

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist, Rite II



First Sunday after Christmas
26th December 2021 at 10:00 AM

THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City*

Hymnal #102, v.v. 1 & 2

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Ed Rhodes

Prophecy of the Messiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing (repeat 3 times)

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy. (repeat 3 times)

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Pat Smith

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

The Third Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Louise Armitage

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol *Away in a manger*

Hymnal #101, v.v. 1 & 2

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

Kadri Kallikorm-Rhodes

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and

lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem, v.v. 1 & 2*

Hymnal #78

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

The Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Isabella Hayes

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol *We three kings of Orient are, v. 1*

Hymnal #128

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

The Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Mary Russell

The Word Became Flesh

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.

Carol

Creator of the stars of night, v.v. 1, 3, & 4

Hymnal #60

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Concluding Collect *(for the First Sunday after Christmas)*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

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

Closing Hymn *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

99, Blue Hymnal

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Dismissal

The Christmas Flower Decorations are Given to the Glory of God by:



Laura Barlow

In Loving Memory of Robert Barlow, and Elizabeth Shatto.



Maggie Beatty and Family

In Loving Memory of Al Beatty.



Susan & Jack Cowart

In Loving Memory of our parents Kass & Bob Farr, and Jean & John Cowart, and
Robert Cowart, brother of Jack.



Revs. Fran Gardner-Smith & David Smith

In Loving Memory of Frank & Barbara Gardner, and Judy Smith;
In Thanksgiving for the staff at St. Thomas and the Early Learning Center.



The Christmas Flower Decorations are Given to the Glory of God by:



Betsy & Peter Reddaway
In Loving Memory of our parents.



Thomas, Colin and Will Regan
In Thanksgiving for their grandparents, Nancy and Bill Hightower.



Berta & Wade Smith
In Loving Memory of our son, Ward Willis; and
In Thanksgiving for our granddaughter Reagan Smith.



Pat & David Smith
In Loving Memory of our mothers: Geraldine S. Smith and Janice H. Younger.



Becky Vantorini
In Thanksgiving for my family who makes me feel grateful everyday.



Year-End Financial Planning

As you embark on your year-end tax planning, I want to draw your attention to some important information related to St. Thomas and year-end planning:

Deadline for Cash Donations – Your cash/check donations must be physically received at the church by December 31, 2021, or postmarked by the 31st, if you mail them. No exceptions.

E-giving - Giving credit will be recorded the date you enter your e-giving transaction and must be by December 31, 2021.

Deadline for Stock Donations – Your stock should be in St. Thomas' account at our brokers, Cetera, by December 31. **We encourage you to transfer the stock immediately** rather than towards the end of the month, as the transfer process can take more than a few days.

If you still intend to donate securities, please do so as soon as possible, recognizing there are no guarantees it will be counted as a 2021 contribution.

Thank you for your continued generous support of St. Thomas and its mission as we embark on our mission programs. Don't hesitate to contact our accountant, Mary Cyrus, on **703-442-0330** or at Accountant@stthomasmclean.org. Or you can reach out to me when I return Sunday, December 19, on **703-338-0974** or at pysmith51@gmail.com

Faithfully yours, Pat Smith, Treasurer

Office Hours

The Parish Office is closed from December 29th thru Monday, January 3rd.
Tuesday, January 4th, regular Office hours resume
9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

ECW Next Hybrid Meeting – Sunday January 9, 2021

Please make note of the new start time – 8:45 am

All Women of St. Thomas are invited to join us for the next ECW Meeting on Sunday January 9th at 8:30 a.m. (new start time!) in person and on Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date.



Pies for Haiti & Afghan Refugees

Pat Smith will make you either a 9-inch pie for \$25 or three (3) small pies of the same kind for \$30,



the *proceeds of which will go to assist Haiti in its recovery or for Afghan ally refugees settling in our area*. Popular fruit pies are apple, apple-cranberry (I have frozen fresh cranberries), apple-raspberry, raspberry or blackberry (when available), strawberry-rhubarb (I have frozen rhubarb), tart cherry, blueberry, and Harvest Moon Pie (apples, cranberries, dried apricots – sweet and tart). Custard pies are lemon meringue, coconut cream, banana cream, and chocolate pudding pie.

Pat can make vegan fruit pies. Either call Pat on 703-338-0974 or email her at pysmith51@gmail.com with a week's notice. Fruit pies can successfully be frozen to enjoy at a future date, but custard pies cannot be frozen.

Update from the St. Thomas Afghan Discernment Team

Earlier this week, the St Thomas Afghan refuge response committee met to discern how we will support resettlement. We decided to partner with Ethiopian Community Development Council, a recognized nonprofit that has long undertaken resettlement. We liked that they are structured and responsive.

Our first project is to ready two apartments for families (size and ages of children are not yet known). We will collect furniture, linens, pots and pans, dishes, even stocking a pantry with staples. Susan Burk is creating a Sign-up Genius specifying what is needed so parishioners can mark what they can provide. Items should be new or like new. Another method is to order the items from Amazon. If you choose this option, don't forget to use Amazon Smile and designate St. Thomas as your non-profit, so St. Thomas derives benefit. The third method to support Afghan refugees is by donating funds through the St Thomas Giving Portal.

A link to the Sign Up Genius will be sent as soon as we hear from ECDC about the size of the families whose apartments we will furnish.

Please do not bring any items to church until we know when the families will be moving in. Thank you for considering this opportunity to help those families who risked their lives to support our government presence in Afghanistan.



Women Gathering Zoom Meetup

The next Women Gathering Zoom meetup is **Thursday, January 13th, from 4:30-5:15 pm.** We will be looking at the lives of two women in the Bible--Deborah and Rahab. Fran will lead the discussion based on the book *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter* by Lindsey Freeman. To purchase it, click [HERE](#).

St. Thomas Episcopal Church invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87242612804?pwd=SXNCKytJVEpSM2VvUC9RditsTjNRZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 4261 2804 Passcode: 201069



*Walter's Last Day
as our Minister of Music
Sunday, January 23, 2022*

*Hybrid Worship as one Congregation
At 10:00 AM*

No 8:00 AM Service

Reception to Follow.

THE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
IS ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021!

Worship as one congregation at 9:00 AM,
Annual Meeting following @ 10:00 AM.

No 8:AM Service!

A PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Michael Curry, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, *Ecclesiastical Authority, Suffragan Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor, *Assisting Bishop*

The Very Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, *Rector* 571-549-1458 - fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org
Ms. Natalie Perl Regan, *Pastoral Associate* 202-617-9633 - natalie.regan@stthomasmcleanva.org

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Hooman Mirzaei
Will Ferris
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Melinda Fairchild
Bruce Allan
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