



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE
in the
CITY OF NEW YORK

The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*
Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*
The Reverend Charles F. Wallace, *Headmaster*

Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.
Our mission is to worship, love and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.

*Please switch off all cellular telephones. Unauthorized recordings and the
taking of photographs during worship at Saint Thomas Church are prohibited.
To contact us, email welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org*

THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

DECEMBER 17, 2019

A SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES — 5:30 p.m.
sung by the Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir

PRELUDE

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

Richard Purvis
(1913-1994)

'Walking in the air', from 'The Snowman'

Howard Blake
(b. 1938)

arranged by *Robert Gower*

THE SCENE IS SET

*At the beginning of the service, the lights will dim and silence is kept.
At the Narthex, the choristers gather, the senior choristers carrying lighted candles.
The Choristers process to their places during this hymn.*

HYMN

All stand.

IRBY

Choir Only:

ONCE in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

4. For he is our childhood's pattern
Day by day like us he grew
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

Choir Only:

2. He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

All:

3. And, through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER *Please be seated.*

BUILDING THE CRÈCHE

READING

No room at the Inn

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: *Thanks be to God*

CAROL C'est la Noël

Gaston Litaize
(1909-1991)

C'EST la Noël!
Sur la minuit tous les bergers sortent du lit.
S'en vont tout droit vers leurs agneaux
Endormis bien au chaud.
"Pasteurs le ciel vous garde,"
Leur dit l'ange du ciel.

Ainsi cet ange leur parla,
"Les belles choses que voilà!
Le Seigneur vient de naître tout près de Bethléem.
Il faut quitter vos aîtres
Et venir voir Noël."

Ils y sont tous ensemble allés.
Ils se sont tous agenouillés.
Alors un grand éclair soudain illumina l'Enfant
Et la Vierge sa mère,
Reine de tous les Saints.

Pasteurs il faut prier notre Dieu
Car il nous sauve dans les cieux
Afin que sur la terre
Sa sainte volonté
Apaïse toutes guerres.
Croyons en sa bonté.

It is Christmas!
At midnight the shepherds all rise from their beds.
They head straight to their lambs
Asleep nice and warm.
"Heaven protects you, Shepherds,"
The heavenly angel said to them.

Thus this angel spoke to them saying,
"Beautiful things are here!
The Lord is born near Bethlehem.
You must leave your hearths
And come to see Noel."

They went all together.
They all knelt down.
And suddenly a great light illuminated the Child
And the Virgin his mother,
Queen of all the Saints.

Shepherds we must pray to our God
Because he saves us in the heavens
So that on earth
His holy will
May pacify all wars.
Let us believe in his goodness.

READING

Mary and Joseph

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: *Thanks be to God*

CAROL There is no rose

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

THERE is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in litel space,
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma.

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this werldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus.

READING

Angels and Shepherds

Reader: The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God***CAROL**‘It Was On a Starry Night’
sung by members of the Nursery and Sunday School*Joy Webb*
(b. 1932)**HYMN***All stand to sing*

WINCHESTER OLD

- W**HILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
2. ‘Fear not,’ said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.
3. ‘To you, in David’s town, this day
Is born of David’s line
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
4. ‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.’
5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song;
6. ‘All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’

*Nabum Tate**Please be seated.***READING**

A Star and Visitors from the East

Reader: The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God***HYMN**

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

- W**E three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*
2. Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever,
ceasing never
over us all to reign.
Refrain
3. Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High.
Refrain
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Refrain
5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings
alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies.
Refrain

STORY TIME by The Rector*Parents are welcome to bring their children to the front of the church.*

THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Blessed are you, God of all glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ.
He is the heavenly King, born of Mary;
Jesus is the Son of God:

All **we worship and adore you.**

He is the Word of the Father, crying as a baby,
Jesus is the Son of God:

All **we worship and adore you.**

He is robed in glory, wrapped in infant clothes;
Jesus is the Son of God:

All **we worship and adore you.**

Lord of heaven and earth, laid in a manger;
Jesus is the Son of God:

All **we worship and adore you.**

God our Father,
bless this crib that we have made
and bless all your children this Christmas.
May your peace and joy be in our hearts
and especially in the land of Jesus' birth.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please stand.

HYMN

CRADLE SONG

AWAY in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Traditional Carol

Parents should take their children back to their seats.

PRAYERS led by our Faith Alive youth group

Please stand.

This response is used

Christ be our Light:

All **Shine in our hearts today.**

The prayers end with the Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Please stand.

BLESSING

MAY the humility of the shepherds,
the joy of the angels,
the holiness of Mary
and the peace of the Christ Child,
be God's gift to us and to all people,
this Christmas and always.
And the Blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go, in the peace and joy of Christ:

All **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo

Leo Sowerby
(1895-1968)

PARISH NOTICES

Nursery and Sunday School at Saint Thomas Church. We warmly invite all families and children to our weekly worship and children's programs. Nursery care is available all year round during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses and at other publicized times. Our Sunday School meets during the school term at 11 a.m., with drop-off beginning at 10:30 a.m. We will be on recess December 29, but classes will resume on January 5. Throughout the year, we have special events such as monthly Family Feasts for the entire family, Communion and Confirmation classes, as well as local visits. Come and join us for our next Epiphany Family Feast on Sunday, January 12 at 10 a.m. If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter or learn more information, please feel free to email Mother Alison Turner at SundaySchool@SaintThomasChurch.org or visit our website at www.saintthomaschurch.org/families.

Pilgrims' Course 2020. Newcomers to Saint Thomas Church and those not yet members of the church are invited to our "**Pilgrims' Course**," which is a comprehensive introduction to the Christian faith, as received and understood by the Episcopal Church. The first session will be on Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. Each session will begin with a simple meal at 6:30 p.m., and the class itself will run from 7 to 8 p.m. The sessions continue on most Tuesday evenings through May 19. Bishop Allen Shin will visit on Sunday, May 17, at 11 a.m., to confirm and receive candidates. Although the course is specifically designed for **adults who are considering baptism, confirmation, or reception** into the Episcopal Church, it is fitting for anyone who wishes to explore Christianity or to deepen his or her faith. Please email Father Cheng at PCheng@SaintThomasChurch.org if you would like to attend the class.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

The complete December calendar is available in the Narthex and at reception in the parish house.
It may also be found on our website at www.SaintThomasChurch.org.



Wednesday, December 18

12:10 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Music of *Wachner, Robinson, Joubert, Scott, Adams, Hough* and *Baker*



Thursday, December 19 (tickets required)

5:30 p.m. A Ceremony of Carols, Opus 28 – Benjamin Britten

and works of *Litaiže, Hallock* and *Caldwell*

The Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir

Sara Cutler, *harp*

Benjamin Sheen, *Miller-Scott Organ*

Jeremy Filsell, *conductor*



Saturday, December 21

4 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Music of *Wachner, Robinson, Britten, Scott, Adams, Hough* and *Baker*



Sunday, December 22, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 a.m. Said Eucharist

9 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Sermon by Sister Promise Atelon SSM

11 a.m. Choral Eucharist

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sermon by The Rector

4 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Music of *Britten, Litaiže, Robinson, Scott, Wachner, Anonymous, Adams, Hancock, Bingham* and *Filsell*



Tuesday, 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, Litaiže, Robinson, Scott, Wachner, Anonymous, Adams, Hancock, Bingham* and *Filsell*

10:15 p.m. Christmas Music for Organ and Brass

(Doors open at 10 p.m.)

Benjamin Sheen and Nicholas Quardokus, *organ*

11 p.m. The Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity

(Midnight Mass)

Music of *Prendergast, Castagnet, Filsell, Hough, Wachner, Philips, Litaiže, Hancock* and *Scott*

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

Sermon by the Rector



Wednesday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist

Music of *Prendergast, Victoria, Scott, Dupré, Adams, Hancock* and *Britten*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Sermon by the Rector



Saint Thomas Choir School

Do you know a boy who loves to sing?

Founded in 1919, the Saint Thomas Choir School is the only boarding school solely for choristers in the United States, and one of only three schools of its type remaining in the world today. The Choir School offers a challenging pre-preparatory curriculum, interscholastic sports, and musical training for boys in grades three through eight. Following graduation, boys move on to highly competitive independent boarding and day schools across the country.

The Saint Thomas Choir School is committed to training and educating talented musicians without regard to religious, economic, or social background. Generous financial aid is available to all successful applicants. Inquiries from interested families are sought throughout the year.

PHOTO: IRA UPPKE

The Gentlemen of the Saint Thomas Choir are professional singers; the Boy Choristers attend the Saint Thomas Choir School. The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys is represented by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc. and records exclusively for Resonus Classics.

Do you know a boy who loves to sing?

We want to hear from you.

admissions@choirschool.org

Learn more about the exceptional opportunity provided by a Choir School education.

www.choirschool.org

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

An opportunity of a lifetime.

