



**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.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

December 22, 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 1,7,8)*

**#56 Hymnal 1982**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**The Johnston Family**

The Mighty One has done great things! Holy is God's Name!

The Light of the World is coming.

**With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

God's mercy endures from generation to generation for those who are in awe of God.

**The proud, the rich, the mighty no longer have power over us.**

The lowly are lifted up, and the hungry are satisfied.

**We see the light of God shining over the land.**

We light a fourth candle in anticipation of the wondrous birth.

*[Here light all four candles.]*

We will open our hearts that Love may have a place to dwell.

**Procession**      *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**#66 Hymnal 1982**

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

### 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.**

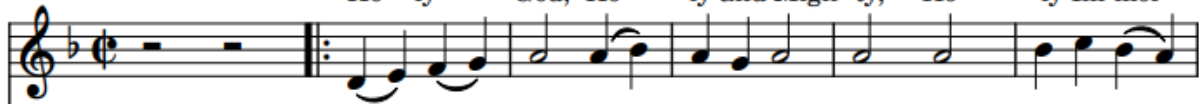
*During the singing of the Trisagion, children from Pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade are invited to follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel.*

### 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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

#### **The First Lesson**

#### **Micah 5:2-5a**

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80:1-7** (*We will pray a portion of Psalm 80 responsively by half verse*)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*

**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*

**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

4 O Lord God of hosts, \*

**how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*

**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*

**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## **The Second Lesson**

## **Hebrews 10:5-10**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

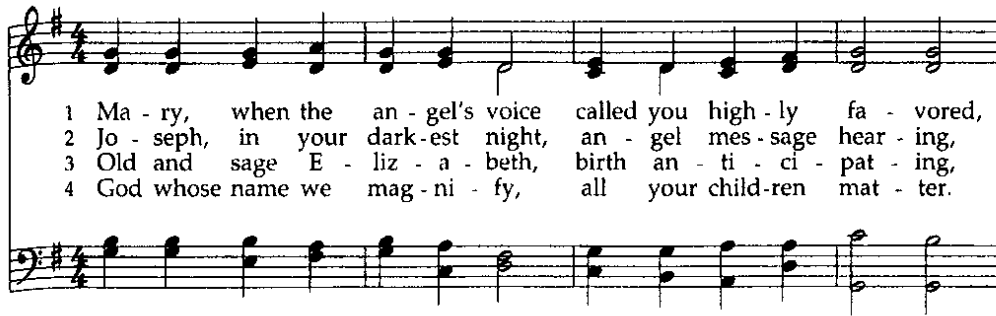
When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

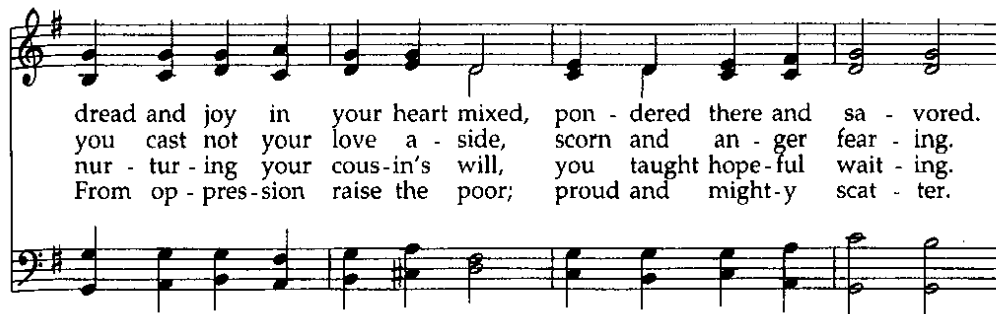
When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

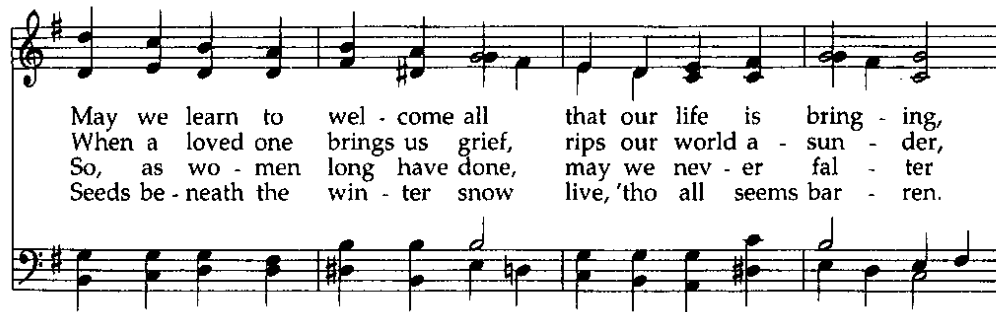
**Thanks be to God.**



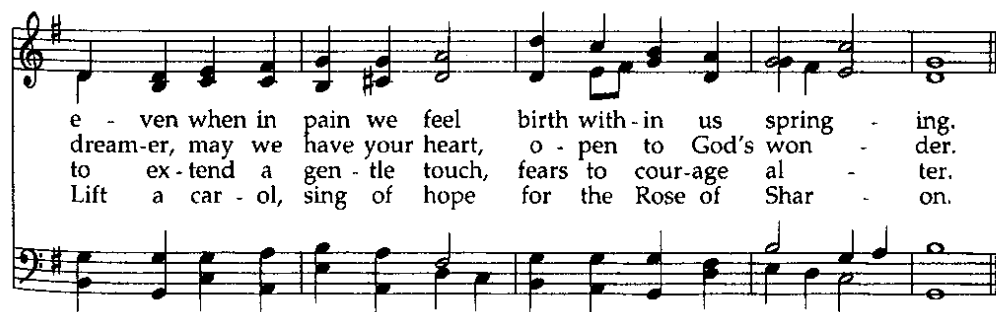
1 Ma - ry, when the an - gel's voice called you high - ly fa - vored,  
 2 Jo - seph, in your dark - est night, an - gel mes - sage hear - ing,  
 3 Old and sage E - liz - a - beth, birth an - ti - ci - pat - ing,  
 4 God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your child - ren mat - ter.



dread and joy in your heart mixed, pon - dered there and sa - vored.  
 you cast not your love a - side, scorn and an - ger fear - ing.  
 nur - tur - ing your cous - in's will, you taught hope - ful wait - ing.  
 From op - pres - sion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.



May we learn to wel - come all that our life is bring - ing,  
 When a loved one brings us grief, rips our world a - sun - der,  
 So, as wo - men long have done, may we nev - er fal - ter  
 Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, 'tho all seems bar - ren.



e - ven when in pain we feel birth with - in us spring - ing,  
 dream - er, may we have your heart, o - pen to God's won - der.  
 to ex - tend a gen - tle touch, fears to cour - age al - ter.  
 Lift a car - ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Shar - on.

**The Gospel****Luke 1:39-55**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where

she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### The Sermon

**The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith**

### 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.*

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."

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, Tony, Andrew, Emily, Betsy and Michael, Melissa, Cassandra, Andy, Anatoliy, Laura, Jan, Tom, Scott, Vera, Megan, Steve, Debby,** 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 all those celebrating birthdays this week, Jason and Hilary Ingraham and 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

### *There Is No Rose of Such Virtue*

**Jessica Nelson**

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu;  
Alleluia, alleluia.

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space;  
Resmiranda, resmiranda.

And by that rose we may well see that there be one god in persons three.  
Patri forma, patri forma.

The angels sungen the shepherds too; Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gaude amus, gaude amus, gaude amus.

Then leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth;  
Trans-e amus, trans-e amus, trans-e amus.

### 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

*f*  
ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and-might hea-ven and earth are

6  
full - of your great glo - ry! Ho-san-na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high - est!

12  
comes in the name of the Lord!-- Ho-san-na in the high - est  
*cresc.* *ff*  
Bless-ed is He who comes - in the name - of - the-Lord! Ho - san-na in the high - est  
in- the - high - est!

17  
*ff*  
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 musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of music with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia Al le - lu ia! Al -'. The second staff starts at measure 9 and contains lyrics '- le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ our pas-so - ver is sac-ri-ficed for'. The third staff starts at measure 17 and contains lyrics 'us, there-fore let us keep the - feast.' The score ends with a double bar line and the number 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:*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. ~ from St.**

*Augustine's Prayer Book*

**Communion Hymn**

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

#265 Hymnal 1982

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - cr - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

**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**      *Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord*      **#438 Hymnal 1982**



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!



Un - num - bered      bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
 Make known his      might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 Powers and do -      min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
 Firm is his      prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my      Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
 his ho - ly      Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
 the hun - gry      fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
 to chil - dren's      chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**      Improvisations on *Creators of the Stars of Night*

### Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Will Drosos
Preacher	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Altar Guild	Ed Rhodes
Digital Usher	Rick Montfort
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Flower Guild	Louise Armitage
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons & Rev. Will Drosos
Lector / Intercessor	Ed Rhodes
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Louise Armitage & Debby Reed
Healing Minister	Rev. David Smith
Usher	Lynne Montgomery
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Susan Gardiner
Counters	Jim Ventorini & Ed Rhodes

#### DECEMBER VESTRY PERSON

**Melinda Fairchild**

[meldavid7815@gmail.com](mailto:meldavid7815@gmail.com)

240-274-4741

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



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](mailto:parishadmin@stthomasmclean.org)). Thank you for your support!

## ***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*

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, <i>Rector</i>	540-532-5665 – <a href="mailto:fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org">fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org</a>
The Rev. William Drosos, <i>Associate Rector</i>	513-638-8800 – <a href="mailto:will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org">will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org</a>
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell, <i>Assisting Clergy</i>	970-417-8417 – <a href="mailto:kfshplp@gmail.com">kfshplp@gmail.com</a>
Dr. Lori Lind, <i>Minister of Music</i>	443-226-8270 – <a href="mailto:lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org">lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org</a>
Ms. Beth Clarke, <i>Seminarian</i>	602-463-5289 – <a href="mailto:eclarke@vts.edu">eclarke@vts.edu</a>

### **THE VESTRY**

Jan Grimes	Senior Warden	<a href="mailto:jangrimes5@outlook.com">jangrimes5@outlook.com</a>	571-213-5460
Melinda Fairchild	Junior Warden	<a href="mailto:meldavid7815@gmail.com">meldavid7815@gmail.com</a>	240-274-4741
Steven Miles		<a href="mailto:smiles19930@gmail.com">smiles19930@gmail.com</a>	202-639-7951
Janette Thode		<a href="mailto:jlthode@hotmail.com">jlthode@hotmail.com</a>	919-583-1542
Tanya Coogan		<a href="mailto:Tanya.coogan@gmail.com">Tanya.coogan@gmail.com</a>	703-727-9816
Chris Forward		<a href="mailto:christine.m.forward@gmail.com">christine.m.forward@gmail.com</a>	703-963-6585
Lynne Montgomery		<a href="mailto:lkrmontgomery@gmail.com">lkrmontgomery@gmail.com</a>	703-298-7181
Rick Howe		<a href="mailto:rhowelaw@gmail.com">rhowelaw@gmail.com</a>	515-229-8414
Chris Johnston		<a href="mailto:christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com">christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com</a>	410-299-9776

### **OTHER LEADERS**

David Alton Smith	Register	<a href="mailto:dapy.smith@gmail.com">dapy.smith@gmail.com</a>	703-488-0442
Pat Smith	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:pysmith51@gmail.com">pysmith51@gmail.com</a>	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	<a href="mailto:wickmansb@msn.com">wickmansb@msn.com</a>	571-393-8544
Becky Ventorini	Alternate Delegate	<a href="mailto:beckyventorini@gmail.com">beckyventorini@gmail.com</a>	202-390-4412

### **STAFF**

Rishabh Bajekal	Parish Administrator	<a href="mailto:Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org">Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org</a>	703-442-0330
Mary Cyrus	Accountant	<a href="mailto:accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org">accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org</a>	703-442-0330
Nicole Warga	Cribbery Caregiver	<a href="mailto:ncwarga00@hotmail.com">ncwarga00@hotmail.com</a>	703-476-9476



# The Skinny at St. Thomas December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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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## Christmas at St. Thomas

Please join us for our Christmas services:

- 12/24 at 5pm: Christmas Eve Family Worship with Pageant
- 12/24 at 9pm: Christmas Eve Service
- 12/25 at 10am: Christmas Day Service
- 12/29 at 10am: Christmas Lessons and Carols

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## Wow! A St. Thomas Christmas Pageant Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

You're invited to be a part of our annual Christmas Pageant! Visit this [link](#) to sign up and see the script. There will be two rehearsals—the first will be after church today, Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> for the leading roles (Narrator, Mary, Joseph, Angel(s), and Three Wise People) from 12-1:30 PM. The second rehearsal will be for everyone on Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM before our 5 PM pageant service.

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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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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## ECW Treats and Treasures Sale Success!

Our total sales profit is \$3442.45, including a \$250 donation from Shakespeare Opera Theatre and donations of treats for First Responders. Proceeds supported a variety of local, national and international charities. Thank you to the core group of ECW volunteers for your many hours of hard work and to everyone at St. Thomas for your support of the sale through donations and purchases.

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## Volunteer to Support Fairfax Diapers Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

First Thursday of every month. The task is simply repackaging diapers from bulk quantities to household-size bundles to be distributed to needy families. Contact Anne Spear by email at [amspear@yahoo.com](mailto:amspear@yahoo.com) or by phone at (703) 915-4300 to sign up. The address will only be given to volunteers.

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## Women Gathering Zoom Meetup (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month) January 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm

Join us as Rev. Fran leads a discussion of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans.

You can prepare by reading:

- Chapters 4, 5, and the prefaces

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

For more details, contact

Betsy [eheilman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:eheilman2003@yahoo.com)

Audrey at [audreyjadair@gmail.com](mailto:audreyjadair@gmail.com) for the ZOOM link

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## Board Game Night is Back!

Saturday, January 11 at 7pm in Hudson Hall

Bring Friends. Bring your favorite games! Games for all ages: Strategy games. Games that make you laugh. Word games. (Even games for people who don't like board games) Please bring snacks and drinks to share.

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## Coffee Hour Hosts needed Jan / Feb 2025

Coffee hour sign-ups is available via a link to SignUpGenius or by using the QR code, both of which are below. Under our new format, we would like hosts to limit their food offerings to 2-3 items, to include fresh fruit or raw veggies. Also, for those of you who are not comfortable making the coffee, you can ask for someone else to make the coffee. (Just answer yes or no on the sign up). Thank you for continuing this tradition of Fellowship at St. Thomas! If you have any questions or need help signing up, please contact me directly.

Becky Ventorini, Fellowship Hour Coordinator

[beckyventorini@gmail.com](mailto:beckyventorini@gmail.com)

Home (703) 288-3166 / Cell: (202) 390-4412

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-52775851-sthomas>



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## Ladies Lunch Bunch

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am

Silver Diner

11951 Killingsworth AV, Reston

<https://www.silverdiner.com/reston>

Want details?

Text Tricia (571) 244-3142

Or Audrey at (813)956-7550

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## This Week

**Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

5 pm – Christmas Eve Worship with Pageant

9 pm – Christmas Eve Service

**Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10 am – Christmas Day Worship

**Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup>**

OFFICE CLOSED

**Friday December 27<sup>th</sup>**

11 am – Mclean Islamic Center Worship

**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Christmas Lessons and Carols