



*Choir* The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory,  
the glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

*People* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel Saint Luke 1:39-55

Sermon The Rector

The Nicene Creed

The Prayers of the People *(Please kneel.)*

*After each petition the people say:*

Lord, have mercy.

The Confession and Absolution

The Peace

The Greetings *(Please be seated.)*

At the Offertory, Anthem

*Anonymous*

*There is no rose of such virtue,  
As is the rose that bare Jesu.*

**T**HERE is no rose of such virtue,  
As is the rose that bare Jesu.

*Alleluia.*

*Refrain*

For in this rose contain'd was  
Heaven and earth in little space,

*Res miranda.*

*Refrain*

And by that rose we may well see,  
There be one God in persons three,

*Pares forma.*

*Refrain*

The angels sing the shepherds to,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Gaudeamus.*

*Refrain*

Now leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth.

*Transeamus.*

*Refrain*

The Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus and Benedictus

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Invitation to Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*The Sacrament is distributed at the High Altar and, for convenience and accessibility,  
also at the Chantry Chapel Altar. Gluten free hosts are available; please ask the priest at the altar rail.*

At the Communion, Agnus Dei  
and Motet

*William Byrd*

**H**ODIE beata Virgo Maria  
puerum Jesum praesentavit  
in templo,  
Et Simeon, repletus Spiritu Sancto,  
accepit eum in ulnas suas,  
et benedixit Deum in aeternum.

*Today the Blessed Virgin Mary  
presented the child Jesus  
in the temple  
and Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit,  
took Him in his arms,  
and blessed God for evermore.*

*Magnificat antiphon at II Vespers of Candlemas*

The Postcommunion Prayer

The Blessing and Dismissal

Hymn 265

Voluntary

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

*Andrew Carter*

(b. 1939)

*Healing and intercessory prayer will be offered by clergy and trained lay volunteers in the Chantry Chapel at the conclusion of today's service for anyone who desires it.*

## MUSIC NOTES

It was only recently established by bibliographical analysis that William Byrd's three settings of the Ordinary of the Mass - in three, four and five parts - were almost certainly published in the early 1590s, coinciding with Byrd's move from London to a Catholic enclave in Stondon Massey, Essex. It is probable that Byrd composed his Latin liturgical music for use in the domestic chapels maintained, often at considerable personal risk, by recusant Catholic families. Here they would probably have been sung by a small group of singers, perhaps one to a part. Against this background it comes as no surprise to discover that the music itself is deeply austere, intense and expressive.

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The greens today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of the following:  
*Margaret Crane Hurlbut*

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### 4 P.M. A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

sung by The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of *Britten, Robinson, Walford Davies, Willcocks, Archer, Rutter, Darke* and *M. Martin*

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

#### 4 P.M. A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of *Britten, Robinson, Walford Davies, Willcocks, Archer, Rutter, Darke* and *M. Martin*

10:15 P.M. (Doors open at 10 p.m.)

#### CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN

Daniel Hyde, *Organist and Director of Music*

### 11 P.M. THE SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY

#### (MIDNIGHT MASS)

Music of *Mozart, Bach, Rutter, Philips, Robinson, Chilcott, Willcock* and *Scott*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys with Orchestra

Sermon by the Rector

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

#### 11 A.M. SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY

Music of *Victoria, Bach, Mendelssohn, Robinson, Joubert* and *Willcocks*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Sermon by the Rector

**Please note:** in observance of the Christmas holiday, the Parish Offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 26.

On Wednesday, there will be a single celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 12:10 p.m.

Thursday and Friday Services: 8 a.m., 12:10 and 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Eucharist: 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday at 12 p.m.

Prayers at the Shrine of our Lady of Fifth Avenue

*Intercessions may be sent via the website by using the Prayer Request Tab or by leaving a written request in the box near the Shrine itself.*

**Confessions** in the Resurrection Chapel, Saturdays from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 - THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8 A.M. SAID EUCHARIST

9 A.M. SUNG EUCHARIST

Sermon by Father Spencer

11 A.M. FESTAL EUCHARIST

Sermon by Father Spencer

## PARISH NOTICES

If you are a visitor this morning, **we welcome you to Saint Thomas Church** and hope that you are with us again soon. We encourage you to complete a Welcome Card which you can find in the narthex at the front of the church.

**Sunday School** is on recess next Sunday, December 30. It will resume on Sunday, January 13, 2019. **Nursery care** is available every Sunday for the 9 and 11 a.m. services.

You are invited to **Coffee Hour**, which takes place in Andrew Hall following this service. To get there, take the Great Staircase to your left at the front of the nave. Please introduce yourself to members of the Welcome Committee, who will be distributing name tags, or to members of the clergy. Also, if you would like to hear from us, please sign the Parish Guest Book.

**Year-end contributions to Saint Thomas Church and Choir School.** As the New Year approaches and you consider your year-end gifts, please remember Saint Thomas Church and Choir School. Checks by mail must be postmarked by December 31: cash, checks, and credit card instructions must be received in the Finance Office by noon on Monday, December 31, to qualify as a deduction for 2018 tax purposes. Likewise, gifts of stock must be received in the Church's investment account by December 31, 2018. For stock transfer instructions or other questions, please contact Ann Hall Kaplan at [AKaplan@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:AKaplan@SaintThomasChurch.org) or 212.757.7013 ext 414 before noon on the 31st. This is also a gentle reminder to pay all pledges to the 2018 Annual Appeal by December 31, 2018.

**The Bookstore and Gift Shop** is open following the 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. services today as well as tomorrow, December 24, following the 4 p.m. service. It will be closed next Sunday, December 30. Pick up your last-minute Christmas Cards, Christmas Ornaments, books for Christmas reading. Major credit cards are accepted.

**Vestry member**, Howard Chua-Eoan, has decided to resign his position on the Vestry given that he has moved to London. We thank Howard for his service and commitment to our beloved Saint Thomas and we look forward to his return in two years. Per the by-laws, and in consultation with the Nominating Committee, the Vestry has unanimously voted to appoint Marie Louise Victor Carroll to serve as Howard's successor until the 2019 Vestry Election.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**The Seven Stories.** This course of study and lively discussion, based on a curriculum by Anthony Bartlett, identifies seven major themes of transformation working through the Holy Scriptures. With the guidance of Fr. Matthew Moretz, each of these themes, or "stories," will be explored as they make their way throughout the Bible to the radical conclusion in Jesus Christ. Each story cycle is made up of three sections, the first two lessons focus on the Old Testament scriptures, the final lesson on Jesus Christ and the Gospels. The class meets at 10 a.m. today on the fifth floor of the parish house. Coffee and tea are provided.

**Bible study** continues on Friday, December 28, at 12:45 p.m. on the second floor of the parish house. Everyone is welcome.

Newcomers to Saint Thomas Church and those not yet members of the church are invited to the "**PILGRIMS' COURSE**", which is a comprehensive introduction to the Christian faith as received and understood by the Episcopal Church. The first session is on **Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m.** New for 2019, each evening will begin with a simple meal at 6:30 p.m., and the class will run from 7 to 8 p.m. It is important that we know who is coming to help us with catering. Please email us at [pilgrims@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:pilgrims@SaintThomasChurch.org) if you wish to attend the class and have the meal. Please also let us know if you have dietary requirements.

The sessions continue on most Tuesday evenings through May 7. Although the course is specifically designed for those who are considering confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, it is fitting for anyone who wishes to explore Christianity, or who wishes to be refreshed in their faith. Everyone is welcome. The Bishop of New York will come to Saint Thomas on May 12, 2019, to confirm and receive new members. See complete details on the website, or contact Father Moretz or The Rector at [welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org) with any questions about membership at Saint Thomas.