

Christmas Flower Dedications

In Loving Memory of
Charles H & Elizabeth Baxter
Mr and Mrs Michael Petroski Sr
Mike Petroski Jr
and Joseph Petroski Jr
from
Charles & Diane Baxter

With Thanksgiving for Franklin F Wheeler from Marc Cheban

In Loving Memory of
Grier & Hammond
family loved ones
from
Jo-Ann & George Grier

With Thanksgiving for our wonderful faith family from The Hartman Family In Loving Memory of
Margaret & Winthrop Reed
and Tippy & Caleb Holyoke
from
Caleb W and Martha AR

With Thanksgiving for family & friends from Madeline & Greg Johnson

With Thanksgiving
for family
from
Beryl King

With Thanksgiving from Jack and Marge O'Donnell

With Thanksgiving for Michael, David, & Michelle from Carol Palermo In Loving Memory of
Raymond & Helen Boddington Gast
Wilmer E & M. Pauline Sharpe
Garlin S Smith, Jr
from
Deacon Sheila & Richard Sharpe

With Thanksgiving for
47 years of marriage to Stan
and Stan's 68th birthday on Dec 31st
from
Helen Spence

In Loving Memory of
Nick Witmer
and With Thanksgiving for
Meagan, Angie, Finley,
& Spencer Prime
and Chad Whitmer
from
Marilyn Prime & Roy Whitmer



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.

Welcome! It is wonderful have you with us. Everybody you see here was a newcomer at one time, and we've all had questions—possibly like some that you may have today.

The faith community of St. Thomas's Parish believes that everyone has been invited to follow the Way of Jesus, who commands us to love God and to love our neighbors. Therefore, we are committed to embrace and respect people of every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity; people who live with all mental and physical abilities, in all socio-economic conditions, in all household compositions, and with every citizenship status, including immigrant and refugee; people who hold diverse political and theological backgrounds, beliefs, and questions. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, as God's beloved, you are worthy and welcome here!

Today's Service

We are worshipping both in-person and via live-stream on YouTube. Full-text bulletins are distributed at all services and posted on our parish website. At the in-person service, "busy bags" for children and a dedicated sensory-friendly "soft space" can be found at the back of the sanctuary. We follow directions from our diocese for in-person pandemic precautions; masking is currently optional.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that our place of worship is a safe place where all can feel comfortable and know that they are accepted and loved. In the Episcopal church, everybody doesn't always do things in the same way. But **when you're worshiping God, you can't get it wrong!** If you would like help, ask anyone in the pews around you or speak with Fr. Howie.

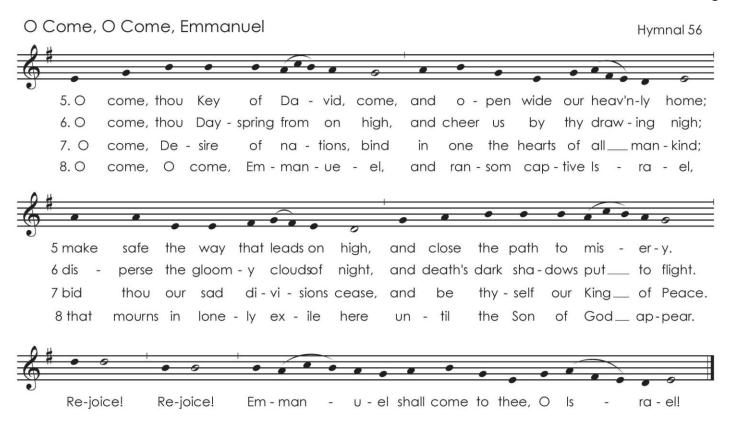
Learn More about St. Thomas's

At the end of this booklet, as well as on our website, you will find information about our weekly worship services and about opportunities to learn and grow in the faith through our Christian education programs for all ages. There also you can explore opportunities to join us in service to the Newark community through the Episcopal Campus Ministry and "Blue Hen Bounty" food pantry, through our work in support of the Newark Empowerment Center, through refugee resettlement and other programs of community service.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence is a blessing to us. Fill out a visitor card in your pew and leave it with a clergyperson or an usher if you would like to be contacted. We hope to see you again soon!

Prelude

Procession standing



THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever

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

Amen.



Collect

Celebrant God be with you. **People** And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

THE LESSONS seated

First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary Magnificat



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my / Sav-ior; * for he has looked with favor on his / low-ly servant.

From this day all generations will call me / bless-ed: * the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy / is his Name.

He has mercy on those who / fear him * in every / gen-er-ation.

He has shown the strength of his / arm, * he has scattered the proud in / their con-ceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their / thrones, * and has lifted / up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with / good things, * and the rich he has sent / a-way empty.

He has come to the help of his servant / ls-ra-el, * for he has remembered his promise / of mer-cy,

The promise he made to our / fa-thers, * to Abraham and his children / for ev-er.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy / Spir-it; * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for e-/ ver. A-men.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Deacon God be with you. **People** And also with you.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

seated at the preacher's invitation

THE NICENE CREED standing

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid, we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin, our Bishop. We pray also for the Eglise Anglicane de Rwanda, and for Christ Church Christiana Hundred. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for Joseph, our President, John, our Governor, and our City Council. Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to our community as light and life. We pray for all our neighbors who are working to build your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray especially for those listed in this morning's service leaflet and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to those who go in harm's way for the safety and welfare of others as companion and protector. We pray especially for those serving in the armed forces listed in this morning's service leaflet and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts. Give them your grace and courage.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember especially those who have gone before us in this church and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all your saints and angels, we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

ΑII God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,

in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,

the evil we have done.

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the arace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE standing

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you. People

OFFERTORY

Our offerings are an act of worship through which we respond with gratitude to God's grace, love, and mercy, putting our trust in the Lord into action. You may place your offering in the plate, or—you can give electronically though our website (QR code on the back of this booklet) and place an "online giving" card in the plate. With the bread and the wine, these donations are carried to the altar and offered to the Lord on our behalf.

Offertory Hymn



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

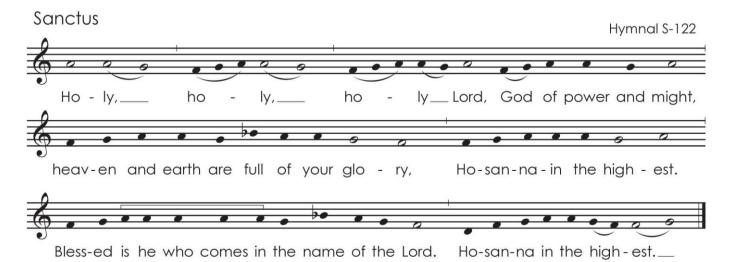
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

standing or kneeling



Plainsong, adpt. M. Martens (b.1933)

The Celebrant continues Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: Celebrant and People



Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens

The Celebrant continues Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All 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,

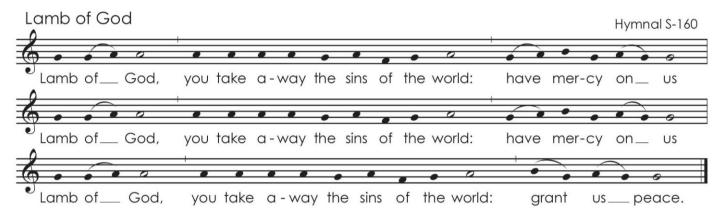
and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward up the center aisle to receive from the priest either the sacrament of Christ or a blessing. If you desire a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Receive the host in open hands. Gluten-free bread is available; you may request it from the priest when you come to the front of the line. Receiving the wine is optional. To take the wine, drink from it or intinct (carefully dip) the bread into the cup. Please use the side aisles to return to your pew. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher to let the clergy know, and communion will be brought to you.

- silent prayer -

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

standing

Celebrant Let us pray.

ΑII

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries Announcements

Amen.

seated

Please visit the "Worship Opportunities" and "Parish Events" page in the back of this booklet. Then, look on the following page for "Birthdays and Anniversaries" and wish your faith family blessings!

The Blessing

God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**



Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please take this service booklet home with you, and mark your calendar with upcoming events. These dates are also noted on our parish calendar, found in the emailed weekly newsletter "The Carpenter's Helper" as well as through on our website. If you choose to leave this service booklet, please know that it will be recycled as part of our commitment to care for creation.

Worship Opportunities:

- Sundays at 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I spoken, in-person and via YouTube
- Sundays at 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, in-person and via YouTube
- Wednesdays at noon Intercessory Prayer with Holy Communion, in-person
- Thursdays at 7 pm Compline Evening Prayer, live via Zoom

Growth and Fellowship:

- Scheduled Sundays at 9:15 am- adult education in the great hall classroom
 - o Check our parish calendar for a complete listing
- Sundays at 10:00 am Children's Ministries in the Undercroft
- 3rd Sundays at 9:15 am Novel Theology in the parlor and via Zoom
- Last Sunday of the month Family Church Sunday
- Last Sunday of the month Coffee and Fellowship between services
- 3rd Monday of the month- Hope Dining Room service
- Wednesdays at 10:30 am Lectionary Bible Study

Upcoming Parish Events:

- CHRISTMAS EVE, 12/24
 - o 9am, 4pm, 8pm
- CHRISTMAS DAY, 12/25
 - o 10am, one service only
- 1/6, Saturday at 6pm-Epiphany Compline and Potluck

If you have anything to add to the <u>Parish calendar</u> or the <u>Carpenter's Helper newsletter</u>, please email the office at <u>StThomassOffice@googlegroups.com</u>.

To see a full listing of parish worship, events, or news, visit our website: www.stThomasNewarkDE.church

Parish Calendar

Monday, 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY

• 10am, one service only

Tuesday, 12/26

- (G) Ballroom Dancing, 6-10pm
- (U) Private Meeting, 6-8:30pm
- (U) AA group, 8-9:30pm

Wednesday, 12/27

No current reservations

Thursday, 12/28

• (Z) Compline Evening Prayer, 7-7:30pm

Friday, 12/29

- (C) Blue Hen Bounty, 9am-12pm
- (P) Al-Anon, 11:30am-1:30pm
- (P) Women's AA Group, 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, 12/30

No current reservations

Sunday, 12/31

- Holy Eucharist, Rite I spoken, 8-8:45am
- Sunday School, 10:15am
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, 10:30-11:45am
- (G) Private Meeting, 3-6pm
- (G) Ballroom Dancing, 6-10pm

Location key:

- (C) Classroom off the Great Hall
- (G) Great Hall
- (Gr) Grove
- (K) Kitchen
- (M) Music Room
- (P) Parlor
- (S) Sanctuary
- (U) Undercroft
- (Z) Zoom

Parish Prayer List

Adele T Christine D Jeanne M Michael C Archer family Chuck & Paula R Jim T Mike G Austin M & Krissy V Claire L John D Morgen and family Barry G Connie L Jonny K Mullens family Bernice R Court W Judy B Nancy G Betty H D Green Julie Pam D Blackman family Pat & Emmett J Dana June G Bob M Daphne D Karen R Paula B Bob P Darren M Kathryn D Richardson family Bob S Denise B Kay Rick R Bob T Dennis R Kelly K Ricky G Brendan S Krista B Sabhi Devon MD Brighton P Elaine W Lane family Shannan D Carew family Eley family Larry Shannon Carol G Elmer T Liz R Sharon O Carol M Erin & family Lorraine CS Sondra B Carolyn V Flora R Mara, Mike, Sophie A Cecily SH Frank W & Martha K South family Charles B Fred & Lori Marge C Stephen M Stover B Charlie H Freddie B Margy H Charlie M & Ellen S Geoff C Maria P Susan & family Chaun Marian S & family Terri B George H Chris C Gina H Marianne A Thomas M Chris E Giorgio & family Tom H Mary T Chris G Harrison family Tom P Mary Ellen H

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

Matt S

Maryanne & Bob

Adam Christie J Kate Stacy Stuart Annie R Duncan P Kathy Tina Ben Grace H Kevin Bob James Luke Tyler Bradley Marvin Victoria Jeremy Brett Joe Matthew Brian Josh Nate Charlie K Kagen **Nicholas**

Janice F

Jean & Richard P

Christine & Erich

Christine A & Francis

To update or add to our parish prayer list,
please contact the office or speak with Fr Howie directly.

Please include a last name initial, and let us know if your loved one would like to be contacted by our pastoral care ministry or have a visit from a priest.

Vicki G

Walelgne

December Birthdays

James Law December 2 Christine Wilbur December 2 Hanna Grabowski December 3 Christopher Donnelly December 11 **Edwin Smith** December 14 Keith Flemming December 15 Robert Tartala December 16 Eleanor Williams December 16 December 17 Natalie Flemming Lucas Quinones December 17 Tracy Branigan December 18 Eloise Barrow December 20 Jennifer Rockhold December 21 Scott Ennis December 22 December 24 Lucas McGough James Wilkins December 24 Steve McGough December 27 Amy Wilbur December 29 Stan Spence December 31

December Anniversaries

Rob & Cami Seward	December 3		
Bob & Vicki Gilley	December 28		
Stan & Helen Spence	December 28		





LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

StThomasNewarkDe.church 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Kristin Sausville Treasurer: Amy Keach People's Warden: Philippa Sunnergren Clerk of the Vestry: Sally Price

Class of 2024
Larry Duggan
Cami Seward
Philippa Sunnergren

Class of 2025 Joan Bennett Mike Grabowski Marilyn Prime Class of 2026
Sally Price
Robert Sido
Belinda Young-Payne

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