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
    so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
    so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
    he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
    we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
    and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever  
    on those who fear him, \*  
    and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
    and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, \*  
    and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his,  
    you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
    and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, \*  
    you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his,  
    in all places of his dominion; \*  
    bless the LORD, O my soul.

## THE SECOND LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-6:10

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.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
    and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God

we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

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

*All stand.*

## HYMN

Forty days and forty nights (150, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
 2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
 2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
 3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
 4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
 5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

Words: George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870), alt.  
 Music: *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*, melody att. Martin Herbst (1654-1681), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

## THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 6:1-6,16-21

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

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

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**Presider:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*All are seated.*

## THE SERMON

*All stand.*

## THE INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

*Presider*

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Presider*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*All are seated except for the Inquirers, who come before the Congregation.*

*Presider*

These persons have been growing in an understanding of their call as Christians among us and now desire to undertake a more intense preparation to renew their baptismal covenant this coming Easter. Madeleine, Christy, and Ben, receive ashes as a symbol of repentance and conversion and show us by your example how to turn to Christ.

*The Presider imposes ashes on the Inquirers, and then the Inquirers impose ashes on the People, beginning with the Choir. Please proceed to the nearest station, and then return to your seat. The ashes are imposed with the words:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*During the imposition of ashes, the Choir sings the following anthem.*

### ANTHEM

Miserere mei Deus  
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam  
et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum  
dele iniquitatem meam  
  
amplius lava me ab iniustitate mea  
et a peccato meo munda me  
  
quoniam iniustatem meam ego cognosco  
et peccatum meum contra me est semper  
tibi soli peccavi  
et malum coram te feci  
  
ut justificeris in sermonibus tuis  
et vincas cum judicaris  
  
sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus  
cor contritum et humiliatum  
Deus non despicies  
  
benigne fac Domine in bona voluntate tua Sion  
ut aedificantur muri Jerusalem  
  
tunc acceptabis sacrificium justitiae  
oblationes et holocausta  
tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

Miserere mei Deus

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion  
blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.

Be favorable and gracious to Zion,  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,  
with burnt-offerings and oblations;  
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

Words: Psalm 51:1-5,18-20    Music: Gregorio Allegri (1582–1652)

## LITANY OF PENITENCE

*The People may stand or kneel.*

*Presider and People*

**Most holy and merciful Father:**

**We confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;  
**Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Presider*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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.*

## 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](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!*

## ANTHEM

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
Where moth and rust doth corrupt,  
and where thieves break through and steal,  
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
For where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be also.

Treasures in Heaven

Ask, and it shall be given you;  
Seek, and ye shall find;  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you,  
For every one that asketh receiveth,  
And he that seeketh findeth,  
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Words: Matthew 6:19-21,7:7-8    Music: Joseph W. Clokey (1890–1960), 1941

*All stand.*

## 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.

### A PRAYER OF COMMUNION *[The Rev. Keri Aubert]*

*Presider and People*

God of abundant love, we thank you for nurturing us with this holy gathering of holy people. When we are alone, remind us of the communion we share with one another and with you. When we are hungry, show us the banquet that you are preparing for the redemption of the world. Keep peace in our hearts, so that we can sow peace on the Earth, walking in gladness the way of your beloved child, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Presider*

Bow down before the Lord. *[Silence is kept.]* Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### HYMN

Lord, who throughout these forty days (142, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic - tory win,  
 3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, graci-ous Lord,  
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,  
 5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.  
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898) Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

## DISMISSAL

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Remember not, Lord, our offenses,  
nor the offenses of our forefathers,  
neither take thou vengeance of our sins,  
but spare us, good Lord, spare thy people,

Remember not, Lord, our offenses

whom thou hast redeemed  
with thy most precious blood,  
and be not angry with us for ever,  
spare us, good Lord.

Words: Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556) Music: Henry Purcell (1659–1695), Z. 50, c1679

*You may either exit the church or be seated for the Anthem.*

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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](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), you can go to the Enews archive or subscribe to have future editions delivered to your email inbox.

See the **latest news** for ideas for observing Lent and much more.



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## Serving Today

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Music Director:** Dr. Noah Horn  
**Lector:** Ben Schafer  
**Inquirers:** Madeleine Anderson, Christy Kim, Ben Schafer

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