



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 3, 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.

Happy New Year! It's Advent! Today, the First Sunday of Advent, is the first day of the new church year. According to *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians* (Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors), Advent is “The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for ‘coming.’ The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ in power and glory.” For the next year (year B of the Revised Common Lectionary), Mark will be the primary source of our Gospel readings. During Advent we are using Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship*, the expansive language supplement to the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. It includes this line: “To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.” Mary’s inclusion is both appropriate to the season and one small corrective to the omission of women from the salvation histories usually recounted in our liturgies.



VOLUNTARY



Aria, Homage to J.S.B.
John Jordan (b. 1941)

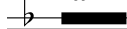

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.



THE GREAT LITANY

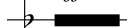
S 67, *The Hymnal 1982*

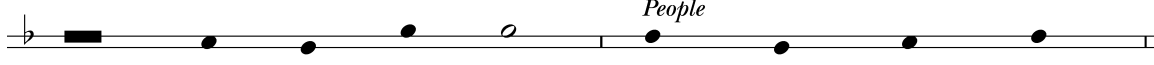
Officiant  *People* 
O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 
O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant 
Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

People 
preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

Officiant
From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlasting dam - na - tion,

People
Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

People
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

Officiant Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

Officiant O Christ, hear us. *People* O Christ, hear us.

Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1583?), alt. Copyright © 1927 Wallace Goodrich, Secretary for the Joint Commission on Church Music.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Presider says the following prayer as the Advent candle is lit.

Come, O Holy One, as the morning light after a wakeful night! Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us an accounting of our lives; help us to love you and love one another in all we do, and so clothe us with your light that we may bring others to love you also, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e
 e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e -
 le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
 as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
 From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
 no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
 You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

David Hurd

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

HYMN

We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting (51, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 We the Lord's peo - ple, heart and voice u - nit - ing, praise him who
2 This is the Lord's house, home of all his peo - ple, school for the
3 This is the Lord's day, day of God's own mak - ing, day of cre -
4 In the Lord's ser - vice bread and wine are of - fered, that Christ may



called us out of sin and dark - ness in - to his own light,
faith - ful, ref - uge for the sin - ner, rest for the pil - grim,
a - tion, day of re - sur - rec - tion, day of the Spi - rit,
take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his peo - ple,



that he might a - noint us a roy - al priest - hood.
ha - ven for the wea - ry; all find a wel - come.
sign of hea - ven's ban - quet, day for re - joic - ing.
his own life im - par - ting, food ev - er - last - ing.

Words: John E. Bowers (b. 1923), alt. Music: *Decatur Place*, Richard Wayne Dirksen (b. 1921)

THE GOSPEL

MARK 13:24-37

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

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

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT

[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]

Presider and People

**Because of You, O God,
we are people of hope,
even though the night of winter is upon us.**

**Because of You, Divine Presence,
we are people of peace,
even though violent speech
and bared teeth surround us.**

**Because of You, Christ who is coming,
we are people of joy,
even though the leaves have fallen
and the music has stopped.**

**Because of You, Spirit of Life,
we are people of love,
even though we see
the diminishment of human dignity all around us.**

**We call upon You, ever-blessed One,
for strength and purpose,**

for gratitude and generosity,
for the grace to bring light,
and the nourishment of your grace,
and the thirst-quenching stream of your justice
into the world that You love
with an everlasting love.

Come among us and set us free. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

Let us confess our sins to God. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider and People

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: 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 and the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the altar is prepared.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. We will not be passing a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Lord, What a Morning

My Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall.
Done quite all my worldly ways,
Join that heavenly band.

Oh! My Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall.

Words: Revelation 8:10 (paraphrase) Music: H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

*During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Presider sets the table, and the People come forward to encircle the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If this is difficult for you, please feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Rejoice! rejoice, believers (68, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>The Lord be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And al-so with you.</p>
<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>
<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	
<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>It is right to give God thanks and praise.</p>	

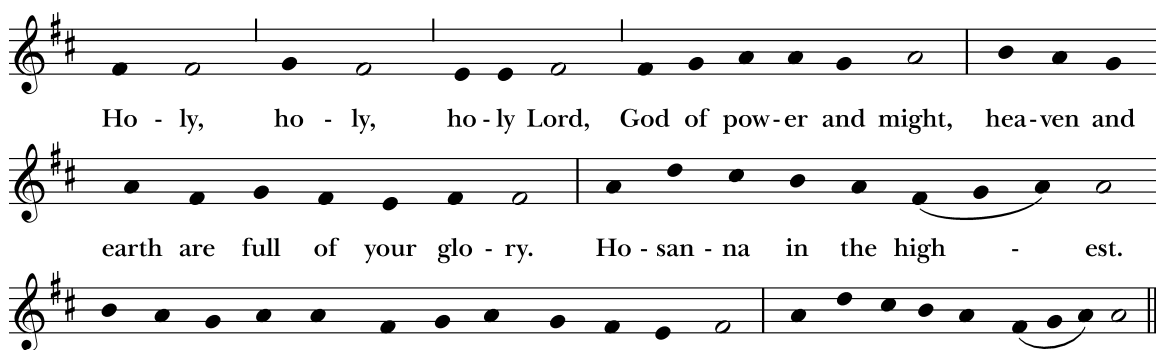
Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS

S 124, *The Hymnal 1982*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, Thomas, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

S 161, *The Hymnal 1982*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of communion, the priest will come to you. Extend your hands, and the priest will place the bread in them. Please return to your seat before you raise your mask to consume it. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Vigilate

Vigilate nescitis enim
 quando dominus domus veniat
 sero an media nocte an gallicantu an mane
 vigilate ergo ne cum venerit repente
 inveniatur vos dormientes
 quod autem dico vobis omnibus dico vigilate.

Watch—for you do not know
 when the master of the house will come,
 in the evening, midnight, cockcrow, or at dawn.
 Watch therefore, or else when he comes suddenly,
 he may find you asleep.
 And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.

Words: Mark 13:35-37 Music: William Byrd (c1540–1623), 1589

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**God of abundance,
 you have fed us
 with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
 you have united us
 with Christ and one another;
 and you have made 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 redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

Presider

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding (59, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Descant

2 Wak-ened by the sol-ern warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol-ern warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-ow, one and all to be for-given;
4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)
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DISMISSAL

Presider: *[The Presider dismisses the People.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

VOLUNTARY

Postlude in G, op. 101, no. 5

C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

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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.

It's Stewardship Season! While stewardship is a year-round activity, we are in the midst of a more intentional season of giving. Among other things, look out for a series of Enews specials with information about why and how to give. If you have any questions, you can always ask a member of the Vestry.

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!

December 3	Eucharist with Rev. Maureen Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding
December 10	Eucharist with Rev. Nathan Empsall preaching and presiding
December 10	5 PM, A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 17	Eucharist with Rev. Derek Stefanovsky preaching and presiding
December 24	10 AM Advent IV Morning Prayer and Nativity Pageant with Jennifer Herdt presiding
December 24	5 PM, Eucharist with Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding
December 31	Morning Prayer led by Sheldon Campbell (w/ sermon)
January 7	Feast of the Epiphany Eucharist with Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding

TODAY The Rev. Maureen Peitler-Lederman is presiding and preaching. Mo is a native Nutmegger and serves through the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. She is a graduate of Providence College, BA Theology and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. Ordained in 2004, Mo served as the Associate Rector and Chaplain of the Day School at St. Thomas's Episcopal Church in New Haven, CT for nine years. She became the Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Guilford, CT until June of 2021. She has served the diocese as a member of the Commission on Ministry, Chair of the South Central Leadership Team, Chair of the Women's Ministry Network, a Camp Washington Chaplain and Retreat Leader, Chaplain to the St. Peter's theater Program and Chair for the Committee for the Formation of All the Baptized. Currently she is a diocesan consultant, working with newly ordained clergy. She leads retreats for parish groups and vestries, and recently worked with the Ekklesia Ballet Company on their work, Body and Land. Through Trytank, alongside the Rev. Rachel Field, she leads an online support group for newly ordained clergy throughout the national Episcopal Church. She is pursuing a Certificate in Communications and Digital Media through the Center for New Media at Middlesex College. When not serving parishes or taking classes Mo enjoys spending time with family, baking, singing in a community choir, and blending and drinking tea.

The Rev. Nathan Empsall will be preaching and presiding on **December 10**. Rev. Nathan is the executive director of Faithful America, leading Christian resistance to Christian nationalism, and a recent member of the Episcopal Church's Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism. Rev. Nathan holds a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (since renamed Yale School of the Environment), a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, a Diploma in Anglican Studies from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, and a B.A. in government and Native American studies from Dartmouth College.

Advent and Christmas

Christmas Offerings to St. Thomas's

Please consider making a seasonal gift to the church. You may designate it as general donation, or direct it to the flower fund or the music fund. All memorial and honorarial gifts will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin

and the Enews. Giving envelopes are in the pews and at the doors; you can also donate by check or online using [this link](#). For inclusion in the Christmas bulletin, we must have your donation by MONDAY, DECEMBER 18.

A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols

December 10, 5 PM. The St. Thomas's Choir will be singing a service of Advent Lessons & Carols with a reception following the service.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 10 AM: Morning Prayer and Nativity Pageant (See the Sunday School note about pageant prep.)

December 24, 5 PM: Service of Holy Eucharist lead by Preacher-in Residence The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

December 25, Christmas Day: No service

Sunday School

Advent and Christmas:

Sunday School classes will meet during the 10 AM services on December 3, 10, and 17.

On Sunday morning, December 24, the children will present a Nativity Pageant as part of the Morning Prayer service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This program is coordinated by Denise Terry (terry.df@gmail.com).

Interested in joining St. Thomas's Choir?

The St. Thomas's Choir sings for Sunday morning and special liturgies during the program year, offering anthems, canticles and psalms. The choir includes volunteers and professional section leaders. Its repertoire is drawn from the rich tradition of Anglican choral music, spanning many centuries.

The St. Thomas's Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., from September to June. New members are always welcome; an ability to read music and prior choral experience is desirable.

Contact Linda Meyer at lindarossmeyer@gmail.com

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.).

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: The Rev. Maureen Peitler-Lederman

Music Director: Matthew Cramer

Organist: Noah Klein

Eucharistic Minister:

Lector: Jenny Chavira

Intercessor: Bill English

Sacristan:

Ushers: Gary Robison

Coffee Hour: Bill English

Vestry Host: Denise Terry

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 Russia and the people of Ukraine; the people of Gaza and the people of Israel; all who are afflicted by war and natural disaster

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for: Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam, Christ Church, Bethany; Postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry and its members

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: The Church of North India (United)

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: Myanmar, Thailand

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Noah Klein, Organist
♦ music@stthomasnewhaven.org
Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org