



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

The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

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](mailto:welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org)*

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**THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE**

**DECEMBER 21, 2021**

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**A SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES — 5:30 p.m.**  
**sung by the Noble Singers**

**PRELUDE**

Joy to the World

*Lowell Mason*  
(1792-1872)

arranged by *Kyle Coughlin*

In the Bleak Midwinter

*Gustav Holst*  
(1874-1934)

arranged by *Kyle Coughlin*

*Jack Perkins, piano*

The Holy Boy

*John Ireland*  
(1879-1962)

*Nicolas Haigh, organ*

At the beginning of the service, the lights will dim and silence is kept.

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

**THE SCENE IS SET**

**HYMN**

**IRBY**

*Choir only:*

**O**NCE 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.

*Choir only:*

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 meek, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

*Congregation joins:*

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 feels for our sadness,  
And he shares in all our gladness.

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;  
There his children gather round  
Bright like stars, with glory crowned.

*Cecil Frances Alexander*

## WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

*The People sit.*

## BUILDING THE CRÈCHE

READING An Angel Visits Mary

Reader The Word of the Lord  
People Thanks be to God

CAROL *Sung by 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys* arr. *Edgar Pettman*  
(1866-1943)

**T**HE angel Gabriel from Heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, His eyes as flame,  
"All hail", said he, "Thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.  
Most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name."  
"Most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-  
"Most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!

*Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould*

READING No Room at the Inn

Reader The Word of the Lord  
People Thanks be to God

CAROL *Sung by the Noble Singers* *STOWEY*  
16<sup>th</sup> Century Melody

**H**OW far is it to Bethlehem?  
Not very far.  
Shall we find a stable room lit by a star?  
Can we see the little child, is he within?  
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there, oxen or sheep?  
May we peek like them and see Jesus asleep?  
If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake?  
Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?

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

READING

Angels and Shepherds

Reader The Word of the Lord  
 People Thanks be to God

*The People stand.*

HYMN

GLORIA

**A**NGELS we have heard on high,  
 singing sweetly through the night,  
 And the mountains in reply  
 Echoing their brave delight.  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
 Him whose birth the angels sing;  
 Come, adore on bended knee  
 Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
 Why these songs of happy cheer?  
 What great brightness did you see?  
 What glad tidings did you hear?  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid  
 Whom the angels praise above;  
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid.  
 While we raise our hearts in love.  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*James Chadwick*

*The People sit.*

READING

A Star and Visitors from the East

Reader The Word of the Lord  
 People Thanks be to God

CAROL

*Sung by 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys*

*Peter Cornelius  
 (1824-1874)*

**D**REI Könige wandern aus Morgenland;  
 Ein Sternlein führt sie zum Jordanstrand.  
 In Juda fragen und forschen die drei,  
 Wo der neugeborene König sei?  
 Sie wollen Weihrauch, Myrrhen und Gold  
 Dem Kinde spenden zum Opfersold.

*Three Kings from Persian lands afar  
 to Jordan follow the pointing star:  
 and this the quest of the travellers three,  
 where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
 Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
 Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

Und hell erglänzet des Sternes Schein:  
 Zum Stalle gehen die Kön'ge ein;  
 Das Knäblein schau'n sie wonniglich,  
 Anbetend neigen die Könige sich;  
 Sie bringen Weihrauch, Myrrhen und Gold  
 Zum Opfer dar dem Knäblein hold.

*The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
 the kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
 and there in worship they bend the knee,  
 as Mary's child in her lap they see;  
 their royal gifts they show to the King;  
 gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

O Menschenkind! halte treulich Schritt!  
 Die Kön'ge wandern, o wandre mit!  
 Der Stern der Liebe, der Gnade Stern  
 Erhelle dein Ziel, so du suchst den Herrn,  
 Und fehlen Weihrauch, Myrrhen und Gold,  
 Schenke dein Herz dem Knäblein hold!

*Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
 the Kings are travelling, travel with them!  
 The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
 shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
 Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
 offer thy heart to the infant King.*

*Choral*

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern  
voll Gnad und Wahrheit von dem Herrn,  
die süße Wurzel Jesse.  
Du Sohn Davids aus Jakobs Stamm,  
mein König und mein Bräutigam,  
hast mir mein Herz besessen; lieblich,  
freundlich, schön und herrlich,  
groß und ehrlich, reich an Gaben,  
hoch und sehr prächtig erhaben.

*Chorale*

*How brightly shines the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heaven afar  
our Jesse tree now bloweth.  
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine, my soul  
with love o'erfloweth.  
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,  
rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

***Parents are welcome to bring their children to the front of the church.***

**STORY TIME**

“The Holy Night” by Selma Lagerlöf

Father Schultz

**THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE**

*People* 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:  
We worship and adore you.

*People* He is the Word of the Father, crying as a baby,  
Jesus is the Son of God:  
We worship and adore you.

*People* He is robed in glory, wrapped in infant clothes;  
Jesus is the Son of God:  
We worship and adore you.

*People* Lord of heaven and earth, laid in a manger;  
Jesus is the Son of God:  
We worship and adore you.

*People* 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.  
Amen.

*The People stand. The Christ child is placed in the Manager.*

**HYMN**

**A**WAY 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.

**CRADLE SONG**

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 until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever, 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

*This response is used*

Christ be our Light:  
*People* Shine in our hearts today.

*The prayers end with the Lord's Prayer*

**O**UR 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.

*The People sit.*

## CAROL

*Sung by the Noble Singers*

*Noël Nouvelet*  
arranged by *Becki Slagle Mayo*  
(b. 1956)

**S**ING we now of Christmas,  
Noel, sing we here!  
Hear our grateful praises  
to the babe so dear  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds,  
“Leave your flock at rest;  
Journey forth to Bethlehem,  
Find the Child so blest.”  
Come, let us adore him.

In the stall the found him;  
Joseph and Mary mild  
Seated ‘round the manger,  
Watching the Holy Child.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we now Noel!

From the eastern country  
came the kings so far,  
Bearing gifts to Bethlehem,  
Guided by a star.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we now Noel!

*Traditional French Carol*

*The People stand.*

**BLESSING**

**M**AY 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.

*People* Amen.

Go, in the peace and joy of Christ:  
*People* Thanks be to God.

**VOLUNTARY**

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella

*Keith Chapman*  
(1945-1989)

**The Noble Singers.** Our children's parish choir for singers ages 5-12 is directed by Mrs. Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell. Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays at 4-4:45 p.m. and/or Saturdays from 10-10:45 a.m. It's not too late to join us. Registration is currently available online. This FREE music program features the acclaimed RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Voice for Life curriculum in which choristers will gain different colored ribbons by working towards different assessed levels of music and vocal instruction. Beginning in January 2022, we will start singing weekly at the 9 a.m. service. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music. For more information, contact [RKellerman@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:RKellerman@SaintThomasChurch.org).



## SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

## BECAUSE YOUR SON IS READY FOR MORE

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*Do you know a boy who likes music?*

We want to hear from you.

[admissions@choirschool.org](mailto:admissions@choirschool.org)

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Learn more about the transformative  
experience awaiting your son at  
[choirschool.org](http://choirschool.org)

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 nurturing, training and educating talented and high potential boys 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.

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 for Resonus Classics and Signum Classics.