

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 27, YEAR A

Service of Morning Prayer

November 12, 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.

PRELUDE

Laurel Gagnon, violin

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (436, The Hymnal 1982)



Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, *Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalm 43:3*

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.

VENITE

Officiant and People

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

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Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
 Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

All are seated.

PSALM 78:1-7 (sung by the Choir)

- 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.
- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, * which he commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; * that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
 - and not forget the deeds of God,
 - but keep his commandments;
 - 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

JOSHUA 24:1-3A, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

John Goss

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

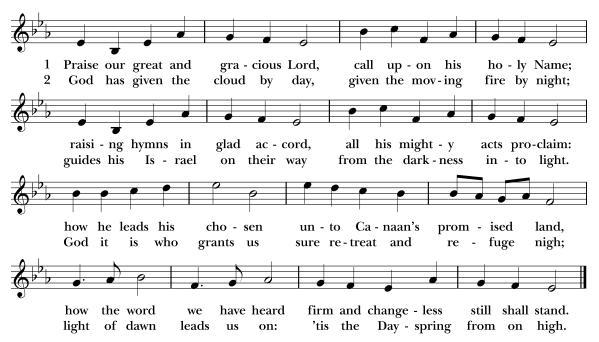
But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

All stand.

HYMN

Praise our great and gracious Lord (393, The Hymnal 1982)



Words: Harriet Auber (1773-1862), alt. Music: Maoz Zur, Hebrew melody; adapt. and arr. Eric Werner (1901-1988).

THE SECOND LESSON

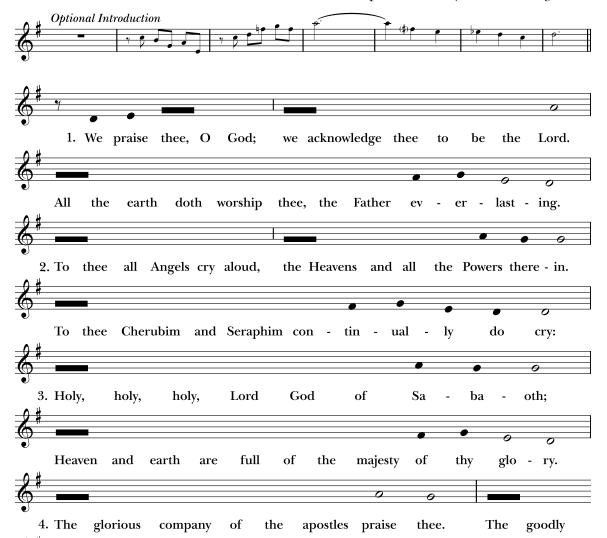
1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

CANTICLE 7

We praise thee (**S 205**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



• . 0 0 fellowship of pro - phets praise thee. 5. The noble army \mathbf{of} the 0 Church throughout martyrs praise thee. The holy all the world Ŧ $\overline{}$ doth ac - know - ledge thee, 6. the Father, of infinite an majesty, 0 thine adorable, true, and on - ly Son, also the Holy Ghost the Com-fort-er. 0 0 7. Thou art the King of glo - ry, O Christ. Thou the everlasting art 0 . • 0 Son of the Fa-ther. 8. When thou tookest upon thee to de - liv - er man, • . . 0 Vir - gin. thou didst humble thyself born \mathbf{of} be to а 0 • 0 9. When thou hadst overcome the sharp of death, ness -• . 0 0 didst open the kingdom of heaven all be - liev - ers. thou to 0 0 10. Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Fa-ther. We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge. 11. We therefore pray thee, 0 0 • 0 help thy ser-vants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy pre-cious blood. 0 12. Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory ev - er - last - ing.

Music: Plainsong, Tone 8; adapt. And acc. Alastair Cassels-Brown (b. 1927). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

THE THIRD LESSON

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

All stand



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Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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.
People: Officiant:	
1	And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Officiant:	And guide us in the way of justice and truth. Let your way be known upon earth;
Officiant: People:	And guide us in the way of justice and truth. Let your way be known upon earth; Your saving health among all nations.
Officiant: People: Officiant:	And guide us in the way of justice and truth.Let your way be known upon earth;Your saving health among all nations.Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Officiant

(*The Collect of the Day*) O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 Collect 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.**

(A Collect for Peace) Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Officiant may add prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

All are seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

BWV 140: 3. Arie-Duett (Dialog - Seele, Jesus)

Sherezade Panthaki, soprano, Benjamin Ferriby, baritone, Laurel Gagnon, violin, Noah Klein, organ

Wenn kömmst du, mein Heil? - Ich komme, dein Teil. -Ich warte mit brennenden Öle. Eröffne den Saal - Ich öffne den Saal – zum himmlischen mahl. Komm, Jesu. - Ich komme, komm, liebliche Seele. - When will you come, my Savior? - I come, as your portion. -I wait with burning oil. Now open the hall - I open the hall for the heavenly meal. Come, Jesus! - I come, come, lovely soul! -

Words: Unknown author, based on Matthew 25:1-13 Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Wachet auf,

ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 140

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

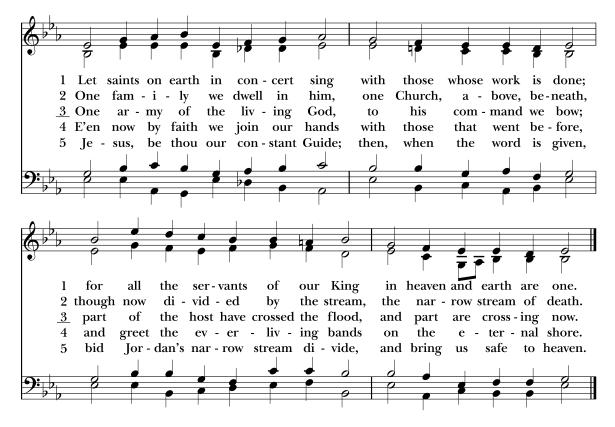
Your financial support is sincerely appreciated. To give online, go to the Church website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically,

simply <u>CLICK HERE</u>. Thank you!

All stand.

HYMN

Let saints on earth in concert sing (526, The Hymnal 1982)



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Dundee*, melody from *The CL Psalmes of David*, 1615; harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (1592?-1635?), alt.

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

Festal March Florence Price (1887-1953)

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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 (<u>www.stthomasnewhaven.org</u>), 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!

November 12 Morning Prayer led by Alexandria Robison (w/ sermon) November 19 Eucharist with Rev. Mo Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding November 26 Morning Prayer led by Denise Terry (w/ sermon) December 3 Eucharist with Rev. Gina Gore preaching and presiding December 10 Eucharist with Rev. Nathan Empsall preaching and presiding December 17 Eucharist with Rev. Derek Stefanovsky preaching and presiding December 24 5 PM, Eucharist with Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding December 31 Morning Prayer led by Sheldon Campbell (w/ sermon)

TODAY, Alexandria Robison will lead Morning Prayer and preach. Alexandria has been attending St. Thomas's regularly for six years but has been coming as a guest with her grandparents for over 15 years. Alexandria was baptized in the Episcopal Church and was formally received in 2019, but grew up in the Lutheran Church. While attending St. Thomas's Alexandria has been eager to get involved with the church community in any way possible. She has served on the vestry, sung in the choir, taught Sunday school, been a delegate for the Diocesan Convention, and more. When not at St. Thomas's Alexandria works as a Business and Nonprofit Librarian for the New Haven Free Public Library.

The Rev. Mo Lederman will be with us to preach and preside on **November 19**. Rev. Mo served as Associate Rector and Day School Chaplain at St. Thomas's from 2002 to 2012. She then became Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in North Guilford, where she served until 2021. She currently attends Connecticut State Community College, seeking a certificate in Communications and Digital Media. In the past couple of years, she has become an online liturgist for the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, a consultant for the ECCT, and an interim in parishes around the diocese. When not at school or church she enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, musical theater and blending tea. She is happy to be back with her St. Thomas's family this Sunday!

Sunday School

Sunday School classes for children of all ages, toddlers through high school, takes place during the ten o'clock service. Families go together to church for the service, including the opening hymn, first prayers, and Gloria. Just before the first reading, children are invited to go to THE KID ZONE (the room next to the Lounge on the second floor). Parents, please walk children upstairs to check in and receive an enrollment form. We will return to church after the sermon.

On Sundays when there is Morning Prayer, the children will remain in class during the entire service and can be picked up upstairs.

A parent should accompany all children who are four and under until we are sure they are settled. This program is coordinated by Denise Terry (mailto:terry.df@gmail.com).

SUNDAYS, NOV. 12 and 19 -- Thankfulness and sharing, planning a service project

SUNDAY, NOV. 26 -- No classes, Thanksgiving Weekend

About TODAY's music. J.S. Bach's cantata 140, *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, is a chorale cantata based on the hymn of the same title by Philipp Nicolai. The text of the hymn is based on the parable of the ten bridesmaids which is the Gospel reading for this coming Sunday. Bach's full cantata incorporates all three stanzas of Nicolai's hymn, perhaps most famously in the fourth movement "Zion hört die Wächter singen." Bach later transcribed this movement for organ as BWV 645, which organist Noah Klein will play as the voluntary. In addition to the anchoring chorale movements, BWV 140 features two captivating duets for soprano and bass. These duets are dialogues between the Soul (soprano) and Jesus (bass). In the third movement duet, sung this Sunday by our own Sherry Panthaki and Ben Ferriby, the Soul takes on the role of the ever-ready bridesmaid, their lamp filled with burning oil. Around the dialogue winds a florid violin obbligato, played by Laurel Gagnon, which could be perceived as the flickering flame of the lamp, welcoming Christ.

Advent Lessons & Carols

The St. Thomas's Choir will be singing a service of Advent Lessons & Carols on **December 10** at 5pm. We hope you will join us for this festive service of word and song!

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: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee</u> and add your contact info in the comment box. You may also access the Parish Directory on our homepage, <u>www.stthomasnewhaven.org</u> 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: Alexandria Robison Music Director: Matthew Cramer Organist: Noah Klein Violinist: Laurel Gagnon Lector: Claire Scully Ushers: Gary Robison, Claire Scully Coffee Hour: Vestry Host: Claire Scully

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: St. Paul's, Windham; Grace Church, Windsor; Ministries with older adults; the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and the Daughters of the King

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

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