



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR B

Service of Morning Prayer

January 28, 2024 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

There is a Happy Land

George Shearing (1919-2011)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim (535, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!
 4 Then let us a - dore, and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful Name;
 and still he is nigh: his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son.
 All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

the Name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol:
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Paderborn*, melody from *Catolisch-Paderbornisches Gesang-buch*, 1765; harm. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947).

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 49:6b

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*)

Richard Woodward

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 into 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 111 (*sung by the Choir*)

Richard Massey

1 Hallelujah!

 I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
 in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *

 they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *

 and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *

 the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *

 he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works *

 in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *

 all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *

 because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;

 he commanded his covenant for ever; *

 holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *

 those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

 his praise endures for ever.

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

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

Descant (after stanzas 2 and 3)

God is love, God is love,

Refrain

God is love, and where true love is

1-3 *Final Ending*

God him - self is there. there. _____

God him - self is there. there. _____

1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
 2 When we Chris - tians gath - er, mem - bers of one Bo - dy,
 3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,

Christ, our love, is with us, glad - ness be his greet - ing.
 let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.
 when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.

Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
 Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.
 Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,

Repeat Refrain

Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
 Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
 be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

Words: Latin; tr. James Quinn (b. 1919), alt. Copyright © 1969, James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffery Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Mandatum*, Richard Proulx (b. 1937). G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

All are seated.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

All stand.

CANTICLE 6

Gloria in excelsis

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly

King, God the Fa-ther Al - might - y.—

4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;

5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the
right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.

8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. thou
on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most
high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.—
A - - - - - men.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1881-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

All are seated.

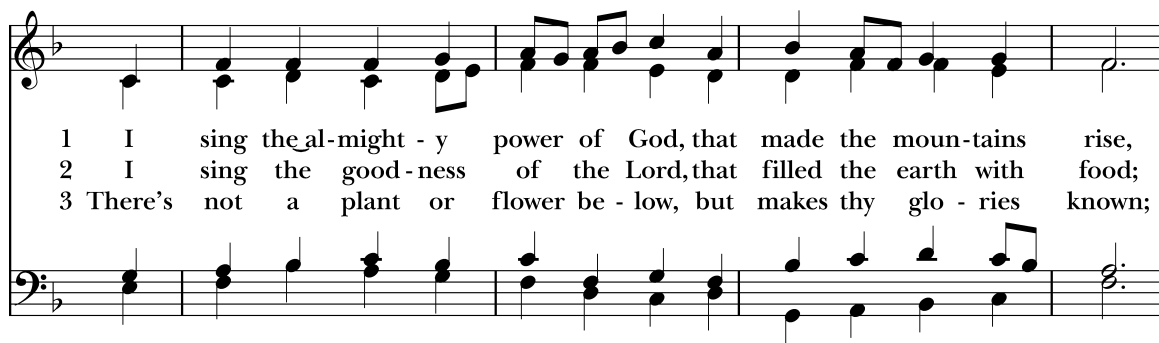
Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

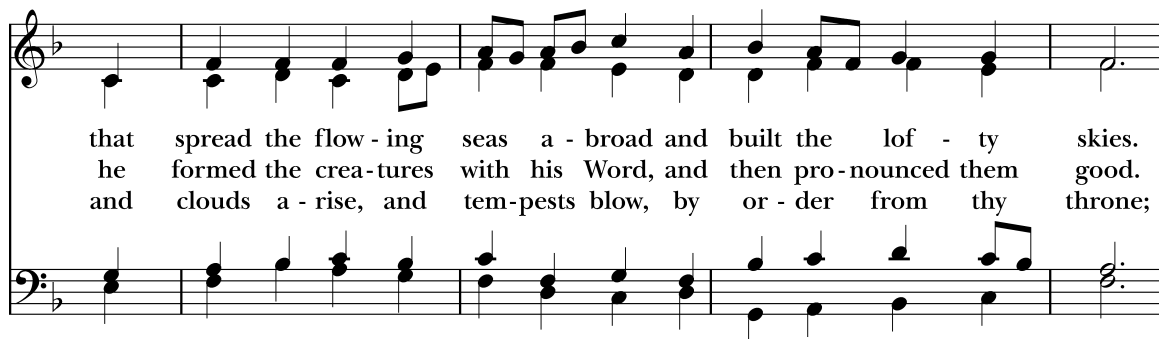
People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

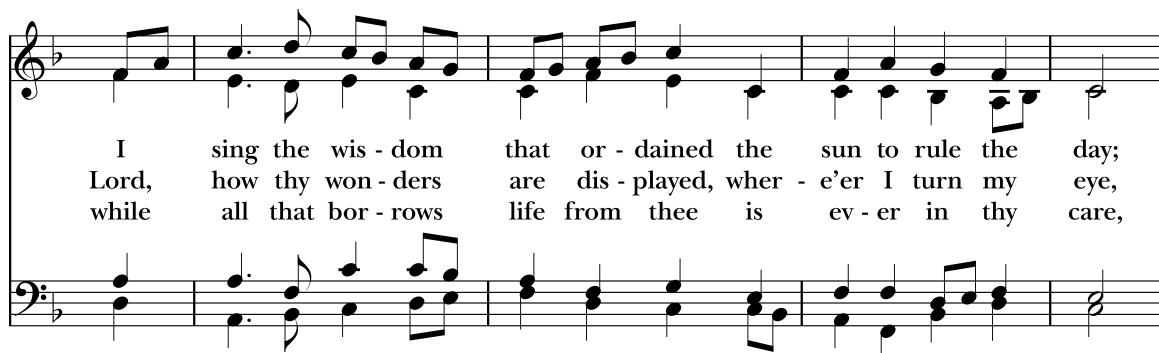
HYMN

I sing the almighty power of God (398, *The Hymnal 1982*)


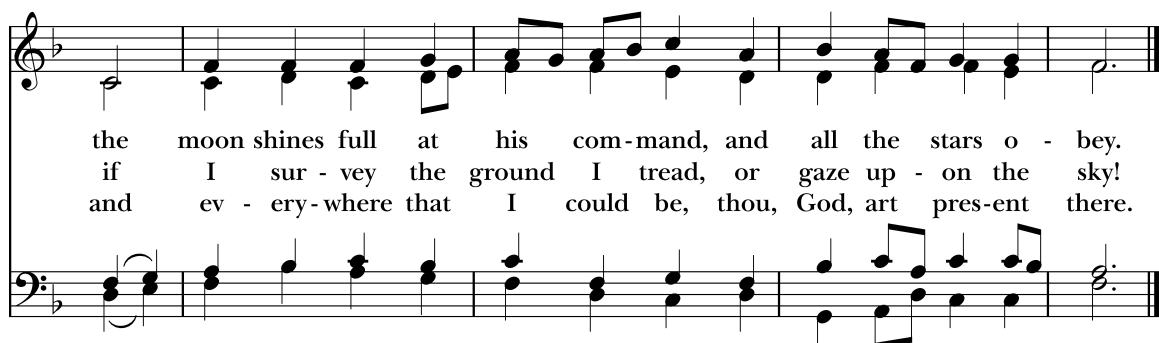
1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;



that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
 he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
 and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;



I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

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) Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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 Guidance) Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(A Prayer for Mission) Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Officiant may add prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

All are seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There is a balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead,
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead,
to heal the sin-sick soul.

There is a balm in Gilead,
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead,
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus,
and say "He died for all."

Words: Traditional African American Spiritual, based on Jeremiah 8:22 Music: William L. Dawson (1899–1990)

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 for a thousand tongues to sing (493, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
 3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
 4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
 5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
 3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
 be now and ever given
 by saints below and saints above,
 the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Azmon*, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

DISMISSAL AND CONCLUDING SENTENCE

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. *Romans 15:13*

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

VOLUNTARY

Praeludium
 Herman Schroeder (1904-1984)

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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.



St. Thomas's will be holding our Annual Meeting following 10 AM worship on Sunday, **February 4th**. Please join us for a comprehensive (but brief!) update and discussion of the state of the parish and our clergy transition process, as well as to elect vestry members and officers. **Potluck contributions to coffee hour warmly welcome.**

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!

January 28	Morning Prayer led by Jennifer Herdt (w/sermon)
February 4	Eucharist with Rev. Mo Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding
February 11	Morning Prayer led by Sheldon Campbell (w/sermon)
February 18	Eucharist with Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding
February 25	Morning Prayer led by Jane Nichols (w/ sermon)
March 3	Eucharist with Rev. Mo Peitler-Lederman preaching and presiding
March 10	Morning Prayer led by Ricardo Chavira
March 17	Eucharist with Rev. Julie Kelsey preaching and presiding

TODAY, Senior Warden Jennifer Herdt will be preaching and leading Morning Prayer. Jennifer has been a member of St. Thomas's since moving to the area in 2010, together with husband Jan Hagens and children Cora and Adam (now both college students). A longtime singer in the St. Thomas's choir and onetime Sunday School teacher, Jennifer is a member of the faculty at Yale Divinity School in the field of Christian Ethics. Jennifer earned her B.A. from Oberlin College and M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University. She has written books on sympathy, religion and faction, ethical formation, and virtue ethics. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys hiking, running, and cooking

On February 4, the Rev. Mo Lederman will be back with us to preach and preside. 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!

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: Jennifer Herdt
Music Director: Matthew Cramer
Organist: Noah Klein
Lector:
Ushers: Gary Robison
Coffee Hour Hosts: Bob & Lorna Herdt
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 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: Epiphany, Durham; St. Gabriel's, East Berlin; St. Stephen's, East Haddam; All Saint's, East Harford; Ministries to, with, and for the deaf

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: North Africa

**ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY
SCHOOL**
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