

Please note, this service is being live-streamed on YouTube. Anyone in the room may be "on camera"

December 13th
2020 at 9am

live on YouTube
and in-person
via sign-up



The 3rd Sunday of
ADVENT

God loves you. No exceptions.

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.



Greetings! We're delighted you are here, and want for you to be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit today. We suspect you may have some questions. Everybody you see here was a newcomer at one time, and we've all had questions- probably some of the same you have today.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well. We are worshiping both in -person with appropriate precautions, and live streaming on YouTube. The full-text bulletins for our services can be found on our website, and by email request. We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark Community through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page.

Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them, and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times.

Our weekly services:

Sunday 9am- Rite II (sung Eucharist)

Wednesday 12:00pm- Intercessory Prayer with Holy Eucharist

Thursday 7pm- evening Compline Prayer live via Zoom

The Christian life is a source of endless fascination. Just when we think we have seen and heard everything it has to offer, something new turns up. Committing to a life of learning and growing in the faith is an excellent way to make sure there is always enough fuel in the spiritual tank.

There are many opportunities for Christian growth within our parish. During this time of social distancing, many of our meetings are happening online. Our groups include:

- Children's Ministries, age 18mo-6th grade
- Youth CREW, 7th-12th grades
- Youth Confirmation, grades 7 and 8
- ECM, college age students
- The Parlor Class, adult ed
- NovelTheology, all ages
- Lectionary Bible Study, all ages

In addition to these groups, we also welcome the occasional guest speaker or activity during coffee hour, as well as special 6-week lecture series. For more information about any of our educational offerings, please visit our website: www.stthomasparish.org.

In the Episcopal Church, everybody doesn't always do things the same way. But, **when you're worshiping God, you can't get it wrong!** If you need help, ask your question in the Live Chat, or contact Fr Howie directly. We are friendly, helpful people here at St Thomas. Please bear in mind, regardless of what anybody else is doing, do what makes you comfortable.

Thank you for joining us today, and we hope to see you again soon!

Prelude

At the Procession

Instrumental

THE WORD OF GOD

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie

Hymnal S-91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on -

us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Healey Willan

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of great sickness, we flee to you for comfort. Deliver us, we pray, from our peril; give strength and skill to all who minister to the sick; prosper our efforts to protect and heal; and grant that, being aware of the frailty and uncertainty of our life, we may apply our hearts to that heavenly wisdom that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. Amen.*

All sit for the reading of the lessons.

The Lessons

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

Psalm 126

In convertendo

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Gradual

The King Shall Come
anonymous, arr.Kirby

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes.
Not as of old a little child to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.
The King shall come when morning dawns, and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, the day that aye shall last.

And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.
The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray: Come quickly King of kings.

The Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

Deacon The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

All stand and say the Creed together.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All stand or kneel for the prayers.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit

of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Kevin, our Bishop, Howell and Juan, our priests, and Cecily, our deacon, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our President, John, our Governor, and Jerry, our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

All **Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,**

provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

[The Celebrant inserts one of the Comfortable Words sentences.]
All stand for the peace.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Offertory

Offertory Hymn

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of

everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus

Hymnal S-114

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Hea - ven and earth are ful of thy glo - ry.
Glo - - - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Bles - sed is he that com - eth in the
Name of the Lord. Ho san - na in the high - est.

Healey Willan

The Celebrant continues... All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world;
Happy are they who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

O Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof,
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

The Communion

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Announcements

Blessings of Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

At the Procession

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Parish Prayer List

Alma	Deacon Cecily	Lynn Dunham	Reginald
Amanda	Delores	Margurite	Reid
Andre	Doug H	Maria	Roman
Archer Family	Elmer	Marian & Family	Roxanna
Arline	Erin L & babies	Marie	Ruth
Arthur	Fred & Lori	Mary & Family	Samuel
Alana Davies	Freda Reynolds	Michael	Sandy
Ayla H	Giorgio & Family	Mike & Angie	Sandy Sorenson
Beverly and Larry	Greg	Mike Reynolds	Shirley
Becky	HarrisonFamily	Morgan & Family	Sondra & Jeff
Beryl	Hope Bruckner	Nan	Sophia & Family
Bill & Sandy	Ina	Nancy & Family	SouthFamily
Bob Taylor	Jane & Family	Nancy Tartala	Susan & James
Bosco Family	Jayne	Nate	Stacy L
Brian Smith	Jean & Richard	Nathalie & Maya	Stanley
Cathy	Pawl	Nelson	Steven
Carol	Geoff Coons	Nicholas & Family	Stover
Carol Mullinix	Jenna Puleo	Nicole	Sue James
Charles Baxter	Jim	Nikki & Family	Thadine
Chaun	Josh Moyer	Noah	Tom
Chris & Ginger	Jule & Family	Noah P	Thomas
Chrstitine & Erich	June	Norman H	Tim & Family
Christopher Corbin	Ken & Family	Olivia	Vicki
Cindy	Kevin	Pat	Vivian
Colin	Kizis family	Pat & Dan	Wanda
Dale & Family	LaneFamily	Peter & Mike	Wayne
Darnell	Linda Alexis	Phil & Jen	WeaverFamily
Darrell	Lisa	Phil & Terri	William McClements
Dave	Liz & Family	Phyllis	WilsonFamily
Dawn & DW	Luke	Rashida	

We pray for all who serve our country abroad, in the military, in embassies, and in non-governmental organizations, especially...

Adam	James	Marvin
Annie	Joe	Matthew
Ben	Josh	Nate
Bob	Kagen	Nicholas
Bradley	Kate	Stuart
Brett	Kathy	Tina
Brian	Kevin	Tyler
Christie	Luke	Victoria

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

12/1/2020



LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

StThomasParish.org 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Joy Lynam
Treasurer: Amy Keach

People's Warden: Mark Burchess
Clerk of the Vestry: DJ Ferguson

Class of 2021
Denise Burgher
Larry Duggan
DJ Ferguson
Joy Lynam

Class of 2022
Mark Burchess
LaRue Manning
Jamie Sloan
Kelly Tompkins

Class of 2023
Barbara Graham
Jill Englund Jensen
Madeline Johnson
Kristin Sausville

RECTOR		
The Rev. Howell Sasser	704.578.4724	howell.sasser@gmail.com
DEACON		
The Rev. Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon	302.530.3593	csawhar@udel.edu
PRIEST ASSOCIATE		
The Rev. Juan George	302.834.8341	georgevjtaurus@yahoo.com
ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR		
Marc F. Cheban	302.220.9680	a1b2celeste@yahoo.com
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR		
Cana Hartman	302.354.3277	cana.hartman@gmail.com
REGISTRAR		
Wendy Campbell	302.368.9562	wjcampbell7@yahoo.com
ECM (Episcopal Campus Ministry)		
Denise Burgher, convening advisor	323.627.4782	dburgher@udel.edu
Devon Miller-Duggan, faculty advisor	302.388.4758	
SEXTON		
Brian Smith	302.368.4644	