



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.

First Sunday of Advent



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

December 1, 2024

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest. We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

THE WORD OF GOD

Introit *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Verses 1 & 2*

#56 Hymnal 1982

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Wade & Berta Smith

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promises I have made.

To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls: In you, O God, we trust.

The one who is coming will show us the path of steadfast love and faithfulness.

Teach us your ways, O God of our salvation.

We light this candle in the sure hope that God's promises endure.

[Here light one blue candle]

We will live in the light of hope as we await the coming of the Lord.

Procession *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

#640 Hymnal 1982

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

arc. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it
gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges
hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
are its own; sec, it bursts o'er all the earth.
Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.
Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

The 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.**

*There is no Children's Chapel today.
As always, children are welcome to stay with us for the whole service.*

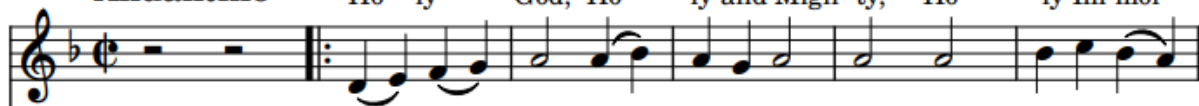
Trisagion

Trisagion on Picardy (sung three times)

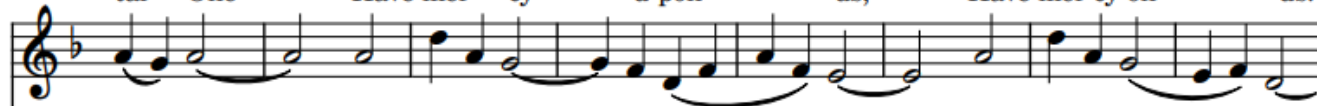
Dr. Lori Lind

Andantino

Ho - ly - God, Ho - ly and Migh- ty, Ho - ly Im-mor -



7 tal - One - - Have mer - cy - u-pon - - - us, - Have mer-cy on - - us.



15



The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9 (*We will pray a portion of Psalm 25 responsively by half verse*)

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *Signs of Ending All Around Us 1, 2 / 3* #721 Wonder, Love, and Praise

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
 2. Can it be that from our end-ings, new be - gin-nings you cre-ate?
 3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres-ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
 Life from death, and from our rend-ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
 Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O³ Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
 Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
 Let your prom-ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through-out the earth;

Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
 your do - min-ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

Words: Dean W. Nelson (b. 1944), Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell

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.

The Prayers of the People

During the season of Advent, our prayers use the word "Maranatha." This is an Aramaic liturgical expression that means, "Our Lord, come!" Aramaic was the language spoken by Jesus.

Deacon: The prayers of the people is a time for us to come together as we offer our prayers to God. Please kneel as you are able and offer your own prayers in the pauses, either silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Intercessor: In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus. Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Mark, Gayle, and Bud, our Bishops; for Fran, Will, Caroline, Rishabh, Lori, Mary and Nicole, our staff; for Beth, our Seminarian; for the teachers at the Early Learning Center; for the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas; and those whom you would name [*pause*]. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for all those you would name [*pause*]. Before you rulers will stand in silence. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for **Ethan, Vincent, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Betsy, Yusuf, Bill, Barbara, Andrew, Grace, Andrew, Malcolm, Tony, Emily, Betsy and Michael, Melissa, Cassandra, Anne, Andy, those affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, Anatoliy, Laura, Jan, Tom, Scott, Vera, Jennifer, Steve, Megan, Steve,** and those whom you would name [*pause*]. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember those who have died, especially those whom you would name [*pause*]. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as the one who taught us how to pray. We remember Audrey Adair, Walt Lazear, and Cindy Hargroves celebrating birthdays this week, all those celebrating wedding

anniversaries this week, and all the blessings you now name [*pause*]. Teach us always to have thankful hearts. Maranatha.

Amen. Come, Lord. Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with St. Thomas and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The prayers of the people were adapted by The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith from The Church of England's Common Worship resources for Advent.

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 and Absolution of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence.* Together, let us pray: **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.**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.

The Offertory

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exulted as head over all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

Offertory Anthem

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, love most bright,
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring,
Soar to uncreated light.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
Hark, what peaceful music rings!
Where the flock, in Thee confiding,
Drink of joy from deathless springs.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
With the glow of faith impassioned,
Stiving still to Truth unknown,
Life attaining near Thy throne.

Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure,
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead Thine own
In the love of joys unknown.

The Doxology

#76 Hymnal 1982, Verse 5

5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Sanctus on Picardy

Dr. Lori Lind

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a rest followed by a melodic line starting on G4. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics. The third staff features a crescendo and a fortissimo section. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a fortissimo dynamic.

ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and-might hea-ven and earth are
full - of your great glo - ry! Ho-san-na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high - est!
comes in the name of the Lord!-- Ho----san-----na!
Bless-ed is He who comes - in the name - of - the-Lord! Ho - san-na in the high - est
in- the high - est!
ho - san - na in the high - est!

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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,

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

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 Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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.

Fraction

Fraction for Advent on Picardy

Dr. Lori Lind

Al - le - lu - ia Al le - lu ia! Al -

9
- le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ our pas - so - ver is sac - ri - ficed for

17
us, there - fore let us keep the - feast. 10

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request. As the Eucharist is distributed, all who desire prayers for healing—for themselves or for others—are invited to come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.

A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom

While some are receiving communion at church, those worshiping on Zoom say the following prayer:
In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#56 Hymnal 1982



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

The Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his countenance and set you free from all sin. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

#73 Hymnal 1982

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in five numbered lines, with some lines having multiple verses. The lyrics are: 1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and 1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy 1 cast - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes. 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky. 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last; 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled. 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Improvisations on *People Look East (Bensaçon Carol)*

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Preacher & Deacon	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Acolyte	Charlie Rhodes
Altar Guild	Anne Spear
Digital Usher	Jennifer Alexander
Digital Verger	Jeff Crigler
Flower Guild	Jane Frierson
Lector / Intercessor	Rev. David Smith
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Debby Reed & Beth Clarke
Healing Minister	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Usher	Jan Hamilton
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Becky & Jim Vantorini

DECEMBER VESTRY PERSON

Melinda Fairchild

meldavid7815@gmail.com

240-274-4741

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



Sunday December 1st

You Welcomed Me.

I hope that everyone who reads this has experienced the true warmth of a St. Thomas welcome.

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to support St. Thomas. We are well on our way to reaching our twin campaign targets (pledges totaling \$410,000 and 70 pledgers). Progress updates can be seen on the hymn boards in church.

There is still time join us and make a pledge to support our church and community.

Pledge cards can be returned in the mail or by dropping in the offertory plate. Even better is to take a photo of your completed card and email that to Rishabh. Entering your own pledge online is not currently working if you try accessing via the internet. However, the ChMS app DOES support online pledging. If you did not receive instructions about pledging via the app please contact Rishabh (parishadmin@stthomasmclean.org).

Thank you for your support!

Toby Bush (tobygbush@hotmail.com), Melinda Fairchild (meldavid7815@gmail.com),

Rick Montfort (rickmontfort@outlook.com), Steve Wickman (wickmansb@msn.com),

Rev. Will Drosos (will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org),

& Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith (fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org)

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. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

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THE VESTRY

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Steven Miles		smiles19930@gmail.com	202-639-7951
Janette Thode		jlthode@hotmail.com	919-583-1542
Tanya Coogan		Tanya.coogan@gmail.com	703-727-9816
Chris Forward		christine.m.forward@gmail.com	703-963-6585
Lynne Montgomery		lkrmontgomery@gmail.com	703-298-7181
Rick Howe		rhowelaw@gmail.com	515-229-8414
Chris Johnston		christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com	410-299-9776

OTHER LEADERS

David Alton Smith	Register	dapy.smith@gmail.com	703-488-0442
Pat Smith	Treasurer	pysmith51@gmail.com	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	wickmansb@msn.com	571-393-8544
Becky Ventorini	Alternate Delegate	beckyventorini@gmail.com	202-390-4412

STAFF

Rishabh Bajekal	Parish Administrator	Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Mary Cyrus	Accountant	accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Nicole Warga	Cribbery Caregiver	ncwarga00@hotmail.com	703-476-9476

The Skinny at St. Thomas December 1st, 2024



More information about many of these events can be found on the Announcements page on our website. Scan the QR code to see them.

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You Welcomed Me

There is still time to make a pledge and support St. Thomas. Please see the bulletin for more information.

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Advent Wreath Making Today

You and your family are invited to make an Advent wreath in Hudson Hall after the service. We will have the supplies, and you are invited to bring Holly, pine, or other evergreen boughs.

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Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

La Vie de Bohème

December 6th thru 15th

Puccini's soaring melodies mingle with Murger's brilliant storytelling, bringing to life the spirited Bohemians of the Latin Quarter. Perfect for a holiday family outing or whimsical date night. Cabaret seating at our own Café Momus. Savor the best atmosphere and 'pub grub' that Paris has to offer plus traditional holiday treats. All performances are in Hudson Hall at St. Thomas. For details and to get tickets, visit <https://shakespeareoperatheatre.com/>

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ECW Treats and Treasures Sale

If you will be in town on Dec. 8th, please plan on attending church that day so that you can shop at the Treats & Treasures Sale! This is the ECW's only fundraiser and we count on our parishioners' generosity to make our charitable giving throughout the year possible. We always allow time for the youth of St. Thomas to shop first (we'll even wrap!). Our Treasures this year include a fantastic array of home goods, jewelry, and purses. And we have amazing bakers at St. Thomas! This year promises to tempt you with a variety of sweet and savory items, all packaged attractively for gift-giving. You can also buy things from the Bake Table that will be delivered to First Responders later that day. A great way to share our thanks and talent with the Firefighters of McLean!

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Pints with Doubting Thomas

Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 pm

at High Point Pub in Whole Foods, Tysons. We will continue learning about and discussing how we interpret scripture. This time, we will talk about what scripture tells us about Jesus.

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Women Gathering Zoom Meetup

(the 2nd Thursday of each month)

Thursday, December 12th at 4:30 pm

Join us as Rev. Fran leads a discussion
continued on back...

of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. You can prepare by reading:

- The Walls
- Chapter 3: "War Stories"

The book is available on AMAZON in paperback, e-book, and audiobook.

For more details, contact

Betsy ehelman2003@yahoo.com

Audrey at audreyjadair@gmail.com for the ZOOM link

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Ladies Lunch Bunch

Monday, December 16th at 11:15 am

Bring lunch or order in advance from your favorite restaurant with an 11:30 delivery.

Audrey Adair's place

2014 Lakebreeze Way

Reston, VA 20191

(Audrey will furnish drinks and dessert)

RSVP (813) 956-7550

Please park on Ridge Height Road.

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ECW Christmas Book Exchange Party

Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 pm

ALL women of St. Thomas are invited to attend this fun evening even if you don't normally attend the monthly Book Group meetings. Buffet Italian dinner followed by the book swap. Bring a wrapped book for the exchange (novel or nonfiction) Bring cash for dinner (about \$25) and drinks and/or dessert to share. RSVP by Sunday, December 15th to Susan Cowart, sfcowart@aol.com or 703-893-2229.

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Reminder to Check in on Your 2024 Pledge

With Christmas and the end of the year approaching, if you plan to make year-end payments against your 2024 pledge, make arrangements now. Donations should be received or postmarked by December 31st.

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This Week

Monday December 2nd

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

6 pm – SOT Rehearsal

Tuesday December 3rd

12 noon – Midweek Eucharist

6 pm – SOT Rehearsal

Wednesday December 4th

10 am – Staff Meeting

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

6 pm – SOT Rehearsal

Thursday December 5th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

Friday December 6th

11 am – McLean Islamic Center Worship

7:30 pm – La Vie de Bohème

Saturday December 7th

3 pm – La Vie de Bohème

7:30 pm – La Vie de Bohème

Sunday December 8th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship

11:30 am – ECW Treats and Treasures Sale