

Season of Creation
**18TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

October 1, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



Skywoman - Ojibwe Creation story

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

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

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 21 / *Fifth Sunday in Season of Creation*

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

October 1, 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

Benjamin Belew, piano

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #690

Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel

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



- 1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science
- 2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to
- 3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious
- 4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits



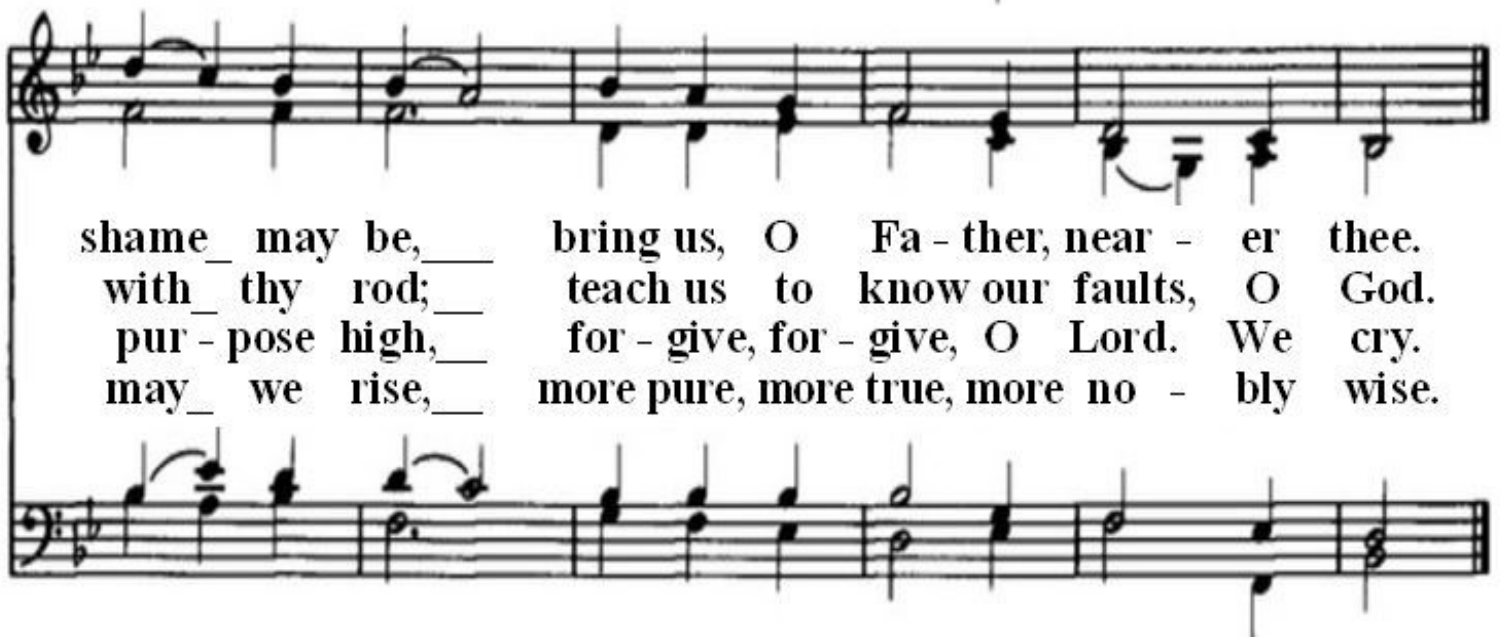
quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the
all their due. From love of pleas - ure, lust of gold, from
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O



continued next page



mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
 sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us
 catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of
 God, be with us in the flame; a new-born peo - ple



shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
 with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.
 pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord. We cry.
 may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

Words: William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918), alt.

Music: *St. Petersburg*, Dimitri S. Bortniansky (1751-1825)

88. 88. 88

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: This is 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.

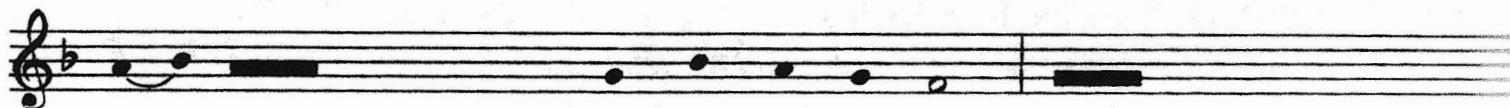
Song of Praise

Canticle 12

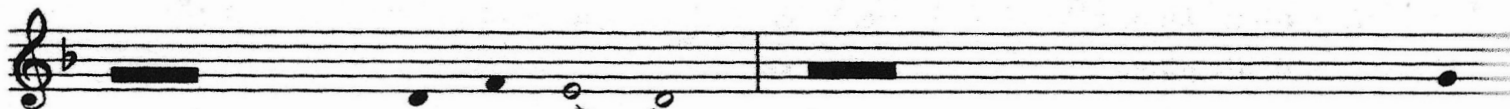
Hymnal #S228

chanted in unison; Zoom participants, please stay muted.

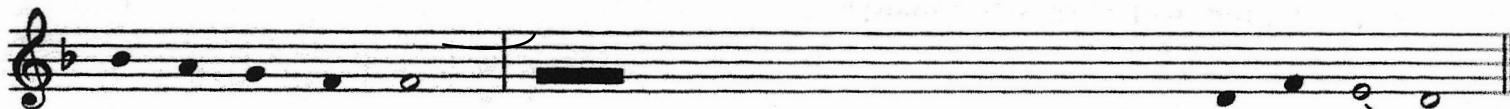
Invocation



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

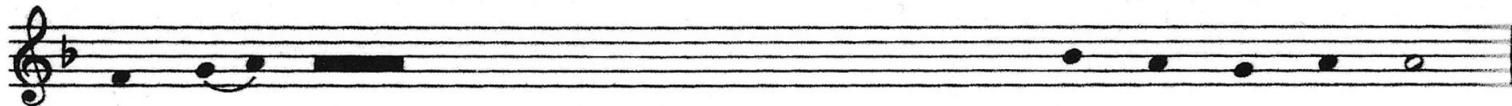


exalt him for ev - er. ___ 2. In the firmament of his pow - er,

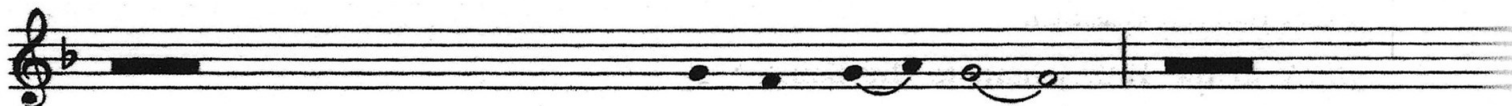


glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er. ___

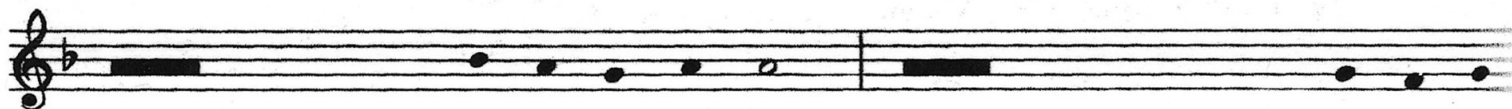
I The Cosmic Order



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

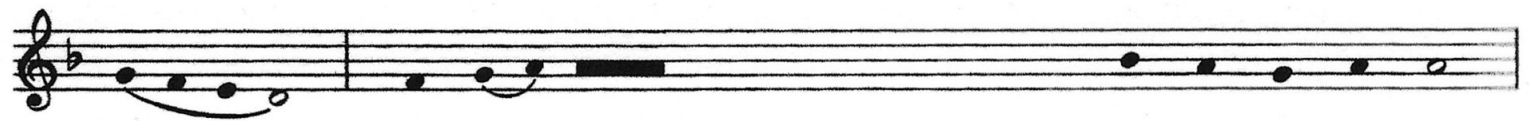


O heavens and all waters a - bove the hea - vens. ___ 4. Sun and moon and

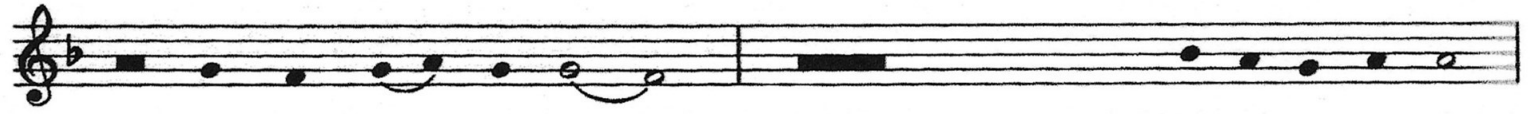


stars of the sky, glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev -

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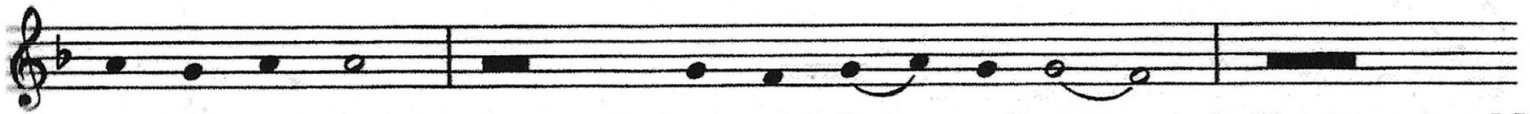
er. _____ 5. Glo - ri - fy the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew,



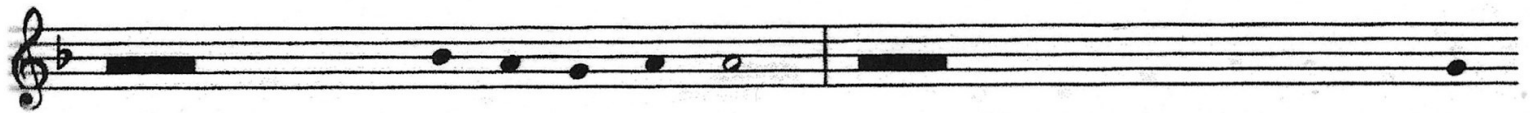
All winds and fire_ and heat. 6. Winter and summer, glo-ri-fy the Lord,



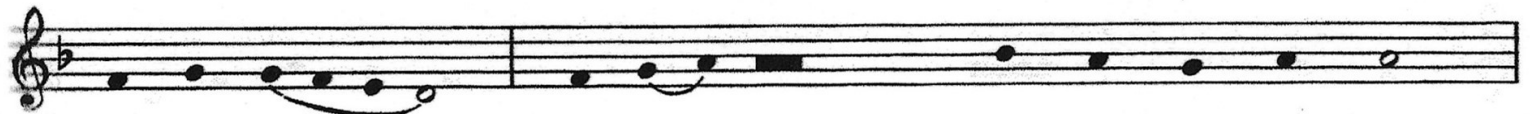
praise him and highly exalt him for ev-er. _____ 7. Glo-ri - fy the Lord,



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



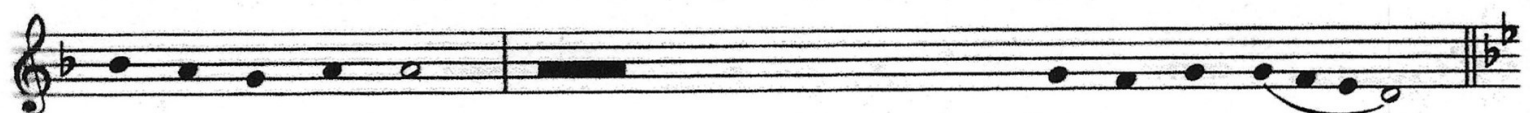
ice and sleet, glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him



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

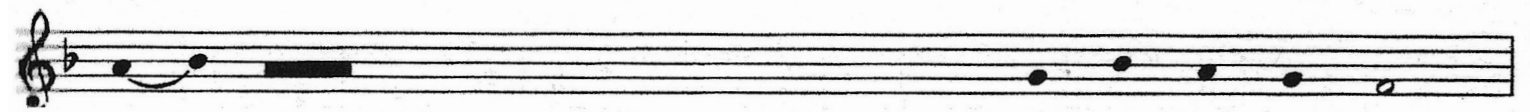


O shining light and en-fold - ing dark. 10. Storm clouds and thunderbolts

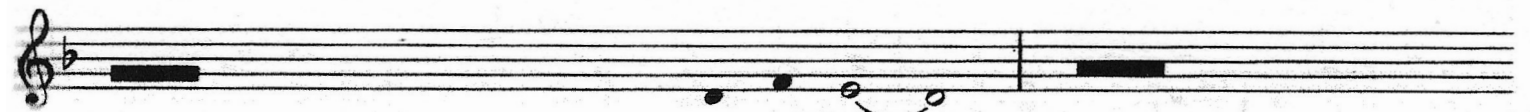


glo- ri- fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev-er. _____

Doxology

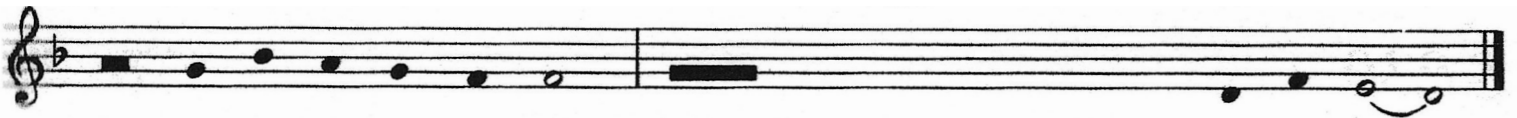


21. Let_ us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit;



praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er. _____

22. In the firmament of his
continued next page



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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 21 / Season of Creation

Celebrant: The Creator be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in

your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

The people may join the choir in singing the refrain.

Zoom participants please stay muted.

Refrain:



God_ gave_ them drink as_ from the great_ deep.

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. *Refrain*

Refrain:



God_ gave_ them drink as_ from the great_ deep.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works he has done. *Refrain*

Refrain:



God_ gave_ them drink as_ from the great_ deep.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of a sequence of notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are placed below the notes, with a small gap between each word.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through;
he made the waters stand up like walls. *Refrain*

Refrain:



God_ gave_ them drink as_ from the great_ deep.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of a sequence of notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are placed below the notes, with a small gap between each word.

He led them with a cloud by day,
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff,
and the waters gushed out like rivers. *Refrain*

Refrain:



God_ gave_ them drink as_ from the great_ deep.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of a sequence of notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are placed below the notes, with a small gap between each word.

The Second Lesson

Lector: A Reading from *Braiding Sweetgrass*

by Robin Wall Kimmerer (b. 1953)

Restoration is imperative for healing the earth, but reciprocity is imperative for long-lasting, successful restoration. Like other mindful practices, ecological restoration can be viewed as an act of reciprocity in which humans exercise their caregiving responsibility for the ecosystems that sustain them. We restore the land, and the land restores us. As writer Freeman House cautions, “We will continue to need the insights and methodologies of science, but if we allow the practice of restoration to become the exclusive domain of science, we will have lost its greatest promise, which is nothing less than a redefinition of human culture.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal #585

Morning Glory, Starlit Sky

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



1	Morn-ing	glo - ry,	star - lit	sky,	soar - ing
2	O - pen	are the	gifts of	God,	gifts of
3	Love that	gives, gives	ev - er	more,	gives with
4	Drained is	love in	mak - ing	full,	bound in
5	There-fore	he who	shows us	God	help - less
6	Here is	God: no	mon - arch	he,	throned in





1 mu - sic, schol-ar's truth, _____ flight of swal - lows
 2 love to mind and sense; _____ hid - den is love's
 3 zeal, with ea - ger hands, _____ spares not, keeps not
 4 set - ting o - thers free, _____ poor in mak - ing
 5 hangs up - on the tree; _____ and the nails and
 6 eas - y state to reign, _____ here is God, whose



1 au - tumn leaves, _____ mem-ory's trea - sure, grace of youth:
 2 a - go - ny, _____ love's en - deav - or, love's ex - pense.
 3 all out - pours, _____ ven-tures all, its all ex - pends.
 4 man - y rich, _____ weak in giv - ing power to be.
 5 crown of thorns _____ tell of what God's love must be.
 6 arms of love _____ ach - ing, spent, the world sus - tain.

Words: W. H. Vanstone (b. 1923)

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

77. 77

The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of

human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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.**

The Peace

Season of Creation 2023

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

Randall Thompson

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Jean Platner Mendoza, soloist

Benjamin Belew, piano

*My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden:
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed
For He that is mighty hath done to me great things:
And holy is His name.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.
He hath shew'd strength with his arm,
He hath scatter'd the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

*He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted the low degree.
He hath fill'd the hungry with good things;
And the rich He hath sent empty away.
He hath helped his servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy;
As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to His seed forever. Amen*

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:

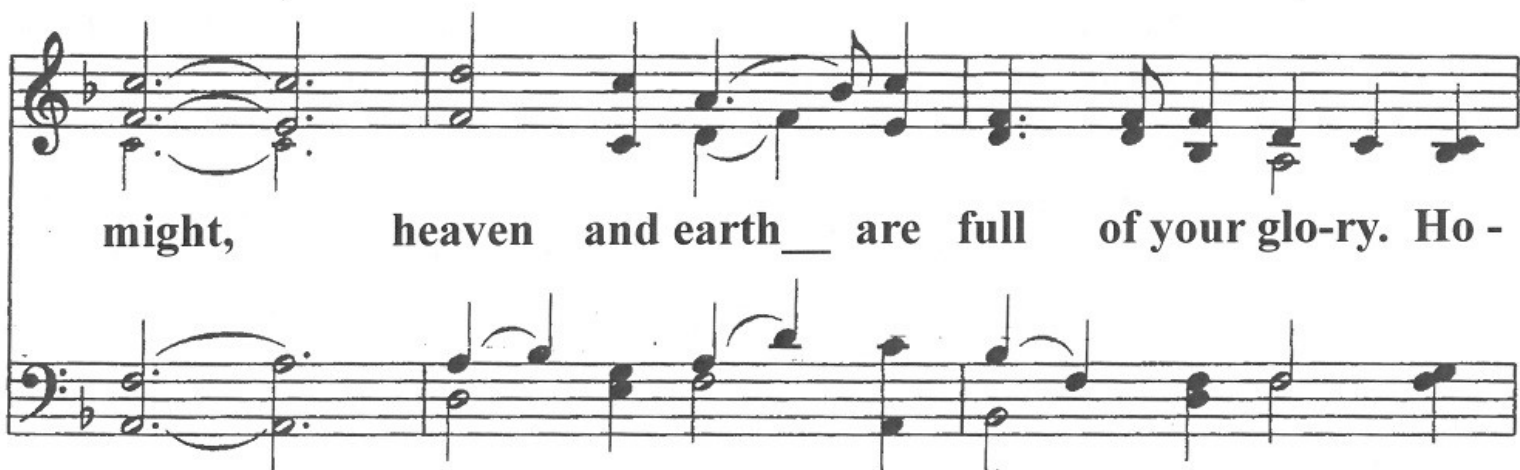
Sanctus

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

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.*

Communion hymn

Hymnal #339

Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness

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

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light who
3 Je - sus, Bread of life, I pray thee, let me

continued next page

gloom-y_ haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day-light's
 dost my_ soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
 glad - ly_ here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy_ prais-es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount whence all my_ be - ing flow - eth:
 vit - ed, be thy love with_ love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

continued next page

won-drous ban-quet found - ed; high o'er all the heav'ns he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless-ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
 Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

LMD

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

Hymnal #344

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

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

1 Lord, dis - miss_ us_ with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with_
2 Thanks we give_ and_ a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's_
3 So that when_ thy_ love shall call_ us, Sa - vior, from the_

The image shows the first three lines of a hymn with musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 on the left. The lyrics are: '1 Lord, dis - miss_ us_ with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with_', '2 Thanks we give_ and_ a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's_', and '3 So that when_ thy_ love shall call_ us, Sa - vior, from the_'. The musical notation consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The page number '25' is centered at the bottom, and the text 'continued next page' is on the right.

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - ses - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way fear of death shall not ap - pall us.

tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound ev - er faith-ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey, May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith-ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

Words: Att. John Fawcett (1739/40-1817)

Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody; first published
The European Magazine and London Review, 1792, alt.

87. 87. 87

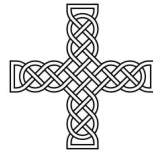
The Dismissal

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

Benjamin Belew, piano



Serving us at 10:30 am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Salying Wong

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Eucharistic Minister: Joe Gutierrez

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al

Lectors: Fulvia Govetto, Marilyn Winans

Cantors: Susan McVey, John McVey

The St. Thomas Choir

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk

Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Tech/Host: The Rev. Salying Wong

TODAY IN THE PARISH

Coffee Hour today will be inside Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of Covid protocols. Thank you.

Library News:

Book of the Week September 24

[The Barefoot Book of Earth Tales](#)

retold by Dawn Casey

Seven folktales from around the world express the belief that the Earth and all living things are sacred, and that it is up to each of us to care for our part of the planet.

New Display in the Archives Case The Library Committee is now featuring the great St. Thomas Choir.

Patricia has selected to display several works of famous composers such as Bach and Handel.

Also featured are the histories of the St. Thomas Choir and the Bell Choir. Pictures are included along with a list of our former organists.

submitted by Stephanie Daugherty

ALSO

Banned Book Week is October 1-7

The theme is “Let Freedom Read”.

See our display in the Narthex today. On the table you will find you will find approximately 16 books that are catalogued in the St. Thomas Library and are considered challenged or banned. On each book you will find the reasons why it is banned.

The books can also be found at the Sunnyvale Public Library and/or the Santa Clara County Library System.



What is the difference between challenge or banning?

A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A ban is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. Due to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students and other

concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful, and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection.

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.

October is Stewardship Month.

Reflection for October 1:



DEAN JULIA Trinity Cathedral has a long history of welcoming Latino worshippers, but I feel like we still have so much to learn about being stewards of our community's diversity.

CANON FILEMÓN Yes, being rooted in abundance means caring for the whole tree. Not just the visible parts, but also the roots. It's not enough to just see Latino people in church. We need to understand what's going on with them at a deeper level. In Latino ministry, caring for the roots comes through deep listening, and the abundance of our hospitality.

CANON FILEMÓN Abundance is a blessing. I can never give enough to God. Whatever I give, God gives more. The tree of life is a very powerful image for us. When God is present in our lives, our roots are deep, and we have more to give.

DEAN JULIA I hope that we can learn to recognize abundance and practice generosity even when we don't see or feel it. Trees have an extraordinary resiliency for bearing fruit in good times and in hard times.

CANON FILEMÓN Agreed, and—as a gardener—I also know that an abundance of fruit is subject to rot or pests if it’s not shared.

DEAN JULIA We’re in what we call stewardship season in most of our English-speaking churches. I like that term when we talk about our care for relationships or for the earth and its trees, but I’m not always convinced that stewardship is the best word for church fundraising.

CANON FILEMÓN It’s actually a problematic term in Spanish because it means something like “power over others” rather than “care for others.” I prefer to talk about making promises (promesas), which implies a mutuality of relationship.

DEAN JULIA Like the roots of trees, our promises to our each other, within diverse communities, allow us to share abundance with each other.

Questions for Reflection:

Imagine you have a fruit tree in your garden or yard. Assuming you don’t keep all the fruit for yourself, how would you handle an abundance of fruit? Within the metaphor of stewardship, would you give away the best fruit, picked fresh? The fruit that falls to the ground but is still good? Or the leftovers after you have picked what you wanted?

Dean Julia McCray-Goldsmith and Canon Filemón Díaz are partners in ministry at Trinity Cathedral, San Jose, California.

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.

Global Big Bird Day, October 14, 10am. Let us close out our Season of Creation by joining birders all around the world for the fall migration peak and count as many birds as we can. This data, when uploaded onto eBird, contributes to data that helps us protect God’s creation. Pastor Salying will register us as a team on the migration website, as St. Thomas Bird Brains. Meet at the Palo Alto Duck Pond, 2775 Embarcadero Rd in the baylands, dress in layers and hat, bring a bag lunch and water. Remember your binoculars! After a couple hours of birding, we will celebrate Eucharist and then eat lunch at the picnic tables. An RSVP would be helpful, but not required: pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us.

Worship schedule—Special announcement:

On Sundays at 10:30, we will now worship **every week** with an **in-person and online (hybrid)** format!

Sunday, October 8 19th Pent. proper 22	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, October 15 20th Pent. proper 23	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, October 22 21st Pent. proper 24	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, October 29 22nd Pent. proper 25	one service only 10:30am - Hybrid Stewardship Sunday	Holy Eucharist Rite II

Some hybrid services will be managed by the Tech Team and Zoom Team using the church building cameras and mics; some will be simplified and managed by Pastor Salying through her laptop mic and camera.

Worship in a COVID-endemic world has required us to respond to our life-together as organic, living and growing. May God bless our - desire to grow in a wider embrace, to make room for everyone to worship in person or online.

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.

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**. The first week of October is **Banned Books Week**. Take a look at this list to see if you've read a controversial book:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_most_commonly_challenged_books_in_the_United_States)

[List_of_most_commonly_challenged_books_in_the_United_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_most_commonly_challenged_books_in_the_United_States)

Then come to Agape Circle and share a brief summary of the book (banned or not) and tell how it was memorable or impactful to you. Also, please bring a dish to share along with serving utensils. Remember, we're trying to reduce waste, so if you can bring your own table ware (dishes, glasses, utensils), that's great too! See you there!

Animal Blessings On **Sunday October 8** we will recognize St. Francis and St. Clare at the culmination of the Season of Creation. On this Sunday we will have animal blessings available at both services. Please bring your pet or photo of a pet to receive a blessing.

The next Vestry Meeting will be **Tuesday October 16 at 7pm**. Please contact Pastor Salying if you wish to attend. All regular business meetings are on Zoom.

Getting ready for Advent - October 28

Parish Workday - Funday

Thank you! Our campus looked so much better following our July workday. Our efforts were focused on clearing and cleaning the education center. The education center is now empty, clean, and ready for viewing by a prospective tenant. The building only needs to be brushed and swept around the exterior and it will be beautiful.

We also have some year-end campus cleaning to do. As usual we'll have a to-do list that lets everyone participate. And you get a free lunch and free fellowship.

Save the date – October 28, 9AM to about 2PM

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 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. 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 chapel. A class for Japanese speakers meets Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the chapel.

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.

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

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
and

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the church
(Hybrid format: with simultaneous livestream on Zoom)

Zoom link for livestream: <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:

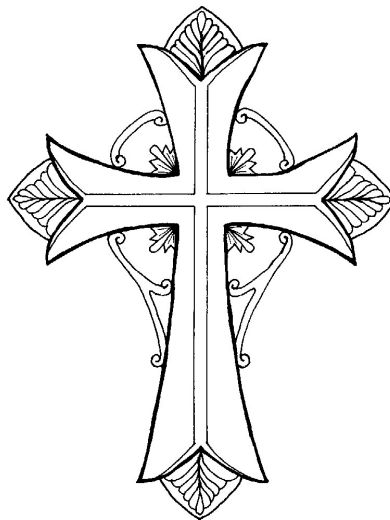
www.stthomas-svale.org



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