

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024 AT 4 P.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE

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

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 email: admissions@choirschool.org
www.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 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*
Samuel Lee
John G. Oghia
Benita Potters
Inge Reist
Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

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

PRELUDE

Variations sur un Noël, Op. 20

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

Prelude on 'What child is this?'

Richard Purvis
(1913-1994)

Variations on 'Herr Jesus hat ein Gärtchen'

Flor Peeters
(1903-1986)

Fantasia: The Christmas Light

Simon Preston
(1938-2022)

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen, Op. 122 No. 8

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

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

Officiant 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

Chanticleer

Richard Dirksen
(1921-2003)

ALL this night shrill Chanticleer,
day's proclaiming trumpeter,
claps his wings and loudly cries,
mortals, mortals, wake and rise!
See a wonder heaven is under;
from the earth is risen a sun,
shines all night though day be done.
Wake, o earth, wake everything,
wake and hear the joy I bring;
wake and joy; for all this night
heaven and every twinkling light,
all amazing still stand gazing
angels, powers and all that be,
wake, and joy this sun to see.

William Austin (1587-1634)

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 our Father

Richard Lloyd
(1933-2021)

O *FLOS de Jesse virgula laus tibi sit gloria.*
[O flower of the branch of Jesse: to thee be praise and glory.]

Adam our father was born in bliss,
And for an apple of little price,
He lost the bliss of paradis,
Pro sua superbia. [for his pride]

And all that ever of him came
The right way to hellē nam [took],
Both Isaiah and Abraham,
Teste propheta. [by the witness of the prophets]

Then these prophets preached aforē [before],
That a child should be born
To buy what Adam had forlorn,
Sua morte propria. [by his own death]

Moses first in his law told
A child there should be born so bold
To buy again what Adam sold,
Sua nocte pessima. [on his worst night]

Isaiah, without leasing,
Prophesied in his preaching,
Of Jesse's root a flower should spring
De virgine purica. [of the Virgin pure]

When time came of God Almighty,
That would bring mankind to right,
In a maiden he gan light,
Que vocatur Maria. [who is called Mary]

Now is he born, that blissful child,
Of Mary mother, maiden mild;
Fro the fiend he us shield,
Que creavit omnia. [who created all things]

Pray we to him with all our mind,
That hath madē all mankind,
He bring us allē to good end,
In die novissima. [on the new day]

Anonymous 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 a Young Member of the Parish

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.

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 Gentleman of the Choir*



CAROL

Sung by the Choir

John Jacob Niles

(1892-1980)

arr. Calvin Hampton

I WONDER as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die,
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, t'was in a cow's stall,
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a starlight did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die,
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

John Jacob Niles

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Read by a Lector of the Parish

CAROL

Of a rose is all my song

Kenneth Leighton

(1929-1988)

O F a rose,
a lovely rose, is all my song.

Listen, nobles, old and young,
How this rose at outset sprung;
In all this world I know of none
I so desire as that fair rose.

The angel came from heaven's tower
To honour Mary in her bower,
And said that she should bear the flower
To break the Devil's chain of woes.

In Bethlehem that flower was seen,
A lovely blossom bright of sheen;
The rose in Mary, heaven's Queen;
Out of her womb that blossom rose.

The first branch is full of might,
That sprouted on the Christmas night
When star of Bethlehem shone bright,
For far and wide its lustre shows.

The second branch sprang forth to hell,
The Devil's fearful power to quell;
And there henceforth no soul could dwell;
Blessed the coming of that rose!

To heaven sprang the third shoot,
Sweet and fair, both stem and root,
To dwell therein and bring us good;
In priestly hands it daily shows.

Let us then with honour pray
To her who is our help and stay.
And turns us from the Devil's way;
From her that holy bloom a rose.

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)



FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Read by the School Chaplain

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

*Iain Farrington
(b. 1984)*

NOVA, nova!

Gabriel of high degree,
He came down from the Trinity
From Nazareth to Galilee.
Nova, nova.

He met a maiden in a place;
He kneeled down before her face;
He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"
Nova, nova.

When the maiden saw all this,
She was sore abashed, ywis,
Lest that she had done amiss.
Nova, nova.

Then said the angel, "Dread not you,
You shall conceive in all virtue
A child whose name shall be Jesu."
Nova, nova.

Then said the maid: "Verily,
I am your servant truly,
Ecce ancilla Domini."
Nova, nova.

15th Century

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Read by the Head of the Choir School

The People stand.

HYMN

GLORIA

ANGELS 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 the Director of Music

CAROL

Lute-Book Lullaby

Francis Pott
(b. 1957)

SWEET was the song the virgin sang,
When she to Bethlehem Juda came
And was delivered of a son,
That blessed Jesus had to name.
'Lullaby, lalula, lullaby.
Sweet babe,' sang she, 'my son,
And Eke a saviour born,
Who hast vouchsafed from on high
To visit us that were forlorn.
'Lullaby, lalula, lullaby.
Sweet babe,' sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

Lute Book of William Ballet (17th century)

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

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

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

Sir John Rutter
(b. 1945)

WHAT sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling Winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn,
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

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

Sung by the Choir

*Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck
(1562-1621)*

HODIE Christus natus est. Noë, noë.
Hodie Salvator apparuit. Alleluia.
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli.
Laetantur Archangeli. Noë, noë.
Hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia. Noë, noë.

*Today Christ is born. Noel, noel.
Today the Savior appeared. Alleluia.
Today on Earth the Angels sing.
Archangels rejoice. Noel, noel.
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia. Noel, noel.*

Antiphon to the Magnificat at Vespers on Christmas Day, adapted

The People stand.



HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

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!

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:
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!

John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

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

The Bishop says

CHRIST, 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 on 'In Dulci Jubilo' (2007)

David Briggs
(b. 1943)



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 for each day during this time. If you wish to honor a loved one, please visit the reception desk in the Parish House, or you can scan this code:



The Saint Thomas Book & Gift Store will be open in the Narthex today after this service.
Stop by and view our collection of Calendars, Mugs, Ornaments,
Christmas cards, CDs, and books for Advent & Christmas.

ANNUAL APPEAL



We launched our 2025 Annual Appeal in October, which marked the close of our Bicentennial year. In his sermon, Father Turner preached: *Remembrance; thanksgiving; new beginnings: It's what we have done this past year, and prepares us for the future. Remember – give thanks – look forward: It is the vision of Saint Thomas Church, to be a community of love and praise, and an oasis of prayer in the middle of New York, actively weaving a tapestry of divine proportions. As we look ahead to the next century, we need your help. Make a pledge today!*



PILGRIMS' COURSE 2025



It's not the destination, but the journey that matters

The Pilgrims' Course explores the Christian Faith as the Episcopal Church has received it, and as Saint Thomas expresses it through its mission to worship, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the Anglican Tradition and our unique choral heritage. Classes are open to all and, each year, a number of parishioners attend to refresh their faith and support those who are new to the faith or to our community.

The first class will commence on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. A simple hot meal is available at 6:30pm, and the class runs from 7-8pm. Classes are hybrid, so if you cannot be present in-person, you can join us on-line.

To register please scan this code:



☞
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.**



PARISH NOTICES

Children and Family Ministries: Sunday School (3-9) and Faith Alive (10-14+) will not meet next Sunday. The Nursery continues to be available for the sole use of babies and toddlers with their parents/caregivers, from 9 am - 1 pm 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 accepting new choristers. The choir 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.
Note: We will not meet on December 27.

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. *Note: We are on hiatus until January 10.*

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE



Tuesday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30 p.m.

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Said at the High Altar)

10 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN

10:30 p.m.

PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY (MIDNIGHT MASS)

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys with Saint Thomas Baroque Orchestra

Music of *Charpentier, Filsell, Hampton, Sweelinck, and Pott*

Sermon by The Rector



Wednesday, 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 *Farrington, Filsell, Pott, and Leighton*

Sermon by Fr. Gioia

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

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

Shrine Prayers (Intercessions)

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

Please send your requests for prayers via the website or emailed to: prayer@saintthomaschurch.org

The Daily Eucharist

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

Thursday: Saint Stephen

Friday: Saint John

Saturday: Holy Innocents

Confessions, Spiritual Advice, and Healing Ministry

Saturday, December 28, 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Confessor: The Rector

Sunday, December 29, 2024

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9:00 a.m. Sung Mass

11:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sermon by Mo. Turner