



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 10, 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

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (76, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

Come, O Holy One, as the water of life and refiner's fire! Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice that in all the creation and among every people your peace may be established and your joy abound, through Jesus our Deliverer. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

S 86, *The Hymnal 1982*

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (Sung by the Choir)

John Joubert

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 PETER 3:8-15A

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

HYMN

Comfort, comfort ye my people (67, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - er
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

sai - th our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 1:1-8

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 Syvester, 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 CONFSSION 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

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
get thee up into the high mountain;
lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid,
say unto the cities of Judah:
Behold your God.
Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

Words: Isaiah 40:9 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

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 front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Prepare the way, O Zion (65, *The Hymnal 1982*)



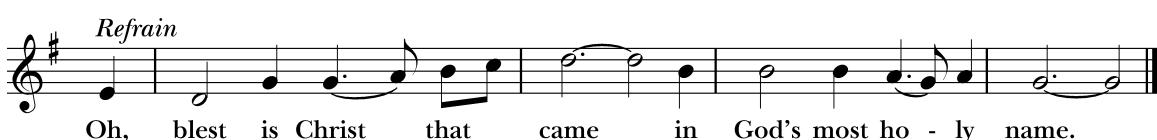
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free-dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people;
my salvation shall not tarry.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above

I have blotted out as a thick cloud,
thy transgressions:
Fear not, for I will save thee;
For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Words: *Rorate caeli (The Advent Prose)* Music: Judith Weir (b. 1954), 1984

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

Savior of the nations, come (54, *The Hymnal 1982*)

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics for the first four lines are: "1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er". The second staff continues with the same key and time signature. The lyrics for the next four lines are: "Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your". The third staff concludes with the same key and time signature. The lyrics for the final four lines are: "heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth. Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run! hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends. king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see."

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

VOLUNTARY

Partita on “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”, Variation 11
Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

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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.

Stewardship Season Wraps Up

Our formal Stewardship Season has concluded, but it's no too late to participate. Please consider whether you will start giving or change your giving. If the answer is YES: Inform Parish Administrator [Julie Kelly](#), and if you will give automatically/electronically (highly encouraged!), set up your payment via the Donate button on the website or your bank's bill pay portal.

For all that you give to support the ongoing life of our community, **THANK YOU!**

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 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
January 14	Morning Prayer led by Alexandria Robison (w/ sermon)

TODAY The Rev. Nathan Empsall will be preaching and presiding. 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.

The Reverend Derek Stefanovsky will preach and preside on **December 17**. 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.

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

TODAY December 10, 5 PM. The St. Thomas's Choir will be singing a service of Advent Lessons & Carols with a reception following the service. **Please invite your friends and neighbors!**

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 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. Nathan Empsall

Music Director: Matthew Cramer

Organist: Noah Klein

Eucharistic Minister:

Lector: Max Ballardo

Intercessor: Bill English

Sacristan:

Ushers: Gary Robison

Coffee Hour: Gary Robison, Denise Terry

Vestry Host: Max Ballardo

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. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield; Ministries to the homeless, for parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven, Church by the Pond, Hartford, and all Ecclesia ministries.

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

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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