

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30am



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408-736-4155
www.stthomas-svale.org

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30am

Welcome back to the building!

Seating: Sit behind the yellow post-it, please.

(Every other pew is open for seating.

When you are seated, the yellow post-it is in front of you.)

While many of us have been vaccinated against COVID, some have not. For the safety of us all, we will mind the diocesan requirements for indoor worship:

- *Wear your mask and cover your nose and your mouth.*
- *Keep a six-feet distance from anyone not in your pod. (The pews will be available every other row.)*
- *Please no physical contact with those outside your pod--no handshakes or hugs. The passing of the Peace can be a bow and a namaste.*
- *Please do not share bulletins. If you see someone without a bulletin, please indicate where they can get one rather than getting one for them.*
- *There will only be bread served for communion.*

For those attending remotely, you are invited to follow the same procedure as in recent months, that is, gathering at 10am for informal conversation, and at 10:20 to prepare for the service. You may connect in either of two ways:

1. by computer or smartphone (video and audio):

You may access our ZOOM meeting on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>

2. by telephone (audio only):

Dial +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

When prompted for a participant number, touch the pound key (#). Please follow the usual procedures for muting and unmuting (*6) and raising a hand (*9).

When all are ready, the Celebrant will begin.

Announcements

The Blessing of Birthdays & Anniversaries



Opening Hymn

Hymnal #56

O Come, O Come Emmanuel vs.1-2

Michele Elizabeth Kemmerling, soloist
Myrna Emata Diaz, organist

*You are welcome to sing along with the recording of organ and Michele's vocal.
Zoom participants, please stay muted.*

*O Come O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high that orderest all things mightily.
To us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Greeting and Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Reader: A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of **Hope** in November's dark night,
While angels sing blessings from heaven's
starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.



People: Come Lord Jesus

The Gloria

Malcolm Archer, on the tune Ashgrove
from *An English Folk Song Mass*

To God Be the Glory

Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Michele Elizabeth Kemmerling, Piano

*You are welcome to sing along with the recording of the choir.
Zoom participants, please stay muted.*

*To God be the glory, all glory in the highest
and peace to his people who dwell here below,
Our heav'nly Father, our Lord, and our sov'reign,
to you, the Almighty, our praises bestow.*

*We worship and adore you, we bow here before you
with grateful thanksgiving, our song let us raise.*

*All glory and honour and glad adoration
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.*

*Lord Jesus, the only begotten of the Father
we praise and we bless you, the Son and the Lamb.*

*The sin of the world you have taken upon you,
have mercy upon us, the Great I AM.*

*For holy, you meet us, yet lowly you greet us,
the Lord in the highest, the Holy One.*

*All glory to the Father, the Son and the Spirit,
From ages everlasting, the Three in One.*

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

The cantor will lead the psalm; the congregation may join in on the refrain.

Refrain



Musical notation for the psalm refrain, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes on a single staff.

My God__ I__ put my__ trust__ in__ you.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
 let me not be humiliated,
 nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. ***Refrain***

Refrain

Musical notation for the refrain 'My God I put my trust in you'. The music is in G major (three sharps) and common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes on the G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, and G notes of the scale. The lyrics are aligned under the notes.

My God__ I__ put__ my__ trust__ in__ you.

Show me your ways, O LORD,
 and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
 for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long. ***Refrain***

Refrain

Musical notation for the refrain 'My God I put my trust in you'. The music is in G major (three sharps) and common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes on the G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, and G notes of the scale. The lyrics are aligned under the notes.

My God__ I__ put__ my__ trust__ in__ you.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
 for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. ***Refrain***

Refrain

Musical notation for the refrain 'My God I put my trust in you'. The music is in G major (three sharps) and common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes on the G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, and G notes of the scale. The lyrics are aligned under the notes.

My God__ I__ put__ my__ trust__ in__ you.

Gracious and upright is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. ***Refrain***

Refrain

My God I put my trust in you.

The Epistle 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: Thanks be to God

The Gospel:

Luke 21:25-36

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

There will be a period of silence for meditation.

The Nicene Creed

said in unison

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People: Advent Intercessions by The Rev. Rick Morley

Leader: In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

Leader: O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus,

People: and hear our prayer.

Leader: Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus,

People: and hear our prayer.

Leader: In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus,

People: and hear our prayer.

Leader: In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday, that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus,

People: and hear our prayer.

Leader: In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we

pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus,

People: and hear our prayer.

Leader: O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved.
Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

The Confession

said in unison

All: **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a wave and a namaste of peace.

Rector Emeritus Presentation for the Rev. Wendy Smith, Ph.D

Offertory sentence

Anthem

arr. Heather Sorenson

Advent Coventry Carol

Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Michele Elizabeth Kemmerling, piano



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

People: And of your own have we given you.

Sursum Corda

Eucharistic Prayer D

Celebrant:

People:

A single-line musical staff with a key signature of one flat. It features a series of black dots representing quarter notes, connected by horizontal stems. There are small vertical dashes above and below some of the stems.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant:

People:

A single-line musical staff with a key signature of one flat. It features a series of black dots representing quarter notes, connected by horizontal stems. There are small vertical dashes above and below some of the stems.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant:

A single-line musical staff with a key signature of one flat. It features a series of black dots representing quarter notes, connected by horizontal stems. There are small vertical dashes above and below some of the stems.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People:

A single-line musical staff with a key signature of one flat. It features a series of black dots representing quarter notes, connected by horizontal stems. There are small vertical dashes above and below some of the stems.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus

Hymnal S-130, F. Schubert

Sanctus

Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Michele Elizabeth Kemmerling, piano

*You are welcome to sing along with the recording of the choir.
Zoom participants, please stay muted.*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might (x2)
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest (x2)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest (x2)*

Celebrant:

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Celebrant:

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever.

All: Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer *led by the Deacon, said in unison*

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

Everyone is invited to receive Communion.

Please come to the rail and stand behind the yellow post-its.

No wine will be served.

Communion Music

John Foley, S.J.

One Bread, One Body

Members of the St. Thomas Choir

Myrna Emata Diaz, piano

You are welcome to sing along with the recording of the choir.

Zoom participants, please stay muted.

Refrain:

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all
one cup of blessing which we bless*

*And we, though many throughout the earth
we are one body in this one Lord*

*Gentile or Jew, Servant or free
Woman or man no more **Refrain***

*Many the gifts, many the works
one in the Lord of all **Refrain***

*Grain for the fields, Scattered and grown
gathered to one for all **Refrain***

Post Communion Prayer *led by the Celebrant, said in unison*

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing for Advent

Book of Occasional Services

Celebrant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

SJMP lic.#20852



Serving today

For the **Altar Guild**:

Hugo Lopez-Laguna, Robert Minchin, Helen Minchin

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Salying Wong

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Eucharistic Minister: Hugo Lopez-Laguna

Readers: Robert Minchin, Susan McVey

Cantor: Jeremy Smith

Usher/Greeters: MaryJane Johnson, Donna Cobb

Zoom Host: Abby O'Connell

Tech crew/Sound: Stephen Williams

Coffee Hour host: Pat Dare

Coffee Hour today will be inside Cowans Hall.

General Announcements

An updated **Announcement page** is available on line at

<https://docs.google.com/document/>

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and updates of various parish events and activities may also be found on our website at www.stthomas-svale.org.

Advent & Christmas Worship

The scheduled worship services for the coming weeks are as follows. Please be aware that some of this may be adjusted/confirmed as we go along. Thank you for remaining attentive and flexible!

Sunday, November 28—1 Advent: **8am** in-person eucharist Rite I; **10:30am** eucharist Rite II—Hybrid (this service will be recorded for the Tech team to improve our AV experience.)

Sunday, December 5—2 Advent: **8am** in person eucharist Rite 1; **10:30am** Zoom Morning Prayer and St. Nicholas, St. Lucia Revue Show

Sunday, December 12—3 Advent: **8am** in person eucharist Rite 1; **10:30am** Zoom Morning Prayer; Christmas Pageant at both services.

Saturday, December 18—Greening of the Church

Join us on Saturday at 10am for the traditional decorating of the church for Christmas

Sunday, December 19—4 Advent: **8am** in person eucharist Rite 1; **10:30am** Zoom Morning Prayer; Lessons and Carols at each service.

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve, in person and hopefully hybrid Carols and Holy Eucharist Rite II, **one service at 4pm**
(no service on **December 25**)

Sunday, December 26—1 Christmas, in person and hopefully hybrid Holy Eucharist Rite II, **one service at 9am**

For Advent:

Advent Devotionals

Hard copies are available in the narthex of the church for this Advent devotional for adults.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/>

For Children and Family, the Library Committee recommends this book: *Faithful Families: For Advent and Christmas* by Traci

Smith. There are other resources on the racks and in the library.

Advent Calendar from Episcopal Migration Ministries: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/advent-2021/>

Advent Wreath and Gift Projects from Episcopal Relief and Development: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/advent/>

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE FUNDRAISER

Catalogue available for online purchases

November 19 – December 4

Purchase pick-up and in-person Bake Sale

Saturday, December 4 10AM - noon

As you are aware, we went a little hybrid for this year's event. Similar to last year, we have shared a catalog of items via email for you to view between November 19 and December 3. **Thank you** to all those who have responded so quickly and enthusiastically! Many purchases have already been made on-line via email, and we are trying to keep the catalogue updated to reflect these sales. A link to the most up-to-date version of the catalogue may be found on our website.

On **Saturday, December 4**, from 10:00 - noon, we'll host a pick-up of Boutique items at the church along with an in-person Bake Sale.

Please note, if you'd like to donate to the bake sale, all items must be individually or fully wrapped.

Last year's event was an eclectic and fun mix of things and we greatly appreciated the generous support. We look forward to this year's event!

In Gratitude, St. Thomas Fundraising Team:

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Saint Nicholas and Santa Lucia Zoom Revue II, December 5

Although we are closer to being able to have indoor live gatherings, we are not at the point of being able to hold our Saint Nicholas and Santa Lucia Feast in the same manner as before the pandemic. So, once again there will be a **virtual** gathering - a special **Christmas Revue** on Zoom, following the Sunday Morning Prayer service on **December 5**. The revue program will be like that of previous revues on Zoom, with a theme celebrating the Christmas holidays and the winter season. Everyone is invited, either individually or with a group, to share some songs, read some poems, perform a skit, or any other form of entertainment for the purpose of fellowship. If you want to volunteer to perform, please email PDare5@comcast.net so we can include your contribution in the program agenda for the revue. We will need to know what you are planning to do, and whether it will be performed live or prerecorded. If it is prerecorded, we will need the link to the performance to have it shared on the Zoom screen.

Peace and Justice Committee Report

- **PACT** (People Acting in Community Together): We are waiting on PACT to let us know how we can support the AAPI community.

If you are interested in or have questions about these topics please contact Cal Cornwell at 408-529-2066 or calcornwell@yahoo.com.

NEW/Additional Coffee Hour Protocols

These are updated fellowship protocols. Now that it's getting cold, the diocese is allowing for coffee/food inside. People must re-mask after sipping and taking a bite. All conversations must be masked inside. Also, we will need to have the space ventilated. So, it'll be warmer/drier, but I don't think we'll put the heat on since it will all go out the door..

Earlier protocols will be incorporated:

1. When people are eating their masks are off and they are engaged in conversation. These are the conditions under which the virus is most likely to be transmitted.
2. The sharing of cooked food and common snacks is permitted if properly handled and served by a food handler, with all protocols in place. Pre-packaged and wrapped food is preferred.
3. If coffee or other beverage is offered, a food handler must pour the beverage for each person to avoid contamination.
4. Food handlers must wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, wear masks, wear gloves, and distribute food using tongs or other TOUCH FREE method to avoid passing along the virus.
5. Each person participating in a food sharing event should wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.
6. Social distancing must be observed when eating and conversing with others during the event.

The CDC offers further information and recommendations for gatherings at this link:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html#anchor_1619540981216

The CDC's General Information page on COVID 19 is at this link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Intercessory Prayer group on Zoom

As part of our ongoing effort to build our church community, we have introduced a time of intercessory prayer on **Thursday evenings at 6:00pm** on Zoom. You may send in your prayers in advance to prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us, or join us and share your blessings and prayers in person.

You will find the Zoom link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?
pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VGIJUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VGIJUT09)

Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424

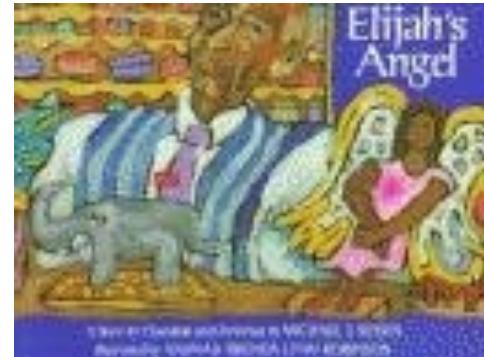
Library News

Book of the Week

Elijah's angel: a story for Chanukah and Christmas

by Michael J. Rosen

At Christmas-Hanukkah time, a Christian woodcarver gives a carved angel to a young Jewish friend, who struggles with accepting the Christmas gift until he realizes that friendship means the same thing in any religion.



Pledges, Offerings & Donations

Your pledges and other donations may always be mailed to the church office and marked to the attention of the Treasurer. When donating by check, please make the check payable to “St. Thomas Episcopal Church”. Under our current public health restrictions, we encourage you to mail in your pledges and offerings to the church or use our online donation option.

Online Giving

Please look for the “GIVE” option on the main menu bar on the St. Thomas website. (It is located on the upper right side of the home page.) Once you select “GIVE”, you will be taken to a new page where you may donate through PayPal, using a debit or credit card. OR, if you prefer, you may go directly to the PayPal site through the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9C43D8TLRQCLU&source=url

If you choose to give online, please be aware that St. Thomas does pay a fee for each transaction.

Finally, and very simply, another way to support St. Thomas is through Amazon Smile on our website, where Amazon gives the church a

small percentage of your purchases. You just start your Amazon purchases from our website by clicking the Amazon Smile link, which you'll find at the bottom of the "GIVE" page: <https://stthomas-svale.org/give/>

As always, we want to say "Thank You!"

Peace, Jim Cobb

Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

Family Ministry For information about Family and Children's Ministry programs please contact Sue Beckham at
family_ministry@stthomas-svale.us

Senior Ministry If you are a Senior at Saint Thomas and are not yet receiving our twice weekly Senior Activities Sheets please contact Sue Beckham at Sue_beckham@comcast.net

Deacon's Digest

Deacon Bertram's service in the diocese involves several things. He serves at both St. Andrew's and St. Thomas. At St. Andrew's, Bertram attends the Sunday 8AM Stepping Stones: Jail and Re-entry gathering and will begin visiting inmates at Elmwood Jail. To learn more, go to their [Facebook page](#).

At St. Thomas, Bertram serves at the 10:30am service and leads the newly dubbed Helping Hands and Hearts Committee. This is the former Pastoral Care committee, and it will be going through a reorganization to discern the needs of the parish. Bertram also monitors the Prayer Chain. And he is now part of the new Intercessory Prayer Group, whose details are on page 19-20.

Bertram brings to both congregations bible study, preaching and leadership in Morning Prayer. Thanks, Bertram, for your ministry.

Prayer Chain Team The Prayer Chain at St. Thomas is a group of people dedicated to lifting up our concerns to God. If you need prayers or would like to join this team, please email prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us.

Zooming in Men's Spiritual Growth Group

Yes! Now you can be there in your pajamas (at least), and therefore sleep a bit longer. But on the other hand we can no longer advertise coffee + if you arrive a bit early. We are now meeting **weekly** with a standard format, alternating between wondering what the scriptures might be leading us to personally on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays (9-10 AM on your computer), and on the other Saturdays, a check-in and just for sanity's sake (starting at 9 AM). Our Zoom meetings are password protected so you'll need to connect with Chris Schmidt (randischris@gmail.com) if you are new to the group. We invite all men (even those not a part of St. Thomas) to join with us for fellowship and good discussion.

Book Club usually meets once a month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the St. Thomas Library. We are an open book club: All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. On **Monday, November 29** using Zoom conferencing, we will meet to discuss *Daughter of Molokai* by Alan Brennert. This powerful and poignant tale follows Rachel's daughter Ruth, from her arrival at the Home for Girls in Honolulu, to her adoption by a Japanese couple who raise her on a strawberry and grape farm in California, through her marriage and unjust internment at Manzanar Relocation Camp during World War II—and then, after the war, to the life-altering day when she receives a letter from a woman who says she is Ruth's birth mother, Rachel, who was forced to give her up at birth. . Please join us—contact Dorothy Furgerson for the Zoom link: drdfurg@mac.com

Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

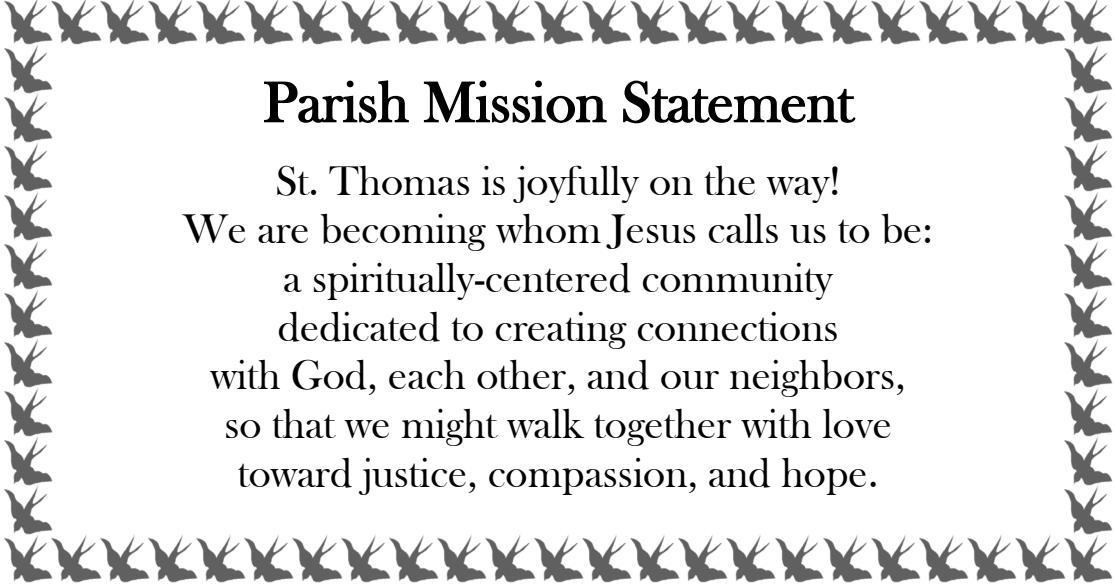
Tuesdays, 6pm Centering Prayer, led by Pastor Salying:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/724376004>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 724376004

Wednesdays, 12:15pm Noonday Prayer with Commemoration of a Saint,
led by Pastor Salying: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86313271549>
Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 86313271549

Thursdays, 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom
led by Deacon Bertram, through December 23:
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWPnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09>
Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424
One tap mobile
+16699009128,,89699188717#,,,*225424# US (San Jose)

Sundays: **8am** Holy Eucharist Rite I in the church
with masks and social distancing protocols
and
10:30am Morning Prayer, led by Pastor Salying on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>
Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101
Monthly 4th Sunday: In-person Holy Communion Rite II
service held on campus with simultaneous Zoom
(as above)



Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!
We are becoming whom Jesus calls us to be:
 a spiritually-centered community
 dedicated to creating connections
with God, each other, and our neighbors,
 so that we might walk together with love
 toward justice, compassion, and hope.



Welcome

St. Thomas' Parish is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love, and service to welcome all people just as God created them. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical, or mental ability. God delights in the diversity of creation, and so do we!

Rector: The Rev. Salying Wong.....pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.org
or 510-478-3554

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah.....bertramemail@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jim Cobb.....Finance@stthomas-svale.org

Parish Administrator: Anne Buelteman.....office@stthomas-svale.org

Family Ministry Director: Susan Beckham.....family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org

Adjunct Priest: The Rev. Rebecca Lyman, Ph.D.....lyman.rebecca@gmail.com

Library and Resource Center Coordinator: Carol Campbellresourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org

Music Director: Patricia Pietrzyk,.....patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Anne Buelteman.....office@stthomas-svale.org

Organist:

Our Daily Bread (ODB) Coordinator: David Barnes.....408-736-4108, odb@stthomas-svale.org

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

Lou Poulain, Senior Warden	2021	2022	2023
Abby O'Connell, Junior Warden	Marilyn Winans	Susan McVey	Pat Dare
Fran Hostettler, Clerk	Lou Poulain	Chris Schmidt	Breno DeMedeiros
	Ann Kopischke	tba	Abby O'Connell
	Hugo Lopez-Laguna	tba	

St. Thomas website: www.stthomas-svale.org

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If you or a loved one is in urgent need of pastoral care (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), PLEASE CALL US.

(The hospital does not always automatically notify the parish)
The Rev. Salying Wong, Rector.....510-478-3554

Parish Office.....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

You may invite prayers online through The Intercessory Prayer Chain
at prayerchain@stthomas-svale.org