

# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 12, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist July 30, 2023 10 A.M.

#### Whether you are new or returning, WELCOME!

To participate in worship today all you need is this bulletin.

Face masks are optional. Our expectation is that everyone who can be has been vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Please be respectful of those who continue to mask by observing social distancing. Know that there is no mechanical air exchange in the church portions of the building. The Lounge has high efficiency air filters but no mechanical air exchange.

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 **restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit. All restrooms are all-gender single-use.

ALL are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required.

We are again offering wine during Holy Communion. To receive wine, you must sip from the common cup—you may not intinct (dip the bread into the wine). It may seem counterintuitive, but sipping is safer than intinction, because your hands touch many more surfaces than do your lips. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. Additional instructions for Holy Communion are included below at the appropriate points below.

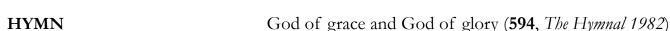
If you are new, please consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a nametag, and next Sunday it will be waiting on the table inside the main entrance.

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.

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.





Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932).

### OPENING ACCLAMATION, SALUTATION, AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

All are seated.

#### THE FIRST LESSON

**GENESIS 29:15-28** 

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

## PSALM 105:1-11,45

Presider and People

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; \* make known his deeds among the peoples.

- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \* and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; \* let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; \* continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*
  his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \* O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the LORD our God; \* his judgments prevail in all the world.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, \* the promise he made for a thousand generations:
- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, \* the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, \* an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan \* to be your allotted inheritance."
- 45 Hallelujah!

#### THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

All stand.

#### **HYMN**

If thou but trust in God to guide thee (635, The Hymnal 1982)



Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878), alt. Music: Wer nur den lieben Gott, Georg Neumark (1621-1681).

#### THE GOSPEL

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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.

#### THE NICENE CREED

Presider and People

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Book of Common Prayer, Form I

Intercessor and People

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For our towns, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For those who travel, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us, O Lord, by your grace. Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Mary, Thomas, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.** 

The Presider will add petitions for the week and then offer the concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

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

Presider 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.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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.

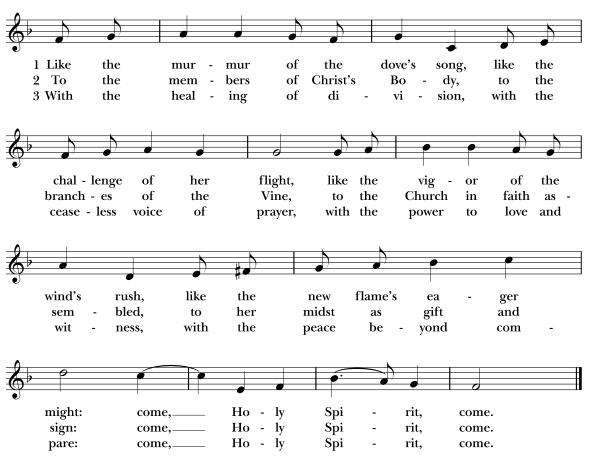
#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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!

#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Ushers bring the gifts forward and the Presider sets the table. The People follow the Ushers and 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, 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.

Like the murmur of the dove's song (513, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

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#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: SUPPLEMENTARY EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2 FROM THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

#### Presider

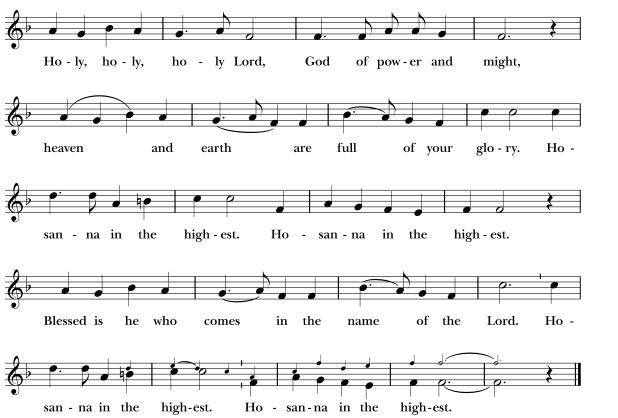
Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak,

and those, broken and alone, whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first. Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and singing:



Holy, holy, holy Lord (**S 125**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Music: From A Community Mass; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

#### Presider

Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them. He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore we proclaim our hope.

Presider and People

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Presider

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering, our fellow children of God. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and for 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.

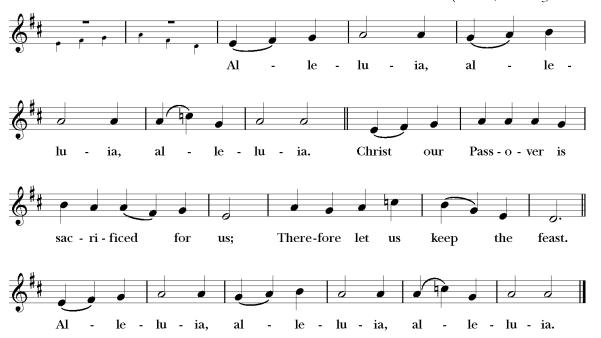
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,

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



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 Holy Communion, the priest and Eucharistic minister will come to you. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest. To receive wine, you must sip from the common cup—you may not intinct (dip the bread into the wine). After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.

After all have received communion, all stand.

#### THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: All your works praise you, O Lord.

Presider and People

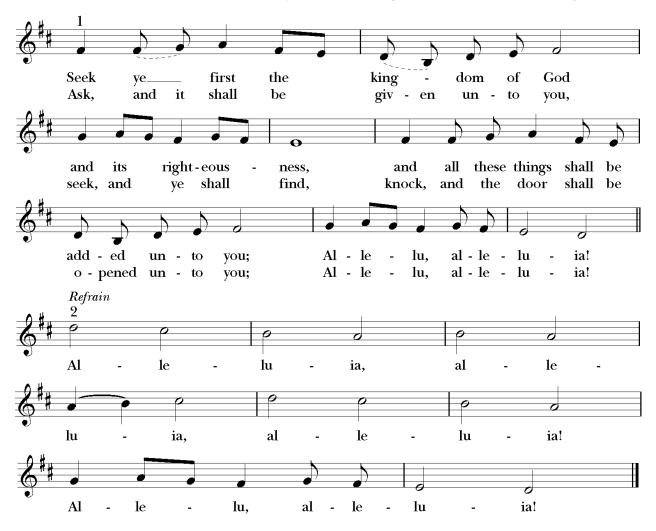
And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

Presider: | The Presider blesses the People. |

People: Amen.



## **DISMISSAL**

Presider: [The Presider dismisses the People.]

People: Thanks be to God.

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

## **VOLUNTARY**

Sow It On the Mountain Traditional American

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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.

#### **Transition Update**

- The meeting with Amber Page Gehr, Diocesan Transition Officer, is tentatively scheduled in person for Sept. 24, following worship—stay tuned!
- We will soon launch a **process of reflection and consultation** that will enable us to articulate to candidates our identity and aspirations as a parish. We welcome your ideas and involvement!
- We have submitted information to the diocese which will enable a **financial analysis** and determination of what we can afford by way of clergy compensation.
- We hope by early fall to begin **advertising the position** through diocesan channels. The diocese will gather applications and pass them along to the Vestry, who will review applications and interview candidates. While Bishop Jeff Mello must approve any offer that we make, the choice will be ours.
- The position will **initially be a time-limited Priest-in-Charge position**, which can in due course be converted to a Rector position if both parties wish to proceed.
- Feel free to **reach out to any member of the Vestry** with your questions and ideas.

**TODAY**, July 30th, the Reverend Dr. Carolyn Sharp returns as preacher and presider. Carolyn is a Hebrew Bible scholar and professor of homiletics at Yale Divinity School. She is the author of many highly-regarded books on the Hebrew prophets, including recent commentaries on Joshua and Jeremiah, and has a particular interest in biblical theology as a resource for preaching. She is also a longtime friend and member of St. Thomas's, now serving as volunteer assisting priest at St. John's Essex, close to her home in Old Saybrook.

#### **Summer Worship**

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

July 30	Eucharist with Rev. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding
August 6	Morning Prayer led by Jennifer Herdt (w/ sermon)
August 13	Eucharist with Rev. Julie Kelsey preaching and presiding
August 20	Eucharist with Rev. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding
August 27	Morning Prayer led by Sheldon Campbell (w/ sermon)

**Updated COVID-19 policy.** Face masks are no longer required in any areas of the church. Communion wine will be offered during communion, but you may receive only by sipping from the common cup; YOU MAY NOT INTINCT.

Donating Clothing for Loaves and Fishes. Our support for the clothing ministry is ongoing. Please be thoughtful in your selection of items. Current specific requests include: men's/women's jeans; men's short-sleeved shirts,

sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks; spring and summer clothing. Bring donations to St. Thomas's (leave them in the tub at the Whitney Ave. entrance) or to Loaves and Fishes (Thurs-Sat, 9-11 a.m., in the driveway at 57 Olive St.).

Thursday Night Study Group, 7:30 p.m., on Zoom. The Thursday Night Study Group is now on hiatus for the summer. Check back in August for fall plans.

**Coffee Hour Hosting Sign-Up Link.** You are invited to consider hosting coffee hour at St. Thomas's following Sunday worship. Visit this link to sign up: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee</a>. Please contact <a href="Iulie Kelly">Iulie Kelly</a> with any questions. Thank you for contributing to our time of fellowship!



#### Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Eucharistic Minister: Madeleine Anderson

Lector: Jane Nichols

Intercessor: William English Sacristan: Madeleine Anderson

**Ushers:** Gary Robison **Vestry Host:** Linda Meyer

#### Leadership at St. Thomas's

#### **Church Vestry**

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

### This Week's Prayer Intentions

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

Pray for those who have died.

# In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

Good Shepherd, Shelton; St. Paul's, Shelton; Christ Church Cathedral's ministry in Hartford; the Cathedral Chapter; honorary canons of our Cathedral

# In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

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

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church & Day School 830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 777-7623 • www.stthomasnewhaven.org Dr. Noah Horn, Music Director ♦ n.horn@stthomasnewhaven.org Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org