



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT

December 5, 2021 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, WELCOME!

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service.

Please enter the church through the main doors and exit via the side door that opens onto Cliff Street. Please use the Ramp Door only if you need it. After the service, you're invited to the parking lot for coffee, snacks, and socially-distanced fellowship. Children may unwind in the playground.

Remember, the church spaces are not ventilated. The sanctuary provides room for social distancing, but we are eager to limit occupancy of smaller spaces. Therefore, **please avoid the sacristy and vesting room, and please do not linger in the narthex (the area inside the main doors), the restrooms, or the hallways.** It will be hard, but please save your social interactions for outside after the service.

Our expectation is that everyone who can be has been vaccinated against COVID-19. Be aware that the youngest among us cannot yet be vaccinated, and their parents will have made the tough decision to bring them to church anyway. Therefore, **please be extra careful about masking and social distancing when you are near children under 12 years old.**

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 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.

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.

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 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

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 659

VOLUNTARY

O come, O come, Emmanuel
Richard Hudson (1924–2019), 2004

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

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)



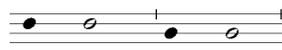
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from



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
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to



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.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Re - joice! Re - joice!



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

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th. cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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

Presider

Dear Friends in Christ: the season of Advent bids us to 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.**

Presider

The Almighty God bless us with abundant grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

All are seated. Note that the lessons are read without the usual introduction or conclusion.

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

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but never can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I' m weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: Anonymous, based on Solomon 2:3-5 Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905–1987), 1967

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

THE THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

CAROL

Comfort ye my people

Comfort ye my people, saith your God;
 speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
 and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished,
 that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
 prepare ye the way of the Lord,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Words: Isaiah 40:1-3 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742*All stand.*

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); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

All are seated.

THE FOURTH 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

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
get thee up into the high mountain;
lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid,

say unto the cities of Judah:
Behold your God.
Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Words: Isaiah 40:9 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

THE FIFTH LESSON

ISAIAH 7:10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

CAROL

A Spotless Rose

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers’ foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God’ s great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter’ s night.

Words: Anonymous, 14th-century Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983), 1919

THE SIXTH 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

All stand.

HYMN

Hark! the glad sound! (72, *The Hymnal* 1982)

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal
 prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

All are seated.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

MICAH 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

CAROL

Vigilate

Vigilate nescitis enim
quando Dominus domus veniat
sero an media nocte
an gallicantu an mane
vigilate ergo
ne cum venerit repente
inveniat vos dormientes
quod autem dico vobis
omnibus dico vigilate.

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know
when the master of the house will come,
in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or at dawn.
Watch, therefore,
or else when he comes suddenly
he may find you asleep.
And what I say to you
I say to all: Keep awake.

Words: Mark 13:35-37 Music: William Byrd (c1540–1623)

THE EIGHTH LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9A

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

Thus saith the Lord

Thus saith the LORD, the LORD of Hosts:
Yet once a little while,
and I will shake the heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land;
and I will shake all nations,
and the desire of all nations shall come.

The Lord whom ye seek
shall suddenly come to His temple,
even the messenger of the covenant,
whom ye delight in;
Behold, he shall come,
saith the LORD of Hosts.

Words: Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

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 NINTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

O Thou the central orb

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about Thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.
Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with Thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile clean, now pure within. Amen.

Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833–1917) Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926), 1915

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 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!

All stand.

HYMN

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

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Helmsey*, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

ADVENT BLESSING

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.**

You may either exit the church or be seated for the Voluntary. You are invited to stay for fellowship.

VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), BWV 661



Announcements

Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and "like" St. Thomas's on Facebook.

Please see the Enews for information about Advent, Alternative Giving for Christmas, Christmas Worship, Sunday Coffee Hour, Thursday Bible Study, and more.

Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Violinist: Yaira Matyakubov

Lectors: William English, Ben Schafer, Max Ballardo, Madeleine Anderson, Jennifer Herdt, Robert Herdt, Emma Wright, Don Edwards

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Katie (Coleman), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Pray for those who have died.

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

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

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Anglican Church of Burundi

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

Myanmar, Thailand

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Greg D'Andrea (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Valerie Garlick Claire Scully

Sara Zampierin

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Seminarian Interns

Ike Harijanto

Emma Wright

Day School Board of Trustees

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Greg Mokotoff (Vice-Chair)

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Gina Panza (Head of School)

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