



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 Nativity of Our Lord



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—9:00 PM

December 24, 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.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude Piano Fantasy on *Love Came Down at Christmas* by Dr. Lori Lind

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Traditional
Audrey Adair, Recorder & Walter Lazear, Hammered Dulcimer

The Angel Gabriel by Richard Shephard

Welcome The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!

God has brought light into every darkness.

The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father!
Prince of Peace!

We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all the people.

We light the Candle of Christ -- witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

[Here we light the white Christ Candle plus the other candles.]

Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.

Procession *O Come, All Ye faithful* #83 Hymnal 1982

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

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.**

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard On High verse 1

#96 Hymnal 1982

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

The Collect of the Day

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

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Isaiah 62:6-12

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97 (*We will pray Psalm 97 responsively by half verse*)

1 The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *

righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

3 A fire goes before him *

and burns up his enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings light up the world; *

the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *

and all the peoples see his glory.

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *

Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.

9 For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Second Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

A reading from the letter to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

The First Nowell 1,2,3 / 4,5

#109 Hymnal 1982

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of

Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Will Drosos

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

The prayers of the people are a time for us to share prayers with one another as we lift them together to God. Please kneel as you are able.

In peace let us pray to the Lord. Father, on this holy night, your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. 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; Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand **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**, all those you would name *[pause]*, and all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in those places you would name now *[pause]* and in all the world. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom, especially those you would name, either silently or aloud *[pause]*. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. We thank you for all the blessings of this life, especially those in whose memory and honor the Christmas flowers are given and for those blessings you would name *[pause]*. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

Father, on this holy night, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **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 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

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



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

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

arr. by Mark Schweizer

Audrey Adair, Flutist

Presentation Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

#93 Hymnal 1982

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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: LEVAS II 255

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.

Ho - san - na 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.

The Fraction – WLP 878

Who - ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and

who - ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.

Music: Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Fraction Anthems, Canticles, and Chants*. Copyright © 1997 Carl Haywood.

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.

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 worshipping 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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#79 Hymnal 1982

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - cred all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

Communion Hymn

What Child Is This

#115 Hymnal 1982

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

Communion Hymn

Away in a Manger

#101 Hymnal 1982

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
*3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

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*

Hymn Before the Benediction *Silent Night, Holy Night*

#111 Hymnal 1982

*A minister will assist worshippers with lighting their candles.
If you don't already have a candle, please let one of our Ushers know.*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

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 for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

#100 Hymnal 1982

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
3 far as the curse is found, far
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia Alleluia!

Postlude Improvisations on *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Preacher	Rev. Will Drosos
Deacon	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Digital Verger	Jeff Crigler
Flower Guild	The St. Thomas Flower Guild
Lector & Intercessor	Debby Reed
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Rev. David Smith
Usher	Jan Hamilton



The Christmas Flowers and Greens are Given to the Glory of God by:



Audrey Adair & Walter Lazear
In Thanksgiving for family and friends

Louise Armitage
In Thanksgiving for my family, especially Colin, the newest member

Susan and Jack Cowart
In Loving Memory of our parents

Chris and Graham Forward
In Loving Memory of Phyllis Forward, Richard Forward, and Ted Bishop

Jane Frierson
In Loving Memory of Charlene F. Hutcherson

Fran Gardner-Smith and David Smith
In Loving Memory of Frank & Barbara Gardner, Judy Smith, and Glenn & Marie Smith
In Thanksgiving for the staff and vestry at St. Thomas

Debby and K.P. Reed
In Loving Memory of Norman & Pauline Reed, Tommy Davidson, Mike McCaffree,
Bill Coppa, and Dave Antanitus
In Thanksgiving for The Reed Family, The Antanitus Family, The McCaffree Family,
and The Hagwood Family

Jon and Anne Spear
In Thanksgiving

Wade and Berta Smith
In Loving Memory of Ward Willis, our beloved son
In Thanksgiving for Rae, Stacy, and Dee, our grandkids!!!

DECEMBER VESTRY PERSON

Melinda Fairchild

meldavid7815@gmail.com

240-274-4741

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



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*

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

THE VESTRY

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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 24th and 25th, 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.

Christmas Lessons and Carols at St. Thomas

Please join us on Sunday at 10am for our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Service.

ECW Treats and Treasures Sale Success!

Thank you, St. Thomas, for an amazing Treats and Treasures Sale. Our total sales profit is \$3442.45, surpassing that of last year! Included in our proceeds was a \$250 donation from Shakespeare Opera Theatre and donations to purchase Treats that were delivered to First Responders. Remaining items were packed up and delivered to two local charities. With the money earned, the ECW provides financial support to a variety of local, national and international charities. Thank you to the core group of ECW volunteers who spent many hours sorting, pricing, setting up, monitoring sales, cashiering, and packing up and delivering remaining items to local charities!!!! And thanks to everyone at St Thomas for supporting the Treats and Treasures Sale through your donations and purchases.

Volunteer to Support Fairfax Diapers Thursday, January 7th 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 or by phone at (703) 915-4300 to sign up. The address will only be given to volunteers.

Women Gathering Zoom Meetup (the 2nd Thursday of each month) January 9th 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 ehelman2003@yahoo.com

Audrey at audreyjadair@gmail.com for the ZOOM link

Reminder to Check in on Your 2024 Pledge

With Christmas here 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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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

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

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



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Ladies Lunch Bunch

3rd Monday, January 20th 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

Thursday December 26th

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday December 27th

11 am – Mclean Islamic Center Worship

Sunday December 29th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Christmas Lessons and Carols

Monday December 30th

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

Tuesday December 31st

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday January 1st

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday January 2nd

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

Friday January 3rd

11 am – Mclean Islamic Center Worship

Sunday January 5th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship

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