



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Service of Holy Eucharist

March 30, 2024 7 P.M.

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## 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.

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**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.

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# THE PASCHAL LIGHT

*In the darkness, fire is kindled, and then the Presider says:*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is lit from the newly kindled fire. It is then carried from the back of the church and placed in its stand, with three pauses for the Presider and People to sing:*

*Presider*                      *People*



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

*The Peoples' candles are lit from the Paschal Candle, and then the Cantor sings the Exsultet.*

## THE EXSULTET

*Cantor*


Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,  
and let your trumpets shout Salvation  
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,  
bright with a glorious splendor,  
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,  
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,  
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,  
pray with me to God the Almighty  
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;  
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*People*



A - men.



# THE SALVATION HISTORY

*Presider*

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God's people were saved in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*All are seated.*

## THE STORY OF CREATION

GENESIS 1:1-2:4

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

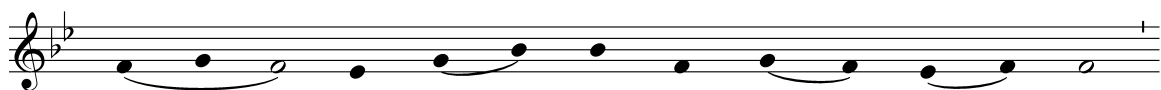
God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

O blest Creator, source of light (27, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 O blest Cre - a - tor, source of light,  
 2 You joined the morn and eve - ning ray;  
 3 Lest we, be - set by doubt and strife,  
 4 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, help us rise  
 5 De - fend us, Fa - ther, through the night,



1 you gave the day with splen - dor bright,  
 2 you found it good and called it 'day.'  
 3 for - get your bless - ed gift of life,  
 4 and strive to gain the heaven - ly prize;  
 5 and with your Son, and Spi - rit bright—



1 when on the new and liv - ing earth  
 2 But now the threat - ening dark - ness nears—  
 3 and an - guished and in mind dis - tressed,  
 4 for you a - lone can make us strong  
 5 the Tri - ni - ty whom we a - dore—



1 you brought all things to glo - rious birth.  
 2 we pray you, Fa - ther, calm our fears.  
 3 be crushed by guilt, by sin op - pressed.  
 4 to turn from sin and cease from wrong.  
 5 be with us now and ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b. 1930), alt. Copyright © 1982, Anne LeCroy. Music: *Lucis Creator optime*, plainsong, Mode 8, Verona MS., 11th cent.; acc. David Dahl (b. 1937).

*Presider*

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE FLOOD**

GENESIS 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

The LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 46:1-3, 5-7, 9-11** (*sung by the Choir; the People respond with the Antiphon*)



The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. **[Ant.]**
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. **[Ant.]**
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world, \*  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.” **[Ant.]**

*Presider*

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA**

EXODUS 14:10-15:1; 15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians?’ For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you



today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE

The Song of Moses (S 208, *The Hymnal 1982*)

*Antiphon in Lent and at the Easter Vigil* (b)

I will sing to the Lord for he has ris-en up in might.

1. I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and up - lift - ed;  
the horse and its rider has he hurled in - to the sea.

2. The Lord is my strength and my re - fuge; the Lord has be - come my Sa - vior.

3. This is my God and I will praise him, the God of my people and I will ex - alt him.

4. The Lord is a might - y war - rior; Yah - weh is his Name.

5. The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled in - to the sea; the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.

6. The fathomless deep has o - ver - whelmed them; they sank into the depths like a stone.

7. Your right hand, O Lord, is glor - ious in might; your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the en - e - my.

8. Who can be compared with you, O Lord, a - mong the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of won - ders?

9. You stretched forth your right hand; the earth swallowed them up.

10. With your constant love you led the people you re-deemed;  
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.

11. You will bring them in and plant them on the mount of your pos -  
ses - sion, 12. The resting-place you have made for your - self, O Lord,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has es - tab - lished.

13. The Lord shall reign for ever and for ev - er. [Ant.]

*Antiphon in Lent and at the Easter Vigil* (b)

I will sing to the Lord for he has risen up in might.

*Presider*

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL**

ISAIAH 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
 listen, so that you may live.  
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
 my steadfast, sure love for David.  
 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
 a leader and commander for the peoples.  
 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
 for he has glorified you.  
 Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
 call upon him while he is near;  
 let the wicked forsake their way,  
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
 so are my ways higher than your ways  
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
 making it bring forth and sprout,  
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
 it shall not return to me empty,  
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Sicut cervus

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum  
 ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,  
 so longs my soul for you, O God.

Words: Psalm 42:1 Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c1525–1594)

*Presider*

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

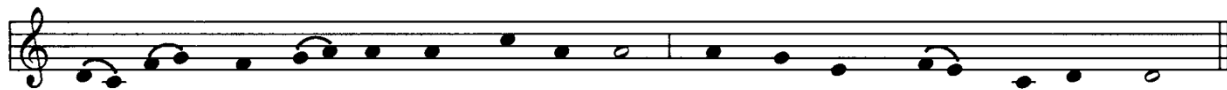
So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 30:1-6,12-13** *(sung by the Choir; the People respond with the Antiphon)*



**O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you re - stored me to health.**

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up \*  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I cried out to you, \* and you restored me to health.
- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; \*  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. **[Ant.]**
- 4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; \* give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, \* his favor for a lifetime.
- 6 Weeping may spend the night, \* but joy comes in the morning. **[Ant.]**
- 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; \*  
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; \*  
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever. **[Ant.]**

*Presider*

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Cantate Domino

Cantate Domino canticum novum,  
Cantate et benedicite nomini ejus:  
Quia mirabilia fecit.  
Cantate et exultate et psallite  
in cythara et voce psalmi:  
Quia mirabilia fecit.

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
sing and bless his Name;  
for he has done marvelous things.  
Lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing  
with the harp and the voice of song;  
for he has done marvelous things.

Words: Psalm 96:1-2a and 98:1, 5b, 6b Music: Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643), *Libro primo di motetti*, 1620

*Presider*

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*Presider*

Dear friends, through the Paschal mystery we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Presider: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**People: I do.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: 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.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: 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.**

Presider: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

*Presider*

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**



# THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

## EASTER PROCLAMATION

Presider: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The organ is sounded, and the lights are turned up. The People extinguish their candles and ring their bells.*

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest (S 278, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR EASTER

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## THE EPISTLE

ROMANS 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

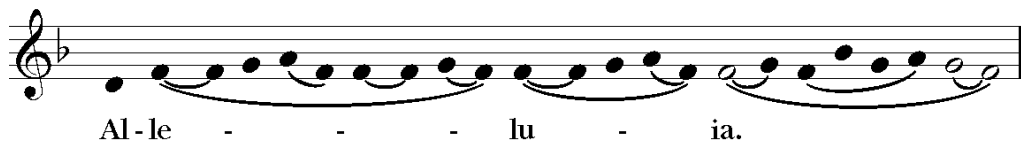
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

## THE GREAT ALLELUIA

*After the Epistle, this Alleluia is traditionally sung three times by the Celebrant or by a Cantor, at successively higher pitches (one whole tone each time), the Congregation repeating it each time.*



## THE GOSPEL

MARK 16:1-8

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

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM VI

*Intercessor and People*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. [*Silence is kept.*]

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community of St. Thomas’s and of New Haven, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Jeffrey and Laura, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve in God's Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. [*Silence is kept.*]

[*You are invited to offer your prayer intentions.*]

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. [*Silence is kept.*]

[*You are invited to offer your thanksgivings.*]

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. [*Silence is kept.*]

[*You are invited to offer your petitions.*]

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

*Presider*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Please greet your neighbors with a sign of peace, in whatever way seems welcome. You may then be seated for brief announcements and the **Offertory Anthem.***

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. To give online, go to the Church website Home page ([www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!*

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Most glorious Lord of life

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day  
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin,  
And having harrowed hell, didst bring away  
Captivity thence captive, us to win.

And that thy love we weighing worthily,  
May likewise love thee for the same again;  
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,  
With love may one another entertain.

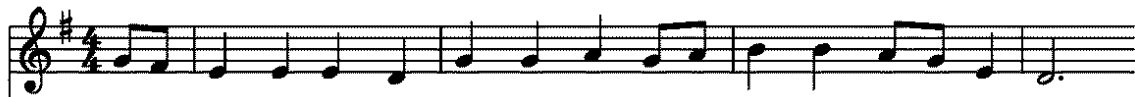
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,  
And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,  
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,  
May live for ever in felicity.

So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;  
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

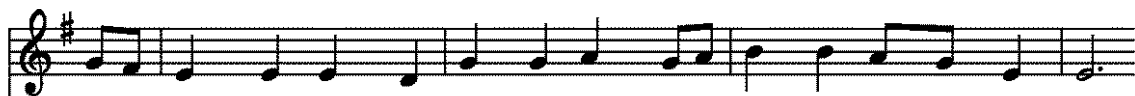
Words: Edmund Spenser (1552/53–1599) Music: William Harris (1883–1973)

## HYMN

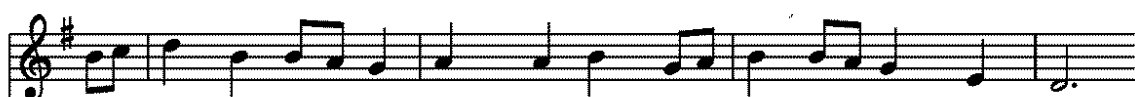
At break of day three women came (50, *Voices Found*)



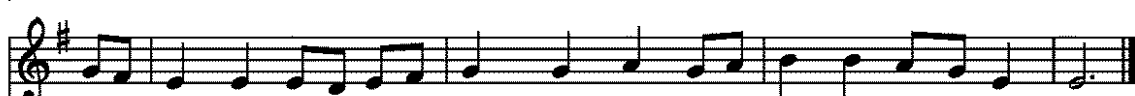
1 At break of day three wo - men came to find where Christ was laid.  
2 O Ma - ry, see your son a - gain, in re - sur - rec - tion joy.  
3 Come ce - le - brate the death of death! Come share e - ter - nal life!



With myrrh pre - pared to a - noint his corpse, they wept and mourned the dead.  
Shine, shine Je - ru - sa - lem, for Christ is ris'n in ma - jes - ty.  
Come leap and praise the liv - ing God who o - pens par - a - dise!



But now the stone is rolled a - way, they wor - ship in full day,  
Lift up your eyes, look around and see, re - joic - ing, strong and free,  
For dawn is come all shin - ing bright, to show sal - va - tion's might



then run to take the good news back and share their ho - ly joy.  
your child - ren come to find their home for all e - ter - ni - ty.  
to break the tomb, burst through the gloom, and flood the world with light.

Words: Janet Wootton © 1991 Stainer and Bell Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188).

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Music: *Kingsfold*, English melody; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958).

*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.*



*Presider*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Presider and People*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*Presider*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever 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

Christ our Passover (S 151, *The Hymnal 1982*)

*Cantor*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*All*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor*  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us

*All*  
keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *Missa orbis factor*; Plainsong, Tonus Peregrinus; arr. David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1979 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

*You may be seated.*



*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. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. To receive wine, you may sip from the common cup, or intinct (dip the bread into the wine). If you choose to intinct, please dip only the tip of the bread into the wine—fingers that touch the wine are a source of contamination. After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

Regina caeli

Regina caeli laetare, Alleluia.

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia.

For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia.

Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia.

Has risen, as He said, alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia.

Pray to God for us, alleluia.

Words: 12<sup>th</sup> cent. Marian hymn    Music: Vicente Lusitano (c. 1520 – c. 1561), *Liber primus epigramatum*, 1551

*After all have received communion, all stand for the hymn. During the singing of the hymn, the People are invited to accentuate the Easter “alleluias” with the ringing of bells.*

*Descant*

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

### THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### THE PASCHAL BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God. [Alleluia! Alleluia!]**

*You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church. Happy Easter!*

### VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G major, BWV 541  
 J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

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*May abundant blessings  
be upon you and yours  
this Eastertide!*



*Easter Offerings*

*Kristin Burbank,  
in memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Kagler, and in honor of Andrew Burbank*

*Leslie Kearney,  
in memory of Olga, Lester, Anna, Paul, Dawn, Robert, Dean, Josef*

*James Mansfield,  
in memory of Robert & Sharon Mansfield, Leo & Elenor Brunelle, Kenneth & Caroline Mansfield,  
Roy Graham & Sally Lawson*

*Gary Robison*

*Hearty thanks to the St. Thomas's Choir ...*

*Soprano*  
*Morgen Campbell*  
*Jennifer A. Herdt*  
*Alexandria Robison*  
*Maggie Lieberman*  
*Tawnie Olson*  
*Sherezade Panthaki*

*Alto*  
*Faith Brill*  
*Nancy Campbell*  
*Heather Robison*  
*Sandy Sharis*

*Tenor*  
*Bruce Barger*  
*Sheldon Campbell*  
*Nick Ciasullo*  
*Don Edwards*

*Bass*  
*Benjamin Ferriby*  
*Robert Herdt*  
*Noah Klein*

## 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](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), click Enews Archive for the latest edition or Enews (subscribe) to subscribe.*



### Clergy Transition Update

The Vestry is glad to share that the diocese has approved our request to search for a half-time priest-in-charge, and the job posting is now live! The diocese will collect all applications received in the coming six weeks before sending them on to the Vestry for consideration.

**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!

March 30	7 pm	Easter Vigil Eucharist with Rev. Yejide Peters Pietersen preaching and presiding
March 31		Easter Eucharist with Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding
April 7		Morning Prayer led by Alexandria Robison (w/ sermon)
April 14		Eucharist with Rev. Derek Stefanovsky preaching and presiding
April 21		Morning Prayer led by Denise Terry (w/ sermon)
April 28		Eucharist with Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding

**Today**, The Rev. Yejide Peters Pietersen will preside and preach at the **Great Vigil**. The Rev. Yejide Pieters Peterson is Associate Dean and Director for Formation at Berkeley Divinity School, the Episcopal Seminary at Yale Divinity School. A graduate of The University of Michigan (B.A.) and Yale University (M.Div.), Peters served as vicar of St. Chad's with St. Mary's and St. Alkmund's in Shrewsbury, England. Her experience also includes nine years as rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Briarcliff Manor, NY, associate rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA, and board leadership in organizations such as Forward Movement and Rural Migrant Ministries.

On **Easter Sunday**, the Reverend Dr. Carolyn Sharp is with us as preacher and presider. A biblical scholar and professor of homiletics at Yale Divinity School, Carolyn has written commentaries on Joshua, Jeremiah 26–52, and Micah. Carolyn is interested in how preaching can deepen the formation of Christian community via biblically grounded theology, prophetic witness, feminist perspectives on power, and ecotheology. Carolyn is serving as St. Thomas's Preacher-in-Residence. She stands ready to offer resources to lay preachers in our congregation, and will gladly discuss Gospel proclamation (in and beyond the pulpit) with anyone who wishes at Coffee Hour.

### Study Group, Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm

Study Group meets weekly Thursdays 7:30-8:30. Please check the E-news for schedule updates.

### 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](mailto: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; winter clothing only until March 15. 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. 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? Contact the coffee hour host to discuss what you can bring and how you can help out. Visit this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee>. Please contact Julie Kelly with any questions. Thank you for contributing to our time of fellowship!



## Serving Today

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Yejide Peters Pietersen

**Music Director:** Matthew Cramer

**Organist:** Noah Klein

**Eucharistic Minister:** Ricardo Chavira

**Lector:** Jennifer Herdt

**Intercessor:** Denise Terry

**Sacristan:** Jennifer Herdt

**Ushers:** Gary Robison

**Vestry Host:** Jennifer Herdt

## 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

Morgen Campbell

Ricardo Chavira

Alexandria Robison

Claire Scully

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

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

(203) 777-7623 ♦ [www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)

## 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. Michael's, Litchfield; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale; ECCT Joint Leadership members of the Mission Council, Missionary Society, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry and Donations & Bequests

### In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Church of the Province of West Africa

### In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical

**Prayer Cycle, pray for:** Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Matthew Cramer, Music Director

Noah Klein, Organist

♦ [music@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:music@stthomasnewhaven.org)

Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ [j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org)

## Information for Holy Week and Easter

A few reminders...

### **Inviting Your Favorite Treats for Easter Sunday**

Help us make coffee hour Easter Sunday special for regulars and visitors alike! Please bring a dish to share. Thank you!

### *About Our Holy Week and Easter Services....*

#### **Holy Saturday March 30, 7 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter, Rev. Yejide Peters Pietersen preaching and presiding**

This service concludes the Triduum. The first part of the liturgy includes the kindling of the new fire, the singing of the Exsultet, and the Hebrew Scripture readings of salvation history interspersed with plainsong chants and canticles. The service continues with the renewal of our baptismal covenant, and then a full service of Holy Communion. While this service is long, it's also beautiful and intimate, a moving and joyful way to welcome the resurrected Christ.

#### **Easter Sunday March 31 10 a.m. Festal Eucharist, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preaching and presiding**

Easter Sunday, the Sunday of the Resurrection, is the most important Sunday of the Church year. The St. Thomas's Choir will offer anthems and the congregation will join the Choir in singing favorite Easter hymns.