



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME

Service of Holy Eucharist

January 1, 2023 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, **WELCOME!**

To follow along with the service all you need is this bulletin.

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service and any time you are inside, regardless of vaccination status. Our expectation is that everyone who can be has been vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Very young children and people who are immunocompromised lack vaccine protection, so your continued diligence is appreciated.

There is no mechanical air exchange in the church portions of the building. The Lounge has high efficiency air filters but no mechanical air exchange.

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 **restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit. All restrooms are all-gender single-use.

ALL are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. As a pandemic safety precaution, the People will be offered bread but not wine. Remember, the sacrament is complete and efficacious even when received in one kind only. Instructions for Holy Communion are included below at the appropriate point.

If you are new, please consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a nametag, and next Sunday it will be waiting on the table inside the main entrance.

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.

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

OPENING ACCLAMATION, SALUTATION, AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

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

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

NUMBERS 6:22-27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8

- 1 O LORD our Governor, ***
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children ***
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, ***
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ***
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? ***
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; ***
you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; ***
you put all things under his feet:

- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
10 O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

THE SECOND LESSON

GALATIANS 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 2:15-21

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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.

THE NICENE CREED

Presider and People

**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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

Presider

In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, “God of love, hear our prayer.”

Intercessor and People

Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and reconciliation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel's good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Multitudes of heavenly host proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for justice and liberation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of those who lack food or shelter. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, and at the last day gather us all in your eternal life. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the concerns and gratitude of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud.
[You are invited to offer your prayer intentions.]

Presider

God of love, the feast of Christmas reminds us that you are with us at all times and in all places; hear our prayer, and send your Holy Spirit to guide us more certainly upon the way of your Holy Child, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. You may then be seated for brief announcements, and while the altar is prepared.

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!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EUCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

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.

Presider

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being! You set the earth on its foundations, spread out the heavens like a tent, set a boundary to the seas, filled the world with your creatures, and then called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we give glory to you and say:

Presider and People

**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.

Presider

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, cared for by our brother Joseph, Jesus came among us as a baby, human as we are, in need of human love. Though humbly born, kings honored him, and emperors feared him.

The Word of God made flesh and full of grace, a child in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, was sent to deliver us from sin, from the power of evil, and from the fear of death. As a man, Jesus surrendered his might upon the cross. As the risen Anointed

One, he is enthroned at God's right hand. At the end of days, he will bring mercy and justice to all the earth.

And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again!

Presider

We remember that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in this bread and wine. Make them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth. Shed your grace brighter than starlight upon us, that we may bear your good tidings to all, and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel, God With Us, to whom in joy we give honor and glory, now and for 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.

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 communion, the priest will come to you. Extend your hands, and the priest will place the bread in them. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest.

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Mysterious God, we thank you
for feeding us with yourself;
and for making yourself known to us
in the holy child Jesus, the Christ.
Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit,
that same Spirit which was in Jesus,
so that that we may help bring your peace to all the earth
in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Wishing you and yours a
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS SEASON
and
ABUNDANT BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!

Christmas Offerings

Don Edwards, in thanksgiving for our Parish Musicians

*Jakki Flanagan & Keri Aubert, in memory of
Mary Ann & Pat Flanagan, Ginny & AJ Aubert, and Dorothy Asch*

*James Mansfield in memory of Robert & Sharon Mansfield,
Kenneth & Caroline Mansfield, Sally Lawson & Roy Graham*

Dwight Miller

Gary Robison

Denise Terry, in memory of Sally Edwards

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.*

We have returned to our pre-pandemic practice of gathering around the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. Please follow the instructions at the appropriate point in the bulletin.

The church office will be closed through Monday, January 2.

SAVE THE DATE: Concert in Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of St. Thomas's Church: Sunday, January 29, 4 p.m. Details to come.

Parish Prayer List. Every week, the Enews includes a list of Prayer Intentions. The hope is that parishioners pray these intentions during their regular prayer practice. Included with the Prayer Intentions is our Parish prayer list, which includes parishioners as well as others we are asked to pray for. On January 1, we are clearing out that list and starting over. If there is someone you would like to include, please email Keri+ or Julie. Because folks don't always remember to tell us when a person can come off the list, we will remove them after three months unless you request otherwise.

Save the Dates: Upcoming Ordinations. Day School Chaplain Jill Morrison will be ordained priest on Saturday, January 7, at 10 a.m. at Christ Church Quaker Farms, Oxford, CT. Meg Stapleton Smith, this Parish's sponsee for ordination, will be ordained priest on Tuesday, February 14, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas' Church, Bethel, CT. Your prayers and presence are requested.

Advent Unbound: A Companion to Pádraig Ó Tuama's "Poetry Unbound": Final Session, 7:30 p.m., January 5. See the Enews for details and for news on what's next.

Winter Weather is Coming! In case of inclement winter weather, rather than cancel church altogether, we will switch to Zoom only. See the Enews for details.

Register today for a 2-Day VISIONS, Inc. Workshop. VISIONS Inc. is offering workshops for those interested in expanding ideas & creating community around concepts of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. See the Enews.



Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Eucharistic Minister:

Lector: Bob Herdt

Intercessor:

Sacristan:

Usher:

Coffee Hour Hosts: Bob & Lorna Herdt

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:

Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Dwight (Miller), Katie (Coleman), Leon (Denise Terry's brother-in-law), Lily (Madeleine Anderson's mother)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
the people of Ukraine

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

St. Peter's, Cheshire; Holy Advent, Clinton; Trinity Church, Collinsville; For all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

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

Japan, North Korea, South Korea

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Madeleine Anderson

Valerie Cicero

Claire Scully

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Day School Board of Trustees

John Forrest (Chair)

Greg Mokotoff (Vice-Chair)

Christopher Cavallaro (Treasurer)

Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)

Renu Boatwright

William English

Robert Herdt

Ken Paul

Robert Tait

Chris Vigilante

Susan Zhang

Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden)

Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511
Church: (203) 777-7623 ♦ www.stthomasnewhaven.org
Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org

The Rev. Keri Aubert, Rector ♦ k.aubert@stthomasnewhaven.org
Dr. Noah Horn, Music Director ♦ n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org
Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org
Gina Panza, Head of School ♦ gpanza@stthomasday.org