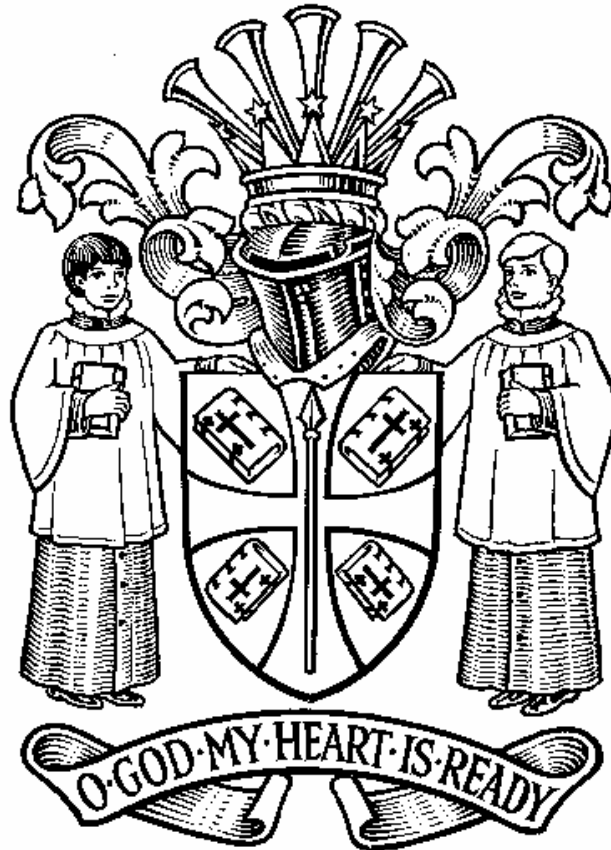


SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE
in the
CITY OF NEW YORK



One West Fifty-third Street
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: 212-757-7013
www.SaintThomasChurch.org
The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 4 P.M.
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNG BY THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS

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.

Contact us: welcome@saintthomaschurch.org

Recording and Photography during the service is not permitted.

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Matthew Moretz

Vicar and Chief Operating Officer

The Reverend Alison J. Turner

*Associate for Children & Family Ministry
and School Chaplain*

The Reverend Mark Schultz

Associate for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Prisca Lee-Pae

Associate for Pan-Asian Ministry

The Reverend Dr. Luigi Gioia

Associate for Adult Education and Formation and Theologian in Residence

STAFF

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*

Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*

Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*

Bruce Smith, *Chief Advancement Officer*

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Blake Martin, *Director of Communications and Digital Production*

Lizette Hernandez, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*

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SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

Christopher Seeley, *Head of School*

202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Telephone: 212-247-3311

www.ChoirSchool.org

admissions@choirschool.org

HONORARY CLERGY

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*

The Right Reverend Andrew R. St. John, DD, *Bishop in Residence*

The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Gina Gore, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Canon Anne Mallonee, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Stephen Morris, *Honorary Assistant*

THE LAY MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Lloyd G. Stanford, *Warden*

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Darren Littlejohn

Winnie Kung

Gregory Zaffiro, *Warden*

Samyel Lee

John G. Oghia

Benita Potters

Inge Reist

Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org.

PRELUDE

Prélude Improvisée sur les thèmes de Noël
David Briggs, Guest Organist

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

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:

**And, through all his wondrous childhood,
he would honor and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.**

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:

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

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 (1818-1895)

THE BIDDING

BELOVED in Christ, at this Christmastide, let it be 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 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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. **Amen.**

The People sit.

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

*Jacques Coben
(b. 1969)*

GAUDETE, gaudete! Christus est natus
ex Maria virgine gaudete!

*Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!*

Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus,
carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.

*The time of grace has come, which we have waited for.
Let us devotedly render Him joyful songs.*

Gaudete...

Rejoice...

Deus homo factus est, natura mirante.
Mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.

*God has become Man and nature is astounded.
The world has been renewed by the reigning Christ.*

Gaudete...

Rejoice...

Ezechielis porta clausa pertransitur,
Unde lux est orta, salus invenitur.

*The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through.
From there the light has risen; salvation is found.*

Gaudete...

Rejoice...

Ergo nostra contio psallat jam in lustro.
Benedicat domino, salus regi nostro.

*Therefore let our gathering now praise him in brightness!
Bless the Lord! Greeting to our King.*

Anonymous 16th Century

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Read by a Chorister

CAROL

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.

Anonymous

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Read by a Gentleman of the Choir

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.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Read by a Lector of the Parish

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

John Sheppard
(c. 1515-1558)

VERBUM caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis, cuius gloriam vidimus,
quasi unigeniti a Patre, plenum gratiae et veritatis.

In principio erat verbum, et verbum erat apud Deum, et Deus erat verbum.

Gloria Patri, et Filio: et Spiritui Sancto.

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

John 1:14, 1:1

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Read by the School Chaplain

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

Toby Young
(b. 1990)

STARS in heaven shining bright,
dance across the black of night,
sun and moon, and winds that blow,
sing unto the earth below:
Parvula infinitas mundum transformabis.
[Tiny infinity, you will transform the world.]

Soil and stone, seed and flower,
celebrate this holy hour;
shepherd, kings, and mother mild,
come adore the true Christ Child!
Parvula infinitas mundum transformabis.

Child of heaven, Son of Man,
born before this world began;
Holy Child, so young, so old,
save us as the prophets told.
Parvula infinitas mundum transformabis.

Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Read by the Head of the Choir School

THERE is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda. [*Thing of wonder*]

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three:
Pares forma. [*Equal in form*]

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. [*Glory to God in the highest*]
Gaudeamus. [*Let us rejoice*]

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth:
Transeamus. [*We travel onward*]

Anonymous 15th Century

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Read by the Organist and Director of Music

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

John Bradley
(1930-2009)

THE Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast,
His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning Kings,
But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knees,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at him
And all the stars looked down.

Words by G. K. Chesterton

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Read by a Member of the Vestry

The People stand.

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks
by night, All seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

To you, in David’s town, this day
is born of David’s line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.’

Nabum Tate (1652-1715)

The People sit.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.
Read by a Young Member of the Parish

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

David Hurd
(b. 1950)

RISE up, rise up, rise up.
There’s a star in the east on
Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd and follow
It will lead to the place where the Savior’s
born,
Rise up, shepherd and follow.

Follow, follow,
Rise up, shepherd and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd and follow.
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,
Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
Rise up, shepherd and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel’s word,
You’ll forget your flock, you’ll forget your
herd;
Rise up, shepherd and follow.

African American Spiritual

The People stand.

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.
Read by the Rector

The People sit.

TOMORROW shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance.

Sing, O my love, O my love, O my love;
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Between an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance.

English Traditional

The People stand.

HYMN

ADESTE FIDELES

O COME, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

18th Century Latin

THE CHRISTMAS 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
Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

CHRI**S**T, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN

MENDELSSOHN

HARK! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

VOLUNTARY

Sortie Improvisée
David Briggs, Guest Organist

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

The Church is open daily from 8:30 a.m. until 6:30 pm Monday-Friday
Shrine Prayers (intercessions) and Mass is celebrated daily at 12 p.m.



Tuesday, December 20

5:30 p.m.

A SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

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



Wednesday, December 21

The Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, Patron of the Parish

5:30 p.m.

SOLEMN EUCHARIST

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys



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 *Cohen, Vaughan Williams, Sheppard, Young, Wills, Bradley, Hurd, and Bassi*

5:30 p.m.

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Said at the High Altar)

10 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, Cohen, 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.