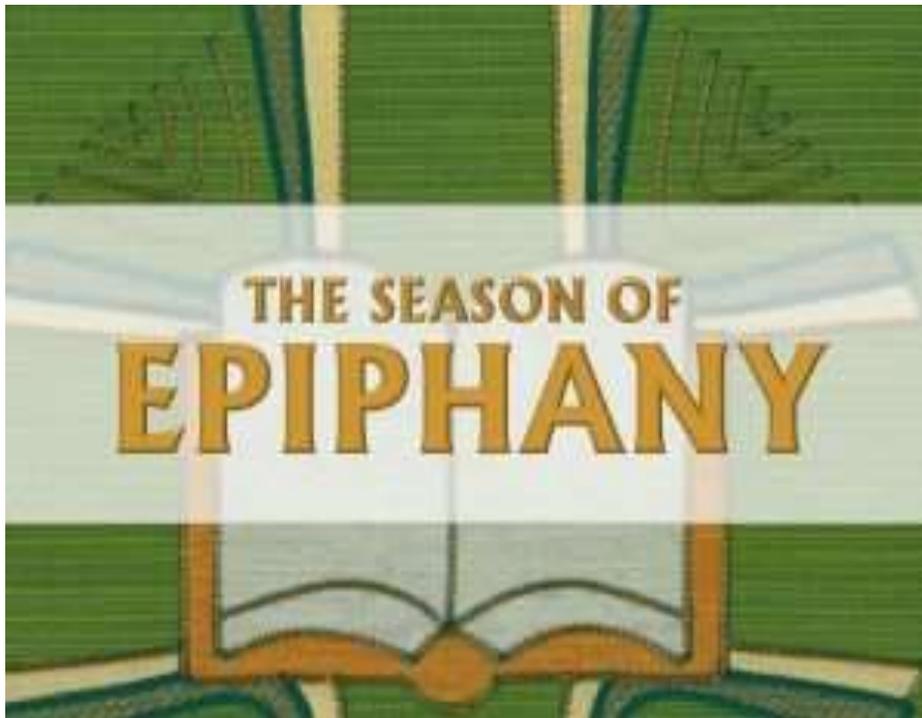




ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Ante-Communion Virtual Worship

Sunday, January 23, 2022

10:00 AM

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Prelude

Impromptu in G-flat, Op. 90, no. 3

Franz Schubert

Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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.**

Opening Hymn "Eternal ruler of the ceaseless round" # 617, Blue Hymnal

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for unison or harmony in G-flat major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 E - ter - nal Ru - ler of the cease - less round
2 We would be one in ha - tred of all wrong,
3 Oh, clothe us with thy heaven - ly ar - mor, Lord,
of cir - cling plan - ets sing - ing on their way,
one in the love of all things sweet and fair,
thy trust - y shield, thy word of love di - vine;
guide of the na - tions from the night pro - found
one with the joy that break - eth in - to song,
our in - spi - ra - tion be thy con - stant word,
in - to the glo - ry of the per - fect day;
one with the grief that trem - bleth in - to prayer;
we ask no vic - to - ries that are not thine;

rule in our hearts, that we may ev - er be
 one in the power that makes thy chil - dren free
 give or with - hold, let pain or plea - sure be;

guid - ed and strength - ened and up - held by thee.
 to fol - low truth, and thus to fol - low thee.
 e - nough to know that we are serv - ing thee.

Words: John White Chadwick (1840-1904), alt. Music: *Song 1*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), rev. Copyright ©1964 from *Hymns for Church and School*. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah:

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.

Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 (*responsively, by half verse*)

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 12:13-31a

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Celtic Alleluia



The Holy Gospel Luke 4:14-21

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Natalie Perl Regan

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

The prayers of the people is a time for us to share our prayers with one another as we lift them together to God.

Shine in your church, O God; embolden us, in a dark world, to speak truthfully and to act with the courage of love. We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Bishops, Susan, Jennifer, and Porter; our staff, Fran, Natalie, Joy, Walter, Mollie, Mary, and Nicole; and the teachers at the Early Learning Center. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we remember: St. Luke's, Simeon—Charlottesville, St. Paul's—Bailey's Crossroads, Vauters—Loretto, and we pray for Ascension Church in Beraud, Haiti [*pause*]. This day and always,
Christ, be our Light.

Shine on your world, O God; heal the warring of nations and the wounding of the earth to give us peace at last. We pray for Joe, our President, and Glenn, our Governor [*pause*]. This day and always,

Christ, be our Light.

Shine for your people, O God; make us one human family who clothe each other with mercy and feed each other with justice [*pause*]. This day and always,

Christ, be our Light.

Shine in our hearts, O God; help us to reach to the heavens and deep in our souls to seek you, to find you, and to know you [*pause*]. This day and always,

Christ, be our Light.

Shine in the saints and departed, O God; teach us to follow their lead to outrageous faith and eternal love. We remember Marcia Clukey and all those whom you would name in our prayers [*pause*]. This day and always,

Christ, be our Light.

Shine for the afflicted, O God; remind them of your deep compassion and how you tenderly bear all our sorrows. In our prayers, we remember Susan, Andrei, Ethan, Emma, Johnny, Julie, David, Anne, Martha, Lucy, Kadri, Jim, Michelle, Madeleine, Eliana, Phyllis, Hilary, Frankie, Megan, Michael, Jack, Bonnie, Greet, Peter, Olga, Scott, Amaya, Jen, Brendan, Brian, Barbara, and Martha, those with COVID-19, and all those you would name [*pause*]. This day and always,

Christ, be our Light.

Shine on those who rejoice, O God; all good gifts come from you, and we are thankful for our many blessings, especially for Jeff Ryder, Paul Ryder, Adrienne, and Catherine Long celebrating their birthdays this week, and those blessings you would name [*pause*]. This day and always,

Christ, be our Light.

Shine, O God, as the Light that creates, the Light that calls, the Light that comes again with every dawn. Shine as the Light that scatters every shadow, and the Light in which we promise to walk, with your help. **Amen.**

Adapted from *Liturgy for the Whole Church* by Susan K. Bock, Church Publishing Inc., © 2008, Kindle Edition, by The Very Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith.

A Prayer for the Search for a New Bishop

Almighty God, Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, who calls, guides and empowers us as your Church: Create in us discerning minds as we seek to elect a bishop in this diocese. So many issues are open before us; so many wounds that need healing; so many gifts that need celebrating. Bless and continue the good work begun in your name, and open our ears to the hurts and hopes around us; broaden our vision to see what we do not want to see; and enliven our hearts with honesty and compassion to do the hard work that lies before us. Guide us as we seek an

inspirational leader and willing advocate to help us meet the challenges, and lead us to become the people you have equipped us to be in your service. All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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 an offering and a sacrifice to God.



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Text "givetostthomas" to (888) 554-8664 (and follow the directions), scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:
www.stthomasmcleanva.org.

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows— drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws—

1. stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 2. near, When my life is al - most gone;
 3. near, And the day is past and gone;

1. — Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 2. — Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand, lest I
 3. — At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

1. light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
 2. fall, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
 3. hand, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

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 Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn “Spirit of God, descend upon my heart” #119, LEVAS, Red Hymnal

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
4. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love.

1. Draw it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
2. No sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
3. Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
4. One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

1. Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
2. No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - p'ning skies;
3. To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
4. The kin - dling of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

1. And make me love thee as I ought to love.
2. But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
3. Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
4. My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Participants



Presider	Rev. Fran
Preacher	Natalie Perl Regan
Lector & Intercessor	George Russell
Digital Verger	Walt Lazear

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY JANUARY 30, 2022!

Virtual Worship at 10:00 AM

Annual Meeting follows



Women Gathering Next Meetup

Ladies, please join our next Women Gathering Zoom meetup on **Thursday, February 10th, from 4:30- 5:15 pm**. We will look at the life of Mary Magdalene. Natalie will lead the discussion based on the book *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter* by Lindsey Freeman. To purchase the book on Amazon, click [HERE](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337222605?pwd=Y3RWbkFzenkrZ1doZHNXcUphZFAYUTog>

Call In: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 853 3722 2605

Passcode: 8991

God's Transforming Gift: A Study on Paul's Letters

Paul tells an astonishing story. It's a story about meeting Jesus Christ. In Jesus's actions and words, Paul discovers God's life transforming gift. It is the gift God gives through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. What's astonishing is that the One born in a manger, who grew up in poverty, was crucified like a criminal and then resurrected, created a gift that saves our lives and the world. As John M. G. Barclay writes, this gift of grace "is unconditioned. It does not depend on human accounts of worth but gives worth—the only worth that counts—the worth of being loved by God."

Our study will meet every other week. The week before our time together, Rev. David will send out a resource he's written on the topic. Our group meetings are not exams. The goal each time we meet is to welcome where we are and discover how we can support and encourage one another in our faith.

On the weeks we meet, you are invited to choose to come either Monday evening or Thursday morning. Our last will be May 16 and 19. We will meet on Zoom. Here are the times:

Monday Evenings 7:30 to 8:30 pm

Thursday Mornings 10:30 to 11:30 am

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: God's Transforming Gift Bible Study

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 820 4051 2626

Dial by your location 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 820 4051 2626

If you would like to join, please send an email to Rev. David at davidsmith927@gmail.com.



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





Join David and Fran for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March of 2023.
It's an amazing experience to walk the land that Jesus walked and to see the sights that feature
in so many of our sacred stories!



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
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