



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

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*

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 16, 2020 AT NOON

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

PRELUDE

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

*The People stand for the Hymns. The Congregation is discouraged from singing,
but those who wish to do so, should sing very quietly and be aware of those standing near to them.*

HYMN Christians Awake! Salute the happy morn

YORKSHIRE

CHRISTIANS, awake, salute the happy morn
whereon the Savior of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice: "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Savior's birth
to you and all the nations on the earth:
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Savior, Christ the Lord."

3. He spoke, and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang;
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace on the earth, and unto men good will.

4. In Bethlehem the happy shepherds sought
to see the wonder God for us had wrought,
and found, with Joseph and the blessed maid,
her Son, the Savior, in a manger laid;
amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,
the earliest heralds of the Savior's name.

5. Let us, like these good shepherds, then
employ our grateful voices to proclaim the joy;
trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
treading his steps, assisted by his grace,
till our first heavenly state again takes place.

6. Then may we hope, the angelic thrones among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

THE BIDDING

BELOVED in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city and diocese of New York.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Celebrant and People

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.

May the almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of angels bring us all.
People Amen.

The People sit.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL Jubilate Deo in chordis

Sung by the Choir.

Heinrich Schütz
(1585-1672)

JUBILATE Deo in chordis et organo,
in tympano et choro.
Cantate et exultate et psallite,
psallite sapienter.
Alleluja.

*Let us rejoice with strings and organ,
with drum and in chorus.
Sing and rejoice and sing psalms,
as well as you know how.
Alleluia.*

Psalms 150:4; Psalms 98:4

GOD rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day;
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

2. From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

3. The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd babe to find:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

London Carol, Eighteenth Century

The People sit.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

CAROL Jesu, as Thou art our Saviour

Sung by the Choir.

*Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)*

JESU, Save us all through Thy virtue.
Jesu, as Thou art our Saviour
That Thou save us fro dolour!
Jesu is mine paramour.
Blessed be Thy name, Jesu.

Jesu was born of a may,
Upon Christēmas Day,
She was may befor and ay,
Blessed be Thy name.

Anonymous Fifteenth Century

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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 Angels from the realms of glory

REGENT SQUARE

A NGELS, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-20

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

The People sit.

AT THE OFFERING, CAROL In the bleak midwinter

Francis Pott
(b.1957)

IN the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay, enough for him whom
angels fall down before,
the ox and the camel which adore.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

The People stand.

FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

WHAT tidings bring you, messenger,
Of Christ's birth on Christmas Day?

A babe is born of high nature,
A Prince of Peace that ever shall be;
Of heaven and earth he hath the cure,
His lordship is eternity,
Such wondrous tidings ye may hear:
*That God and man is one on earth,
Brought to us by this wondrous birth.*

A seemingly sight it is to see:
The maid that hath this baby borne
Conceived a lord of high degree,
And maiden is as was before.
Such wondrous tidings ye may hear:
*That God and man is one on earth,
Brought to us by this wondrous birth.*

A wondrous thing has now befall:
That lord that made both sea and sun,
Heaven and earth and angels all,
In mankind is now become.
What tidings bring you, messenger?
*Now God and man is one on earth,
Brought to us by this wondrous birth.*

That lord that all thing made of nought
Is man become for mankind's love,
For with his blood he shall be brought
From woe to bliss that is above,
Such wondrous tiding ye may hear:
*Now God and man is one on earth,
Brought to us by this wondrous birth.*

John Audelay

THE COLLECT

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son,
Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with
sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth
with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

MAY he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with
the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

HYMN Unto us is born a Son!

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

UNTO us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
The Lord of every nation.

2. Christ, from heaven descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be-cradled in the manger.

3. This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

4. Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory!

5. O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our mercy organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

Fifteenth Century Latin Carol

PARISH NOTICES

Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. The deadline is **Sunday, December 20.**

Beginning **Thursday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m.**, please join us online for a special *Concerts at Saint Thomas* archival audio presentation of The Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir's performance of **Britten's A Ceremony of Carols** from 2019. This archival audio presentation as well as **Handel's Messiah** will be available On-demand through Christmas. While we cannot be together in person for these annual events, we hope you will enjoy listening to them during this Advent and Christmas Season. For more information, please visit us online at www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts.

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 to learn more and receive login credentials.

Children and Families' Gatherings

Sunday Zoom! continues today at 10:15 am. This week, we will continue to explore the meaning of Advent as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, together. We also welcome Ms. Pamela Lewis, Head Lector, as our special guest who will be sharing an artistic reflection on the Annunciation. 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.

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.

**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

**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 for details)

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 20

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Celebrant, Fr. Moretz

Preacher, Fr. Spencer

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

[Register by following this link.](#)

10 a.m. Adult Education, 12-week course on

The Nicene Creed continues with Fr. Cheng via the ZOOM Platform ([Click here](#) to RSVP for the online class.

You can also contact Fr. Cheng at PCheng@SaintThomasChurch.org for more information.)

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, Fr. Spencer

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

[Register by following this link.](#)

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

(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 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

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