

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*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024 AT 4 P.M.
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ADVENT PROCESSION
SUNG BY THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS



STC
200

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
The Reverend Preston Gonzalez-Grissom
Assistant Priest for Children and Family Ministry

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Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*
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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 email: admissions@choirschool.org
www.ChoirSchool.org

HONORARY CLERGY

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The Right Reverend Andrew R. St. John, DD, *Bishop in Residence*
The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend Canon Anne Mallonee, *Honorary Assistant*
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The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*
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Benita Potters
Inge Reist
Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

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



ORDER OF SERVICE

The People remain seated and silent as the lighting is reduced.

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

From the High Altar, the Choir sings

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

*Terence Charlston
(b. 1961)*

WHEN all is dark and as the night, when of your love I have no sight,
when in despair I pray for light.

When, Lord, for sin I cannot see, I pray that evil shall not be, you only Lord can set me Lord,
when belief is weak in me, And when my hope begins to flee, when I am poor in charity,
Come close to me, O Lord, come close to me. When earthly life is near its end, and watching
angels shall descend. Show mercy Lord, and comfort lend, Come close to me O Lord,
come close to me.

Geoffrey Laycock (1927-1986)

READING

Genesis 1:1-5

Let there be light

IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of
the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was
good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness
he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

During the following hymn, the Choir moves to the back of the nave.



HYMN

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

The Choir sings verses one and two.

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Thy peo - ple's e - ver -
2. Thou, grie - ving at the bit - ter cry Of all cre - a - tion
3. Thou ca - mest, Bride - groom of the bride, As drew the world to
4. At thy great name, ex - al - ted now, All knees must bend, all
5. To thee, O ho - ly One, we pray, Our judge in that tre -

las - ting light, O Je - su, Sa - viour of us all, Re -
doomed to die, Didst come to save a ru - ined race With
eve - ning - tide, Pro - ce - ding from a vir - gin shrine, The
hearts must bow, And things in heav'n and earth shall own That
men - dous day, Pre - serve us, while we dwell be - low, From

gard thy ser - vants when they call.
hea - ling gifts of heav'n - ly grace.
Son of Man, yet Lord di - vine. (6.) A - - - men.
thou art Lord and King a - lone.
e - v'ry on - slaught of the foe.

6. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And spirit blessed, for evermore.



THE BIDDING

The People turn to face the narthex. The Officiant says

DEARLY Beloved, as we enter, eager and expectant, into this solemn season of Advent, looking forward to the birth of the Christ child, let us renew in ourselves that vision of God's perfect kingdom which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In sorrow and penitence we confess our failures and shortcomings, and seek pardon for those sins which frustrate his redemptive purposes and hinder the advent of his reign of love.

So in prayer, praise, and song do we give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures, that his kingdom shall come; and as we prepare for that day to dawn upon us from on high, so we commend ourselves and the whole human family to his keeping.

May he guide us into the way of peace, give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and kindle in us the fire of his love.

People Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

COLLECT

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

*Richard Lloyd
(1933-2021)*

DROP down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness:
let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

Be not very angry, O Lord, neither remember our iniquity for ever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness:
let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.*

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.



*Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness:
let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.*

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness:
let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:
fear not for I will save thee:
for I am the Lord thy god, the holy one of Israel, thy Redeemer.

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness:
let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.*

The Advent Prose

READING

Genesis 1:26-27

God creates humankind in his own image

THEN God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air,
and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the
earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

*Jeremy Filsell
(b. 1964)*

REMEMBER, O thou man thy time is spent:
Remember, O thou man, how thou cam'st to me then,
and I did what I can, therefore repent.

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, and promise made:
Remember God's goodness, how his only son he sent,
our sins for to redress, be not afraid.

The angels all did sing, O thou man, on Sion hill,
The angels all did sing praise to our heavenly King,
and peace to man living, with right goodwill.

In Bethlehem was he born, O thou man, for mankind dear:
In Bethlehem was he born, for us that were forlorn,
and therefore took no scorn, our sins to bear.

Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1633)



READING

Genesis 3:1-7

The Fall

NOW the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

*Philip Ledger
(1937-2012)*

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 taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A been hevenè queen.
Blessed be the time
That apple take was.
Therefore we moun singen
"Deo gracias."

Anonymous

READING

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

A light shines on those who dwell in darkness

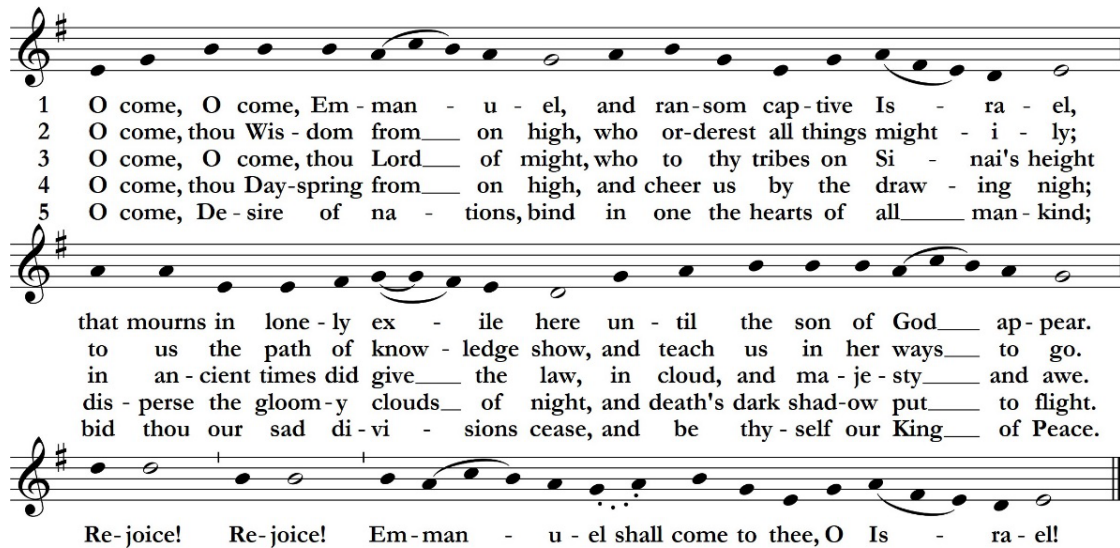
THE people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The People stand. The Choir processes to the crossing.



HYMN

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el,
2 O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derest all things might-i-ly;
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Si-nai's height
4 O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by the draw-ing nigh;
5 O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind in one the hearts of all man-kind;
that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here un-til the son of God ap-pear.
to us the path of know-ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
in an-cient times did give the law, in cloud, and ma-je-sty and awe.
dis-perse the gloom-y clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ow put to flight.
bid thou our sad di-vi-sions cease, and be thy-self our King of Peace.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, #56 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890).

The People sit.

READING

Isaiah 7:10-15

A young woman shall bear a Son and name him Emmanuel

AGAIN the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Imman’u-el. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

William Byrd
(c. 1540-1623)

RORATE caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum:
aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.
Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Drop down ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:
Let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Lord, thou hast blessed thy land: Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Introit for the Fourth Sunday in Advent



COLLECT

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

The People stand.

MERCIFUL God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

MERTON

During this hymn, the Choir moves to the chancel.

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;
4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding, #59 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.;
tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

The People sit.



READING

Isaiah 60:1-5a

The glory of the Lord will appear over you

ARISE, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

ANTHEM

Adventante Deo

Kenneth Leighton
(1929-1988)

LIFT up your heads, gates of my heart,
Unfold your portals to salute the King of Kings!
Behold Him come, borne on cherubic wings
Engrained with crimson eyes and grail of gold!

Before his path the thunderclouds
Withhold their stormy pinions,
And the desert sings:
He from his lips divine and forehead
Flings sunlight of peace unfathomed, bliss untold.

O soul, faint soul, disquieted how long!
Lift up thine eyes, for lo, thy Lord is near,
Lord of all loveliness and strength and song,
The Lord who brings heart-sadness better cheer,
Scattering those midnight dreams that dote on wrong,
Purging with heaven's pure rays love's atmosphere!

John Addington Symonds (1840-1893)

COLLECT

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

The People stand.

STIR up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**



GOSPEL PROCESSION

ANTHEM

O Oriens

Matthew Martin
(b. 1976)

O COME, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine Advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel.

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae:
veni, et illumine sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Dayspring, brightness of light everlasting,
and sun of righteousness:
come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness,
and the shadow of death.
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel.

From the 'Great O' Advent Antiphons

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

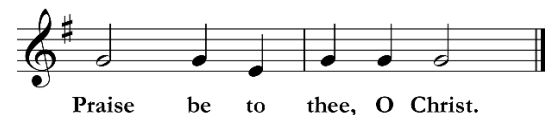
People



IN the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People





HYMN

CROSS OF JESUS

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free, —
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art, —
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king, —
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit, Rule in all our hearts a - lone; —

From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in thee.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to reign in us for ev - er, Now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glor - ious throne.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, #3 from *The New English Hymnal* — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).
Music: *Cross of Jesus*, John Stainer (1840-1901).

The People sit.

READING

Galatians 4:1-7

It is time to awake from sleep

THE heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.



ANTHEM

Jesus Christ the apple tree

Anthony Piccolo
(b. 1946)

THE tree of life my soul hath seen laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see, in Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought and pleasure dearly I have bought.
I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil; here I will sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive; it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, 1784

COLLECT

Let us pray.

The People stand

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation,
that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

WACHET AUF

During the singing of this hymn, the clergy move to the sanctuary, and the offering shall be taken.

1 Wake, O wake! with ti - dings thrill - ing The watch - men all the
2 Si - on hears the watch - men shou - ting, Her heart leaps up with
3 Ev - ery soul in thee re - joi - ces; From men and from an -
air are fill - ing, A - rise, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!
joy un - doubt - ing, She stands and waits with ea - ger eyes;
ge - lic voi - ces Be glo - ry giv'n to thee. a - lone!
Mid - night strikes! no more de - lay - ing, 'The hour has come!' we
See her Friend from heav'n des - cen - ding, A - dorned with truth and
Now the gates of pearl re - ceive us, Thy pres - ence ne - ver
hear them say - ing. Where are ye all, ye vir - gins wise?
grace un - en - ding! Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
more shall leave us, We stand with An - gels round thy throne.



The Bride - groom comes in sight, Raise high your tor - ches
Now come, thou pre - cious Crown, Lord Je - su, God's own
Earth can - not give be - low The bliss thou dost be -
bright! Al - le - lu - ia! The wed - ding song Swells
Son! Ho - san - na! Let us pre - pare To__
stow. Al - le - lu - ia! Grant us to raise, To__
loud and strong: Go forth and join the fes - tal throng.
fol - low there, Where in thy sup - per we__ may share.
length of days, The tri - umph - cho - rus of__ thy praise.

Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling, #16 from *The New English Hymnal* – Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), tr. F. C. Burkitt (1864-1935).
Music: *Wachet auf*, melody by Philipp Nicolai; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

The People remain standing.

READING

Revelation 22:12-17, 20
Surely I am coming soon

BEHOLD, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and every one who loves and practices falsehood. “I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.” The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let him who hears say, “Come.” And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE BLESSING

CHRIST the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



HYMN

HELMSLEY

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, #57 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).
Music: Helmsley, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

VOLUNTARY Le Monde dans l'attente du Saveur from *Symphonie-Passion* Op. 23

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)



The flowers today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of the following:
Arthur Trumbull Hill, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Hamilton Kissam, and Linda Griffith Vorsanger



The Saint Thomas Book & Gift Store will be open in the Narthex Sundays after the 11 a.m. service through December 22, 2024. Additional times are Sunday, December 22 after 4 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols, and Christmas Eve December 24 from 12 p.m. until after the 4 p.m. Nine Lessons and Carols. Stop by and view our collection of Calendars, Mugs, Ornaments, Christmas cards, CDs, and books for Advent & Christmas.



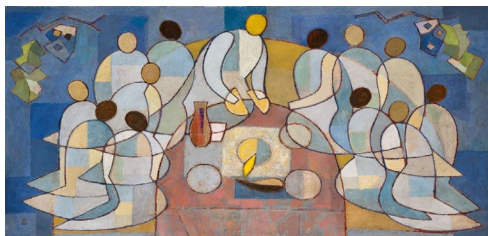
Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25 per name. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. The deadline is Sunday, December 15.



Christmas Candles in Memory of Loved Ones. During Christmastide, the time between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will light an eight-day candle for your loved one(s), and place it before the Crèche of Saint Thomas Church. Each candle will be affixed with the **name(s)** you submit. The suggested donation for each eight-day candle is \$25. All of these names will be added to the prayer list of that day, and a candle will be lit at Our Lady of Fifth Avenue.



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR
The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program



On October 26th we launched **Neighbor to Neighbor**, a service program which provides coffee, tea, croissants, and fresh fruit to community members in need. The program serves guests **between 9am and 10am every Saturday**, with volunteers arriving at the cloisters of the church on 53rd Street around 8:30am. Please note there is a **signup form** for interested volunteers to ensure we do not have too many or too few present. If you are interested in getting involved, **please register to the mailing list for this group using the QR code below.**



WORSHIP THIS WEEK

* indicates livestreamed.

Monday – Friday

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers*

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist*

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Said Mass

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong*

Followed by a short, said Mass

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Thursday

5:30 p.m. Said Mass

Saturday

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

Confessor: The Rector

11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. The Rosary at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fifth Avenue (includes Shrine Prayers)

12 p.m. Holy Eucharist*

Next Sunday: December 8

The Second 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. Litany in Procession and Solemn Eucharist*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Sermon by The Rector

1:30 p.m. Korean Holy Eucharist

Sermon by Mo. Lee-Pae

4 p.m. Solemn Evensong*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Sermon by Fr. Gioia

5:15 p.m. Sunday Recital Series

Organ Recital featuring Maks Adach, Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist

Christmas 2024

CONCERTS at SAINT THOMAS

December 10 & 12, 2024
TUESDAY & THURSDAY at 7:30 pm

December 19 & 21, 2024
THURSDAY at 5:30 pm & SATURDAY at 12 pm

G. F. HANDEL MESSIAH

The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

NEW YORK BAROQUE INCORPORATED
EMILY DONATO, soprano
EMILY MARVOSH, contralto
RUFUS MÜLLER, tenor
DAVID SOAR, bass
JEREMY FILSELL, conductor

CHRISTMAS ON FIFTH AVENUE

The Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir

BRIDGET KIBBEY, harp
NICOLAS HAIGH, organ
JEREMY FILSELL, conductor

[Purchase Tickets](#)

PARISH NOTICES

Children and Family Ministries: Our Annual Blessing of the Crèche - Nativity Story Service is Saturday, December 14. We are distributing roles to children who wish to be involved so please contact Father Preston if you have questions or want to join! Sunday School (3-9) and Faith Alive (10-14+) meet at 10am! Sunday School meets in the Sunday School Room (3rd Floor) and Faith Alive meets in Andrew Hall (3rd Floor). 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 CFM newsletter contact Childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org.

The **Noble Singers**, our parish children's choir for singers ages 5-14+, under the direction of Mrs. Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell, is now accepting new choristers. The choir has begun working on music for the Annual Blessing of the Crèche Service and rehearses weekly on Thursdays and Fridays from 4:15-5:15pm. Choristers select one rehearsal to attend each week and sing weekly at the 9am Sung Eucharist on Sundays during the program year. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music. For more information, and to register your singer, contact Rkellerman@saintthomaschurch.org.

Contemplative Prayer takes place on Fridays at 3pm in the Resurrection Chapel. You are welcome to join this sacred time of silent prayer and quiet praise in the presence of God. The service includes Taize Songs, Centering Prayer, and Lectio-Divina, and is led by Mo. Prisca Lee-Pae. For more information, please contact Mo. Lee-Pae at Pleepae@saintthomaschurch.org.

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.

You are cordially invited to the **Holy Eucharist in the Korean language** every second Sunday of the month at 1:30pm. It is preceded by brunch at 12:45pm in the Dining Room of the Parish House.

매달 둘째 주일 오후 1:30에 본당에서 올리는 한국어 감사 성찬례에 여러분을 초대합니다. 오후 12:45에 2층 식당에서 브런치를 함께 나누니 조금 일찍 오셔서 친교도 나누세요.

Friday Zoom Bible Study—Christ and Ekklesia: John's Wondrous Vision of Light. Led by Fr. Schultz Fridays at 1pm via Zoom. We have embarked on the Book of the Glory (John 13-21) in which we will witness Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. Bring your Bible, your questions, and yourself as, together, we deepen our relationship with God through scripture. Contact Fr. Schultz with any questions and for the Zoom link: Mschultz@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 5th Floor of the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: Lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org.

Please support **Ecumenical Outreach Project's** New Clothing Drive by donating men's new winter socks (sizes L, XL, and XXL) as well as new men's briefs and undershirts (sizes L, XL, and XXL). Donations may be brought to Reception. Items may also be ordered through Amazon and delivered directly to Saint Thomas Church. Please include 'Attn: Reception' in the mailing address field. For more information, please contact Frances Mintz: Femintz309@gmail.com.

Saint Thomas Church Angel Tree 2024: Please join us in helping children by participating in our annual Christmas Angel Tree. We provide gifts of toys and clothes for children of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church in the Bronx, children known to the EOP feeding program at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and children staying with their mothers at a temporary shelter for survivors of domestic abuse. We ask that you take a tag hanging on our Angel Tree, then sign the book letting us know that gift is accounted for. Unwrapped gifts should be brought to Saint Thomas on or before December 15. Monetary donations also gratefully appreciated - we'll do the shopping! To ensure that the children beneficiaries remain anonymous, the tags are numbered. Thanks, you're an angel!

