

FOURTH
SUNDAY
EVENING
OF ADVENT

SON ET
LUMIERE

DEC 19TH 5:00PM

ST THOMAS'S
EPISCOPAL PARISH



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OFFERINGS 2021

- Sunday, 12/19 at 10:30am:
Children's Christmas Pageant included in
the Rite II service with music
- Friday, 12/24 at 5pm and 10pm:
Christmas Eve services with prayers and
carols
- Saturday, 12/25 at 10am:
Christmas Day service
- Sunday, 12/26:
standard 8am Rite I, and 10:30am Rite II
with music

ALL ARE WELCOME

Prelude

Opening Prayers

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**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 Almighty God bless us with his 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.

First Prophecy - *Isaiah 9:2-5*

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

Sound & Light *Bogorditse Devo, from Vespers, S Rachmaninov*
The Santa Fe Desert Chorale

Second Prophecy - *Isaiah 9:6-7*

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Sound & Light *For Unto Us a Child is Born, from Messiah, GF Händel*
The Robert Shaw Chorale

Third Prophecy - Isaiah 40:2-3

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.

Sound & Light *Elegie, Flor Peeters*
Roberto Marini, Organist

Fourth Prophecy - Isaiah 40:4-5

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."

Sound and Light *Every Valley shall be Exalted, from Messiah, GF Händel*
The Robert Shaw Chorale

Fifth Prophecy - Micah 5:2-5

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;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Sound and Light *Sheep May Safely Graze*, JS Bach (Arr. Marriner)
The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Sixth Prophecy - Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Sound & Light *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter Zion*, from *Messiah*, GF Händel
The Robert Shaw Chorale

Seventh Prophecy - 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.

Sound & Light *Le Banquet Céleste*, Olivier Messiaen
Olivier Latry, Organist

Concluding Prayer & Blessing

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

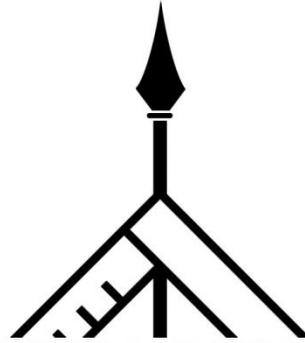
May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify us with the light of his blessing and set us free from all sin. Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

May we, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. Amen.

Postlude



LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

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The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Connie Cooper
Treasurer: Amy Keach

People's Warden: Jill Englund Jensen
Clerk of the Vestry: Madeline Johnson

Class of 2022

LaRue Manning
Jamie Sloan
Kelly Tompkins

Class of 2023

Barbara Graham
Jill Englund Jensen
Madeline Johnson
Kristin Sausville

Class of 2024

Larry Duggan
Cami Seward
Philippa Sunnergren

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