



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

in the
CITY OF NEW YORK

One West Fifty-third Street
New York, New York 10019
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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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 12 P.M.

AND

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 4 P.M.

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

PRELUDE

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

The People stand at the entry of the Choir and Ministers.

HYMN

YORKSHIRE

1 Chris - tians, a - wake, sa - lute the hap - py morn
2 Then to the watch - ful shep - herds it was told,
*3 He spoke, and straight - way the ce - les - tial choir
*4 In Beth - le - hem the hap - py shep - herds sought
5 Let us, like these good shep - herds, then em - ploy

1 where - on the Sa - vior of the world was born;
2 who heard the an - gel - ic her - ald's voice: "Be - hold,
3 in hymns of joy, un - known be - fore, con - spire;
4 to see the won - der God for us had wrought,
5 our grate - ful voic - es to pro - claim the joy;

1 rise to a - dore the mys - ter - y of love,
2 I bring good tid - ings of a Sa - vior's birth
3 the prais - es of re - deem - ing love they sang,
4 and found, with Jo - seph and the bless - ed maid,
5 trace we the Babe, who hath re - trieved our loss,

1 which hosts of an - gels chant - ed from a - bove;
 2 to you and all the na - tions on the earth:
 3 and heaven's whole orb with al - le - lu - ias rang;
 4 her Son, the Sa - vior, in a man - ger laid;
 5 from his poor man - ger to his bit - ter cross;

1 with them the joy - ful tid - ings first be - gun of
 2 this day hath God ful - filled his prom - ised word, this
 3 God's high - est glo - ry was their an - them still, peace
 4 a - mazed, the won - drous sto - ry they pro - claim, the
 5 tread - ing his steps, as - sist - ed by his grace, till

1 God In - car - nate and the Vir - gin's Son.
 2 day is born a Sav - ior, Christ the Lord."
 3 on the earth, and un - to men good will.
 4 ear - liest her - alds of the Sa - vior's name.
 5 our first heaven - ly state a - gain takes place.

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 This is the truth

Sung by the Choir

Traditional English Carol
arr. *Christopher Robinson*
(b. 1936)

THIS is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run that he would redeem us by his Son.

And at the season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say.

The People stand.

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.*

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.*

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.*

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 No small wonder

Sung by the Choir

*Paul Edwards
 (b. 1955)*

SMALL wonder the star, small wonder the light,
 the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;
 but stable and manger for God no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
 the gold and the incense, the myrrh to adore;
 but God gives his life on a cross – no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,
 the power, the glory, the light of his face;
 but all to redeem my poor heart – no small wonder!

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANGELUS ad virginem sub intrans in conclave,
virginis formidinem de mulcens inquit 'Ave!
Ave, regina virginum; caeli terraeque Dominum
conciplies et paries intacta salute hominum;
tu porta caeli facta, medela criminum.'

*The angel to the Virgin said, entering into her bower,
for dread of quaking of this maid, he said 'Hail!'
with great honoure. 'Hail! be thou queen of maidens mo,
Lord of heaven and earth also, conceive thou shalt,
and bear withal the Lord of might, heal of all mankind.
He will make the gate of heaven bright, medicine of all our sin.'*

'Quomodo conciperem quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem quod firmament vovi?
'Spiritus Sancti gratia perficiet haec omnia;
ne timeas, sed gaudeas, secura quod castimonia
manebit in te pura Dei potentia.'

*'How can I conceive, when I have not known a man?
How can I break promises that I have vowed with a determined mind?
'The grace of the Holy Spirit shall do all this.
Do not be afraid, but rejoice without worry, for your chastity
will remain in you unspoiled through the power of God.'*

The People stand.

HYMN

GLORIA

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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The People sit.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-20

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL

Traditional Polish Carol
arr. Gerre Hancock
(1934-2012)

INFANT holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!

Attr. Piotrowi Skardzke; Paraphrased Edith M.G. Reed

The People stand.

FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

The People sit.

MAKE me pure, Lord; thou art holy;
make me meek, Lord: thou wert lowly;
now beginning, and always: now begin on Christmas Day.

*Moonless darkness stands between.
Past, the past, no more be seen!
But the Bethlemstar may lead me
to the sight of him who freed me
from the self that I have been.*

Gerald Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

The People stand and remain standing for the final responsory and blessing.

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.*

RESPONSORY

An offering will be taken during this carol.

Martin Baker
(b. 1967)

CHRISTUS vincit,
Christus regnat,
Christus imperat.

*Christ conquers,
Christ reigns,
Christ commands.*

Exaudi, Christe.
Summo Pontifici
et universali Papae, vita.

*Listen, Christ.
O Supreme Being
and universal father, give life.*

Salvator mundi,
Tu illum adiuva.
Sancta Maria,
Tu illum adiuva.
Sancte Petre,
Tu illum adiuva.
Sancte Paule,
Tu illum adiuva.

*Saviour of the world,
Come to our aid.
Holy Mary,
Come to our aid.
Saint Peter,
Come to our aid.
Saint Paul,
Come to our aid.*

Christus vincit,
Christus regnat,
Christus imperat.

*Christ conquers,
Christ reigns,
Christ commands.*

Rex regem.
Rex noster.
Gloria nostra.

*King of Kings.
Our King.
Our Glory.*

Ipsi soli imperium,
Gloria et potestas,
Per immortalia saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

*To him alone be majesty,
glory and power,
to everlasting ages of ages.
Amen.*

Christus vincit,
Christus regnat,
Christus imperat.

*Christ conquers,
Christ reigns,
Christ commands.*

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

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

VOLUNTARY

Sortie on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

David Briggs
 (b. 1962)

There will be a short, Said Mass following this service. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.