



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

February 15, 2026 10 A.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.

VOLUNTARY

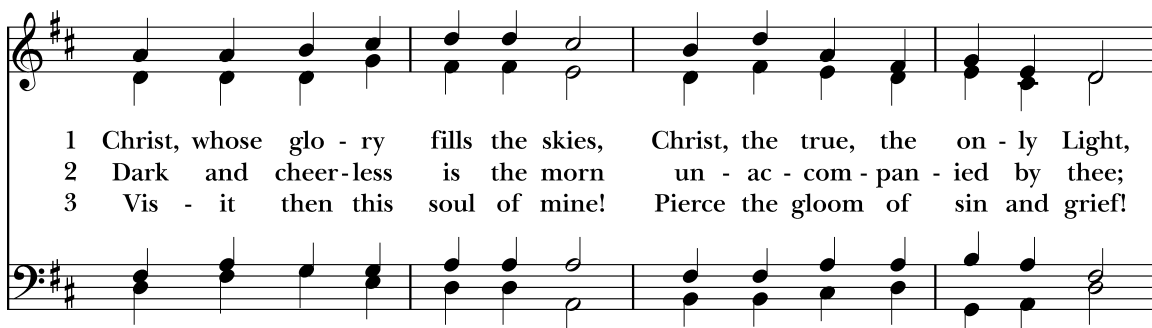
II. Adagio, from Concerto in A-minor, BWV 593

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741) arr. J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ, whose glory fills the skies (7, *The Hymnal* 1982)



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!



Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Ratisbon*, melody from *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524; adapt. att. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870); harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory be to God (S 202, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,

to all, good - will. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,

we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give

thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly

King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y.

4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;

5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the

right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.

8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. thou
on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most
high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. —
A - - - - - men.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1881-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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

EXODUS 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

- 1 The LORD is King;
let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.
- 2 The LORD is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.
- 4 “O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 PETER 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Christ upon the mountain peak (130, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Christ up - on the moun-tain peak stands a - lone in glo - ry
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E - li - jah
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came. God pro - claim - ing in its
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and pro - phets fade be -



blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
speak - ing. All the pro - phets and the Law
thun - der Je - sus as his Son by name!
fore him; first and last and on - ly One,



with the saints and an - gels praise him. Al - le - lu - ia!
shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Na - tions cry a - loud in won - der! Al - le - lu - ia!
let cre - a - tion now a - dore him! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936). Copyright © 1977 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Shillingford*, Peter Cutts (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 17:1-9

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

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

Presider

Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ.

Intercessor and People

As the prophet Isaiah sang out, “Arise, shine; for your light has come,” empower your Church, O God, to proclaim the Good News of the Light of your Son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ Child, send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth, we pray for this community: for this parish, for our hometowns, and for our nation. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus climbed to the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world, we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lonely. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him, we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. We pray also for all who seek faith or struggle with faith. Give them your peace. 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.*]

Presider

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.**

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 remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. 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!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(Sung by the Choir)*

A prayer for peace

Be peace on earth before the Prince of Peace!
Messiah comes; Let furious discord cease.
Be peace on earth.
Disease and anguish feel His blest control,
And howling fiends release the tortured soul;

The beams of gladness hell's dark caves illumine,
And Mercy broods above the distant gloom.
Be peace on earth before the Prince of Peace!
Messiah comes; Let furious discord cease.
Be peace on earth.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783–1826), from *Palestine*, 1803 Music: William Crotch (1775–1847) arr. John Stainer (1840–1901)

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

O wondrous type! O vision fair (137, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Descant

4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair of glo - ry
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in - car - nate
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and Ho - ly

vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful

1 that the Church may share, which Christ up - on the
 2 Lord holds con - verse high; and from the cloud, the
 3 man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
 4 vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
 5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, vouch - safe to bring us

strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

1 moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 2 Ho - ly One bears re - cord to the on - ly Son.
 3 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
 4 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
 5 by thy grace to see thy glo - ry face to face.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1848-1866), alt. Music: Wareham, melody William Knapp (1698-1768); alt.; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, after James Turle (1802-1882); desc. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947). Descant by permission of the Royal School of Church Music.

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, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [], and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. **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.

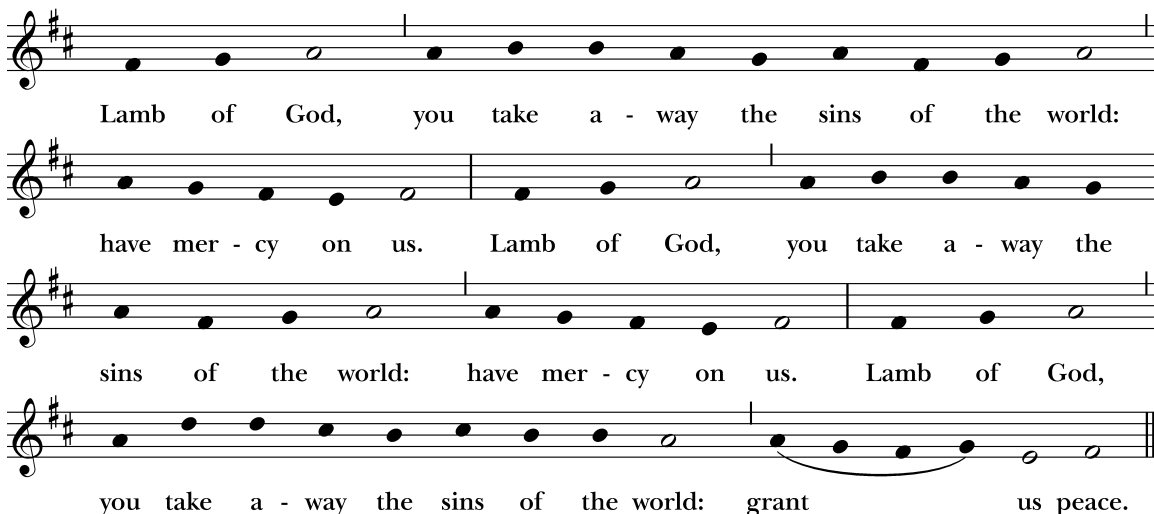
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,	as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.
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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God (S 161, *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: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest and Eucharistic minister will come to you. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. To receive wine, you may sip from the common cup, or intinct (dip the bread into the wine). If you choose to intinct, please dip only the tip of the bread into the wine—fingers that touch the wine are a source of contamination. After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.

COMMUNION ANTHEM (*Sung by the Schola Antiqua*)

O nata lux

O nata lux de lumine,
 Jesu redemptor saeculi,
 dignare clemens supplicum
 laudes preces que sumere.

O light born of light,
 Jesus, redeemer of the world,
 mercifully deign to receive our prayers
 and supplications which we raise.

Qui carne quondam contegi,
 dignatus es pro perditis.
 Nos membra confer effici,
 tui beati corporis.

You who once did accept the covering of flesh
 for the sake of the lost,
 grant that we may become members
 of your blessed body.

O nata lux de lumine...

O light born of light...

Words: O nata lux, 10th c. office hymn Music: Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943), from *Lux Aeterna*, 1997

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.

EPIPHANY BLESSING

Presider

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

Alleluia, song of gladness

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. There are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different verse of the hymn. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

1. Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2. Al - le - lu - ia thou re - sound - est, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3. Al - le - lu - ia though we cher - ish and would chant for ev - er - more
4. There - fore in our hymns we pray thee, grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er raised by choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful mo - ther, all thy chil - dren sing with thee;
 al - le - lu - ia in our sing - ing, let us for a while give o'er,
 at the last to keep thine Eas - ter with thy faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 but by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
 as our Sa - vior in his fast - ing plea - sures of the world for - bore.
 there to thee for ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Words: Latin, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880)

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

VOLUNTARY

I. [Allegro] , from Concerto in A-minor, BWV 593

Antonio Vivaldi arr. J.S. Bach

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Serving Today

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jennifer Herdt, Thelma Smullen
Flowers: Heather Robison
Intercessor: Morgen Campbell
Lector: Max Ballardo
Music Director: Dr. Matthew Cramer
Organist: Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz
Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Alan Murchie
Sacristan: Debbie Griffin
Subdeacon: William English
Ushers: Debbie Griffin, Gary Robison
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
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: 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

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.



Love Week continues this morning with Blessing Bag Preparation at Coffee Hour -- Join Us!

Children and Youth

TODAY, **February 15**, we will begin a session 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. We will begin this week talking about Ash Wednesday and the new church season. Children will be able to join in filling "blessing bags" as a St. Thomas's parish finishes up "Love Week."
Questions? Denise Terry (240-481-8537 or terry.df@gmail.com)

Hymn Sing and Potluck | Sunday, February 15 at 5 PM

TODAY! Please plan to join us this afternoon, Sunday, February 15, as we punctuate the Epiphany season with a festive Hymn Sing. We'll sing the season's final Alleluias and enjoy an echo of Valentine's Day with hymns dedicated to love. Alan will be bringing Chicken Pot Pie and Mac & Cheese; please bring accompaniments as you are so moved, from additional entrees to bread, salad, and desserts. We'll begin with dinner in the lounge and then gather around the piano to sing, finishing up with final Alleluias at the organ. All ages are most welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY ✕ Wednesday, February 18 ✕ Liturgies at 12 Noon and 7 PM

Join us at 12 Noon or at 7 PM on Wednesday, February 18 for Imposition of Ashes as the season of Lent begins with the solemn, reflective Ash Wednesday liturgy. Both services will conclude with a celebration of Holy Eucharist; the choir joins us at 7 PM.

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.).