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200

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 16, 2023

A SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES — 4:00 p.m.

Sung by The Noble Singers with
Choir School Probationer Choristers & Alumni of the Saint Thomas Choir School
Directed by Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell

PRELUDE

Organ and Trombone Music
Maks Adach, Jeremy Filsell with Paul Petretta

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

Solo:

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.

All:

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

Mother Turner

The People sit.

READING

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

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

ANTHEM

Carl Smith

Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child, of the Virgin undefiled.
Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!
Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres;
Hence to death and hell descends, then the heav'nly throne ascends.
Come, Father's saving Son, who over sin the vict'ry won.
Oh, boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

Martin Luther (1483-1546), trans. William M. Reynolds

BUILDING THE CRÈCHE

READING

The Angel Gabriel visits Mary

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

CAROL

*Basque Carol, arr. Richard Shephard
(1949-2021)*

The 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 honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored 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 favored 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 favored lady." Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

READING

No Room at the Inn

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

The People stand.

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:

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

*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

The Visit of the Shepherds

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

CAROL

Terre Johnson
 (b. 1959)

T WAS 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, trans. Jesse Edgar Middleton

READING

The Visit of the Magi

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

CAROL

Sung by Choir School Alumni Choristers

*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.*

STORY TIME

Father Schultz

THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Mother Lee-Pae

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 MANGER

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

PRAYERS

The People sit.

Reader The response to 'Christ be our Light' is 'Shine in our hearts today'.

Reader Christ be our light!
People **Shine in our hearts today.**

God of love,
at this Christmas time,
open our eyes to see your light shining in a dark world;
help us to share the light with everyone we meet.
Christ be our light.
Shine in our hearts today.

God of Love, the world seems to be full of people fighting
and not trusting each other;
may your light shine in the lives of the leaders of the nations
so that they will learn to trust each other.
Christ be our light.
Shine in our hearts today.

Choir: Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

God of Love,
We pray for our families today.
We pray for all children
and anyone who is away from their loved ones or is lonely this Christmas.
We pray for those who will look after children in need
especially those in Bethlehem.
May your love surround us all this Christmas.
Christ be our light.
Shine in our hearts today.

Choir: Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child;
Holy infant so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace.

God of Love,
We pray for anyone who is sick or housebound.
We pray for people who have no homes
and who will find Christmas a difficult and sad time.
May the warmth of your love break into their lives.
Christ be our light.
Shine in our hearts today.

Choir: Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

God of love,
we pray for all who have died.
May your light shine on them in heaven
and comfort all who will miss them this Christmas.
Christ be our light.
Shine in our hearts today.

Choir: Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of the Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for the loving son.

Reader Let us pray together 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.

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;

Chorus (sung after each verse)

Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, 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 silly poor ass
 To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;
 The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
 My Father's voice heard from above,
 To call my true love to my dance.

Traditional Carol

The People stand.

FINAL GREETING

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.**

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

O come, all ye faithful, #83 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others.
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS



COME SING WITH US!

Treble Voice Singers Ages 8-14
Training Choir for Ages 5-8
Free RSCM Choral Program
No Audition Necessary

Further Information:



Now Accepting New Choristers!

www.saintthomaschurch.org
Saint Thomas Church
Fifth Avenue New York, NY



The Noble Singers, our children's parish choir for singers ages 5-14 is directed by Mrs. Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell. Rehearsals take place on Thursdays and Fridays from 4:15pm-5:15pm. We ask that choristers commit to either the Thursday or Friday rehearsal each week and to the weekly Sunday morning rehearsal. 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 gain different colored ribbons by working towards different assessed levels of music and vocal instruction. The choir sings and leads worship weekly at the 9am Sung Mass. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music. For more information, contact RKellerman@SaintThomasChurch.org.

Please join us on Saturday, February 10 for our **2024 Winter Noble Singers Choir Camp**! All children ages 5-14 are welcome. Choir Camp is a special day for children to come and experience music at Saint Thomas Church. We will explore singing and music together through games, classes, rehearsals, and hands on music making activities! Come learn about our 9am parish children's choir, the Noble Singers, and other opportunities for children in our worship and Sunday School spaces. Sit in the choir stalls and sing with our organ and learn about how music fits into our worship and daily lives at Saint Thomas Church. Registration will open in January. Please contact Mrs. K-F with any questions at RKellerman@SaintThomasChurch.org.

We look forward to welcoming back a familiar visitor, Ms. Pamela Lewis, who will lead our Annual Advent Art Activity on Sunday, December 17 after a **Bring-and-Share Family Feast** at 10am in the Parish House. Parents are welcome to join their children for this annual event in celebration of Gaudete Sunday.

Sunday School will be on Christmas Break DECEMBER 24 and DECEMBER 31 and will resume with an EPIPHANY FAMILY FEAST SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024 at 10am in the Parish House.

The Nursery continues to be available for the sole use of babies and toddlers with their parents/caregivers, from 9am-1pm on Sundays in the Parish House, 3rd floor.

To receive our Children and Families weekly newsletter, or to register your interest in any of events for the coming term please contact childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org.



OPEN HOUSE

*for parents, music educators,
and school professionals*

Tuesday, January 9

6:00-7:30pm

Saint Thomas Choir School
202 West 58th Street, NYC



Scan to RSVP

Join us to learn more about our unique boarding school
for boys in grades 3-8 with a passion for music.



SAVE THE DATE for our “Chorister for a Day” event, for boys 7-11 years old, on Sunday, February 25.
For more information, email admissions@choirschool.org

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE



Sunday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

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 *Malcolm, Moore, Willcocks, Rutter, and Filsell*

Sermon by The Right Reverend Matthew Heyd, Bishop Coadjutor of New York



Monday, 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 *Walton, Martin, Willcocks, and Rutter*

Sermon by The Rector

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

The Church is open for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche

Tuesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shrine Prayers (Intercessions)

Tuesday – Saturday at 12 p.m. *Live audio stream and then on-demand.*

Please send your requests for prayers via the website [click here](#) or emailed to: prayer@saintthomaschurch.org

The Daily Eucharist

Tuesday – Saturday at 12:05 p.m. *Live audio stream and then on-demand.*

Tuesday: Saint Stephen

Wednesday: Saint John

Thursday: Holy Innocents

Friday: St. Thomas of Canterbury

Confessions, Spiritual Advice, and Healing Ministry

Saturday, December 30, 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Confessor: Fr. Mark Schultz

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9:00 a.m. Sung Mass

11:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sermon by Fr. Gioia