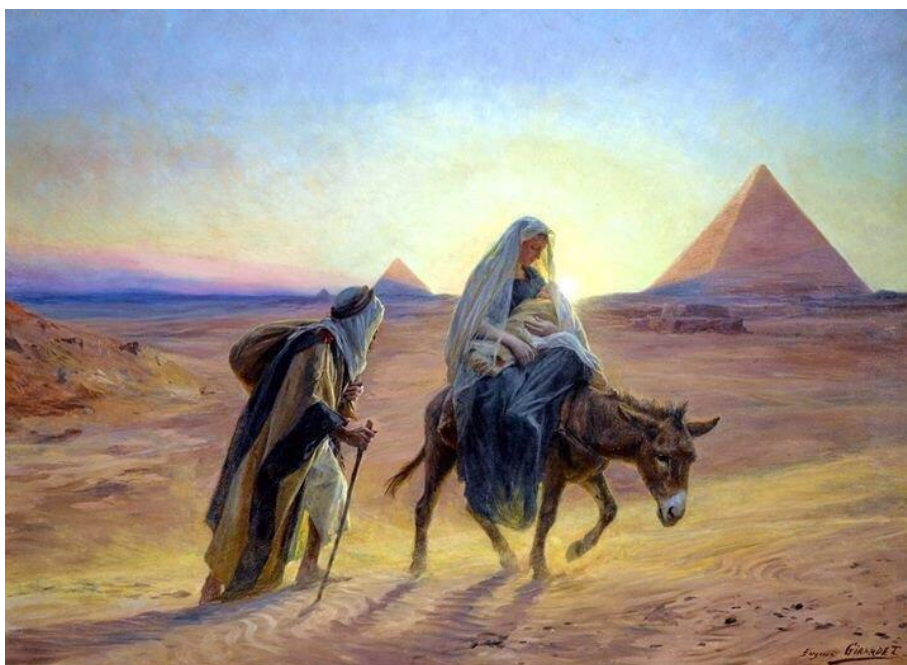




ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 Second Sunday after Christmas



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

January 5, 2025

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

Prelude Improvisations on *Greensleeves / Of the Father's Love Begotten* **Dr. Lori Lind**

Welcome **The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith**

Procession *Angels from the Realm 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).

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

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, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall

the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84:1-8 (*We will pray a portion of Psalm 84 responsively by half verse*)

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *

**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious

inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Love Came Down at Christmas 1,2 / 3

#84 Hymnal 1982

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies. Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Gospel

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so

that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

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, 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, 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.

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 *Sussex Carol* **arr. by Frasier Wilson (Randy Latimer, Hand Drum)**

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad
since our Redeemer made us glad?
When from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn king.

All out of darkness we have light
which made the angels sing this night.
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore, Amen!"

The Doxology *O Come, All Ye Faithful Verse 1* **#83 Hymnal 1982**

**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, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful, Verse 3

#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.

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

The First Nowell, Verse 6

#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 re - verent - 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 where - ev - er it went.
4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

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

Refrain

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the King of Is - ra - el." The melody is simple and repetitive, with the words "No - well" repeated four times. The second system continues with "born is the King of Is - ra - el." The music is written in a clear, legible font.

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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#89 Hymnal 1982

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

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, 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

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

#87 Hymnal 1982

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

The Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God! Alleluia Alleluia!

Postlude

Improvisations on *Riu, Riu, Chiu*

Traditional Basque Carol

Randy Latimer, Hand Drum

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Preacher	Rev. Will Drosos
Deacon	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Altar Guild	Anne Spear
Digital Usher	Audrey Adair
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Flower Guild	Melinda Fairchild
Children’s Chapel	Lael Lyons & Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Lector / Intercessor	Pat Smith
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Pat Smith
Healing Minister	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Usher	Rev. David Smith
Fellowship Hour Host	Jan Hamilton

JANUARY VESTRY PERSON

Chris Johnston

christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com

410-299-9776

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.

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!!!



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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Melinda Fairchild	Junior Warden	meldavid7815@gmail.com	240-274-4741
Steven Miles		smiles19930@gmail.com	202-639-7951
Janette Thode		jlthode@hotmail.com	919-583-1542
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Lynne Montgomery		lkrmontgomery@gmail.com	703-298-7181
Rick Howe		rhowelaw@gmail.com	515-229-8414
Chris Johnston		christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com	410-299-9776

OTHER LEADERS

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

STAFF

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

The Skinny at St. Thomas January 5th, 2025



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

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You Welcomed Me

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged in support of St. Thomas. There is still time to join us and make a pledge to support our church and community. See the bulletin for more information.

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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 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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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!

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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 eheilman2003@yahoo.com

Audrey at audreyjadair@gmail.com for the ZOOM link

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Sacred Ground Circles Begin This Week

Sacred Ground is a program designed by the Episcopal Church to help us enter into conversation with one another around issues of race and racism. Rev. Fran participated in a Sacred Ground circle during the pandemic and found it deeply meaningful and very moving. There are two circles being offered online by the Diocese of Virginia this spring and Rev. Fran commends them to you highly. Please reach out to her if you have questions. The two options are Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 3:30 pm starting Jan 9 or Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:45 starting Jan 14. Both options meet twice a month. Sign up here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe238u-PJoh7S_4QImGt92x6NT5lyynz70NRM2ZDqb4d4WtOw/viewform

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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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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Coffee Hour Hosts needed for Feb & March

Thank you for everyone who signed up for January 2025. Our new approach to Coffee Hour is working! We've simplified the food to be brought, and you can choose to have someone else set up the coffee makers for you. Coffee hour sign-ups are available via a link to SignUpGenius or by using the QR code, both of which are below. If you need help signing up electronically, I would be happy to help! 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 indicate that as part of the sign-up process. (Just answer yes or no if you need help.) Thank you for continuing this tradition of Fellowship at St. Thomas. If you have any questions, 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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This Week

Monday January 6th

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

Tuesday January 7th

10 am – Fairfax Diapers Volunteer Event

12 pm – Midweek Eucharist

Wednesday January 8th

10 am – Staff Meeting

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

6:30 pm – Pints with Doubting Thomas

Thursday January 9th

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

4:30 pm – Women Gathering Zoom Meetup

Friday January 10th

11 am – Mclean Islamic Center Worship

Saturday January 11th

7:45 am – Men Eating Breakfast

7 pm – Board Game Night

Sunday January 12th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship