

Sermon
The Nicene Creed
The Peace
The Greetings
At the Offertory, Anthem

Father Moretz

(Please be seated.)

*Michael Wise
(c. 1647-1687)*

PREPARE ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight
and the rough places shall be made plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

And the voice said cry, (What shall I cry?)
all flesh is grass, and the goodness thereof
is as a flower that is in the field.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth,
but the word of the Lord shall stand fast forever.

O Zion, that bringeth glad tidings,
get thee up into the mountains.

O Jerusalem, that bringeth glad tidings
lift up thy voice with strength
and say unto Judah, "behold thy God".

Isaiah 40:3-9

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 Anthem

*Orlando Gibbons
(1583-1625)*

THIS is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from
Jerusalem to ask him: Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.
And they asked him: What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him, What art thou? That we may give an answer unto them that
sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in
the wilderness: make straight the way of the Lord.

Saint John 1:19-23

The Postcommunion Prayer

The Blessing and Dismissal

Hymn 59

Voluntary

Prelude in e, BWV 548

MERTON

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

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.

CHORAL EVENSONG – 4 p.m.

Prelude

Cantabile, from Trois Pièces

César Franck

(1822-1890)

Hymn 60

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Versicles and Responses

Philip Radcliffe

(1905-1986)

Psalms 49, The Book of Common Prayer, Page 400

Anglican Chant (*Walmisley*)

Lessons

Isaiah 5:1-7 and 2 Peter 3:11-18

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in E-flat

Charles Wood

(1866-1926)

The Greetings

(Please be seated.)

Hymn 73

ST. STEPHEN

Sermon

Bishop Andrew St. John

At the Offering, Anthem

John Stainer

(1840-1901)

HOW beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy
God reigneth!

Isaiah 52:7

The Final Prayer and Blessing

Advent Prose

(Sung by the Choir.)

Plainsong (Mode i)

Voluntary

Rorate caeli

Jeanne Demessieux

(1921-1968)

†

5:15 P.M. ORGAN RECITAL

Christian Lane

Assistant Organist 2004-2006

MUSIC NOTES

William Byrd (c. 1540-1623) is arguably the most famous and best-loved of all early English composers. His career was marked by the various changes in the practices of the Church for which he composed. As a chorister at the Chapel Royal in Mary Tudor's reign, Byrd was exposed to elaborate Latin church music, for which the brief-lived monarch had a taste. Byrd is recorded as Organist of Lincoln Cathedral by the age of twenty-three, returning to London in 1570 to work as a singer, composer and organist at the Chapel Royal under Queen Elizabeth. As he won fame for his fine Anglican Church Music, Byrd was nevertheless composing deeply-felt Latin motets, and in 1593, having grown tired of compromise, he moved with his family to Stondon Massey in Essex, where he lived out the rest of his life as a recusant catholic. Byrd's three settings of the Mass Ordinary were written between 1592 and 1595 and would have been intended for performance in the secretive atmosphere of domestic worship. It is in works such as the five-part Mass, with its intimate and beautifully crafted portrayal of the text, that the composer illustrates the expressive powers so profoundly inspired by his sense of faith.

The greens today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of the following:

Mrs. Robert L. Dodge, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, Dr. Lewis Rutherford Morris, and Harold V. Smith



Monday through Wednesday and Friday Services: 8 a.m., 12:10 and 5:30 p.m.
(*The Tuesday 12:10 p.m. Healing Eucharist includes the laying on of hands and anointing of the sick.*)

Thursday Services: 8 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

Saturday Services: 12:10 and 4 p.m.

*Choral Evensong on Tuesday, December 11, at 5:30 p.m.
Choral Evensong on Wednesday, December 12, at 5:30 p.m.
These services will be sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir.*

Monday through Friday 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 will be heard on Saturdays in Advent from 11 a.m. to Noon
or by appointment with one of the clergy.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 – 5:30 P.M. (tickets required)

A Ceremony of Carols, Opus 28 – *Benjamin Britten*
The Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir
Sara Cutler, *harp*
Benjamin Sheen, *Miller-Scott Organ*
Daniel Hyde, *conductor*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 – 4 P.M.

A Service of Lessons and Carols
sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Music of *Willcocks, Warlock, Archer, Walford Davies* and *Rutter*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

8 A.M. SAID EUCHARIST

9 A.M. SUNG EUCHARIST

Sermon by Bishop Andrew St. John

11 A.M. FESTAL EUCHARIST

Sermon by Bishop Andrew St. John

4 P.M. FESTAL EVENSONG

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.

There is a **guided tour** of the church following the voluntary at the end of this service. To join the tour, please meet the tour guide by the gallery stairs in the narthex.

Nursery: We welcome our youngest members and guests to Saint Thomas Church. Nursery care is available for infants and young children of parents attending the 9 and 11 a.m. liturgies. If your child would like to attend the nursery, please ask one of our ushers or staff who will kindly direct you. Once at the nursery, parents will be asked to sign their children in and will receive a silent pager for use during the service.

Nursery care during Evensong. In addition to our year round, regular Sunday morning provision, Nursery care is being offered from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. during Sunday Evensong. This *pilot scheme* will be offered every other week: December 16 and 23 are the next two Sundays. It will also be offered on Saturday, December 15 during the 4 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols. Please check the Sunday leaflet and website calendar for future, additional dates.

Sunday School: Children who are in pre-school through 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday School classes at Saint Thomas Church. Class meets Sundays at 11 a.m., and the children are brought down to church during the service prior to Holy Communion. For more information about registering your child or for questions about the program, please email Mother Alison Turner at SundaySchool@SaintThomasChurch.org.

A quiet area is available in the Chantry Chapel for **Children and Families** who wish to worship together. Accompanied young children are welcome to use this space during the 9 and 11 a.m. liturgies, where they are invited to enjoy a range of Bible stories and soft toys.

You are invited to **Coffee Hour**, which takes place in Andrew Hall following the 11 a.m. 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.

Following the 11 a.m. service today, the Choir School Boys are holding their fourth of five **Bake Sales**. Proceeds from this event will benefit the School. Please stop by their table in the reception area and support our Choristers in their endeavors.

Benjamin Britten's, *A Ceremony of Carols* this Thursday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. The Boys of Saint Thomas Choir with harpist, Sara Cutler, celebrate the spirit of Christmas with a delightful hour of music conducted by Daniel Hyde. Benjamin Sheen plays The Miller-Scott Organ. Tickets are available online at www.SaintThomasChurch.org, by e-mail concerts@SaintThomasChurch.org or by phone at 212.664.9360.

Join the **Episcopal Asian Supper Table (EAST)** on Friday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m., here at Saint Thomas Church to share the blessings of the Advent and Christmas seasons. We will also be looking for your ideas on growing the presence of Asian Americans in The Episcopal Church. Come share your views and celebrate a festive dinner. Please RSVP to EAST@dioceseny.org by **Monday, December 10**, if you are interested in attending.

The Blessing of the Crèche is a beautiful service designed especially for children and families on Thursday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m. Children will read the Christmas Story and lead the prayers, the crèche will be assembled, and the boy choristers will sing. Children are invited to come dressed up as characters from the Nativity – Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Wise men, Stars, Angels, Animals (Ox, Sheep and Donkey), etc. so that we can make a living crèche. The service lasts less than an hour, and there is also ‘story-time’ – the perfect way to prepare for Christmas with your children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Help us make a child's face light up with joy this Christmas! Our annual Angel Tree is up. On it, you will find tags with specific requested gifts for children in need. You can help by taking a tag and supplying the requested present. Alternatively, you can donate funds online via the website or by check. Please bring the gift you choose, unwrapped, to the parish house by Sunday, December 16. This year we are supporting children from San Andreas Episcopal Church in Yonkers, NY and Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church in the Bronx. We are also benefitting survivors of domestic abuse and their children staying at a Safe Horizon Shelter. Currently, many of those children are teenagers, and donations are appreciated to buy gift cards for them.

As we prepare for the coming of our Lord, we hope you will consider participating in our **Advent drive, “Helping Those Around Us”**. We ask that you donate unisex hats, gloves, scarves, plastic razors, hand sanitizers and gently used coats for distribution to our clientele of the Soup Kitchen and Crisis Ministry. You may leave your donated items in the back of the church or at Reception. Also, we invite you to visit the Angel Tree and select a Christmas gift for a needy child. Checks are always welcome. Please indicate in the memo section “Advent Drive” or “Angel Tree.”

Saint Thomas Celebrates Burns Night on Friday, January 25 at 7 p.m. in beautiful Bonnell Hall at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Save the date because this is an evening you will not want to miss (festive Scottish dress is encouraged). After a reception with wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres, we will have a traditional Scottish dinner accompanied by great music and dancing. You can purchase a single ticket for \$75 and we will seat you or you can reserve a table for 10 people for \$700. You can reserve online or leave a check at reception. Please include your phone number. It is to your advantage to reserve in December as this event will be offered to a few groups outside of the parish in January. All reservations and cancellations must be made by noon on Monday, January 21.

The Bookstore and Gift Shop is open following both the 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. services. Now in stock: *In This Light: Thoughts for Christmas* by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ* by Fleming Rutledge; and *Seven Stories* by Anthony W. Bartlett. There are also books for Advent and Christmas, Advent calendars and Christmas cards, as well as the 2019 Christian Pocket Calendars. Also in stock: Choir Boy Christmas ornaments which benefit the Choir School tour fund. The Bookstore will also be open Monday and Thursday, December 10 and 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. as well as Saturday, December 15, following the 4 p.m. service. Major credit cards are accepted.

Charitable Distributions from IRAs: When you are doing your year-end tax planning, please remember that if you are 70 ½ or older, you may qualify to make a tax-free gift to Saint Thomas from your IRA account of up to \$100,000. If you are considering such a gift, we suggest that you talk with your tax advisor before finalizing your decision.

The Soup Kitchen meets every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the parish house to prepare bag lunches for distribution on foot along eight routes in mid-Manhattan beginning at 11 a.m. Distribution is completed about 12:15 p.m. You are welcome to join this ministry to the homeless. For further information, please contact Frank Reinauer 212.249.4026.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Gospel according to Mark. Join us this morning at 10 a.m. for our Theology Class on the fifth floor of the parish house. We will be welcoming our guest presenter, Tom Bair, actor and member of Saint Thomas. Mr. Bair will draw on his experience of performing Mark's Gospel to explore the narrative elements and literary forms of this sacred text, discovering the genius and overall impact of the greatest story ever told. Coffee and tea are provided.

Biblical Justice: Some Preliminaries. On Sunday, December 16, join us for our Theology Class at 10 a.m. as we welcome our special guest, Jeremy Waldron, professor of legal and political philosophy at NYU School of Law. He will present an introduction to a course that he will be leading in 2019 on the biblical perspective of justice and judgement in the light of the prophetic tradition. A prolific scholar, Waldron has written extensively on jurisprudence and political theory, including numerous books and articles on theories of rights, constitutionalism, the rule of law, democracy, property, torture, security, homelessness, and the philosophy of international law. Coffee and tea are provided.

Bible study continues on Friday, December 14, at 12:45 p.m. on the second floor of the parish house. Everyone is welcome.

For regular email updates on theology at Saint Thomas, contact Father Moretz at MMoretz@SaintThomasChurch.org or text THEOLOGY to 22828.

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