

Season of Creation
15TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

September 10, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



Apocalypse on Their Minds - San Francisco Chronicle

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Avenue
Sunnyvale, Ca. 94086

408-736-4155 www.stthomas-svale.org

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 18 / *Second Sunday in Season of Creation*

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

September 10, 2023

We are so happy you are here today, in-person and online.

For those of you coming to church in-person, please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe during this pandemic:

INDOOR - Masking is now recommended at church services. For those who have vulnerable health issues, our 10:30am services always offer an option to worship from the safety of home. Please stay home if you feel sick.

When the priest celebrates communion, she will always thoroughly wash her hands. She will be unmasked while celebrating communion. **Thank you** for your continued patience as we try to provide the greatest level of safety for all of us!

OUTDOOR - Please be aware of those around you who may be vulnerable and try to maintain a distance.

For those attending remotely, 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). For the sake of audio clarity, your mic will be muted on entry.

*Please note: Regarding joining us on Zoom, we welcome newcomers and appreciate your **on-time** attendance. If you arrive more than 15 minutes after the service begins, our Zoom protocols may not permit your joining the service. Equally important, please be sure that your zoom account ID includes your first and last name. We look forward to seeing you.*

After worship today please join us for coffee hour in Cowans Hall across the courtyard.

Prelude & Fugue No. 15
Benjamin Belew, piano

Opening Hymn

Bingham/*Songs for the Cycle*

Brother Sun and Sister Moon

All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.



1 Bro - ther Sun and Sis - ter Moon, spill - ing
2 Flash - ing fish and sleep - ing bear, hum - ming
3 Fern and wil - low, leaf and root, stream and
4 All we crea - tures great and small are the
5 God of saint and God of snail, God of



1 light as you slip by _____ you and we for -
2 bee and nest - ing bird _____ you and we are
3 o - cean, rock and sand _____ you and we are
4 heirs of sa - cred wealth _____ and we all, to -
5 for - est, earth, and air, _____ may we grow to



1 ev - er are _____ sib - lings in the star - ry sky.
2 ev - er borne _____ by the same Cre - a - tive Word.
3 ev - er held _____ in the same Sus - tain - ing Hand.
4 geth - er, live _____ by the oth - er's Last - ing Health.
5 love you well _____ in the Com - mon Life we share.

Words: *Songs for the Cycle*

Music: *Bingham, Dorothy Howell Sheets (b. 1915)*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: This the day the Creator has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Collect for Purity

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.

Song of Praise

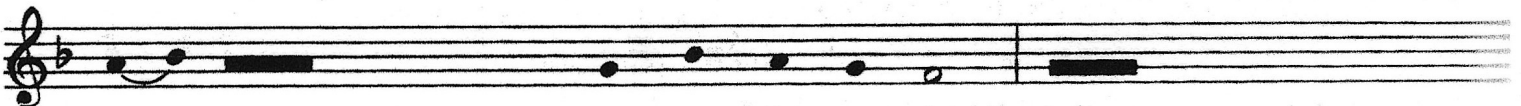
Canticle 12

Hymnal #S228

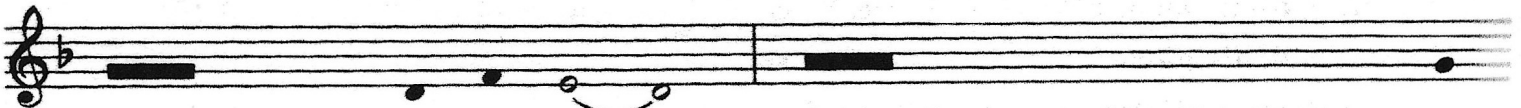
chanted in unison

Zoom participants, please stay muted.

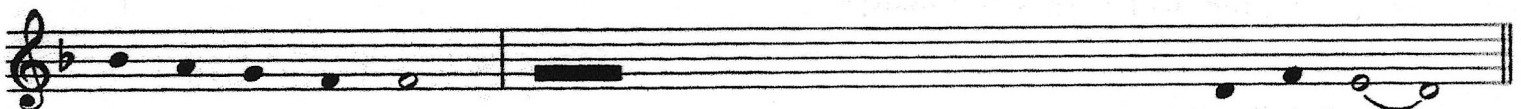
Invocation



1. Glo - rify the Lord, all you works of the Lord praise him and highly



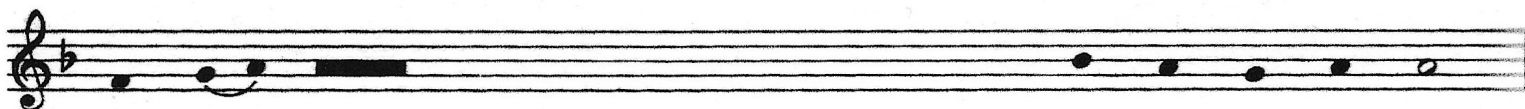
exalt him for ev - er. ___ 2. In the firmament of his pow - er,



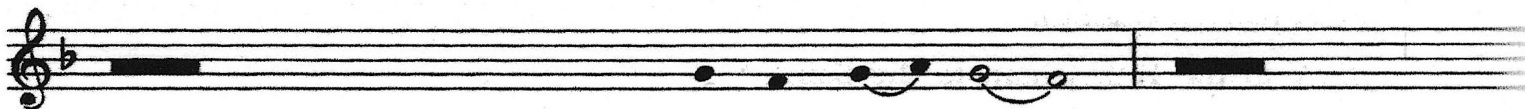
glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er. ___

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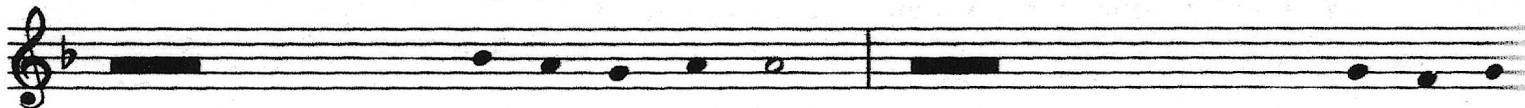
I The Cosmic Order



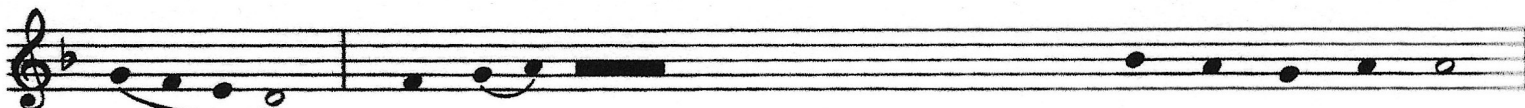
3. Glo - ri - fy the Lord, you angels and all pow - ers of the Lord,



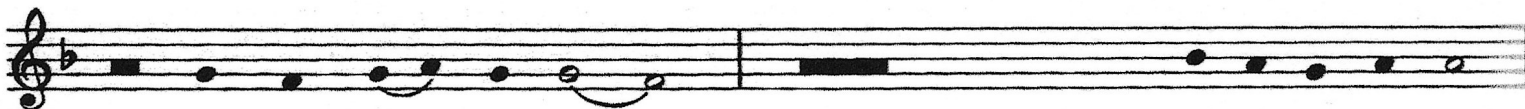
O heavens and all waters a-bove the hea - vens. 4. Sun and moon and



stars of the sky, glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev -



er. 5. Glo - ri - fy the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew,



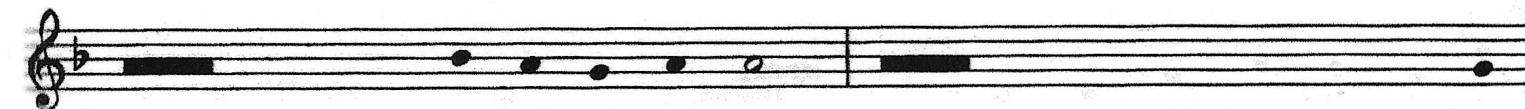
All winds and fire_ and heat. 6. Winter and summer, glo-ri-fy the Lord,



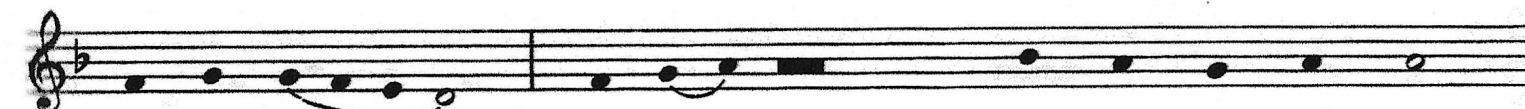
praise him and highly exalt him for ev-er. 7. Glo-ri - fy the Lord,



O chill and cold, drops of dew and flakes_ of snow. 8. Frost and cold,



ice and sleet, glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him

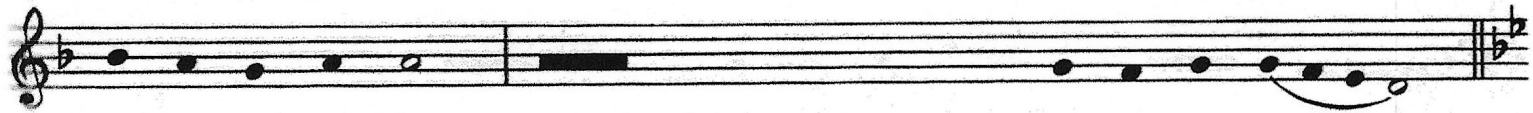


for ev - er. 9. Glo-ri - fy the Lord, O nights and days,

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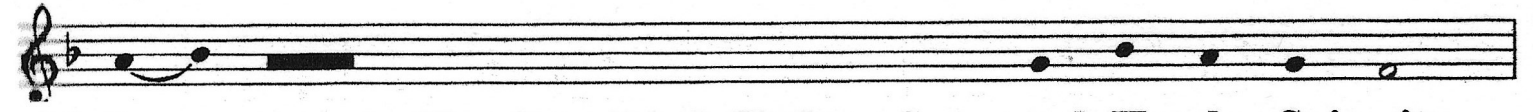


O shining light and en-fold - ing dark. 10. Storm clouds and thunderbolts

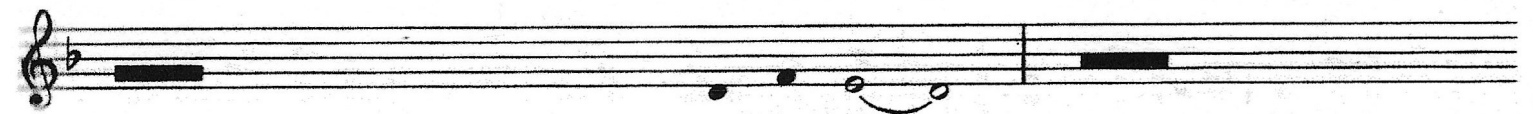


glo- ri- fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev-er.

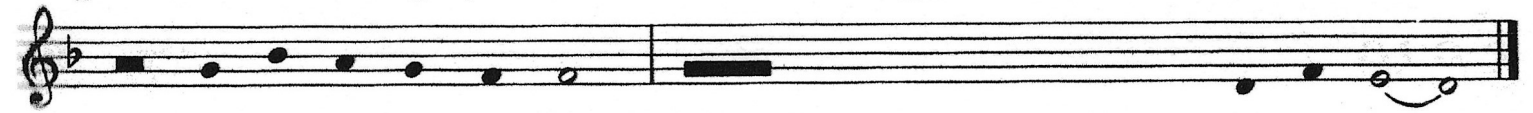
Doxology



21. Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit;



praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er. 22. In the firmament of his



pow-er, glo- ri- fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev-er.

Setting: Plainsong, Tonus Peregrinus, verses 1-2, 21-22; Plainsong, Tone 1, verses 3-10; Plainsong, Tone 4; verses 11-16; Plainsong, Tone 8, verses 17-20; adapt. The Standing Commission on Church Music, 1979, alt.

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 18

Celebrant: The Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for St. Thomas the Apostle

Everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute

judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

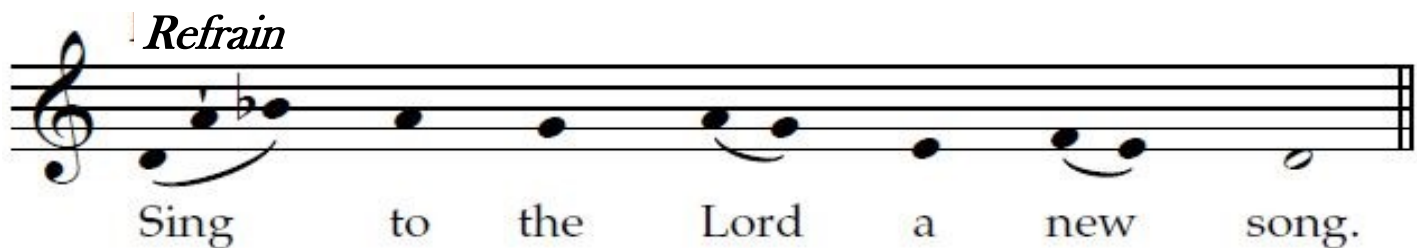
Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 149

The people may join the choir in singing the refrain.

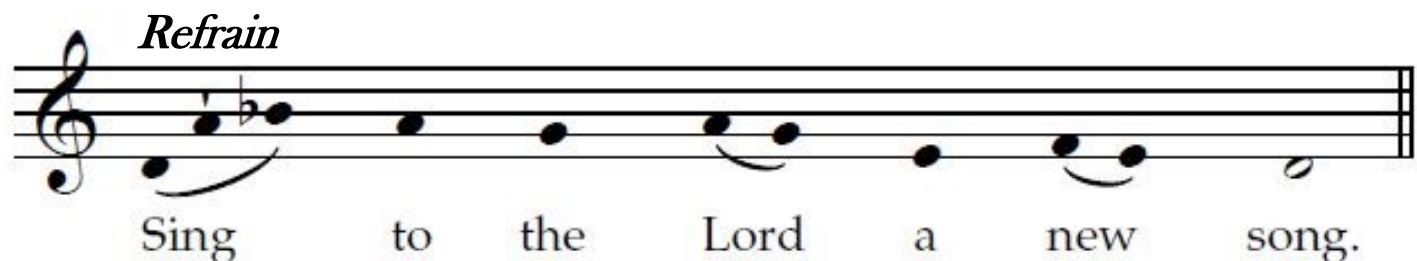
Zoom participants please stay muted.



Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a new song; *

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful. *Refrain*



Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *

let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

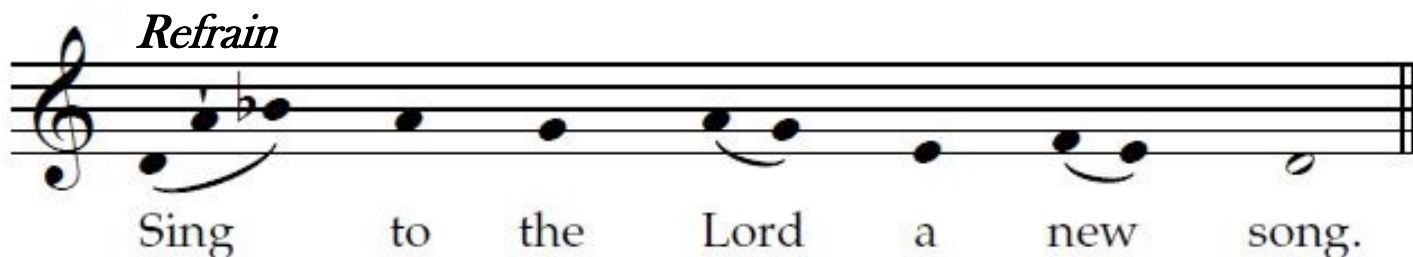
Let them praise his Name in the dance; *

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

Refrain (as above)

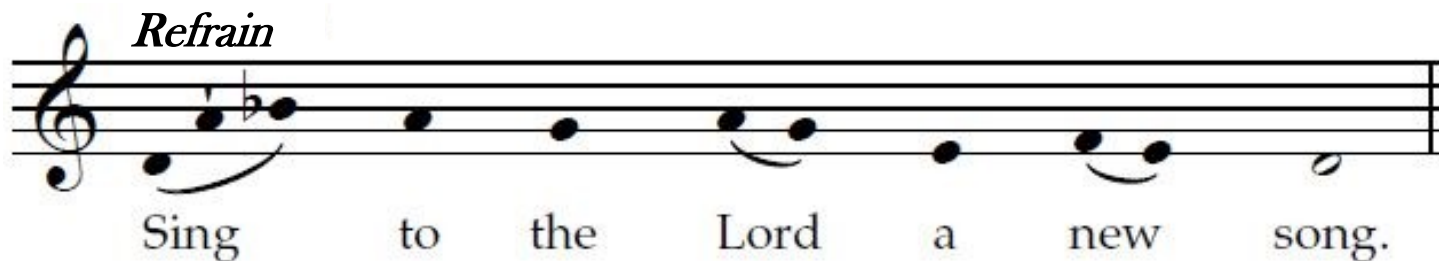
For the Lord takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds. *Refrain*



Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples; *Refrain*



To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;

To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah! *Refrain (as above)*

The Second Lesson

*A Trinitarian Reading from **Laudato Si'**, by Pope Francis*

For Christians, believing in one God who is trinitarian communion suggests that the Trinity has left its mark on all creation. Saint Bonaventure went so far as to say that human beings, before sin, were able to see how each creature “testifies that God is three.” The

reflection of the Trinity was there to be recognized in nature “when that book was open to man and our eyes had not yet become darkened.” The Franciscan saint teaches us that each creature bears in itself a specifically Trinitarian structure, so real that it could be readily contemplated if only the human gaze were not so partial, dark and fragile. In this way, he points out to us the challenge of trying to read reality in a Trinitarian key.

The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world, created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. Creatures tend towards God, and in turn it is proper to every living being to tend towards other things, so that throughout the universe we can find any number of constant and secretly interwoven relationships. This leads us not only to marvel at the manifold connections existing among creatures, but also to discover a key to our own fulfillment. The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures.

In this way, they make their own that trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created. Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

WLP #795

See next page

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.

1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one bod - y,
 2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,
 3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,
 4. Come, Hope of U - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,

come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile your peo - ple.
 come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile your peo - ple.
 come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile all na - tions.
 come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile all na - tions.

Words: Geonyong Lee; © 1991 Geonyong Lee, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
 para. Marion Pope, alt.

Music: *O-so-so*, Geonyong Lee; © 1991 Geonyong Lee, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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65.65

The Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member

listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you Lord Christ

The Sermon

After the sermon there will be a time of silence for reflection.

The Nicene Creed

**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

Honoring God in Creation Form 2
from *Season of Creation 2023*

*During the silence after each bidding,
the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

Leader: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world,
now and always.

In the beginning,

People: **God was.**

Leader: Here and now,

People: **God is.**

Leader: In the future,

People: **God will be.**

Leader: Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,
People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. Silence God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer. Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help [especially _____].

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially _____].

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Collect for the Healing of Creation

Gracious God, the air sings with songs of glory, water flashes silver with creation, and the forests bloom with leaves for healing nations. May your light and love fill our hearts and souls and minds, that we may share your abundant grace with the world. **Amen.**

The Confession

Season of Creation 2023

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

**All: Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your
creatures.**

**We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve
your earth as you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
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.**

Officiant: Peace with yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The people and the ministers greet one another.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

Offertory

Marty Haugen

Bring Peace
Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Benjamin Belew, piano

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.
People: **And of your own have we given you.**

Sursum corda

Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation
by The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

WLP #858

All are invited to sing along, Zoom attendees please stay muted.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na in__ the high - est *Bless - ed__ is he who comes_

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in__ the

High - est. Ho - san - na in__ the high - est.

Setting: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner;
 harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)
 © Church Pension Fund

Celebrant:

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

Celebrant: So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died,
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant:

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever.

Celebrant and **People: AMEN**

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Season of Creation 2023

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our
hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem

Celebrant: This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People: **All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.**

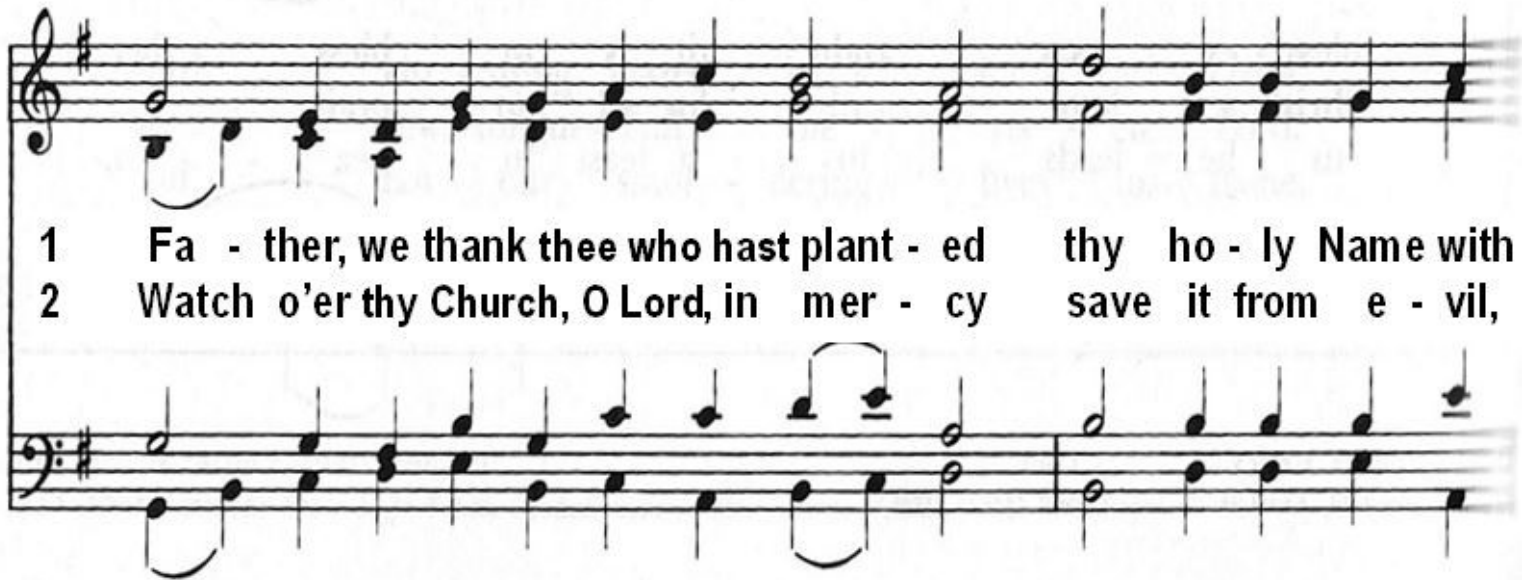
Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

Everyone is invited to come forward to receive Communion.

Please come to the rail.

- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able.*
- *The wine will be served in the chalice and in the small cups. The chalice will precede the cups. If you do not reach for the chalice, it will pass and the cups will follow. (Please place the empty cup on one of the trays near the aisles.)*
- *Please, do not dip the bread in the wine.*
- *If you do not wish to receive communion, you may receive a blessing: please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you wish to be blessed.*
- *Gluten free bread is available upon asking.*

*Father We Thank Thee**All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants please stay muted.*


1 Fa - ther, we thank thee who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly Name with
2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy save it from e - vil,



in our hearts. Know-ledge and faith and life im-mor - tal Je - sus thy
guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con-



Son to us im-parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,
formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,

continued next page

didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
 was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy

Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.
 Church be gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

Words: Greek, ca. 110; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.

Music: *Rendez à Dieu*, melody and harm. att. Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

98. 98. D

Please stand.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People:

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
 that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us
 and renew the face of the earth.**

**May we be one with you so that our work is yours
 and your work is ours.**

**Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant: Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use resources wisely.
Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of
living and preach the good news to all.
And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son,
and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you
that you might be a blessing to others
today and always.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

WLP #779

The Church of Christ In Every Age

All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants please stay muted.



1	The church of Christ	in ev - ery age,	be - set by
2	A - cross the world	a - cross the street,	the vic - tims
3	Then let the ser -	vant church a - rise.	A car - ing
4	For Christ a - lone,	whose blood was shed	can cure the
5	We have no mis -	sion but to serve	in full o -



change but spir-it__ led, must claim and test its her - i -
of in - jus-tice_ cry for shel - ter and for bread to
church that longs to_ be a part-ner in Christ's sac - ri -
fe - ver in our_ blood. And teach us how to share our
be - dience to our_ Lord, to care for all with - out re -



tage and keep on ri - sing from the dead.
eat and nev - er live un - til they die.
fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
serve. And spread Christ's lib - er - a - ting Word.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (b. 1903); © 1971 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985); reprinted from the *New Catholic Hymnal*
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The Dismissal

Tend the earth,
care for God's good Creation;
as you have received freely,
so give freely.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Franz Liszt

A Sigh
Benjamin Belew, piano

Serving us at 10:30 am

Celebrant: The Rev. Salying Wong

Preacher: Lou Poulain, LLP

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Eucharistic Minister: Joe Gutierrez

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al

Lectors: John Pietrzyk, Dorothy Furgerson

Cantor: Abby O'Connell

Pianist/Organist: Benjamin Belew

Zoom Host: Fulvia Govetto

Stream/Tech team lead: Andrew Yeh

TODAY IN THE PARISH

Patronal Feast & Fall Follies Revue TODAY

The revue will start after a short break following the 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (hybrid) service TODAY. For those on Zoom, it is suggested that you put your Zoom client on “Speaker View” to get better effects from the revue presentations. Other than for people making the presentations, please stay muted except during times for open comments.

Revue Program

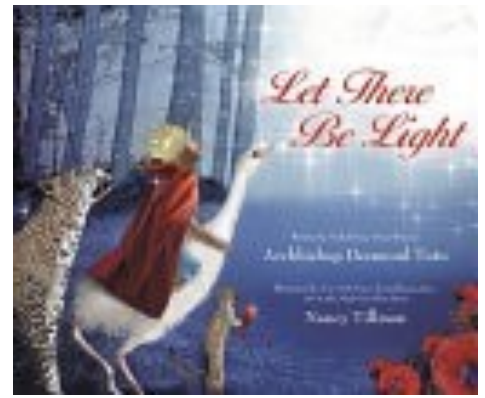
- Welcome Remarks
- Play – “Thomas and the New Movement” by P. Dare
 - ◊ Narrator – Marilyn Winans
 - ◊ Jesus – Joe Gutierrez
 - ◊ Thomas – Chris Schmidt
- Open Time for Sharing:
 - ◊ Spontaneous Entertainment
 - ◊ Discussions

Library News:

Book of the Week September 10

[Let There Be Light](#) by Archbishop Tutu

Nobel Peace Prize-winning Archbishop Tutu vividly portrays the wonder and beauty of the biblical story of God's work during the seven days of creation.



NEW on Literature Rack – R side of Narthex

The September/October issue of *The Upper Room* is now also available. The August/September copies of *Forward Movement: Day by Day* are available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Season of Creation September 3-October 8.

The bishops of the Episcopal Church have offered a liturgy for the stewardship of creation. We will be following this liturgy and will focus on celebrating God's creation. You will notice that the epistle will be replaced by a suggested non-scriptural reading.

Worship schedule:

Sunday, September 10 15th Pent. proper 18	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, September 17 16th Pent. proper 19	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid in person and on Zoom	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer
Sunday, September 24 17th Pent. proper 20	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, October 1 18th Pent. proper 21	8am - in person 10:30am - Zoom only	Holy Eucharist Rite I Morning Prayer

Christmas Cantata Fundraising Our accompanist, Benjamin Belew, will be presenting a concert for Christmas Eve. It will be his own composition. There will be four soloists and an additional conductor, and we want to raise \$2500 to pay them for four rehearsals and the day of performance. Consider supporting a soloist, half a soloist, or any amount you can give. Write a check to St. Thomas and put on the memo line: Christmas Cantata. Or, contribute online at our website.

Event: Re-Homing in Beloved Community

We are blessed to have the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton come to our diocese on **September 16** to lead us in “awakening to our roots,” a process of orienting ourselves to be in loving relationship to the earth and those who were on the land before us. The church has not always had policies that reflect beloved community in this way. The Rev.

Rachel is Vice President of the House of Deputies and Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Everett, Washington. Her heritage includes the Shackan Nation of the British Columbia interior, so she is well qualified to lead this orientation. At this meeting at St. Paul/San Pablo Episcopal Church (1071 Pajaro St, Salinas, CA 93901) at **9:30am on Sept 16**, we will hear from indigenous voices as we seek to restore continuity with the lands we occupy.

Register here: <https://www.realepiscopal.org/blog/diocesan-workshop-re-homing-our-diocese-into-beloved-community5599/?occurrence=112>



ODB Celebrates 40 Years

Following a successful \$40K matching funds challenge, ODB will complete their anniversary celebration on **Saturday, September 16** with a get-together in Cowans Hall. Join us beginning at 4:00pm for food and celebratory drinks in a casual setting as we honor 40 years

of providing food and comfort to those in need in our community.

Senior Brunch Our seniors group has not been able to get together since we began in 2020 due to Covid restrictions but that ends as all seniors at Saint Thomas are Invited to attend our senior brunch which will be held in Cowans Hall on **September 19, 2023**. We will begin at **9:00** in the morning with good food and great friends.

If you can attend please RSVP to Sue Beckham.

Please use my Comcast email: Sue_beckham@comcast.net

The next Vestry Meeting will be **Tuesday September 19 at 7pm**. Please contact Pastor Salying if you wish to attend. All regular business meetings are on Zoom.

Agape Circle First Friday of each month (mostly!) at 6:30pm, Cowans Hall (we will observe "mask" protocols as necessary). Join us **Friday, October 6 at 6:30 pm** in Cowans Hall to share a pot-luck meal and have some fun, theme tba! Please bring a dish to share and serving utensils.

Coming to St. Thomas Library: Banned Book Week

Does the St. Thomas Library have banned and/or challenged books?

Yes, we do. See our display on the table in the Narthex starting September 24.

[Banned Book Week](#) is October 1-7.

The theme this year is “Let Freedom Read”.



General Announcements

Pronoun buttons and map to gender neutral bathroom – St Thomas welcomes all, including transgender and nonbinary siblings in Christ. To make that visible, pronoun buttons are now available in the rear of the church. You can choose one to show your preferred pronoun in English. As well, it shows our hospitality to those who choose to be identified by less usual pronouns. And did you know we have bathrooms for all genders? By the buttons you'll find a map to guide you.

Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations to Altar Guild

Our altar guild appreciates your support in making our space holy and beautiful. You can make a donation for fresh flowers on a designated date or a general donation for supplies, like communion wine and bread and oil for the candles. You can make this donation online or by check, with “altar guild” on the memo line. If applicable, **please also include** (1) the date for the commemoration and (2) the person or occasion to be commemorated.

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



Faith. Hope. Love.
Unity.

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.

As always, we want to say “Thank You!”

Peace, Jim Cobb

St. Thomas Library The church library will be open on Sundays after the 8 a.m. service, and again after the 10:30 service (on the Sundays when we worship in person). Carol or a member of the Library Committee will be available to answer questions on Fridays from 10-12; after 12:00 our administrator Anne will be available until 4:00 to open the door for you. Call 408-736-4155 for access, or knock loudly! We request that you remember to wear your mask.

Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

St Thomas Stepping Stones Jail Ministry

Get proximate to the pain and you will make the deepest connection. Join the St. Thomas Stepping Stone Jail ministry and get proximate to those who are in need of community and love. We began by sending out pen-pal letters and the coming weeks we will try to organize going

in person into the jail (only for persons who want/agreed to do this work).

Please contact Deacon Bertram (bertramemail@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.

The Prayer Chain and Helping Hands and Hearts

Committee. Anyone who needs prayers or needs pastoral care assistance or would like to join in this ministry, please send an email to: prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us.

Family Ministry Contact Sue Beckham through our website for information: www.stthomas-svale.org/contact/

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 through our website for information: www.stthomas-svale.org/contact/

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.

St. Thomas offers English Language Classes. A class for Chinese speakers meets most Fridays at 10:00am in the Disciples room. A class for Japanese speakers meets Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Disciples room.

Please note: The class for Japanese speakers is on hiatus, and will begin again in September.

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. Our next meeting will take place on **Monday September 25**, when we meet to discuss *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki. Before ending her life to escape loneliness and bullying, Tokyo teen Nao decides to document the life of her great grandmother, a centenarian Buddhist nun. Ruth, a novelist living on an island, is pulled into Nao's drama and her unknown fate after finding by a lunchbox washed ashore. Full of Ozeki's signature humor this is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

Please join us—contact Dorothy through our website www.stthomas-svale.org/contact for the Zoom link.



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, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom

led by Deacon Bertram: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09)

[pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09](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 Holy Eucharist (Hybrid) or Morning Prayer (online),

led by Pastor Salying, in person in the church or on Zoom

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

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

Please see website for week-to-week information:

www.stthomas-svale.org

An updated **Announcement page** is available on line at
[https://docs.google.com/document/
d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg)

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



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.

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

Abby O’Connell, **Senior Warden**
Joe Gutierrez, **Junior Warden**

2023
Pat Dare
Breno DeMedeiros
Abby O’Connell

2024
Nancy Allgeier
Gage McKinney
Rita Welsh

2025
Joe Gutierrez
Dena Ware
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Stephanie Daugherty Hugo Lopez-Laguna Mabel Cheng Sherene Nagarajah

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

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

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

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

Accompanist: Benjamin Belew.....

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

Our Daily Bread (ODB) Coordinator: David Barnes.....408-736-4108, odb@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 Office408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

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