



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 21, YEAR A

Service of Morning Prayer

October 1, 2023 10 A.M.

St. Thomas's Church Welcomes Everyone

Wherever you happen to be on your spiritual journey, **there is a place for you here**, and we invite you to participate as fully as you wish. There is a saying in the Episcopal tradition that answers many a question: “All *may*, some *do*, but none *must*.” We gather to feast on Word and sacrament and song, to learn and inquire, to enjoy relaxed fellowship and find mutual support. And we are sent out to be the Body of Christ in the world, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

To participate in worship today all you need is this bulletin. If you are new or visiting, we invite you to consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a **nametag**, which will be waiting for you on the table inside the main entrance.

All church spaces are accessible. Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp are located in back of the building; a lift for access to the second floor is located at the stairway.

Restrooms are located on the second floor. Go through the double doors near the pulpit, upstairs to the second floor, and to the far end of the hallway. A **gender-neutral restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit.

Three seating areas at the front of the nave are reserved for **families with small children**: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the two areas in front of the front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and the St. Thomas's website. Bulletins are posted in the website's Bulletin Archive. To reduce printing, we encourage worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the service.

St. Thomas's Church is located on Eansketambawg (Quinnipiac) land. This acknowledgment compels us to pause: in gratitude for the Quinnipiac and other Algonquin-speaking stewards of the territory that is now Connecticut; in regret for Christianity's participation in the colonization of the Americas; and in faith that God's reconciling power will bring true healing to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

VOLUNTARY

Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 654

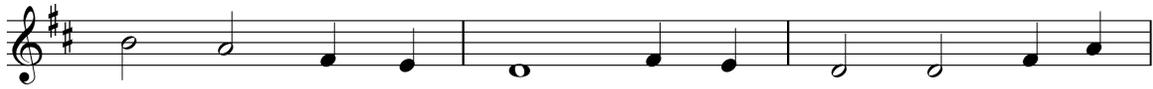
At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN

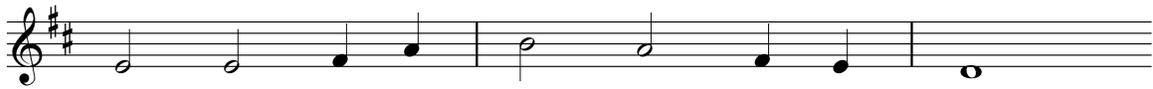
Come, thou fount of every blessing (686, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



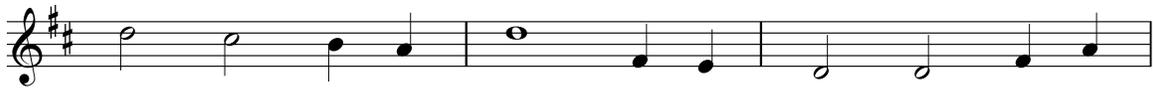
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt. Music: *Nettleton*, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. Gerre Hancock (b. 1934).

OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Isaiah 49:6

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Officiant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. [*Silence is kept.*]

Officiant and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

THE INVITATORY

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

JUBILATE (*sung by the Choir*)

Peter Hurford

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

All are seated.

PSALM 78:1-4,12-16 (*sung by the Choir*)

John Goss

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
 - 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
 - 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
 - 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
 - 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
 - 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
 - 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
 - 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
 - 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

EXODUS 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be

standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless (343, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

All are seated.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 17

The Song of Simeon

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto:
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Words: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Thomas Tallis (c1505–1585), Nunc dimittis à 5 (Tone VIII)

THE THIRD LESSON

MATTHEW 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
 2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
 3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
 dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
 glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth:
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won - drous ban - quet found - ed - high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, all remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People: And grant us your salvation.

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People: Let your people sing with joy.

Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: For only in you can we live in safety.

Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant: Let your way be known upon earth;

People: Your saving health among all nations.

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Officiant

(The Collect of the Day) O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(A Collect for the Renewal of Life) O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(A Prayer for Mission) O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Officiant may add prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

All are seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

When shall I come to appear
before the presence of God?

My soul is athirst for God,
yea, even for the living God.

My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me,
Where is now thy God?

Words: Psalm 42:1-3 Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983), 1941

All stand.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. You may then be seated for brief announcements.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your financial support is sincerely appreciated. To give online, go to the Church website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

All stand.

HYMN

O Jesus, I have promised (655, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end:
2 O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee,
be thou for ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will;
that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;
I shall not fear the bat - tle, if thou art by my side,
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
nor wan - der from the path - way, if thou wilt be my guide.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874), alt. Music: *Nyland*, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874-1948).
Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL AND CONCLUDING SENTENCE

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church.

VOLUNTARY

Andante from Organ Sonata no. 6
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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Announcements

For all the latest news and information, see last week's edition of the Weekly Parish Enews. From the Parish website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), click Enews Archive for the latest edition or Enews (subscribe) to subscribe.

Transition Update

- The **parish meeting** with Amber Page Gehr, Diocesan Transition Officer, concerning the diocesan process for calling a new priest, originally scheduled for September 24, will be rescheduled. Stay tuned!
- On August 6, we launched a **process of reflection** and consultation that will enable us to articulate to candidates our identity and aspirations as a parish. Thank you for your robust participation during our coffee hour conversation. We will be holding other short meetings like this in weeks to come. We also sent out an electronic **parish survey**. If you missed the Enews special, you can find the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/r/WayV9w4CEc>. Please help us imagine our future!
- We have submitted information to the diocese which will enable a **financial analysis** and determination of what we can afford by way of clergy compensation.
- We hope by early fall to begin **advertising the position** through diocesan channels. The diocese will gather applications and pass them along to the Vestry, who will review applications and interview candidates. While Bishop Jeff Mello must approve any offer that we make, the choice will be ours.
- The position will **initially be a time-limited Priest-in-Charge position**, which can in due course be converted to a Rector position if both parties wish to proceed.
- Feel free to **reach out to any member of the Vestry** with your questions and ideas.

Upcoming Worship Schedule. During our leadership transition, we will have a combination of lay-led worship and services led by supply clergy. Please join us!

October 1	Morning Prayer led by Jane Nichols (w/ sermon)
October 8	Eucharist with Rev. Derek Stefanovsky preaching and presiding
October 15	Morning Prayer led by Madeleine Anderson (w/ sermon)
October 22	Eucharist with Rev. Jill Morrison preaching and presiding
October 29	Morning Prayer led by Don Edwards, with Madeleine Anderson preaching
November 5	Eucharist with Rev. Kerith Harding preaching and presiding
November 12	Morning Prayer led by Alexandria Robison (w/ sermon)
November 19	Eucharist with Rev. Mo Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding

TODAY Jane Nichols will lead Morning Prayer. Jane Nichols is a PhD student in theology at Yale University, focusing on the theological formation of the Episcopal Church in the immediate aftermath of the American revolution. Jane holds degrees in history and theology from Vassar College and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and has previously written about gender and transgender identity within biblical interpretation. St. Thomas's is delighted to introduce **our new musical team**, choral conductor Matt Cramer and organist Noah Klein. Both will be joining us as of **September 17th**. Please help give them a very warm welcome, as we look forward to the continued flourishing of music in worship at St. Thomas's!

On **October 8**, The Reverend Derek Stefanovsky will preach and preside. Derek was a parishioner and seminarian at St. Thomas's from 2016-2019 while studying at Yale Divinity School/Berkeley Divinity School, and is delighted to be back as supply clergy. Following his time at St. Thomas's, Derek spent three years as associate rector at St. Luke's, Darien, and now serves as priest-in-charge of St. Peter's Grace, Monroe. Derek and his spouse, Katherine, live in Stamford, where Katherine practices family medicine.

Donating Clothing for Loaves and Fishes. Our support for the clothing ministry is ongoing. Please be thoughtful in your selection of items. Current specific requests include: men's/women's jeans; men's short-sleeved shirts, sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks; spring and summer clothing. Bring donations to St. Thomas's (leave them in the tub at the Whitney Ave. entrance) or to Loaves and Fishes (Thurs-Sat, 9-11 a.m., in the driveway at 57 Olive St.).

Thursday Night Study Group, 7:30 p.m., on Zoom.

On Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2506069964>

Join us for an six-week study of the short New Testament Epistles using the Yale Bible Study curriculum. Watch the video and check out the other materials ahead of time, and then join us for conversation and fellowship. Find the materials here: <https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/new-testament-epistles/>

October 5: Week 4, James

October 12: Week 5, The Johannine Epistles

October 19: Week 6, 1 and 2 Peter and Jude

Coffee Hour Hosting Sign-Up Link. You are invited to consider hosting coffee hour at St. Thomas's following Sunday worship. Would you like to contribute to St. Thomas's coffee hour, but don't know how to operate the coffee maker? Do you have a treat from your kitchen or favorite neighborhood bakery that you would love to share, but you are not sure that you can manage a whole coffee hour? Sign up to be a coffee hour helper! It's easy: look at the signup sheet (electronic or paper) and sign up as a "Helper." Contact the coffee hour host to discuss what you can bring and how you can help out. Then, discover how fun it is to help make fellowship happen! Visit this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee> and add your contact info in the comment box. You may also access the Parish Directory on our homepage, www.stthomasnewhaven.org for contact information. [Julie Kelly](#) in the Parish Office can provide the directory password. Thank you for contributing to our time of fellowship!



Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: Jane Nichols
Choral Conductor: Matthew Cramer
Organist: Noah Klein
Lector: Bob Herdt
Ushers: Gary Robison
Coffee Hour:
Vestry Host:

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Preacher-in-Residence
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

Church Vestry
Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)
Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)
Bill English (Treasurer)
Denise Terry (Clerk)
Madeleine Anderson
Max Ballardo
Claire Scully

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
the people of Ukraine

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for: Trinity, Torrington; Christ Church, Trumbull; Trinity, Trumbull; For all companions and service animals, all livestock & wild animals, great and small

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
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Matthew Cramer, Choral Director
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