



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2022

5 P.M.

WELCOME! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

To follow along with the service all you need is this bulletin.

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. 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.

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

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), Op. 4 (1928), arr. Michael Mullinar (1895–1973), 194

INTROIT

O holy night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
 It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
 'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
 Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
 O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
 O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
 With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
 So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
 Here come the wise men from Orient land,
 The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
 In all our trials born to be our friend;
 He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger!
 Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!
 Behold your King! Before him bend!

Words: Placide Cappeau (1808–1877), tr. John Sullivan Dwight Music: Adolphe Adam (1803–1856), *Cantique de Noël* (1847)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

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,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

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;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

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;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

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.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

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.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

Presider

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.**

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.**

*All are seated. During the fourth and fifth lessons of the Christmas Pageant, the People are invited to recite the lines shown in **bold type**.*

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 (*Annabel 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.

HYMNWe 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.

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 LESSONMATTHEW 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.

HYMNHark! 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!

The Pageant participants return to their places.

THE HOMILY

After the homily, all remain seated for a brief period of silence. Then all stand.

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. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of those who lack food or shelter. 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 offered 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 are invited to offer your prayer intentions.]

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.**

*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

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), 1909

THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:
A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EUCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

[The Rev. Jennifer Phillips]

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Presider

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being! You set the earth on its foundations, spread out the heavens like a tent, set a boundary to the seas, filled the world with your creatures, and then called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we give glory to you and sing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord (S 125, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, cared for by our brother Joseph, Jesus came among us as a baby, human as we are, in need of human love. Though humbly born, kings honored him, and emperors feared him.

The Word of God made flesh and full of grace, a child in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, was sent to deliver us from sin, from the power of evil, and from the fear of death. As a man, Jesus surrendered his might upon the cross. As the risen Anointed One, he is enthroned at God's right hand. At the end of days, he will bring mercy and justice to all the earth.

And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again!

Presider

We remember that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in this bread and wine. Make them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth. Shed your grace brighter than starlight upon us, that we may bear your good tidings to all, and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel, God With Us, to whom in joy we give honor and glory, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

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. Please come forward when instructed by an Usher. You will be offered bread only. Approach the priest with your hands extended, and the priest will place a wafer in them. Please move away before lifting your mask to consume the wafer. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Hodie Christus natus est

Hodie Christus natus est. Alleluia.

Today Christ is born, alleluia;

Hodie Salvator apparuit. Alleluia.

today the Savior has appeared, alleluia;

Hodie in terra canunt angeli
laetantur archangeli. Alleluia.

today the angels sing,
the archangels rejoice, alleluia;

Hodie exultant justi dicentes:

today the righteous rejoice, saying:

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest,

et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Alleluia.

and on earth peace to all those of good will, alleluia.

Words: Antiphon for Christmas Day Music: Heinrich Schütz (1585–1670), SWV 456

HYMN

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming (81, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

After everyone has received communion and the altar has been cleared, the servers will begin lighting the handheld candles. Please feel free to take the flame from an aisle torch and share it with your neighbors. When all handheld candles are lit, the electric lights will be dimmed, and the congregation will remain seated to sing "Silent night, holy night."

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 - dian 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: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

All stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *[The Rev. Jennifer Phillips]*

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Mysterious God, we thank you
for feeding us with yourself;
and for making yourself known to us
in the holy child Jesus, the Christ.**

**Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit,
that same Spirit which was in Jesus,
so that that we may help bring your peace to all the earth
in Jesus' Name. 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
 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: *[The Presider dismisses the People.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church. Merry Christmas to all!

VOLUNTARY

Dieu parmi nous

Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992), *La Nativité du Seigneur*, 1935

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Christmas Offerings

Don Edwards, in thanksgiving for our Parish Musicians

*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, Sally Lawson & Roy Graham*

Dwight Miller

Gary Robison

Denise Terry, in memory of Sally Edwards

Heartfelt gratitude to ...

*Denise Terry and the Children of the Parish,
for the Christmas Pageant and the joy you always set in our hearts*

*The St. Thomas's Choir,
for helping us to worship God through the beauty of music*

Soprano

*Morgen Campbell
Jennifer A. Herdt
Maggie Lieberman
Sherezade Panthaki
Alexandria Robison*

Alto

*Nancy Campbell
Ekanem Ebinne
Linda Meyer
Sarah Reed
Heather Robison*

Tenor

*Sheldon Campbell
Noah Horn
Jane Nichols
Gene Stenger*

Bass

*Robert Herdt
Samuel Kidd*



*Wishing you and yours a
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS SEASON
and
ABUNDANT BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!*

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.*

Holiday Worship Schedule. There will be no worship tomorrow, December 25. There will be worship as usual at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 1. We will not have organ or choir, but we might sing a few carols.

The church office will be closed through Monday, January 2.

There will be no Enews Next Week. Look for the next edition on Thursday, January 5.

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.

Advent Unbound: A Companion to Pádraig Ó Tuama's "Poetry Unbound": Final Session, 7:30 p.m., January 5. See the Enews for details and for news on what's next.

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 This Evening

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Assisting Clergy: The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney,
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan
Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn
Eucharistic Minister: Madeleine Anderson
Crucifer: Lucy Sheehan
Torchbearers: Luca D'Andrea, Annabel Sheehan
Intercessor: Ricardo Chavira
Sacristan: Madeleine Anderson
Usher: Gary Robison

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. 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:

The Anglican Church of Melanesia

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

Japan, North Korea, South Korea

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)

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