



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT

December 6, 2020 10 A.M.

VOLUNTARY

The Visitation

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber (1644–1704), *Mystery Sonatas*, No. 2 in A major, c1676

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Presider says the following prayer as the Advent candle is lit

Come, O Holy One, as the water of life and refiner's fire! Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice that in all the creation and among every people your peace may be established and your joy abound, through Jesus our Deliverer. **Amen.**

HYMN

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



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.

Re - joice! Re - joice!

8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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

BIDDING PRAYER [*The Rev. Dr. Jay Emerson Johnson, adapted*]

Presider

Dear Friends in Christ: the season of Advent bids us prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ, and to remember God's promise of Christ's second coming in glory. At Christmas we shall hear again the message of angels, the good news offered first to shepherds tending their flocks, that in Bethlehem they should find God's holy child lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from the Scriptures about God's loving purpose in creation, the tale our ancestors told of Adam and Eve in the garden of delight, the promise of salvation proclaimed by prophets, and the mystery of God dwelling among us in human flesh.

Let us also remember to pray for the needs of this world, still waiting for the fullness of God's promised salvation; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people; and for the mission of God's people in the church, especially this congregation of St. Thomas's.

And because he particularly favors them, let us remember in this season those who lack money or food or shelter; those in prison; those who are sick or dying and those who care for them; those who mourn; those who are lonely or afraid; and those who long for the good news of God in Christ.

Lastly, let us remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, and all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in greater light, a multitude that no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Christ, we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us now gather together and offer to God with the words that Christ himself has taught us:

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 FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took

of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

CAROL

Adam lay ybounden

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A-been heavenè queen.
Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen:
Deo gracias!

Words: Anonymous 15th-century English Music: Peter Warlock (1894–1930), 1922

THE SECOND LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL

A shoot shall come forth

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse,
And a bud shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of life shall be with him,
The spirit of wisdom and truth.

Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard,
And the lion eat straw with the ox,
For the hand of a Child shall lead them
To the peaceable kingdom of God.

From out of the wells of salvation
Will he draw us the water of life;
His waist shall be girdled with justice,
The heart of his heart shall be Love.

He'll come from the end of his heaven,
And the earth shall be torn from its place;
Our lives shall be filled with his radiance
As floodwaters cover the sea.

Words: Based on Isaiah 11, 32:1-8 Music: Richard Horn (1938–2004), 1993

THE THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

CAROL

Every valley shall be exalted

Every valley shall be exalted,
and every mountain and hill made low,

the crooked straight,
and the rough places plain.

Words: Isaiah 40:4 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

HYMN

Comfort, comfort ye my people (67, *The Hymnal* 1982)



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry
 ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;
 tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken
 and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harmon. *Hymnal 1932*

THE FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

CAROL

But who may abide

But who may abide the day of His coming,
and who shall stand when He appeareth?

For He is like a refiner's fire.

Words: Malachi 3:2 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

THE FIFTH LESSON

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

CAROL

Rejoice greatly

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion,
shout, O daughter of Jerusalem;
behold, thy King cometh unto thee:

He is the righteous Savior,
and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Words: Zechariah 9:9-10 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

THE SIXTH LESSON

MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

CAROL

He shall feed his flock

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd:
and he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto him, all ye that labor,
come unto him, that are heavy laden,
and he will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him;
for he is meek and lowly of heart:
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Words: Isaiah 40:11 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider

Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HYMN

Lo, he comes with clouds descending (57, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand,
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near; all the
high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,

thou - sand saints at - tend - ing join to
saints this world re - ject - ed thrill the
take the power and glo - ry; claim the

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are aligned with the vocal line.

sing the glad re - frain: Al - le -
 trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -
 king - dom as thine own. Come, Lord
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord
 lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

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 in the world, walking in gladness the way of your beloved child, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **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.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in A minor

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 543, c1713

After the Voluntary, you are invited to stay online for virtual Coffee Hour. Please see the Parish Enews for the latest announcements and information.



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Announcements

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

Service of Advent Lessons & Carols: TODAY. It won't be exactly like our past offering, but it will still be lovely. Expect six readings, extra offerings from our choir section leaders, and no sermon.

Longest Night Observance: Sunday, December 20, 6 p.m. There is a relatively new tradition in the church of holding "Blue Christmas" or "Longest Night" services on or near the winter solstice. Offered on the actual longest night of the year (the winter solstice is at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, December 21), this will be a short and peaceful service of music, readings, and prayers.

Christmas Eve Worship: Thursday, December 24, 6 p.m. We're having one service on Christmas Eve, which will include elements of both our usual early and late services. Look for a creative take on the pageant, and the chance to sing some carols. Plan to bring and light a candle for "Silent Night."

Nativity Slideshow for Christmas. We're collecting photos of parishioners' Christmas nativity sets for compilation into a slideshow for Christmas. Please snap a photo of yours and [email it to Keri](#).

Stewardship Season. If you haven't, please read the Stewardship Special Enews. Thanks for your ongoing support!

Please consider **Alternative Giving** for those on your Christmas list this year. Suggested non-profits are highlighted in the Enews – and St. Thomas's can even help you make those donations. Our Sunday School children are particularly advocating for donations to the **Clean Water** program of Episcopal Relief & Development's Gifts for Life program.



Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Musician: Dr. Noah Horn

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:
Sally, Bonnie, Franklin, Ken

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
all who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,
especially those who work in healthcare and those
who have lost their livelihood

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield; and ministries to the homeless, including: parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter; Chapel on the Green, New Haven; Church by the Pond, Hartford; all Ecclesia ministries; the ministry of the Midnight Runs

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain

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

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Kyle Holton (Senior Warden)

Denise Terry (Junior Warden)

Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)

Linda Meyer (Clerk)

Greg D'Andrea

Bill English

Chris Martinez

Alexandria Robison

Catherine Stricklan

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org