



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 25, 2025 10 A.M.

WELCOME! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O come, all ye faithful (83, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,___

1 come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 3 glo - ry to God,___ glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider and People

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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

All stand.

HYMN

God rest you merry, gentlemen (105, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



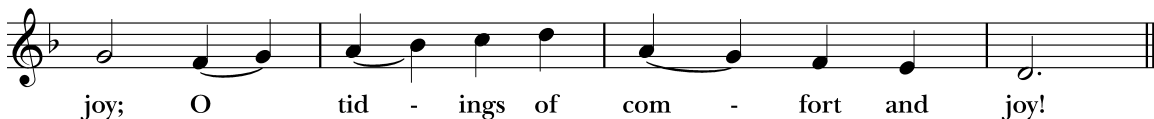
re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



Refrain
 O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-14

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated.

THE SERMON

All stand.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus.

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you, that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence; fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' light, and kings to the brightness of his rising; draw our nation, and all the nations of the world, to His brightness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As angels sang "Gloria!" to you and proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples; bring us your peace, and bring an end to and terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room in the inn; be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As the holy family gathered together in Bethlehem and traveled together to far off lands; bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal; give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. [*You are invited to offer your prayer intentions silently or aloud.*]

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HYMN

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn (106, *The Hymnal* 1982)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written between the staves. The first system has three lines of lyrics: '1 Chris - tians, a - wake, sa - lute the hap - py morn', '2 Then to the watch - ful shep - herds it was told,', and '5 Let us, like these good shep - herds, then em - ploy'. The second system also has three lines: '1 where - on the Sa - vior of the world was born;', '2 who heard the an - gel - ic her - ald's voice: "Be - hold,', and '5 our grate - ful voic - es to pro - claim the joy;'. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

1 rise to a - dore the mys - ter - y of love,
 2 I bring good tid - ings of a Sa - vior's birth
 5 trace we the Babe, who hath re - triev'd our loss,

1 which hosts of an - gels chant - ed from a - bove;
 2 to you and all the na - tions on the earth:
 5 from his poor man - ger to his bit - ter cross;

1 with them the joy - ful tid - ings first be - gun of
 2 this day hath God ful - filled his prom - ised word, this
 5 tread - ing his steps, as - sist - ed by his grace, till

1 God In - car - nate and the Vir - gin's Son.
 2 day is born a Sav - ior, Christ the Lord."
 5 our first heaven - ly state a - gain takes place.

6 Then may we hope, the angelic thrones among,
 to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;
 he that was born upon this joyful day
 around us all his glory shall display;
 saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
 eter-nal praise to heaven's almighty King.

Words: John Byrom (1692-1763), alt. Music: *Yorkshire*, John Wainwright (1723-1768).

THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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 POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN

Hark! the herald angels sing (87, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Serving Today

Organist: The Rev. Alan Murchie
Celebrant: The Rev. Alan Murchie
Sacristan: Bryan Hiott

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
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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

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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



Christmas Offerings

Jennifer Herdt

Leslie Kearney in memory of Lester and Olga, Paul and Anna, Dawn and William, Arthur, Josef, Robert, Dean, and Jacqueline

James Mansfield in memory of Robert & Sharon Mansfield, Leo & Elenor Brunelle, Kenneth & Caroline Mansfield, Roy Graham & Sally Lawson

Alan Murchie

Linda Pivarnik

Gary Robison

Thelma Smullen

Heartfelt gratitude to ...

*Denise Terry and the Children of the Parish,
for the Christmas Pageant and the joy you always set in our hearts*

*The St. Thomas's Choir,
for helping us to worship God through the beauty of music*

Soprano

*Morgen Campbell
Cora Hagens
Emilie Hannon
Jennifer Herdt
Elijah McCormack
Alexandria Robison*

Alto

*Faith Brill
Nancy Campbell
Bridget Nixon
Debbie Rice
Heather Robison*

Tenor

*Sheldon Campbell
Donald Edwards
Bryan Hiott
Jack Purdue*

Bass

*Nathaniel Adam
Matthew Cramer
Robert Herdt
Gary Snowbeck*