



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY), YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 14, 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**

'Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,' Op. 122, No. 8

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

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

**PROCESSIONAL 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 pris - oners 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.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816);

harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

CM

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

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

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE 15, THE SONG OF MARY** (*Sung by the Choir*) Herbert Howells (1892–1982)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Music: Magnificat from 'Collegium Regale' Evening Canticles, 1945

**THE SECOND LESSON**

JAMES 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

“Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee (615, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 “Thy king - dom come!” on bend - ed knee the pass - ing a - ges pray;  
 2 But the slow watch - es of the night not less to God be - long;  
 3 And lo, al - rea - dy on the hills the flags of dawn ap - pear;  
 4 the day to whose clear shin - ing light all wrong shall stand re - vealed,  
 5 when know - ledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth a - broad;

1 and faith - ful souls have yearned to see on earth that king - dom's day.  
 2 and for the ev - er - last - ing right the si - lent stars are strong.  
 3 gird up your loins, ye pro - phet souls, pro - claim the day is near:  
 4 when jus - tice shall be throned in might, and ev - ery hurt be healed;  
 5 the day of per - fect right - eous - ness, the prom - ised day of God.

Words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840-1929). Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:2-11

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
 who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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)*

And the glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Words: Isaiah 40:5 Music: Georg Frideric Händel (1685–1759), from *Messiah*, HWV 56, 1741

*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 the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.*

*All stand.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

O heavenly Word, eternal Light (64, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light, be - got - ten  
 2 pour light up - on us from a - bove, and fire our  
 3 and when, as judge, thou draw - est nigh the se - crets  
 4 O let us not, for e - vil past, be driv - en  
 \* 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



1 of the Fa - ther's might, who in these lat - ter days wast  
 2 hearts with ar - dent love, that, as we hear thy truth to -  
 3 of our hearts to try, to rec - om - pense each hid - den  
 4 from thy face at last, but with thy saints for ev - er -  
 5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry

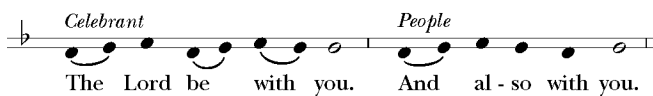


1 born for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;  
 2 day, all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;  
 3 sin and bid the saints their reign be - gin;  
 4 more be - hold thee, love thee, and a - dore.  
 5 be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1982*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *O Heiland, reiss*, melody from *Rheinfelsisches Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*, 1666; harm. *Orgelbuch Zum Gesangbuch Der Evangelisch-Reformierten Kirchen Der Deutschsprachigen Schweiz*, 1926.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Presider*

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, join with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

SANCTUS

Missa Emmanuel

*Cantor, then all:*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

*Cantor:*

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est,

ho - san - na in the high - est.

*All:*

Ho - san - na in the high - est,

ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Cantor:*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the

high - est. *All:* Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **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:

*1., 2., 3. Assembly:*

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

*4. Assembly:*

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*)

Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum:  
 benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
 et benedictus fructus ventris tui. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
 blessed art thou amongst women,  
 and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Amen.

Words: Luke 1:28b, 42b Music: Robert Parsons (c1530–1572)

*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 given 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.**

## HYMN

Come, thou long expected Jesus (66, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

## DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

## VOLUNTARY

March on a Theme of Händel, Op. 15, No. 2

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

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## **Mark your calendars!**

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

Christmas Eve at 5PM: Holy Eucharist with Full Choir and Pageant  
Christmas Day at 11AM: Holy Eucharist with Carols

### **"Et in terra pax" Christmas Concert**

Monday, December 22 at 7PM

The St. Thomas's Choirs present a concert of choral anthems, congregational carols, and readings for the Advent and Christmas seasons, with music of Händel, Will Todd, Zoltan Kodaly, and more.

### **Holy Eucharist with Christmas Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 10AM

Come join us for a congregational Lessons & Carols as part of morning Holy Eucharist for the second (and final) Sunday of Christmas.

### **Twelfth Night Carol Sing and Potluck**

Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 5 PM

Join us as we gather for one last chance to sing all of our favorite carols! We'll begin at 5 in the Lounge with dinner and conclude in the sanctuary with caroling.

### **Epiphany-tide Evensong at Trinity on the Green**

Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 5PM

The choirs of St. Thomas's, Trinity on the Green, Christ Church (New Haven), St. Paul's on the Green (Norwalk), and the Unitarian Society of New Haven for an Epiphany-tide Evensong at Trinity, featuring music of Dyson, Mendelssohn, and Maggie Burk.

### **Festal Evensong for the Eve of the Presentation with Procession**

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 5PM

Please join St. Thomas's choirs for a special Evensong for the Eve of the Presentation of the Lord with Candlemas Procession!

### **Evensong for the Annunciation at Christ Church, New Haven**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 5:30PM

The choirs of St. Thomas's, Christ Church, and Trinity on the Green present a joint evensong for the Feast of the Annunciation.



## Serving Today

**Coffee Hour Host:** Gary Robison  
**Flowers:** Heather Robison  
**Intercessor:** Jennifer Herdt  
**Lector:** Claire Scully  
**Music Director:** Dr. Matthew Cramer  
**Organist:** Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz  
**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp  
**Sacristans:** Bryan Hiott, Claire Scully  
**Subdeacon:** Ricardo Chavira  
**Ushers:** Debbie Griffin, Gary Robison  
**Vestry Host:** Claire Scully

## 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, Martin, 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:** St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely & the oppressed. For Swords to Plowshares

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:** Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

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

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 and Pageant

Christmas Day at 11 AM: Holy Eucharist with Carols

### **Christmas Offerings to St. Thomas's**

Please consider making a seasonal gift to the church. You may designate it as a general donation, or direct it to the flower fund or the music fund. All gifts will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin and the enews. Giving envelopes are in the pews and at the doors; you can also donate by check or online using [this link](#). For inclusion in the Christmas bulletin, we must have your donation by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19.

### **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 Sunday **December 21**, 11:30-12 noon in the lounge. The title is "Uncovering Matthew."

### **Twelfth Night Carol Sing and Potluck | Sunday, January 4 at 5 PM** 🎄

Join us as we gather for one last chance to sing all of our favorite carols! We'll begin at 5 in the Lounge with dinner and conclude in the sanctuary with caroling. We will provide traditional and vegetarian lasagnas; feel free to accessorize as desired with favorite sides, salads and desserts.

### **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](#).

### **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.).