



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT

December 10, 2023

5 P.M.

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

**After the service**, please stay for a reception in the Lounge (exit via the double doors near the pulpit and go upstairs to the second floor; the Lounge is at the end of the hall).

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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We hope to see you **Christmas Eve!** The **10 a.m.** service of Morning Prayer will include a family-friendly telling of the nativity story and the **5 p.m.** service will include Holy Eucharist, both with musical leadership from the Choir. There will be no service on Christmas Day.

**PRELUDE**      Canonic Variations on “Vom Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her”, BWV 769  
 J.S. Bach (1685-1750), 1747

**INTROIT** (*Sung by Sully Hart*)

Zion hört die Wächter singen

Zion hört die Wächter singen,  
 das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,  
 sie wachet und steht eilend auf.  
 Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,  
 von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,  
 ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.  
 Nun komm, du werthe Kron,  
 Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn.  
 Hosianna!  
 Wir folgen all zum Freudensaal  
 und halten mit das Abendmahl.

Zion hears the watchmen sing,  
 her heart leaps for joy within her,  
 she wakens and hastily arises.  
 Her glorious Friend comes from heaven,  
 strong in mercy, powerful in truth,  
 her light becomes bright, her star rises.  
 Now come, precious crown,  
 Lord Jesus, the Son of God!  
 Hosanna!  
 We all follow to the hall of joy  
 and hold the evening meal together.

Text: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) Music: J.S. Bach (1685-1750), BWV 140, 1731

*At the ringing of the bell, please stand.*

**HYMN**

O come, O come, Emmanuel (56, *The Hymnal 1982*)



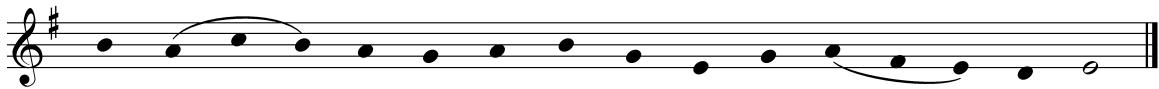
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

## **BIDDING PRAYER** [*The Rev. Dr. Jay Emerson Johnson, adapted*]

*Presider*

Dear Friends in Christ: the season of Advent bids us to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ, and to remember God's promise of Christ's second coming in glory. At Christmas we shall hear again the message of angels, the good news offered first to shepherds tending their flocks, that in Bethlehem they should find God's holy child lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from the Scriptures about God's loving purpose in creation, the tale our ancestors told of Adam and Eve in the garden of delight, the promise of salvation proclaimed by prophets, and the mystery of God dwelling among us in human flesh.

Let us also remember to pray for the needs of this world, still waiting for the fullness of God's promised salvation; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people; and for the mission of God's people in the church, especially this congregation of St. Thomas's.

And because he particularly favors them, let us remember in this season those who lack money or food or shelter; those in prison; those who are sick or dying and those who care for them; those who mourn; those who are lonely or afraid; and those who long for the good news of God in Christ.

Lastly, let us remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, and all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in greater light, a multitude that no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Christ, we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us now gather together and offer to God with the words that Christ himself has taught us:

*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.**

*Presider*

The Almighty God bless us with abundant grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

*All are seated. Note that the lessons are read without the usual introduction or conclusion.*

## **THE FIRST LESSON**

GENESIS 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

**CAROL** (*Sung by the Choir*)

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit, and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but never can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: Anonymous, based on Solomon 2:3-5    Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905–1987), 1967

**THE SECOND LESSON**

ISAIAH 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**CAROL** (*Sung by the Choir*)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above

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

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

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

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

*All stand.*

HYMN

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming (81, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859): tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

*All are seated.*

## THE THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**CAROL** (*Sung by Sandy Sharis and the Choir*)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

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

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

*All stand.*

## HYMN

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

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



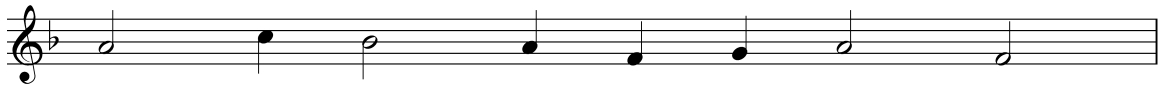
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



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



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



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



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

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

*All are seated.*



## THE FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9A

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

### **CAROL** (*Sung by the Choir*)

### My Lord, What a Morning

My Lord, what a morning,  
When the stars begin to fall.

Done quit all my worldly ways,  
Join that heavenly band.

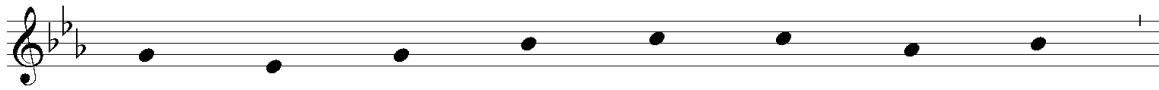
Oh! My Lord, what a morning,  
When the stars begin to fall.

Words: Revelation 8:10 (paraphrase) Music: H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

*All stand.*

HYMN

Creator of the stars of night (60, *The Hymnal 1982*)



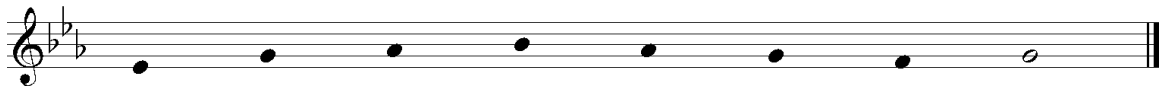
1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
 5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
 \* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4;  
 acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956) Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*All are seated.*

## THE FIFTH LESSON

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

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.

**CAROL** (*Sung by Maggie Lieberman*)

Rejoice greatly

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion,  
shout, O daughter of Jerusalem;  
behold, thy King cometh unto thee:

He is the righteous Savior,  
and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Words: Zechariah 9:9-10 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

## THE SIXTH LESSON

ISAIAH 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**CAROL** (*Sung by the Choir*)

O Radiant Dawn

O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of eternal Light,  
Sun of Justice:  
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death. Amen.

Isaiah had prophesied, “The people who walked  
in darkness have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
a light has shone.”

Words: Antiphon for December 21 Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959), *The Strathclyde Motets*, 2007

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

ISAIAH 7:10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

### CAROL (*Sung by the Schola*)

Ecce virgo concipiet

Ecce virgo concipiet et pariet filium  
et vocabitur nomen ejus:  
Admirabilis, Deus Fortis.  
Super solium David,  
et super regnum ejus sedebit in aeternum.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and his name shall be called:  
Wonderful, mighty God.  
Over the throne of David,  
and over his kingdom, he will reign in eternity.

Words: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6b, 9:7a Music: Cristóbal de Morales (c. 1500-1533)

*All stand.*

### HYMN

The angel Gabriel from heaven came (265, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say -  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ly - vored ri - al  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ly - vored ri - al  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ly - vored ri - al  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ly - vored ri - al

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

*All are seated.*

## THE EIGHTH LESSON

MICAH 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

### CAROL *(Sung by the Choir)*

O Thou the central orb

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,  
 Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
 Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
 Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.  
 Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,  
 Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,  
 As stars about Thy throne, set in the height  
 Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight  
 Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.  
 Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
 Our nature all shall feel eternal day,  
 In fellowship with Thee, transforming day  
 To souls erewhile clean, now pure within. Amen.

Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917) Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926), 1915

*All stand.*

*Descant*

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
 2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

*All are seated.*

## THE NINTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### CAROL *(Sung by the Choir)*

Madonna and child

Mary smiles towards her curving arm  
where Jesus sleeps so safe and warm.

The Holy Star above her gleams  
as Mary sings to Him and dreams,  
aware that He must go His way  
but not how far, nor on what day.

*Christe eleison.*

Her smile is born of hope and prayer  
to feel the Babe so little there.

*Christe eleison.*

*Christe eleison.*

Words: Jeanne DeLamarter Bonnette (1907-1983) Music: Edwin Fissinger (1920-1990), *Four Christmas Vignettes*, 1994

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. We will not be passing a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website ([www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!*

*All stand.*

## VESPER RESPONSORY

Presider: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed:

**People: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Presider: Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord:

**People: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Presider: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

**People: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Presider

Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

Lo, he comes, with clouds descending (57, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.



## ADVENT BLESSING

*Presider*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church. You are invited to stay for a reception in the lounge.*

## VOLUNTARY

Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel”  
Andrew Carter (b. 1939), 1995

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

## Serving Today

**Presider:** Bill English  
**Music Director:** Matthew Cramer  
**Organist:** Noah Klein  
**Violinist:** Laurel Gagnon

### The Choir

Faith Brill  
Morgen Campbell  
Nancy Campbell  
Sheldon Campbell  
Benedetta Cordaro  
Matthew Cramer\*  
Don Edwards  
Sully Hart\*+  
Noah Klein  
Maggie Lieberman\*+  
Emma Reed  
Alexandria Robison  
Heather Robison  
Richard Rose  
Sandy Sharis\*+  
Miles Wilson-Toliver

*\*member of the Schola Antiqua  
+featured soloist*