



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 7, 2025 10 A.M.

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## Welcome!

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.

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**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.

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# VOLUNTARY

Chaconne in e minor, BuxWV 160

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

*At the ringing of the bell, please stand.*

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (76, *The Hymnal* 1982)

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with five parts and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

# OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

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.**

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

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

Come, O Holy One, as the morning light after a wakeful night! Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us an accounting of our lives; help us to love you and love one another in all we do, and so clothe us with your light that we may bring others to love you also, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## KYRIE ELEISON

*Missa Emmanuel*

Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. Assembly: Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: Christ, have mer - cy. Assembly: Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. Assembly: Lord, have mer - cy.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*; Richard Proulx, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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.**

*All are seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-10

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.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19** (*Sung by the Choir*)

John Cantrell

- 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.

18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!  
19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

## THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

Prepare the way, O Zion (65, *The Hymnal 1982*)



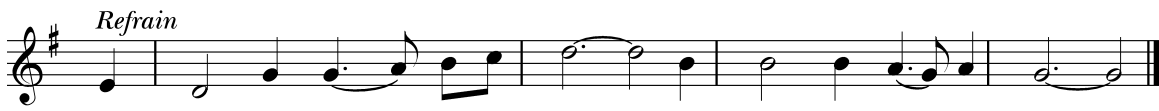
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the

ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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.*

## **AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT**

*[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]*

*Presider and People*

**Because of You, O God, we are people of hope,  
even though the night of winter is upon us.**

**Because of You, Divine Presence, we are people of peace,  
even though violent speech and bared teeth surround us.**

**Because of You, Christ who is coming, we are people of joy,  
even though the leaves have fallen and the music has stopped.**

**Because of You, Spirit of Life, we are people of love,  
even though we see the diminishment of human dignity all around us.**

**We call upon You, ever-blessed One,  
for strength and purpose,  
for gratitude and generosity,  
for the grace to bring light,  
and the nourishment of your grace,  
and the thirst-quenching stream of your justice  
into the world that You love with an everlasting love.**

**Come among us and set us free. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Intercessor and People*

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are You who join us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a

resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Deliverer, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to You; when we refuse your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget You, do not forget us. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

## **THE CONFESSION OF SIN**

*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.**

*Please greet your neighbors with a sign of peace, in whatever way seems welcome. You may then be seated for brief announcements and the **Offertory Anthem.***

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Your financial support is sincerely appreciated. We will not pass a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online, go to the Church website Home page ([www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If viewing this document electronically, simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!*

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM** (*Sung by the Choir*)

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.

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.

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.

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

*During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Ushers bring the gifts forward and the Presider sets the table. The People follow the Ushers and encircle the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If this is difficult for you, feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.*

*All stand.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

There's a voice in the wilderness crying (75, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —  
 2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
 3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the —



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The —  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 flowers of the field they — per - ish, like  
 feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!  
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;  
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 1 (*ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP*)

*Celebrant* *People*  
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



*All:*

The image shows a musical score for a vocal part. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5. There is a double bar line, then a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes E5, D5, C5, B4, A4, and G4. The second staff continues the melody with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5. The lyrics are: "high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating that a single note is shared between two words.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

*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 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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 daughters and sons, 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

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.*

<b>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,</b>	<b>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, for ever and ever. Amen.</b>
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## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

## FRACTION ANTHEM

*Missa Emmanuel*

*Cantor:*

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:  
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you  
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:  
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

*Assembly:*

take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, have  
mer - cy on us. grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

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. For the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest and Eucharistic minister will come to you. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. To receive wine, you may sip from the common cup, or intinct (dip the bread into the wine). If you choose to intinct, please dip only the tip of the bread into the wine—fingers that touch the*

wine are a source of contamination. After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.

## COMMUNION ANTHEM *(Sung by the Schola Antiqua)*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung,  
Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung.  
It came a Flow'ret bright  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind.  
With Mary we behold it,  
The Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love a-right,  
She bore to men a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God!  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens every ev'ry load.

Words: 16<sup>th</sup> c. German hymn, trans. Theodore Baker (1851–1934) Music: Hugo Distler (1908–1942), 1933

*After all have received communion, all stand.*

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

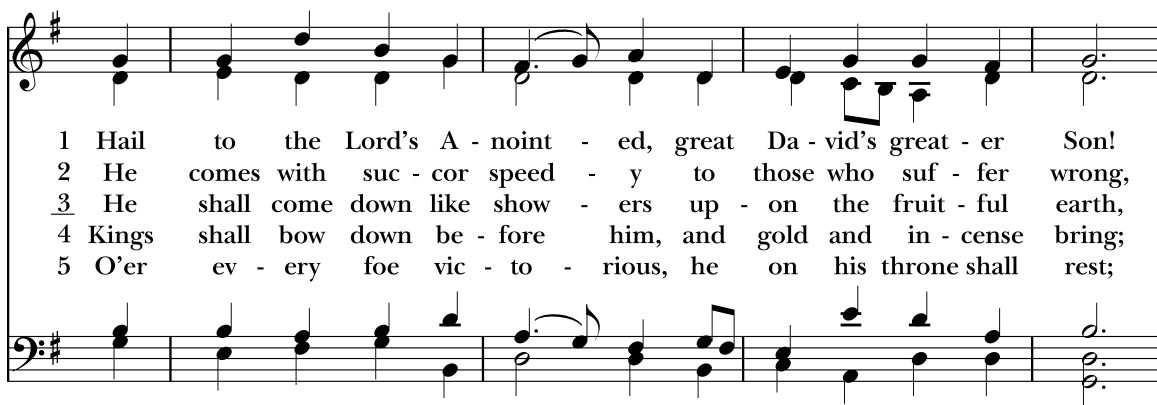
*Presider and People*

**Almighty and everliving God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food**  
**of the most precious Body and Blood**  
**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;**  
**and for assuring us in these holy mysteries**  
**that we are living members of the Body of your Son,**  
**and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**  
**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have us to do,**  
**to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**  
**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

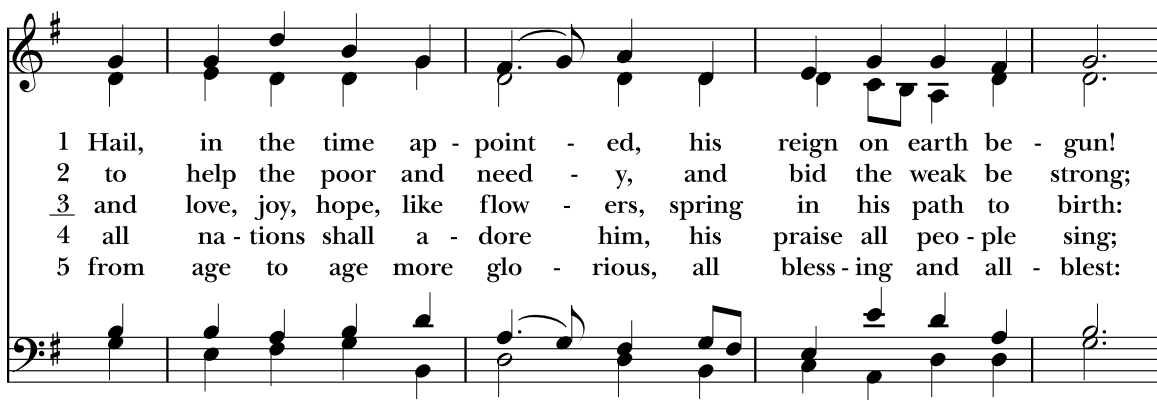
## THE BLESSING

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

People: **Amen.**



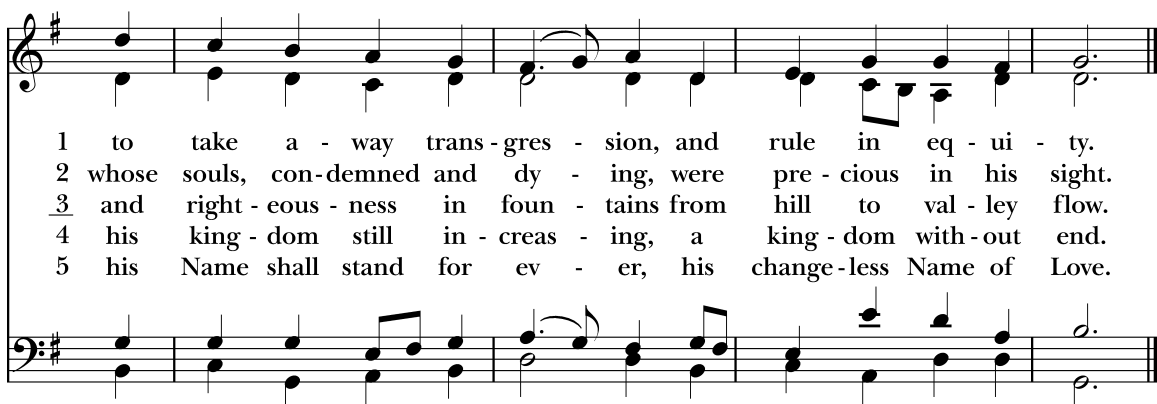
1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,  
 4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;  
 5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;



1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
 2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:  
 4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;  
 5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:



1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;  
 2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
 3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
 4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;  
 5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.  
 3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
 4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.  
 5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; adapt. and harm. *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941).

## DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

## VOLUNTARY

Ricercare on *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*

George Baker (b. 1951)

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## Serving Today

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Alan Murchie, Denise Terry

**Flowers:** Heather Robison

**Intercessor:** Don Edwards

**Lector:** Alexandria Robison

**Music Director:** Dr. Matthew Cramer

**Organist:** Heeyeon Cha

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Alan Murchie

**Sacristan:** Debbie Griffin

**Subdeacon:** Bryan Hiott

**Ushers:** Gary Robison, Claire Scully

**Vestry Host:** Max Ballardo

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

### Church Vestry

Max Ballardo

Morgen Campbell

Ricardo Chavira (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)

Alexandria Robison

Claire Scully

Denise Terry (Clerk)

### St. Thomas's Clergy

The Rev. Eric Jeuland, Priest Associate

The Rev. Jane Jeuland, Priest Associate

The Rev. Alan C. Murchie, Rector

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

## ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

(203) 777-7623 ♦ [www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)

## This Week's Prayer Intentions

**Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:**

for Maria, Michael, Susan

for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia

for the people of Gaza and the people of Israel

for victims of civil war in Syria and the Sudan

for all who are afflicted by war, violence, and natural disaster

**Pray for those who have died.**

**In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of**

**Prayer, pray for:** Christ Church, Bethany; St. Thomas', Bethel; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield; Ministries for the unhoused, for parishes that offer temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven & Church by the Pond, Hartford. For the Homelessness & Housing Ministry Network

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:** The Church of Bangladesh

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

Dr. Matthew Cramer, Music Director

♦ [music@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:music@stthomasnewhaven.org)

Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, Organist

[s.gamboa-diaz@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:s.gamboa-diaz@stthomasnewhaven.org)

Bryan Hiott, Seminarian Intern

Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ [j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org)

The Rev. Alan Murchie, Rector

♦ [alan@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:alan@stthomasnewhaven.org)

## Announcements

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

### **CHRISTMAS LITURGIES at St. Thomas's**

Christmas Eve at 5 PM: Holy Eucharist with Full Choir

Christmas Day at 11 AM: Holy Eucharist with Carols

### **Children and Youth, preparing for Christmas**

- Families are welcome at **9:45 a.m.** every Sunday to meet with a Sunday School **teacher under the origami cranes** to preview the service.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT** On December 24, at 5 p.m. St. Thomas's Parish gathers for a JOYOUS EUCHARIST SERVICE. Our wonderful choir will sing, and our beautiful children will present the Christmas Story as a pageant. Older children will narrate as the younger children take on the roles of Mary and Joseph, Angels and Shepherds, and the Wise Travelers. Everyone is welcome to participate. We have costumes and a simple script. Beginning Sunday, November 30, we will make plans through Advent at 9:45 a.m. No rehearsals required. Questions? Denise Terry (240-481-8537 or [terry.df@gmail.com](mailto:terry.df@gmail.com))

### **"Et in terra pax" Christmas Concert: Monday, December 22, 7:00pm**

Mark your calendars! St. Thomas's Choirs present "Et in terra pax," a concert of Advent and Christmas music and congregational carols for all to sing, in celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace on Monday, December 22 at 7pm.

### **Advent Coffee Hour Forum**

Alan will be offering an Advent Coffee Hour Forum on Sundays **December 7** and **December 21**, 11:30-12 noon in the lounge. The title is "Uncovering Matthew."

### **Festal Evensong for the Eve of Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) with Procession, February 1, 5pm**

Join us for a Festal Evensong for the Eve of the Presentation with Candlemas Procession! The St. Thomas' Choirs sing music in celebration of when Jesus was presented in the temple and Simeon and Anna recognized him as the Christ; the moment we sing of in the *Nunc dimittis*, or Song of Simeon. In the lighting of candles, we pay homage to the recognition of the infant Christ as the Light of the World.

### **Inquirers' Class**

Our new Inquirers' Class invites all interested in learning more about what it means to be Episcopalian to gather at St. Thomas's on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:15-6:15. Our next class session will be held in the Lounge on Tuesday, February 3. Join us!

### **Youth Confirmation Class at St. T's**

We are delighted to offer Confirmation preparation for youth ages 13+ on select Sunday afternoons after Coffee Hour. This is a rich opportunity to explore faith through conversation, activity, off-campus experiences, and more. Classes are led by Alan alongside experienced mentors from our community. Be in touch with Alan anytime to discuss further! You can chat with him at coffee hour or write to him at [alan@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:alan@stthomasnewhaven.org).

### **Responding to Food Insecurity in our Community**

Connecticut Food Pantries have seen a sharp rise in need this year, serving 23% more households. Loss of federal funding has been compounded by the effects of the government shutdown. SNAP benefits have stopped, affecting 360,000 people in the state of Connecticut alone. The need is great. Please join us in supporting Loaves and Fishes. You can give at this [link](#).

### **Stewardship 2026: "A Place At The Table"**

We are delighted to see a strong response to this year's stewardship campaign with the theme "A Place At The Table." If you haven't had a chance to do so yet, please do join us as we prepare our 2026 budget and continue to expand the many tables that gather and sustain us as a parish family. Our Treasurer, Bill English, concluded his moving stewardship message with an invitation: "So, I ask you to think and pray about what St. Thomas's means for

you and for others, and what your financial contribution to St. Thomas's should be as we plan for our future together. As you do so, please know that a commitment at any level is deeply appreciated." Join us! Pledge Cards are available in the narthex; to donate online, click [here](#).

### **Coffee-Hour: Help our Hosts!**

You are warmly invited to contribute to St. Thomas's signature Coffee Hour. Consult the poster in the lounge or the online signup link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee>. As we grow, we would like to have two or three hosts per week.

### **Parish Directory Updates**

Please [email Julie](#) with any changes to your address or contact info, or if you wish to be added to the directory. Thank you.

### **Time for Name Tags!**

Wearing name tags is a simple and wonderful way to practice radical welcome. If you have never had a St. Thomas's name tag, or have lost the one you had, please sign up in the narthex or at coffee hour and look for your new name tag in a week's time. You can also email Julie in the parish office, [j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org) to request a name tag. Name tags may be left in the basket in the lounge following coffee hour, or at the rear of the church in the name tag holders. Please wear your name tag every week!

### **Sunday Server Sign-ups**

There are many ways to contribute to the worship life of St. Thomas's. We are eager to welcome new servers in the roles of lector, usher, intercessor, subdeacon, and sacristan. If you are interested in learning more or in receiving training, please reach out to Vestry member Claire Scully, [chiarasam@comcast.net](mailto:chiarasam@comcast.net). We would love for you to share your gifts with St. Thomas!

### **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 Matthew Cramer at [m.cramer@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:m.cramer@stthomasnewhaven.org)

### **Safe Church Training**

In an important effort to build and protect community for everyone, the Episcopal Church requires that all church leaders (including vestry), staff, and anyone interacting with youth or pastoral ministries take Safe Church Training every three years. The training is free and can be done in person or online. Register here: <https://www.episcopalct.org/events/category/safe-church-training/>

Bishop Jeff Mello says: "Safe Church Training, and our commitment to creating a church that is safe for all of God's beloved children, is at the center of our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those most at risk for abuse are the very ones Jesus drew close; children, the frail, and those at the margins. To be made more and more into the likeness of Christ is to take seriously the safety and welfare of those whom 'Safe Church' is meant to protect."

**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 shirts, sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks. 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.).