



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Pageant

December 24, 2021

5 P.M.

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

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.

*Please sing along with all hymns/carols (while remaining muted).*

## VOLUNTARY

Of the Father's Love Begotten  
Wilbur Held (1914–2015), 1970

## OPENING ACCLAMATION & OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*The Presider lights the Christmas candle and then says the following prayer*

Glory to you, Giver of all good gifts! We offer you glad thanks and praise for every blessing from your love, and especially for the best gift of yourself in the child Jesus. **Amen.**

## HYMN

O come, all ye faithful (83, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a young woman: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

### THE FIRST LESSON

LUKE 1:26-35 (*Lucy Sheehan*)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and

the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

**HYMN**

It came upon the midnight clear (89, *The Hymnal 1982*)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

LUKE 2:1, 3-5 (*Annabel Sheehan*)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

**HYMN**

O little town of Bethlehem (79, *The Hymnal 1982*)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**THE THIRD LESSON**

LUKE 2:6-7 (*Luca D’Andrea*)

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**HYMN**

Away in a manger (101, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**THE FOURTH LESSON**

LUKE 2:8-14 (*Lucy Sheehan*)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**HYMN**Angels we have heard on high (96, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**THE FIFTH LESSON**LUKE 2:15-16 (*Luca D'Andrea*)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**HYMN**Once in royal David's city (102, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

**THE SIXTH LESSON**LUKE 2:17-20 (*Annabel Sheehan*)

When they shepherds saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**HYMN**We three kings of Orient are (128, *The Hymnal 1982*)

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heaven sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

**THE SEVENTH LESSON**MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11 (*Luca D'Andrea*)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

## HYMN

Hark! the herald angels sing (87, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings;  
mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!

## A FESTIVAL OF CRÈCHES

*A slideshow of crèches belonging to the People of St. Thomas's Church, with the following music*

In the bleak midwinter (*Julia Soojin Cavallaro*)

What child is this (*Samuel Kidd*)

O holy night (*Sherezade Panthaki & Maggie Lieberman*)

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

*Presider*

In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, "God of love, hear our prayer."

*Intercessor and People*

Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and reconciliation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel's good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Multitudes of heavenly host proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for justice and liberation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, because there was no room at the inn. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you gifted to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, and at the last day gather us all in your eternal life. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the concerns and gratitude of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud.  
*[You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.]*

*Presider*

God of love, the feast of Christmas reminds us that you are with us at all times and in all places; hear our prayer, and send your Holy Spirit to guide us more certainly upon the way of your Holy Child, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

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

**People: And also with you.**

*You are invited to exchange with one another a sign of peace.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. 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 can simply [CLICK HERE](#). Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!*

***As worship resumes, you are invited to light a candle.***

## ANTHEM

In the bleak mid-winter

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.  
Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty—  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.  
What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?—  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part,—  
Yet what I can I give him,—  
Give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830–1894), 1872 Music: Harold Darke (1888–1976), 1911

## 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.**

HYMN

Silent night, holy night (111, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,  
 Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
 peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
 Music: *Silte Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

**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.**



## CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **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

Joy to the world! the Lord is come (100, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## DISMISSAL

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Merry Christmas to all!*

## VOLUNTARY

Deck the hall (A la Mozart)

Dan Coates

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## *Christmas Offerings*

*Jakki Flanagan & Keri Aubert, in memory of  
Mary Ann & Pat Flanagan, Ginny & AJ Aubert, and Dorothy Asch*

*James Mansfield, in memory of  
Robert & Sharon Mansfield, Kenneth & Caroline Mansfield, and Roy Graham & Sally Lawson*

*Don & Sally Edwards, in thanksgiving for  
Our Parish Musicians*

*Dwight Miller*

*Gary Robison*

## *And heartfelt gratitude to ...*

*Denise Terry and the Children of the Parish,  
for tonight's pageant and the joy you always set in our hearts*

*The St. Thomas's Choir,  
for helping us to worship God in the beauty of music  
(\* Section Leader)*

### ***Soprano***

*Jennifer A. Herdt  
Alexandria Robison  
\* Maggie Lieberman  
\* Sherezade Panthaki*

### ***Alto***

*Ike Harijanto  
Linda Meyer  
Heather Robison  
\* Julia Cavallaro*

### ***Tenor***

*\* Noah Horn*

### ***Bass***

*Robert Herdt  
\* Samuel Kidd*



*Wishing you and yours a very  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
and a  
**BLESSED NEW YEAR!***

## Announcements

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

Along with the Day School, the church office is closed until Monday, January 3.

Our Rector, the Rev. Keri Aubert, is on sabbatical for the month of January. The Rev. Dexter Cheney is graciously providing pastoral and liturgical leadership. 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.



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### Serving Today

**Presider:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Music Director:** Dr. Noah Horn  
**Intercessor:** Don Edwards

### 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. Mark’s, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville; St. Paul’s, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; For soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

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

Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

### 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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ST. THOMAS’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL  
830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511  
Church: (203) 777-7623 ♦ [www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)

The Rev. Keri Aubert, Rector ♦ [k.aubert@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:k.aubert@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Dr. Noah Horn, Music Director ♦ [n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ [j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Gina Panza, Head of School ♦ [gpanza@stthomasday.org](mailto:gpanza@stthomasday.org)