



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

Christmas Day



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

December 25, 2024

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever Amen.

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.

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

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 (*We will pray Psalm 98 responsively by half verse*)

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
**and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.**

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

John 1:1-14

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

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

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, at this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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.

At this holy time, 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, at this holy time, 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.

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>.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

Post-communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

The Dismissal

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

Worship Participants

Presider & Preacher	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Flower Guild	St. Thomas Flower Guild
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Betsy Heilman
Lector & Intercessor	Louise Armitage
Usher	Rev. David Smith



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
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Becky Ventorini	Alternate Delegate	beckyventorini@gmail.com	202-390-4412

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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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