



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 21, 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

‘O come, O come, Emmanuel’

Calvin Hampton (1938–1984)

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

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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



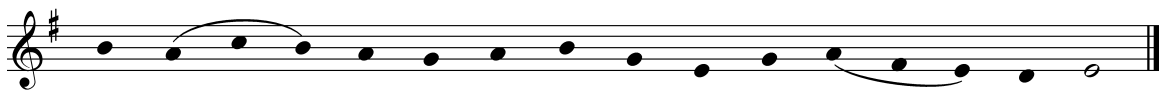
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

# 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.**



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

Come now, and praise the humble saint (260, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Come now, and praise the hum - ble saint of Da - vid's house and line,  
 2 The Ar - chi - tect's high mir - a - cles he saw, and what was done,  
 3 For him there was no glo - ry here, no crown or mar - tyr's fame;  
 4 But now with - in the Fa - ther's grace where saints and an - gels throng,

the car - pen - ter whose life ful - filled our gra - cious God's de - sign.  
 the Vir - gin's spouse, the guard - ian of great Da - vid's great - er Son.  
 for him there was the pa - tient life of faith and hum - ble name.  
 be - side his spouse, be - fore the Son, he joins the heav - en - ly song.

Words: George W. Williams (b. 1922). Copyright © 1979 by The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Tallis' Ordinal*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1:18-25

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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)*

Peace be to you and grace from Him  
who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood  
That we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,  
The Lord Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come;  
Sing Holy, Holy Lord!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,  
For Christ will be their All!

Words: adapted from Revelation 22 Music: Paul Manz (1919–2009), 1954

*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

Creator of the stars of night (67, *The Hymnal* 1982)



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
\* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
2 should doom - to death a u - ni - verse,  
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* 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, joining 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 HYMN

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming (81, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

*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.*]

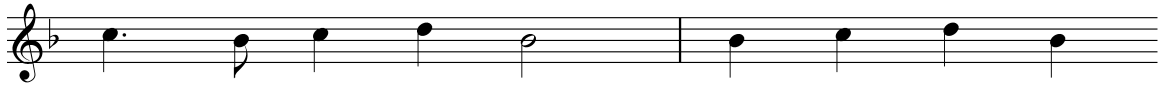
People: **Amen.**

HYMN

Savior of the nations, come (54, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

VOLUNTARY

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

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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 Hosts:** Jennifer Herdt, Jane Messer  
**Flowers:** Heather Robison  
**Intercessor:** Max Ballardo  
**Lector:** Bob Herdt  
**Music Director:** Dr. Matthew Cramer  
**Organist:** Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz  
**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Alan Murchie  
**Sacristan:** Debbie Griffin  
**Subdeacons:** Max Ballardo, William English, Bryan Hiott  
**Ushers:** Chris & CharlotteRose Acosta  
**Vestry Host:** Alexandria Robison

## 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:** Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; The children of the world & all ECCT ministries for children at risk

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

**In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:** Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and the Mainland of China

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](mailto:Bryan.Hiott@stthomasnewhaven.org)

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.*

### **“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.

### **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

### **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))

### **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.

### **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."

### **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](#).

### **Winter Weather is Here!**

In case of unsafe travel conditions, the Vestry will cancel church services. We will announce a cancellation by 8:30 a.m. via Facebook, the website, and a special edition of the E-news. Be sure to look for this before you leave home on a Sunday morning.

### **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.).