



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

February 18, 2026 7 P.M.

St. Thomas's Church Welcomes Everyone

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.

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.

The Ministers and Choir enter in silence. At the invitation of the Presider, all stand.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

JOEL 2:1-2,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.
Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD, your God?
Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:8-14 (*sung by the Choir; the People respond with the Antiphon*)

Tone VIII.2

Antiphon:



The LORD knows where - of we are made; he re - mem - bers that we are



but dust.

- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **[Antiphon]**
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust. **[Antiphon]**

THE SECOND LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness (144, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Lord Je - sus, Sun of Right - eous - ness, shine
2 Give guid - ance to our wan - dering ways, for -
3 Lord, grant that we in pen - i - tence may
4 Now near - er draws the day of days when
5 The u - ni - verse your glo - ry shows, blest

1 in our hearts, we pray; dis - pel the gloom that
2 give us, Lord, our sin; re - store us by your
3 of - fer you our praise, and through your sav - ing
4 par - a - dise shall bloom, when we shall be at
5 Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son; we shall ac - claim your

1 shades our minds and be to us as day.
 2 lov - ing care to peace and joy with - in.
 3 sac - ri - fice re - ceive your gift of grace.
 4 one with you, Lord, ris - en from the tomb.
 5 ma - jes - ty, e - ter - nal Three in One.

Words: Latin; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b. 1930). Copyright © 1982, Anne LeCroy. Music: *Cornhill*, Harold Darke (1888-1976), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 6:1-6,16-21

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

All stand.

THE INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Presider

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Presider

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Presider imposes ashes on the People, beginning with the Choir. The ashes are imposed with the words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

During the imposition of ashes, the Choir sings the following Psalm.

PSALM 51 *(sung by the Choir)*

N. E. Adam

- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness; *
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; *
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou shalt judge.
- 5 Behold, I was shapen in wickedness *
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 But lo, thou requireth truth in the inward parts *

- and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
8 Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; *
 thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
9 Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, *
 that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
10 Turn thy face from my sins *
 and put out all my misdeeds.
11 Make me a clean heart, O God, *
 and renew a right spirit within me.
12 Cast me not away from thy presence *
 and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
13 O give me the comfort of thy help again *
 and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
14 Then shall I teach thy ways to the wicked, *
 and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
15 Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health, *
 and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
16 Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, *
 and my mouth shall show thy praise.
17 For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee, *
 but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.
18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
19 O be favourable and gracious unto Sion; *
 build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
20 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,
 with the burnt-offerings and oblations, *
 then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The People may stand or kneel.

Presider and People

**Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Presider

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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), and click GIVE NOW. If viewing this document electronically, simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

ANTHEM *(Sung by the Choir)*

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord,
and cast not off thy servant in thy displeasure;
for we confess our sins unto thee
and hide not our unrighteousness.
For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.

Words: Psalm 27:10 Music: Richard Farrant (c.1525-1580)

During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Presider sets the table, and the People come forward to 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, please feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Jesus, all my gladness (701, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Je - sus, all my glad - ness, my re - pose in sad - ness,
2 Hence with earth - ly trea - sure: thou art all my plea - sure,
3 Flee, dark clouds that low - er, for my joy be - stow - er,

Je - sus, heaven to me, ah, my heart long plain - eth, ah, my spi - rit
Je - sus, my de - sire! Hence, for pomps I care not, e'en as though they
Je - sus, en - ters in! Joy from tri - bu - la - tion, hope from des - o -

The image shows a musical score for the Offertory Hymn "Jesus, all my gladness" from The Hymnal 1982. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord (S 122, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Plainsong; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1983 Mason Martens.

Presider

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

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

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

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and 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 Thomas 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.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God, S 160, *The Hymnal 1982*

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

Music: Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1984 Mason Martens.

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*)

Emendemus in melius

Emendemus in melius quae ignoranter peccavimus;
ne subito praeoccupati die mortis,
quaeramus spatium poenitentiae,
et invenire non possumus.
Attende, Domine, et miserere; quia peccavimus tibi.

Adjuva nos, Deus salutaris noster,
et propter honorem nominis tuis libera nos.

Let us amend the sins that in our ignorance we have
committed: lest the day of death come upon us
suddenly, and we find no place for repentance,
though we seek it.
Hear, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned
against thee.
Help us, O God of our salvation:
for the glory of thy Name deliver us.

Words: Responsorary for Ash Wednesday and first Sunday of Lent
Music: William Byrd (1540–1623), *Cantiones Sacrae*, No. 4, 1575

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

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

People: Amen.

HYMN

The glory of these forty days (143, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
 * 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß, BWV 622
 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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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), click Enews Archive for the latest edition or Enews (subscribe) to subscribe.

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR 2026 March 29 – April 5

- ⊗ Palm Sunday at 10 AM | Liturgy of the Palms, Procession with Bagpipes, and Sung Passion
- ⊗ Holy Wednesday at 6:30 PM | Musical Meditation for Tenebrae
- ⊗ Maundy Thursday at 6:30 PM (at St. Peter's, Cheshire) | *Agape Supper, Holy Eucharist, and Foot Washing*
- ⊗ Good Friday 6:30 PM | Good Friday Liturgy with choir
- ⊗ Easter Vigil (Saturday) at 6:30 PM | Lighting of Paschal Fire, First Alleluias of Easter (with choir)
- ⊗ Easter Day at 10 AM | Festal Eucharist; Easter Brunch follows at 11:15!

Children and Youth

Sundays in Lent we will offer sessions of children's education focused on **Lent, Holy Week, and Easter**. During **coffee hour**, a table will be set aside for Sunday School. All are welcome. Fill your plate and join Denise Terry all the Sundays during Lent. Questions? Denise Terry (240-481-8537 or terry.df@gmail.com)

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, **March 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.

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 Needed!

Our team of coffee-hour hosts is small and our congregation is growing! Please consider joining us as a host, co-host, or contributor. Consult the poster in the lounge or the online signup link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee>. Ideally, as our congregation grows we would like to have two or three hosts/contributors per week. Thank you!

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 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. 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

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.).

Serving Today

Intercessor: Alexandria Robison

Lectors: Chris and Charlotte Rose Acosta

Music Director: Dr. Matthew Cramer

Organist: Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Alan Murchie

Sacristan: William English

Subdeacon: Bryan Hiott

Ushers: Chris and Charlotte Rose Acosta, William English

Vestry Host: Jennifer Herdt

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Max Ballardo

Morgen Campbell

Ricardo Chavira (Junior Warden)

Maria Coffin

Don Edwards

Bill English (Treasurer)

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)

Linda Pivarnik

Claire Scully (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

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:

for Maria, Martin, Michael, Susan, and Keyna

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, especially:

for Keyvon

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of

Prayer, pray for: Christ Church, Greenwich; St.

Barnabas', Greenwich; Christ Church, Guilford; The

Reparations Fund Board; The Racial Healing, Justice &

Reconciliation Ministry Network

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: The

Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical

Prayer Cycle, pray for: Austria, Liechtenstein,

Switzerland

Dr. Matthew Cramer, Music Director

♦ music@stthomasnewhaven.org

Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, Organist

s.gamboa-diaz@stthomasnewhaven.org

Bryan Hiott, Seminarian Intern

Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org

The Rev. Alan Murchie, Rector

♦ alan@stthomasnewhaven.org