



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*

THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

DECEMBER 17, 2022

A SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES — 4:00 p.m.
sung by the Noble Singers

PRELUDE

I saw Three Ships

Traditional Carol
arranged by *Richard Walters*

Angels we have heard on high

French Carol
arranged by *Richard Walters*

Paul Petretta, trombone
Jeremy Filsell, piano

Marche des Rois Mages
from 12 Pièces pour Orgue
Maks Adach, organ

Théodore Dubois
(1837-1924)

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:

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.

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 mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All:

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.

All:

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

The People sit.

BUILDING THE CRÈCHE

READING

An Angel Visits Mary

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

Michael Bedford
(b. 1949)

THE angel, Gabriel by name,
Unto the Virgin Mary came,
With joyful news unto the same.
Nova, Nova! Tidings of salvation!

Then said the angel, "Do not fear,
I bring glad news for you to hear:
You will bring forth God's Son so dear."
Nova, Nova! Tidings of salvation!

Then Mary looked unto the sky:
"Be as it pleases God on high,
Whose name my soul shall magnify."
Nova, Nova! Tidings of salvation!

By her the Christ Child comes to earth,
In Bethlehem to have his birth;
Let all the world be filled with mirth!
Nova, Nova! Tidings of salvation!

Michael Bedford (based on Luke 1:26-31, 38, 46)

READING

No Room at the Inn

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

HYMN

FOREST GREEN

All:

O LITTLE town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

All:

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

The People sit.

Choir Only:

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

All:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

READING

Angels and Shepherds

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

Terre Johnson
 (b. 1959)

TWAS in the moon of winter-time
 When all the birds had fled,
 That God, the Lord of all the earth
 Sent angel choirs instead;
 Before their light the stars grew dim,
 And wandering hunters heard the hymn:
 "Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
 In excelsis gloria."

Within a lodge of broken bark
 The tender Babe was found,
 A ragged robe of rabbit skin
 Enwrapp'd His beauty round;
 But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
 The angel song rang loud and high:
 "Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
 In excelsis gloria."

O children of the forest free,
 O sons of Manitou,
 The Holy Child of earth and heaven
 Is born today for you.
 Come kneel before the radiant Boy
 Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
 "Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
 In excelsis gloria."

Jean de Brébeuf

READING

A Star and Visitors from the East

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

Sung by 8th Grade Choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Peter Cornelius
 (1824-1874)

DREI 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.

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.

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!

*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.*

*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.*

*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 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:
People **We worship and adore you.**

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

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

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

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

HYMN

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.

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

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.

The People sit.

CAROL

IL EST NÉ
arranged by *Arlen Clarke*
(b. 1954)

Chorus:

He is born, the divine Christ child;
Play on the oboe and bagpipes merrily.
He is born the divine Christ child;
Join in song for the Lord has come.

Prophets wise had foretold his birth,
Pledging peace to all men on earth;
Filled with hope, men began to pray,
Till his coming this happy day. **Chorus**

Born within a stable small,
He is King and Lord of all;
With his mother, meek and mild,
Shepherds greet him, the little child. **Chorus**

Traditional French Carol

The People 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.

People **Amen.**

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

VOLUNTARY

Noël- Ou s'en vont ces gays Bergers?
from Troisième Livre d'orgue (1685)

Nicolas-Antione Lebègue
(1631-1702)

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.

**2022 CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND CONCERTS
AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE**



Sunday, December 18, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4 p.m.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of *Coben, Vaughan Williams, Sheppard, Young, Wills, Bradley, Hurd, and Bassi*



Tuesday, December 20

5:30 p.m.

A SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of *Coben, Vaughan Williams, Sheppard, Young, Bradley, Hurd, and Bassi*



Saturday, 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 *Coben, Vaughan Williams, Sheppard, Young, Wills, Bradley, Hurd, and Bassi*

10 p.m. (Doors open at 9:30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN AND BRASS

10:30 p.m.

PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY (MIDNIGHT MASS)

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

Music of *Lassus, Young, Wills, Bradley, and Filsell*

Sermon by The Rector



Sunday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

9 a.m.

SAID EUCHARIST at the High Altar

11 a.m.

PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of *Young, Coben, and Bradley*

Sermon by Fr. Moretz



SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

BECAUSE YOUR SON IS READY FOR MORE

Do you know a boy who likes music?

We want to hear from you.

admissions@choirschool.org

Learn more about the transformative
experience awaiting your son at
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.