## 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 17, 2023 AT 4 P.M. THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

attended by members of the Diplomatic Service

and

United Nations Staff 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

Please do not take photographs or videos, or make recordings during the service.

#### 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
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
Adam MacDonald, Director of Development
Blake Martin, Director of Communications and Digital Production
Lizette Hernandez, Executive Assistant to the Rector
David Bryan, Head Verger

#### SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

Christopher Seeley, Head of School 202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019 Telephone: 212-247-3311 www.ChoirSchool.org email: 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 Stephen Morris, Honorary Assistant
The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, Honorary Assistant
The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, Honorary Assistant

#### THE LAY MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Lloyd G. Stanford, Warden Karen Duncan Christopher M. Haley, Clerk Darren Littlejohn Winnie Kung Gregory Zaffiro, Warden Samyel Lee John G. Oghia Benita Potters Inge Reist Karl C. Saunders, Treasurer



PRELUDE Fantasia: The Christmas Light Simon Preston

(1938-2022)

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her Georg Böhm

(1661-1733)

Adeste fideles Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

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

HYMN IRBY

Choir Only:

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 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

Officiant and People

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 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 This Joy Bob Chilcott
(b. 1955)

THIS joy is a new joy, the wondrous birth of a baby boy.

Be glad, it is for us he came, sing out, Jesus is his name.

This birth is a new birth, that will bring us peace on earth.

Be glad, it is for us he came, sing out, Jesus is his name.

This light in its majesty shines for all the world to see,

A light of love and giving, a light for all the living.

This love is a new love, sent to us from heaven above.

Be glad, for the hope that springs, sing out for the joy it brings,

Sing out this joy!

Bob Chilcott

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 Adam lay ybounden Richard Webster
(b. 1952)

A DAM lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple take been, the apple taken been, ne had never our lady a been heav'ne queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was, therefore we moun singen "Deo gracias."

Anon. 15th century

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

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

Read by Hannah Young, Deputy Consul-General, British Consulate General, New York

The People stand.



HYMN FOREST GREEN

All:

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.

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.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

The People sit.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.
Read by a Lector of the Parish



CAROL Novo profusio Matthew Martin
(b. 1976)

Novo profusi gaudio, Benedicamus Domino.

Omnes gentes, plaudite, Car notre Saviour est né; Over all blessed he be, Rex Alpha et O.

A solis ortus cardine, Comme le monde est long et lé, All mankind maketh glee, Angeli canunt Deo.

Enixa est puerpera, Que Saint Esprit en engrossa; Blessed be time that she said ya, Gabriele nuncio.

Ex illibata virgine, Est nascu le Roi de Majesté; The hirds him see in low degree, Jacentem in presepio.

Gloria tibi, Domine, Fontaine de grâce et de pitié; Of all thy goodness we thank thee; Benedicamus Domino. News of great joy, Let us bless the Lord.

All people, clap your hands, For our Saviour is born Over all blessed he be King, first and last.

From the rising of the sun, As the world is long and wide, All mankind maketh glee, The angels sing to God.

She brings forth a son, Whom the Holy Spirit enlarged; Blessed be time that she said ya, Gabriel the messenger.

From the undefiled virgin, Born is the King of Majesty; The hirds him see in low degree Lying in a manger.

Glory to you, O Lord, Fount of grace and mercy; Of all thy goodness we thank thee; Let us bless the Lord.

Anonymous 15th-century English

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Read by Mungo Woodfield, Director, Communications and Strategy Spokesperson for the U. K. Mission to the United Nations



CAROL Welcome all wonders Jay Wilcox (b. 1954)

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night,
Heaven in earth, and God in man.

Great little one! Whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

To thee, meek majesty!

Each of us his lamb will bring,
Each his pair of silver doves;

Till burnt at last in fire of thy fair eyes,
Ourselves become our own best sacrifice.

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Words by G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. Read by the Head of the Choir School

CAROL The Angel Gabriel Philip Moore
(b. 1943)

THE angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary, "most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

"I come from heaven to tell the Lord's decree: a blessed virgin mother you shall be. Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleases God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.
Read by the Organist and Director of Music



HYMN GLORIA

A NGELS we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain* 

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. *Refrain* 

See Him in a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth! Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth. *Refrain* 

French carol tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882)

The People sit.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger. Read by a Member of the Vestry

**CAROL** 

Shepherd's Cradle Song

Karl Lenner arr. Charles McPherson (1870-1927)

SLEEP thou heavenborn treasure, thou, Sleep sound, dearest child; White angel wings shall fan thy brow With breezes soft and mild. We shepherds poor are here to sing A simple lullay to our King. Lullaby, sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

See, Mary has with mother's love A bed for thee outspread, While Joseph stoops him from above, And watches at thy head, The lambkins in the stall so nigh, That thou may'st sleep, have hushed their cry. Lullaby, sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

And when thou art big and art a man Full woe's in store for thee;
For cruel men thy death will plan,
And hang thee on a tree.
So sleep, my baby, whilst thou may,
'Twill give thee rest against that day.
Lullaby, sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

Arthur Foxton Ferguson (1866-1920)

**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 Sans Day Carol Arr. John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk: And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross.

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all.

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead.

Traditional Cornish Carol

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.

**CAROL** 

Earth, strike up your music

Jessica French (b. 1984)

CHRISTMAS hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us to low.

Earth strike up your music, Birds that sing and bells that ring; Heaven hath an answering music For all angels soon to sing: Earth, put on your whitest Bridal robe of spotless snow: For Christmas bringeth Jesus, Brought for us so low.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

The People stand.



## HYMN ADESTE FIDELES

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,
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,
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,
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,
Christ the Lord!

18th-century Latin

#### THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

Officiant The Lord be with you. People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

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

HRIST, 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

ARK! 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

IX. Dieu parmi nous from La Nativité du Seigneur (1935)

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)





The flowers today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of the following:

Mary Clark deBrabant, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, and Parsons Trotter

## WORSHIP THIS WEEK

\* indicates livestreamed.

Monday - Saturday 12 p.m. Shrine Prayers and Holy Eucharist\*

#### Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong\* sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Wednesday - Ember Day 12 p.m. A Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols\* sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Thursday - Saint Thomas 5:30 p.m. Solemn Eucharist\* sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

#### Saturday

11-11:45 a.m. Confessions, Spiritual Advice, Ministry of Healing in the Resurrection Chapel Confessor: Mo. Turner

Next Sunday: December 24, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9 a.m. Sung Mass

followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish House

11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist\* sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir Sermon by Fr. Gioia

#### Christmas Eve

**4 p.m.** A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols\* sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys featuring works of French, M. Martin, Latona, Wilcox, Moore, Rutter, and Chilcott

#### 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass of Christmas

This said service is held at the High Altar directly following the 4 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

#### 10 p.m. Christmas Music for Organ and Brass\*

This prelude to Midnight Mass is played by Associate Organist Nicolas Haigh and Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist Maks Adach, with trumpets and timpani

# 10:30 p.m. Procession and Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity (Midnight Mass)\*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys Sermon by The Right Reverend Matthew Heyd, Bishop Coadjutor of New York

## PARISH NOTICES

Saint Thomas Church Tours are available on Sundays after the 11am service. It is a great way to experience and learn about the church. If you are interested, please meet the Tour Guide on the south side of the Narthex near the "Tour Guide – Meet Here" sign.

Our Parish Bookstore and Gift Shop is temporarily closed as it is being relocated to part of the Narthex nearest the Chantry Chapel. If you have any questions, please reach out to giftshop@saintthomaschurch.org.

The Saint Thomas Theological Education Program, rooted in Scripture, tradition, and spirituality, is for those who seek a deeper understanding of faith, worship and prayer. Lecturers are The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence, and internationally renowned guest speakers committed to making theology accessible to non-specialists. Classes are held Sundays at 10am on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org. (Please note the class will not meet Sundays Dec 24 or 31; we will resume January 7.)

Children and Family Ministries: Sunday School will be on Christmas Break December 24 and 31, but will resume with an Epiphany Family Feast on Sunday, January 7 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. To receive our Children and Families weekly newsletter, or to register your interest in any events for the coming term please contact childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org.

Weekly Bible Study on Fridays at 1pm. Fr. Schultz leads a series of sessions that will serve as a deep dive into the Gospel of John. Join us as we continue our exploration of the Book of Signs (John 1:18 through chapter 12). For more information, please contact Fr. Schultz at <a href="mailto:mschultz@saintthomaschurch.org">mschultz@saintthomaschurch.org</a>. (Please note that the weekly Bible Study is on hiatus until January 12.)

Saint Thomas Choir School exists to nurture and educate the boy choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Talented students in grades 3-8 come from all over the country to sing, study, play, perform, and live together. If you know a boy who loves to sing, encourage his family to contact Nora Thomson: <a href="mailto:nthomson@choirschool.org">nthomson@choirschool.org</a>. Also: Save the Date for our Chorister for a Day event, for boys 7-11 years old, on Sunday, February 25. For more info, email <a href="mailto:admissions@choirschool.org">admissions@choirschool.org</a>.

The Noble Singers, our children's parish choir for singers ages 5-14, under the Direction of Mrs. Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell, has resumed weekly rehearsals and singing at the 9am Mass. We welcome new singers at any time. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music! For more info, contact rkellerman@saintthomaschurch.org.

On Thanksgiving Day our **Angel Tree** was revealed. There are tags on the tree for children from St. Ann's Episcopal Church and Safe Horizons shelter as well as some of the migrant children known to the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership. We hope you will take a tag, and ask you to bring the requested gift to STC before December 19. Would you like to help wrap gifts, decorate the Angel Tree or make tags for the Angel Tree? Please volunteer by contacting Linda Morfi: <a href="mailto:lmorfi@saintthomaschurch.org">lmorfi@saintthomaschurch.org</a>.

#### CHRISTMAS AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

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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

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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 ~ FESTAL EUCHARIST

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



