



**SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE**  
in the  
**CITY OF NEW YORK**

One West Fifty-third Street  
New York, New York 10019  
Telephone: 212-757-7013  
[www.SaintThomasChurch.org](http://www.SaintThomasChurch.org)

*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.*

The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

---

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

---

**A SEQUENCE OF READINGS AND MUSIC FOR ADVENT – 3 p.m.**  
sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

**PRELUDE** Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660 *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
(1685-1750)

*The People stand for the entry of the choir and ministers and sit after the Collect.*

**INTROIT** *Sung by the Choir.* *Plainsong*

- ∇. Prepare Ye the way of the Lord:  
℞. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
∇. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low;  
℞. The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.  
∇. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;  
℞. The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.  
∇. Assist us lord as we prepare for thy coming in glory and in judgement;  
that we may be ready with the redeemed to sing thy praises now and before thy face.  
℞. Amen.

**THE BIDDING**

*The Officiant says*

**I**T is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

*Romans 13:11-12*

*People* The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
And with thy spirit.

**M**Y brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us, particularly during this time of pandemic. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

*The people sing the antiphon. The Choir sings the verses.*



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,<br/>neither remember iniquity forever:<br/>thy holy cities are a wilderness,<br/>Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a<br/>desolation:<br/>our holy and our beautiful house,<br/>where our fathers praised thee.<br/><i>[Antiphon]</i></p> | <p>3. Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,<br/>and my servant whom I have chosen:<br/>that ye may know me and believe me:<br/>I, even I, am the Lord,<br/>and beside me there is no Saviour:<br/>and there is none that can deliver<br/>out of my hand.<br/><i>[Antiphon]</i></p> |
| <p>2. We have sinned, and are as an<br/>unclean thing,<br/>and we all do fade as a leaf:<br/>and our iniquities, like the wind,<br/>have taken us away:<br/>thou hast hid thy face from us:<br/>and hast consumed us, because of<br/>our iniquities. <i>[Antiphon]</i></p>   | <p>4. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,<br/>my salvation shall not tarry:<br/>I have blotted out as a thick cloud<br/>thy transgressions:<br/>Fear not, for I will save thee:<br/>For I am the Lord thy God,<br/>the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.<br/><i>[Antiphon]</i></p>  |

### COLLECT

*The people remain standing. The Officiant says*

Let us pray.

**A**Lmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The People sit.*

### READING

*"Behold, thy King cometh unto thee."*

Zechariah 9:9, 10

### HYMN

*Sung by the Choir. The People may join in the Refrain.*

**O**COME, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who orderest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

### READING

*"I will raise unto David a righteous Branch."*

Jeremiah 23:5, 6

**HYMN***Sung by the Choir. The People may join in the Refrain.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,<br/>Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height<br/>In ancient times didst give the law,<br/>In cloud, and majesty, and awe.<br/><i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p> | <p>4. O come, thou Branch of Jesse's, tree,<br/>Free them from Satan's tyranny<br/>That trust thy mighty power to save,<br/>And give them victory o'er the grave.<br/><i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p> |
|--|---|

**READING***"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

**ANTHEM***Sung by the Choir.**Grayston Ives  
(b. 1948)*

**T**HIS 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.

*John 1:19-23***READING***"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son."*

Isaiah 7:10-15

**ANTHEM***'Hymn to the Virgin'  
Sung by the Choir.**Robert Spearing  
(b. 1950)*

**I**SING of a Maiden, a matchless one; King of all Kings She chose for her Son. In quiet he drew To where she was. As the April dew Falls on the grass. In quiet, He drew Towards her bower, As the April dew Falls on the flower. In quiet he drew to where She lay, As the April dew falls on the spray. Both Mother and Maiden was none but she: Well may such a lady God's mother be. Alleluia.

*Fifteenth Century Hymn***HYMN***Sung by the Choir. The People may join in the Refrain.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>5. O come, thou Key of David, come,<br/>And open wide our heavenly home;<br/>Make safe the way that leads on high,<br/>And close the path to misery.<br/><i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p> | <p>6. O come, thou Day-spring from on high,<br/>And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;<br/>Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br/>And death's dark shadow put to flight.<br/><i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p> |
|---|---|

**READING***"Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."*

Romans 12:1, 2; 13:11-14

**ANTHEM**

'Nova! Nova!  
Sung by the Choir.

*Luc Jakobs*  
(b. 1956)

*Nova! Nova! Ave fit ex Eva!*  
(tr. News! News! 'Ave' has been made from 'Eve!')

**G**ABRIEL of high degree, He came down from the Trinity From Nazareth to Galilee,  
I met a maiden in a place; He kneeled down before her face; He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"  
*Refrain*  
When the maid heart tell of this, She was sore abashed, ywis, And weemed that she had done amiss.  
*Refrain*  
Then said the angel: "Dread not thou, Be conceived with great virtue Whose name shall be called Jesu."  
*Refrain*  
It is not yet six months ago, Since Elizabeth conceived John As it was prophesied before.  
*Refrain*  
Then said the maid: Verily, I am your servant truly, Ecce ancilla Domini.  
*Refrain*

*Fifteenth Century Hymn*

**HYMN**

*Sung by the Choir. The People may join in the Refrain.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>7. O come, Desire of nations, bind<br/>In one the hearts of all mankind;<br/>Bid thou our sad divisions cease,<br/>And be thyself our King of Peace.<br/><i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel</i><br/><i>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p> | <p>8. O come, O come Emmanuel,<br/>And ransom captive Israel,<br/>That mourns in lonely exile here<br/>Until the Son of God appear.<br/><i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel</i><br/><i>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p> |
|--|--|

**GOSPEL READING**

*"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour."*

Matthew 25:1-13

**MOTET**

*Thomas Tallis*  
(c. 1505-1585)

**A**UDIVI vocem de caelo venientem:  
Venite omnes virgines sapientissimae;  
oleum recondite in vasis vestries,  
dum sponsus advenerit.  
Media nocte clamor factus est.  
Ecce sponsus venit.

*I heard a voice from heaven saying:  
Come, all ye most wise virgins;  
lay up the oil in your vessels  
when the bridegroom cometh.  
At midnight there was a cry made:  
Behold, the bridegroom cometh!*

*Jeremiah 40:10 and Saint Matthew 25:6*

## THE PRAYERS

*The People stand for the prayers, blessing, and final responsory.*

**W**ATCHFUL at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.  
That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept.*

**A**LMIGHTY and ever living God, as thy blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save  
the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he  
liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## VESPER RESPONSORY

*Plainsong*

℣. Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed;  
℞. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.  
℣. Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
℞. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.  
℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
℞. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

## THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

**M**AY the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**VOLUNTARY** 'Le Monde dans l'attente du Sauveur', from Symphonie-Passion, Op. 23 *Marcel Dupré*  
(1886-1971)

### **Fall 2020 Digital Concert Season**

**On Saturday, December 5, at 3 p.m.**, *Concerts at Saint Thomas* presents our 3rd Grand Organ Series Recital of the Fall 2020 Season which features Associate Organist, Nicolas Haigh, playing Messiaen's evergreen "La Nativité du Seigneur" on the Miller-Scott Organ. We hope you will join us for Nicolas' first recital at Saint Thomas Church since joining us this past February.

For tickets and more information, please visit us online at [www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts](http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts). All of the concerts on our Fall 2020 Concert Series will be presented online.

#### **Coffee Hour**

We continue to host our "Virtual Coffee Hour" which will use the ZOOM platform to host a virtual meeting at 12:45 p.m. Contact Fr. Moretz at [MMoretz@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:MMoretz@SaintThomasChurch.org) to learn more and receive login credentials.

#### **Children and Families' Gatherings**

**Sunday Zoom!** continues at 10:15 am. today. The next **Faith Alive** group will meet via Zoom next Sunday, December 6, at 9:45 a.m. If you know a family that would like to receive our regular newsletter or to obtain login information for either the Sunday Zoom! or Faith Alive, contact **Mother Turner** at [ATurner@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:ATurner@SaintThomasChurch.org).

#### **Friday Online Bible Study**

All are welcome to join the parish's ongoing **Friday Online Bible Study** via ZOOM. The class begins at 1:30 p.m. and runs for an hour. During the season of **Advent**, the class will be studying "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent" by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, which covers the biblical texts about the birth of Jesus Christ. For more information, contact Fr. Bennett at [RBennett@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:RBennett@SaintThomasChurch.org)

#### **The Church is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

(Face coverings, hand sanitization, health screening, and 6 ft. distancing required for entry)

#### **Shrine Prayers (Intercessions) and Holy Eucharist\***

**Monday – Saturday at 12 p.m.**

(Contact tracing is mandatory to attend Mass)

*\*Live audio stream webcast continues, and then be available on-demand.*

#### **Please send your requests for prayers**

via the website [click here](#)

or emailed to: [prayer@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:prayer@saintthomaschurch.org)

#### **Confessions, Spiritual Advice and Healing Ministry**

(Resurrection Chapel: Mother Turner)

**Saturday from 11 to 11:45 a.m. in the Church**

*(need to wear a mask; chairs will be placed at an appropriate distance)*

**Young Adult Group Discussion then Compline:**

**Monday evenings**

*(see email group or Facebook page for details)*

**Evening Prayer and Meditation**

**with Fr. Spencer and Sister Promise**

**Thursday at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM Platform**

*(Contact Fr. Spencer: [ASpencer@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:ASpencer@SaintThomasChurch.org) for details)*

**NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 6**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**9 a.m. Said Eucharist (Rite II) (High Altar)**

***Celebrant, The Rector***

***Preacher, Mo. Turner***

*(Pre-registration is essential to ensure seating and to save time upon arrival)*

**[Register by following this link.](#)**

**9:45 a.m. Faith Alive**

*(see Children & Families notice above for further details)*

**10 a.m. Adult Education, The Annunciation and Art** with Mother Meredith Ward, a priest in the Diocese of New York, via the ZOOM Platform *(For more information about this class, please see the [event page](#) on the parish website. [Click here](#) to RSVP for this online class. You can also contact Fr. Cheng at [PCcheng@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:PCcheng@SaintThomasChurch.org) for more information.)* To access **videos** from previous classes and other Theology information, [click here](#).

**10:15 a.m. Children and Families' Sunday Zoom!**

*(see Children & Families notice above for further details)*

**11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist**

**sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir**

*(with video livestream,*

*and, thereafter, on-demand)*

***Preacher, Mo. Turner***

*(Pre-registration is essential to ensure seating and to save time upon arrival)*

**[Register by following this link.](#)**

**3 p.m. (note time) Solemn Evensong**

**sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir**

*(with video livestream, and, thereafter, on-demand)*

***Preacher, Fr. Bennett***

*(Pre-registration is essential to ensure seating and to save time upon arrival)*

**[Register by following this link.](#)**

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE WITH THE CHOIR**

***(Subject to COVID-19 Restrictions not being in place)***

*Unless noted, all will be livestream video-cast and then available on-demand*

### **Sunday, December 13**

3 p.m. The Blessing of the Creche (pre-recorded)

### **Wednesday, December 16**

12 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols (shorter form)

### **Sunday, December 20**

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

### **Thursday, December 24 *Christmas Eve***

6 p.m. (note time) Solemn Vigil Eucharist of Christmas

### **Friday, December 25 *Christmas Day***

10 a.m. (note time) Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity

### **Sunday, December 27**

11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist  
*(There will be no Choral Evensong)*

### **Thursday, December 31**

11:30 p.m. A service to welcome in the New Year and pray for Peace in 2021 (pre-recorded)

### **Sunday, January 3**

11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist  
*(There will be no Choral Evensong)*

### **Wednesday, January 6 *The Epiphany***

12 p.m. Solemn Eucharist

#### **ASSISTING CLERGY**

The Reverend Matthew Moretz, *Associate Rector*  
The Reverend Adam Spencer, *Associate for Pastoral Care*  
The Reverend Alison J. Turner,  
*Associate for Children and Family Ministry*  
The Reverend Dr. Patrick S. Cheng,  
*Theologian in Residence*  
The Reverend Ryan Bennett, *Assistant Priest*  
The Reverend Sr. Marie Promise Atelon SSM, *Deacon*

#### **STAFF**

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*  
Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*  
Nicholas Quardokus, *Assistant Organist*  
Aaron W. Koch, *Head Verger*  
Benjamin E. Williams, *Verger*  
Bruce Smith, *Chief Advancement Officer*  
Adam MacDonald, *Director of Development*  
Blake Martin, *Interim Director of Communications*  
*& Digital Production*

#### **SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL**

Amalia Francisco, *Interim Head of School*  
202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019  
Telephone: 212-247-3311  
[www.ChoirSchool.org](http://www.ChoirSchool.org)  
[admissions@choirschool.org](mailto:admissions@choirschool.org)