

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EPIPHANY

Liturgy of the Word
January 7, 2024 10 A.M.

St. Thomas's Church Welcomes Everyone

Wherever you happen to be on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you here, and we invite you to participate as fully as you wish. There is a saying in the Episcopal tradition that answers many a question: "All may, some do, but none must." We gather to feast on Word and sacrament and song, to learn and inquire, to enjoy relaxed fellowship and find mutual support. And we are sent out to be the Body of Christ in the world, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

To participate in worship today all you need is this bulletin. If you are new or visiting, we invite you to consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a **nametag**, which will be waiting for you on the table inside the main entrance.

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 **gender-neutral restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit.

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.

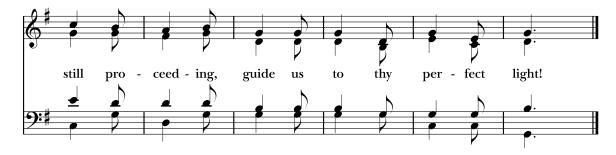
St. Thomas's Church is located on Eansketambawg (Quinnipiac) land. This acknowledgment compels us to pause: in gratitude for the Quinnipiac and other Algonquin-speaking stewards of the territory that is now Connecticut; in regret for Christianity's participation in the colonization of the Americas; and in faith that God's reconciling power will bring true healing to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN

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





Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: Three Kings of Orient, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

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

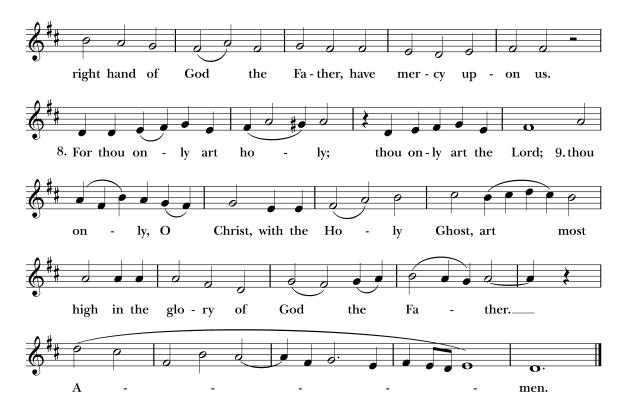
Presider and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**





Music: From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1881-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 (Sung by the Choir)

Stephen Elvey

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, * and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; * he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, * and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, * and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, * and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; * he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, * and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

THE SECOND LESSON

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

All stand.



Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: Morning Star, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911)

THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 2:1-12

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, 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. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

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

THE NICENE CREED

Presider and People

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

Presider

Joining our hearts in hope and faith, let us pray to God, saying, "Light of Christ, shine on all creation."

Intercessor and People

Flame of abundant love, give us joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world. We pray for your universal church and for all ministers of your Word. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Ember of steadfast presence, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence, and to pursue peace and reconciliation. We pray for this nation and for all the nations of the world. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Star of wondrous glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home. We pray for the land on which we stand, the waters that surround us, and the creatures that inhabit them. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Lamp of eternal wisdom, guide us as we seek and follow you. We pray for St. Thomas's Church and Day School, and especially the leaders who are listening to hear the guidance of your Spirit. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Radiance of boundless compassion, direct our hands to your loving service. We pray for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the homeless, and for all those in any need or trouble. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Spark of true liberation, send us your redeeming and reconciling grace. We pray for the dying and the dead. Light of Christ, shine on all creation.

We pray for the appreciations and concerns that we now share aloud or carry in our hearts.

Presider

Holy God, you embrace the whole universe and sanctify all you have created: continually manifest in our hearts the constant awareness of your affection and the persuasive revelation of your desire, and thereby prepare us to offer our voices and bodies as courageous and confident bearers of the Good News of your light and love; through Christ our Savior. **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**.

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 ANTHEM

Bethlehem Down

"When He is King we will give Him the Kings' gifts, Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown, Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph, Fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight—Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold, Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in gravesheets, Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown, He that lies now in the white arms of Mary Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming, Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold, Mary for love, and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Words: Bruce Blunt (1899–1957), 1927 Music: Peter Warlock (1894–1930), 1927

All stand.



Words: Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). St. 4, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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.

SEASONAL BLESSING FOR EPIPHANY

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **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.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

VOLUNTARY IV. Allegro maestoso e vivace, *from* Organ Sonata no. 4, op. 65

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Music is reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-740689, unless otherwise indicated. All rights reserved.

Announcements

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



Upcoming Worship Schedule. During our leadership transition, we will have a combination of lay-led worship and services led by supply clergy. Please join us!

| January 7 | Feast of the Epiphany Ante Communion with William English presiding and the Rev. Dr. Carolyn |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Sharp preaching |
| January 14 | Morning Prayer led by Alexandria Robison (w/ sermon) |
| January 21 | Eucharist with Rev. Mo Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding |
| January 28 | Morning Prayer led by Sheldon Campbell (w/ sermon) |
| February 4 | Eucharist with Rev. Mo Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding |
| February 11 | Morning Prayer led by Jennifer Herdt (w/ sermon) |
| February 18 | Eucharist with Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding |
| February 25 | Morning Prayer led by Jane Nichols (w/ sermon) |
| • | |

On Sunday, **January 7**, William English will preside with the Reverend Dr. Carolyn Sharp with us as preacher. A biblical scholar and professor of homiletics at Yale Divinity School, Carolyn has written commentaries on Joshua, Jeremiah 26–52, and Micah. Carolyn is interested in how preaching can deepen the formation of Christian community via biblically grounded theology, prophetic witness, feminist perspectives on power, and ecotheology. Carolyn is serving as St. Thomas's Preacher-in-Residence. She stands ready to offer resources to lay preachers in our congregation, and will gladly discuss Gospel proclamation (in and beyond the pulpit) with anyone who wishes at Coffee Hour.

On Sunday, **January 14**, Alexandria Robison will lead Morning Prayer. Alexandria has been attending St. Thomas's regularly for six years but has been coming as a guest with her grandparents for over 15 years. Alexandria was baptized in the Episcopal Church and was formally received in 2019, but grew up in the Lutheran Church. While attending St. Thomas's Alexandria has been eager to get involved with the church community in any way possible. She has served on the vestry, sung in the choir, taught Sunday school, been a delegate for the Diocesan Convention, and more. When not at St. Thomas's Alexandria works as a Business and Nonprofit Librarian for the New Haven Free Public Library.

Interested in joining St. Thomas's Choir?

The St. Thomas's Choir sings for Sunday morning and special liturgies during the program year, offering anthems, canticles and psalms. The choir includes volunteers and professional section leaders. Its repertoire is drawn from the rich tradition of Anglican choral music, spanning many centuries.

The St. Thomas's Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., from September to June. New members are always welcome; an ability to read music and prior choral experience is desirable. Contact Linda Meyer at lindarossmeyer@gmail.com

Donating Clothing for Loaves and Fishes. Our support for the clothing ministry is ongoing. Please be thoughtful in your selection of items. Current specific requests include: men's/women's jeans; men's short-sleeved shirts, sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks; spring and summer clothing. Bring donations to St. Thomas's (leave them in the tub at the Whitney Ave. entrance) or to Loaves and Fishes (Thurs-Sat, 9-11 a.m., in the driveway at 57 Olive St.).

Coffee Hour Hosting Sign-Up Link. You are invited to consider hosting coffee hour at St. Thomas's following Sunday worship. Would you like to contribute to St. Thomas's coffee hour, but don't know how to operate the coffee maker? Do you have a treat from your kitchen or favorite neighborhood bakery that you would love to share, but you are not sure that you can manage a whole coffee hour? Sign up to be a coffee hour helper! It's easy: look at the signup sheet (electronic or paper) and sign up as a "Helper." Contact the coffee hour host to discuss what you can bring and how you can help out. Then, discover how fun it is to help make fellowship happen! Visit this link to sign up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee and add your contact info in the comment box. You may also access the Parish Directory on our homepage, www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee and add your contact info in the comment box. You may also access the Parish Directory on our homepage, www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee and provide the directory password. Thank you for contributing to our time of fellowship!



Serving Today

Presider: William English

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp **Music Director:** Matthew Cramer

Organist: Heeyeon Cha Lector: Jenny Chavira Sacristan: Claire Scully

Ushers: Gary Robison, Claire Scully **Coffee Hour Hosts:** The Robison's

Vestry Host: Denise Terry

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Preacher-in-Residence The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

Church Vestry

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden) Linda Meyer (Junior Warden) Bill English (Treasurer) Denise Terry (Clerk) Madeleine Anderson Max Ballardo Claire Scully

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially: the people of Russia and the people of Ukraine; the people of Gaza and the people of Israel; all who are afflicted by war and natural disaster

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for: St. Peter's, Cheshire; Holy Advent, Clinton; Trinity Church, Collinsville; For all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: The Scottish Episcopal Church

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

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL 830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 777-7623 ♦ www.stthomasnewhaven.org

Matthew Cramer, Music Director
Noah Klein, Organist

◆ music@stthomasnewhaven.org

Julie Kelly, Administrator ◆ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org