



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community, and
to care, reach out, and
include all people in Christ's love.

The Feast of the Incarnation



Adoration of the Shepherds by Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich (1712 – April 23, 1774)

At Home Worship
December 25, 2021
10 AM

THE WORD OF GOD

Christmas Candle Lighting

Worship Leader

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace: to you be praise and glory forever. The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

NOW LIGHT THREE PURPLE CANDLES, ONE PINK CANDLE, AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

Opening Hymn *O come, all ye faithful*

The Blue Hymnal, #83, vs. 1

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels

Refrain

O come, let us adore him (repeats)

Christ the Lord.

Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 forever.

Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson is from the Prophet Isaiah (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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 98. We will read it responsively by half verse.

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *

for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm *

has he won for himself the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his victory; *

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *

with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *

shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *

the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *

and the peoples with equity.

The Holy Gospel John 1:1-14

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. David

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.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light. Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you. Lord, in your mercy
be with us now.

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth. We pray especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Susan, Jennifer and Porter, our Bishops; Fran, Natalie, Mollie, Walter, Joy, Mary, Nicole, our staff, for the teachers at the Early Learning Center, and for Ascension Church in Beraud, Haiti. Lord, in your mercy
be with us now.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations, especially Joe, our President, and Ralph, our Governor, and Glenn, our Governor-elect, and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy
be with us now.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities. We pray especially for our ministry partners: Falls Church McLean Children's Center, Share, Second Story, Cornerstones, and FACETS. Lord, in your mercy
be with us now.

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer, your gift of wholeness and peace. We pray especially for Susan, Andrei, Ethan, Emma, Johnny, Julie, David, Anne, Martha, Lucy, Kadri, Jim, Michelle, Madeleine, Eliana, Phyllis, Hilary, Frankie, Megan, Michael, Jack, Bonnie, Greet, Peter, Melissa, Olga, Scott,

Amaya, Jen, Brendan, Barbara, and Josie, those with COVID-19, victims of the deadly Tornadoes, and those whom you would name. [*pause*] Lord, in your mercy **be with us now.**

Jesus, whose birth we celebrate this night, bless those whose birthdays and anniversaries we will celebrate this coming week – Virginia Smith, and Amanda Miles as they celebrate their birthdays next week; for Kadri Kallikorm-Rhodes and Ed Rhodes celebrating their wedding anniversary next week. We give thanks for those in whose honor the Christmas flowers have been given, and those thanksgivings you would name silently or aloud, [*pause*]. We pray, **Jesus, look with favor, on your servants as they celebrate.**

Shepherd of souls, you have promised to be with us in the valley of the shadow of death: with your loving presence comfort those who mourn and bring those who have died into the light of your presence. We remember especially those in whose memory the Christmas Flowers have been given. [*pause*] Lord, in our mercy, **be with us now.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, **hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives. Amen.**

The Advent Wreath Lighting and Prayers of the People were adapted from Common Worship in the Church of England, located [here](#), by The Very Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith.

Together let us pray 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.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence.*

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.

Absolution

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.

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loves us, and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera app to be taken directly to the giving page on St. Thomas' website.

During this unprecedented time, giving is crucial to our health and viability. Please consider this a time of reflection and an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing ministries of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Contributions can be mailed to the church office (8991 Brook Road, McLean, VA 22102) or given online [here](#). Thank you!

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us 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 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 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

The Blue Hymnal #87, vs. 1

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR WORSHIP FOR ONE OR ALL OF OUR
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 27 @ 10:00 AM – A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP ZOOM LINK
PLEASE USE FOR ALL THREE SERVICES

Topic: Christmas Worship at St. Thomas

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 856 9801 5934

Passcode: 122521

Dial by your location

301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 873 5035 3385

Passcode: 122521



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



TWAST Taking a Break!

“This Week at St. Thomas” will take this week off, to allow the staff time to celebrate Christmas with their families.

The January Messenger will arrive in your emails towards the end of the first week in January.



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



ECW Next Hybrid Meeting – Sunday January 9, 2021

Please make note of the new start time – 8:30 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.

Christmas 2021 & January 2022 Schedule

Sunday, December 26

Service of Lessons & Carols
@ 10:00 am

December 29 – January 3, 2022

Offices closed

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Regular Office Hour Resumes

January 14 —4:30 pm

Women Gathering Zoom Meetup

Sunday, January 23

Walter's last day @ St. Thomas

January 30

Parish Annual meeting following our 10:00 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
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Will Ferris
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