

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

February 23, 2020 10 A.M.

If you are new or visiting ...

Welcome! After the service, please come to Coffee Hour (in the Lounge on the 2nd floor) for food and fellowship. Please consider filling out a blue visitor information card (located in the pew rack). You can use the form to request a nametag, and next Sunday it will be waiting for you on the table just inside the main church entrance.

Families with small children: Three seating areas at the front of the church are reserved for families with small children: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the areas in front of the two front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

Education for All Ages takes place from 9 to 9:45 A.M. on most Sundays during the academic year.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and St. Thomas's website. Sunday bulletins are posted on the website's Bulletin Archive. We aim to reduce printing by encouraging worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the order of service.

Restrooms for men and women are located on the second floor. Go through the red double doors at the front of the church, up the stairs to the left, and to the far end of the hallway. An **all-gender restroom (with baby changing table)** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the red double doors at the front of the church.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. **Gluten-free bread** is available at each communion station; **non-alcoholic wine** is available from the chalice bearer at the center. Any difference will be explained during the announcements.

To receive Holy Communion hold out your hands, and the server will place bread in them. If you wish to receive wine, please sip it from the common cup, using both hands to guide the chalice to your lips.

To follow along with the service you will need this service bulletin as well as The Hymnal 1982 (the blue book in the pew racks).

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Andante tranquillo

Percy Whitlock (1903–1946), from *Five Short Pieces*, 1930

INTROIT

O nata lux

O nata lux de lumine
Jesu redemptor saeculi
dignare clemens supplicum
laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi
dignatus es pro perditis
nos membra confer effici
tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.

Words: 10th-century hymn Music: Thomas Tallis (c1505–1585)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ upon the mountain peak (129, *The Hymnal 1982*)

OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Presider and People

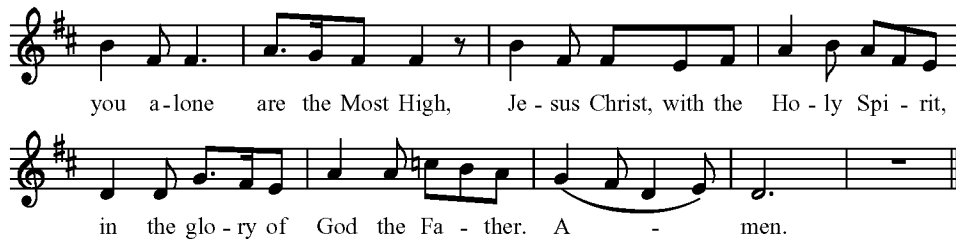
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

20, *Enriching Our Music 1*

In 2 *f*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. — Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al -
- might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
poco rit.
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
a tempo *mp* *poco cresc.*
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son — of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin — of the world; have
mer - cy on us; — you are seat - ed at the right
ff
hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our — prayer. For
you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, —



Setting: Peter Crisafulli, from **Music for the Holy Eucharist Rite II**, © 2002 Peter Crisafulli.
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SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

EXODUS 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2 (*sung by the Choir*)

Bryan Hesford

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? * Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, * against the LORD and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; * "let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; * the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, * and his rage fills them with terror.

- 6 "I myself have set my king * upon my holy hill of Zion."
 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
 he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.
 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
 and the ends of the earth for your possession.
 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod * and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
 10 And now, you kings, be wise; * be warned, you rulers of the earth.
 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, * and with trembling bow before him;
 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; * for his wrath is quickly kindled.
 13 Happy are they all * who take refuge in him!

THE SECOND LESSON

2 PETER 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

I love to tell the story (64, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best

1. Of Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love.
 2. Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest.

1. I love to tell the sto-ry, Be - cause I know it's true;
2. And when, in scenes of glo-ry, I sing the new, new song,

1. It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do.
2. 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the sto-ry; 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry.

To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 17:1-9

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

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated.

THE SERMON

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

[Adapted from a resource of the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy & Music]

Presider

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Intercessor and People

God of love, we pray for your church: Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world. God of love, **Hear our prayers for the church.**

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred and to actively resist evil. God of freedom, **Hear our prayers for the world.**

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: Stir up in us a thirst to protect the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us. God of justice, **Hear our prayers for the earth.**

God of peace, we pray for this community: Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home. God of peace, **Hear our prayers for this community.**

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons. God of mercy, **Hear our prayers for all who are in need.**

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light. God of grace, **Hear our prayers for those who have died.**

God of compassion, we pray for [_____ and for] those things that we offer over to you either silently or aloud.

Presider

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION

Presider

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

Presider and People

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider

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

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

*The People greet one another with a sign of peace, and then are seated for brief announcements, after which the People remain seated for the **Offertory Anthem**, and during which the collection is taken.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here faith can touch and handle things unseen;
Here would I grasp with firmer hands Thy grace;
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the Bread of God;
Here drink with Thee the Royal wine of Heaven;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808–1889) Music: Percy Whitlock (1903–1946), 1930

*During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Usbers carry the gifts forward. The People follow and encircle the altar. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If you are unable to stand, you may sit in one of the chairs arranged near the altar, move to the front row of pews, or remain where you are.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

O wondrous type! O vision fair (137, *The Hymnal* 1982)

Descant

4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair of glo - ry
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in - car - nate
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great
5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and Ho - ly

vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful

1 that the Church may share, which Christ up - on the
2 Lord holds con - verse high; and from the cloud, the
3 man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
4 vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, vouch - safe to bring us

high - est. Bless - ed is
 he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Peter Crisafulli, from **Music for the Holy Eucharist Rite II**, © 2002 Peter Crisafulli.
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Presider

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit

and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,	as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.
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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

27, *Enriching Our Music 1*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world: _____ have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
slower
take a-way the sins of the world: _____ grant us peace.

Setting: Peter Crisafulli, from **Music for the Holy Eucharist Rite II**, © 2002 Peter Crisafulli.
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Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. Please proceed to the most conveniently located station to receive communion, and then return to your seat via a side aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at each station; non-alcoholic wine is available from the chalice bearer at the center. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Lord! that seest from yon starry height,
Centred in one the future and the past,
Fashioned in thine own image, see how fast
The world obscures in me what once was bright!
Eternal Sun! the warmth which thou hast given
To cheer life's flowery April fast decays;
Yet in the hoary winter of my days,
Forever green shall be my trust in Heaven.

O Lord! that seest from yon starry height

Celestial King! Oh, let thy presence pass
Before my spirit, and an image fair
Shall meet that look of mercy from on high,
As the reflected image in a glass
Doth meet the look of him who seeks it there,
And owes its being to the gazer's eye.

Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), *The Image of God* Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926), 1919

After all have received communion, the People remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Songs of thankfulness and praise (**135**, *The Hymnal 1982*)

DISMISSAL

Presider: [*The Presider dismisses the People.*]

People: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fanfare
William Mathias (1934–1992), 1987

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Lent is coming! Ash Wednesday is February 26!

Ashes to Go: 7:30–8:30 a.m.
(outside at the corner of Whitney Avenue and Cliff Street)

Ash Wednesday Liturgy: 7 p.m.
(Holy Communion with Choir)

Announcements

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

Coming Soon: Two-Part Lenten Series on *Revolution of Values: Reclaiming Public Faith for the Common Good – Soup Supper and Conversation* March 4 & 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. Hosted by our Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee, we will share a simple meal of soup/bread/salad and also share conversation and reflection while we read *Revolution of Values: Reclaiming Public Faith For the Common Good* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Additional details are in the Enews.

The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network invites you to a **Green Forum on Environmental Racism** on Monday, March 2 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (light refreshments at 6:00 pm) at the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will examine the history of institutional and systemic racism and its relationship to environmental injustice, pollution, and energy equity in communities of color. We will also hear about proposed environmental justice legislation for Connecticut. This event is free, but registration is required – please RSVP here - <https://forumonenvironmentalracism.eventbrite.com> . More info is available on www.irejn.org.

Loaves & Fishes. Please donate non-perishable food items.

Our Little Free Library always needs books. Just pop them in yourself.

Noah on Leave. Our Music Director, Dr. Noah Horn, is away teaching at Oberlin College in Ohio, his alma mater. He will return on Monday, March 23. He's remains available by email. Thanks to choir director Hannah Goodwillie and organists Laura Richling and Maria Coffin for subbing during his time away.

For more information and announcements, see our website and last week’s Weekly Parish Enews.

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Choir Director: Hannah Goodwillie
Organist: Laura Richling
Eucharistic Minister: Chris Martinez
Crucifer: Michael Dunlap
Chalice:
Lectors: , Jennifer Herdt
Intercessor: Claire Scully
Vestry Host: Linda Meyer
Ushers: Gail Curran, Katie Coleman
Sacristans: Claire Scully & Kids
Counters: Catherine Stricklan, Greg D'Andrea
Coffee Hour Hosts: Linda Meyer, Genevieve Nutall

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
Drew, Dwight, John, Sally, Sue

Pray for those who have died.

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

St. Timothy's, Fairfield; Trinity/St. Michael's, Fairfield;
St. James', Farmington; All parish-based mission
partnerships; ECCT-wide mission partnership
networks; the Companions in Mission Network

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

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

Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Officers and 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

Day School Board of Trustees

Gina Panza (Head of School)
The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)
Gina Criscuolo (Chair)
John Forrest (Vice-Chair)
Tracey Meares (Treasurer)
Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)
Alexander Babbidge
Christopher Cavallaro
Don Edwards
William English
Jeralyn Fantarella
Kenneth Paul
Tony Reyes
Kathryn Crabb Scherer
Denise Terry
Heather Tookes Alexopoulos

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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