

December 29, 2024—10:00 AM First Sunday After Christmas

Entrance Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

#102 Blue Hymnal

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display Heaven's word, the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day, Yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another

For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew, He was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us her knew. Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; For that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, We shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround: Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high

Opening Acclamation

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Of the Father's Love Begotten	#82 Blue Hymnal
Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!	
O that birth for ever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!	
Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!	
Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be; honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!	
	 Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! O that birth for ever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore! Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore! Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be; honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

<u>Carol</u> Savior of the Nations, Come!

#54 Blue Hymnal

Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home. Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child of the Virgin undefiled! Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres; hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.

Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won. Boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

The Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe, you came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day; defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

#60 Blue Hymnal

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

<u>Carol</u>

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

#81 Blue Hymnal

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung. It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Choir Anthem

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Richard Shephard

(Randy Latimer, Violinist)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flames: "All Hail", said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady", Gloria!

For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady", Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God", she said, "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name". Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favored lady", Gloria!

Luke 2:1-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

Carol What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

#115 Blue Hymnal

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

Choral Anthem

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, Singing sweetly o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains: Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepards, why this jubilee? Why these joyous strains prolong? Why the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King! Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While in love our hearts we raise, Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Vernon Hoyle

The Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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.

<u>Carol</u> O Come All Ye Faithful
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#83 Blue Hymnal

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

> O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of God the Father;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love and awe; who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

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

Refrain

Concluding Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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 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.**

Closing Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

#87 Blue Hymnal

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

<u>The Dismissal</u> Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia Alleluia!**

Voluntary The First Nowell

#109 Blue Hymnal

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,

and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

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

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Will Drosos
Lectors	Debby Reed, Cleta Raymond,
	Louise Armitage, Pat Smith, and
	Duane Goddard
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Digital Usher	Jennifer Alexander
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Flower Guild	Jan Grimes
Usher	Becky Ventorini
Fellowship Hour Host	Louise Armitage

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 (<u>tobygbush@hotmail.com</u>), Melinda Fairchild (<u>meldavid7815@gmail.com</u>), Rick Montfort (<u>rickmontfort@outlook.com</u>), Steve Wickman (<u>wickmansb@msn.com</u>), Rev. Will Drosos (<u>will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org</u>), & Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith (fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org)

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop* The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop* The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop* The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

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The Skinny at St. Thomas December 29th, 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.

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.

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.

Volunteer to Support Fairfax Diapers Tuesday, January 7th at 10:00 am.

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 <u>amspear@yahoo.com</u> or by phone at (703) 915-4300 to sign up. The address will only be given to volunteers.

Pints with Doubting Thomas Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 pm

at High Point Pub in Whole Foods, Tysons. Join us to learn and discuss theology in an informal environment. The first round of drinks is on us!

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 <u>eheilman2003@yahoo.com</u> Audrey at <u>audreyjadair@gmail.com</u> for the ZOOM link

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.

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/10C0B4EAA AC2CA64-52775851-stthomas



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

This Week

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