

*Season of Creation*  
19TH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

*celebrating St. Francis and St. Clare*

October 8, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



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

408-736-4155 [www.stthomas-svale.org](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)

# *Season of Creation*

## 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*celebrating St. Francis and St. Clare*

*Proper 22 | Last Sunday in Season of Creation*

**Holy Eucharist**

**10:30am, Rite II**

**October 8, 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 #431

### *The Stars Declare His Glory*

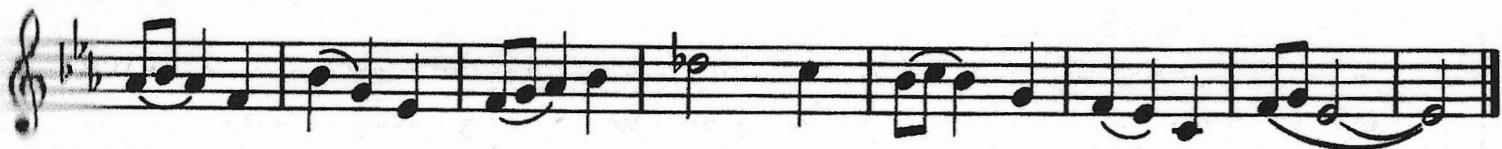
*All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.*



- 1 The stars de-clare his glo - ry; the vault of heav-en springs
- 2 The dawn re-turns in splen - dor, the hea-vens burn and blaze,
- 3 So shine the Lord's com-mand-ments to make the sim-ple wise;
- 4 So or - der too this life of mine, di - rect it all my days;



mute wit-ness of the Mas-ter's hand in all cre-at-ed things, and  
the ris - ing sun re - news the race that mea-sures all our days, and  
more sweet than hon-ey to the taste, more rich than an-y prize, a  
the med - i - ta-tions of my heart be in - no-cent and praise, my



through the si - lenc - es\_\_ of space their sound-less mu-sic sings.\_\_\_\_  
writes\_ in fire\_ a - cross\_ the skies God's ma - jes - ty\_ and praise.\_\_\_\_  
law\_ of love\_ with-in\_ our hearts, a light\_ be-fore\_ our eyes.\_\_\_\_  
rock, and my\_ re - deem-ing Lord, in all\_ my words\_ and ways.\_\_\_\_

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); para. of Psalm 19

Music: *Aldine*, Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

76. 86. 86

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## 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.**

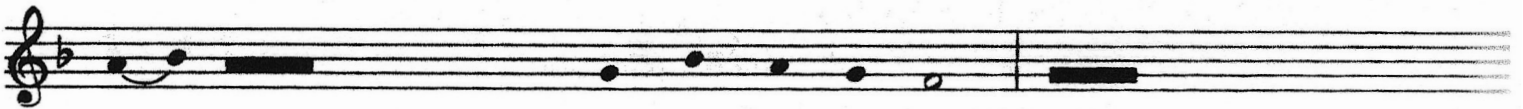
## Song of Praise

### Canticle 12

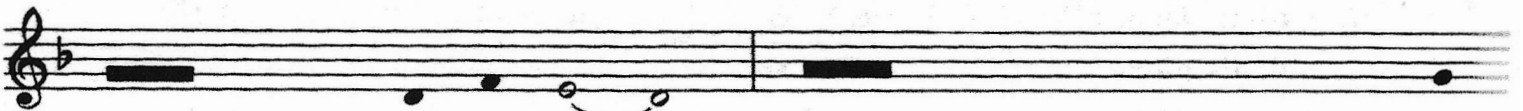
Hymnal #S228

*chanted in unison; Zoom participants, please stay muted.*

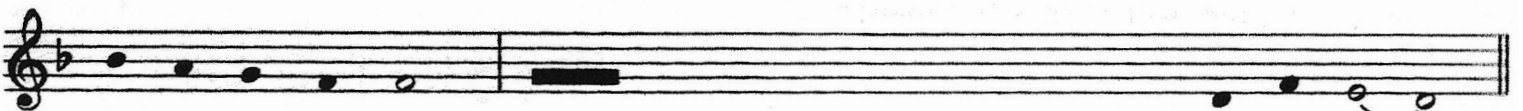
#### Invocation



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

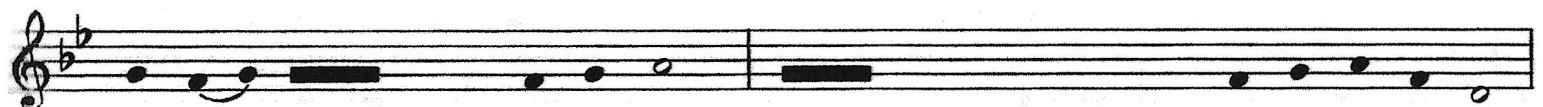


**exalt him for ev - er. 2. In the firmament of his pow - er,**

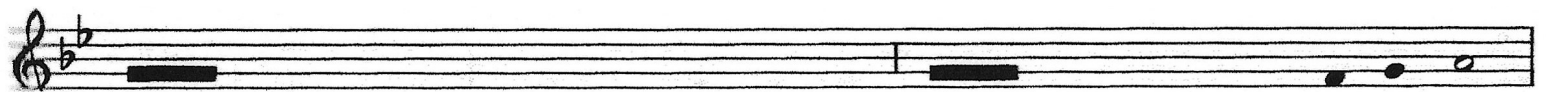


**glo - ri - fy the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ev - er.**

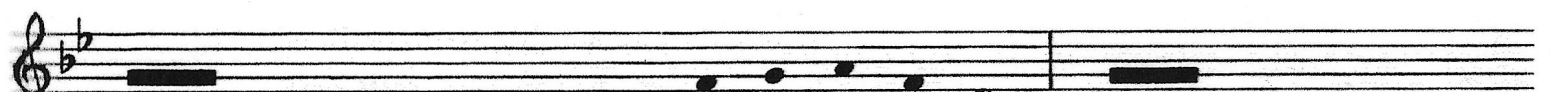
#### || The Earth and its Creatures



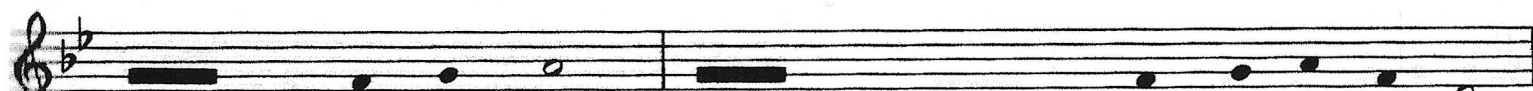
**11. Let the\_ earth glori- fy the Lord, praise him and highly ex-alt him for ev-er.**



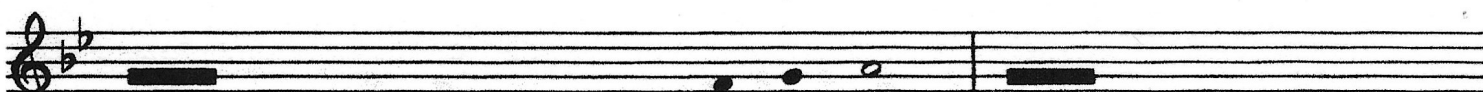
12. Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows up-on the earth.



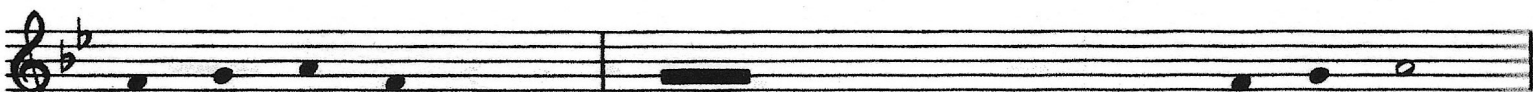
Praise him and highly ex - alt him for ev - er. 13. Glorify the Lord, O springs



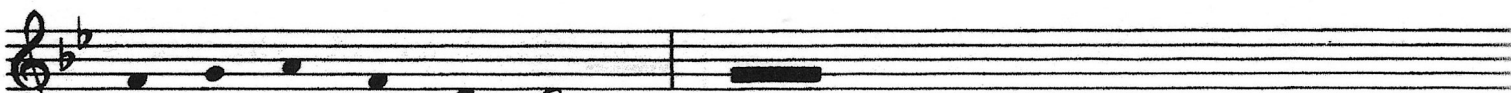
of water, seas, and streams, O whales and all that move in the wa - ters.



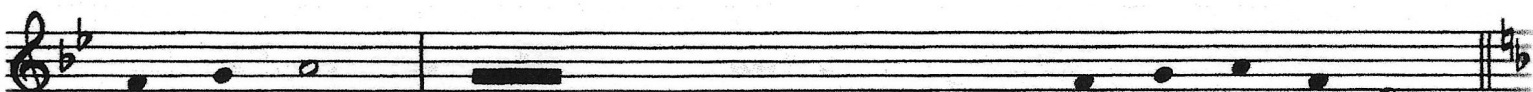
14. All birds of the air, glori - fy the Lord. Praise him and highly ex -



alt him for ev - er. 15. Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,

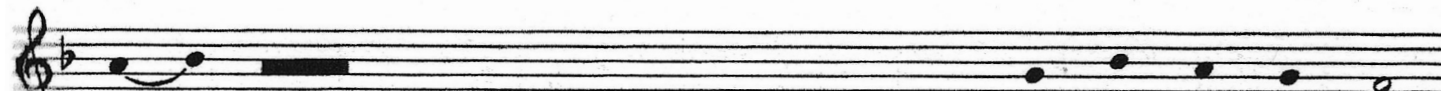


and all you flocks and herds. 16. O men and women everywhere, glori -

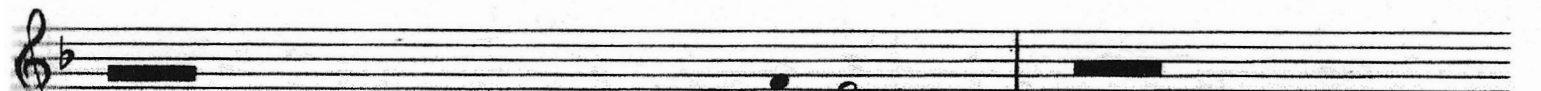


fy the Lord, praise him and highly ex - alt him for ev - er.

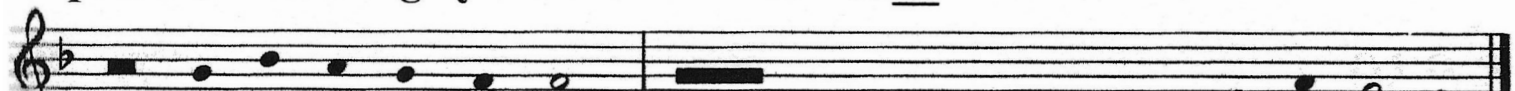
Doxology



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.

**Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**      **Proper 22**

**Celebrant:**    The Creator be with you.

**People:**        **And also with you.**

**Celebrant:**    Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson**      **Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20**

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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


**People: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 19

*The people may join the choir in singing the refrain.*

*Zoom participants please stay muted.*

*Refrain:*




The musical notation for the refrain is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of a sequence of notes: a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on D5, a half note on E5, a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The notes are connected by a slur. Below the staff, the lyrics are: 'The stat - utes of the Lord\_\_ re - joice\_\_ the heart.

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



The musical notation for the refrain is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of a sequence of notes: a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on D5, a half note on E5, a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The notes are connected by a slur. Below the staff, the lyrics are: 'The stat - utes of the Lord\_\_ re - joice\_\_ the heart.

Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands,  
and their message to the ends of the world.

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*



'The stat - utes of the Lord\_\_ re - joice\_\_ the heart.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again;  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*



'The stat - utes of the Lord\_\_ re - joice\_\_ the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

*Refrain* (as above)



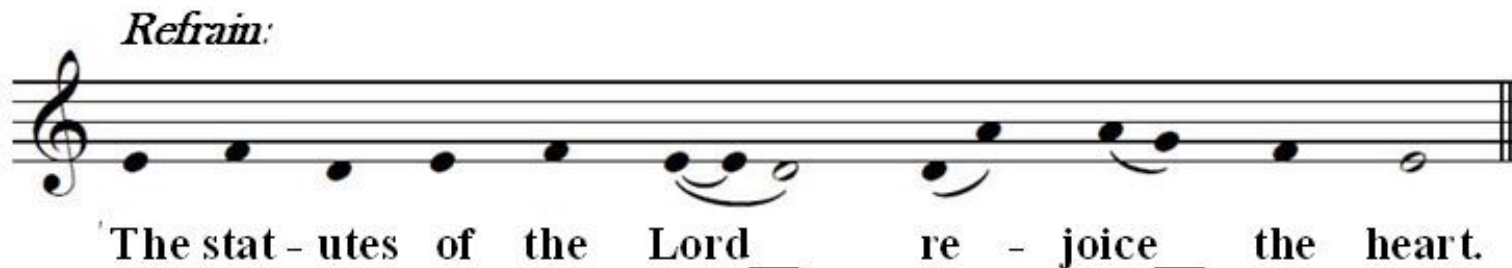
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*



'The stat - utes of the Lord re - joice the heart.

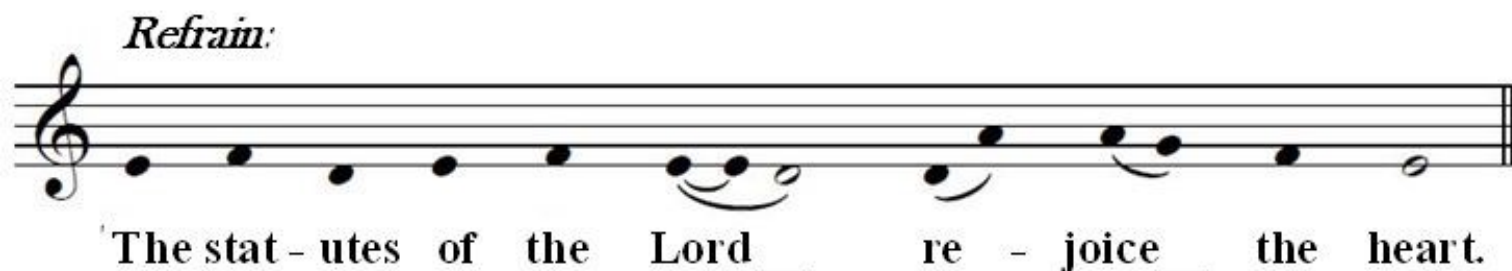
Who can tell how often he offends?  
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*



'The stat - utes of the Lord re - joice the heart.

## The Second Lesson

Lector: A Reading from Jake Tekaronianeken Swamp (1940-2010)

Greetings to the Natural World We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks. Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

Hymnal #552

### *Fight the Good Fight*

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



1 Fight the good fight with all thy might, Christ is thy  
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up thine  
\*3 Cast care a - side, lean on thy Guide; his boundless  
\*4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chan-ge-th

*continued next page*

6

strength and Christ thy right; lay hold on life, and it shall  
 eyes and seek his face; life with its way be - fore us  
 mer - cy will pro - vide; trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall  
 not, and thou art dear; on - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt

12

be thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
 lies, Christ is the path and Christ the prize.  
 prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.  
 see that Christ is all in all to thee.

*Hymnal 1982 552*

Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875), alt

Music (PENTECOST, LM): William Boyd (1847-1928)

**The Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46**

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

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

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:  
‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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.**

*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.**

**Prayer** attributed to St. Francis

*spoken in unison*

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. 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 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

### **Collect for St. Francis and St. Clare**

O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we through his poverty might be rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this

world, that, following the way of blessed Francis, and inspired by the devotion of your servant Clare, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Blessing of the Animals

- 1. If you are present in the church, please form a line down the center aisle.*
- 2. If you are attending on Zoom, please raise your hand, or leave a comment in the Zoom chat, if you have an animal to receive a blessing.*
- 1. If you are present in the church, please tell the member of the clergy the name of your animal. The priest will bless the animal:*

We ask you to bless *N*. We give thanks for *N*'s offering of friendship to his people. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! **Amen.**

- 4. Please exit to right or left.*
- 5. If you are on zoom, once you are unmuted by the Zoom host, please say the animal's name. The priest will bless the animal.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

Offertory anthem

Dan Forrest

*Blessed Is the Lord*  
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



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 #458

### *My Song Is Love Unknown*

vs. 1, 2, 5

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

*Unison or harmony*

1. My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love to me, love  
2. He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but  
5. They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made a - way; a

1. to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. O  
 2. men made strange and none the longed - for Christ\_ would know. But  
 5. mur - der - er they save, the Prince of Life\_ they slay. Yet

who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?  
 O my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.  
 - stead-fast he to suff-ering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

*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.

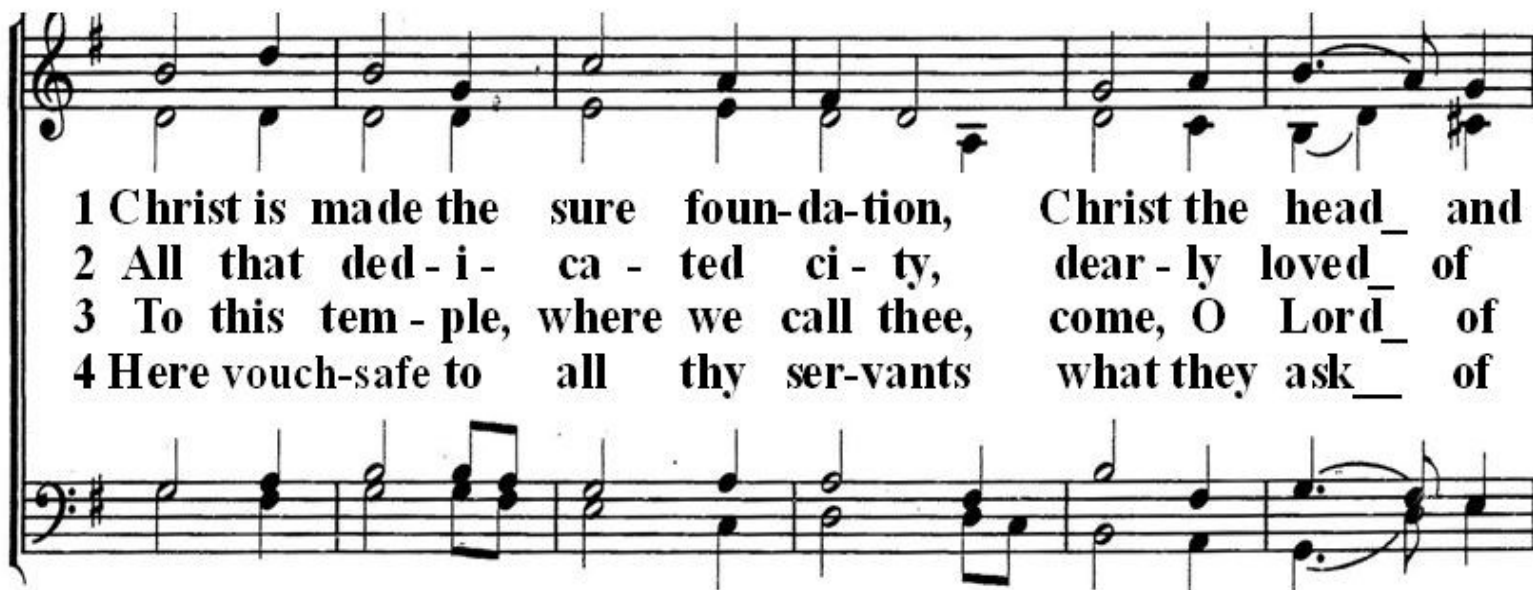
**People:** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

Hymnal #518

### *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

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



1 Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head\_ and  
2 All that ded-i-ca-ted ci-ty, dear-ly loved\_ of  
3 To this tem-ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord\_ of  
4 Here vouch-safe to all thy ser-vants what they ask\_ of

*continued next page*

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in  
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.  
 Music: *Westminster Abbey*, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), adapt.; desc. James Gillespie (b. 1929)

87. 87. 87

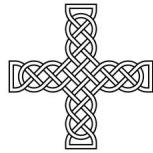
## The Dismissal

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:** Jim Cobb

**Greeters:** MaryJane Johnson et al

**Lectors:** Lou Poulain, Dorothy Furgerson

**Cantors:** Dorothy Furgerson

**The St. Thomas Choir**

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk  
Benjamin Belew, accompanist

**Tech lead:** Steve Williams

**Zoom host:** Aer van de Water

## TODAY IN THE PARISH

**Animal Blessings - TODAY** we 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, including blessings for photos of pets.

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

## **Bird Identification Quick Study**

Join Pastor Salying at coffee hour after the 10:30am service for a quick overview on identifying the birds we will most likely see on October 14. We will focus on the easiest birds to identify: shorebirds (which feed on invertebrates in the mud when the tide pulls out, like sandpipers and avocets)

and waterfowl (which feed by dabbling on the surface of the water or diving, like ducks and grebes). They are the easiest because they don't flit around like sparrows and warblers.

Knowing a little more will give you more satisfaction--that moment of pleasure of connecting what you learned to what you can identify. St. Thomas Bird Brains unite!

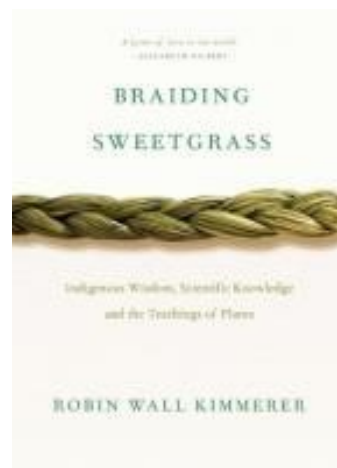
## **Library News:**

**Book of the Week October 8**

*Braiding Sweetgrass: indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants.* 2013

*Braiding Sweetgrass for young adults: indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants.* 2022, Ages 12 up. By Robin Wall Kimmerer

As a leading researcher in the field of biology, Robin Wall Kimmerer understands the delicate state of our world. But as an active member of the Potawatomi nation, she senses and relates to the world through a way of knowing far older than any science. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, she intertwines these two modes of awareness--the analytic and the emotional, the scientific and the cultural--to ultimately reveal a path toward healing the rift that grows between people and nature. The woven essays that construct this book bring people back into conversation with all that is green and growing; a universe that never stopped speaking to us, even when we forgot how



to listen. – Publisher, 2013.

The author, an Indigenous botanist, demonstrated how all living things from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen provide us with gifts and lessons every day. This [2022] edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth’s oldest teachers: the plants around us.

## **ALSO**

Banned Book Week is October 1-7. The theme is “Let Freedom Read”.

We hope you have had a chance to visit the display in the Narthex of banned books from the St. Thomas Library. Per requests, we will leave the Let Freedom Read poster on the windows.



**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*

**Literature Rack** – R side of Narthex

The September/October issue of *The Upper Room* is now also available.

**October is Stewardship Month.**

*Reflection for October 8:*



**A conversation between the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons and the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton.**

*When you think about being rooted, what comes to mind?*

Where we are, our place on land, is important to our spiritual groundedness, our connection to spirit-filled natural resources. We are part of a larger family of kin that includes all that God has made and reaches beyond the cosmos. Our kinship places us in relationship that is about mutual responsibility to care for one another.

*How do you understand abundance?*

We have everything we need. Are we doing everything we can to live in reciprocity, within an understanding that we are mutually responsible for one another and are called to live within a cultivating relationship with our environment and all life within it? Stewardship is asking the question, “What do we need to grow to continue to be in good and right relationship, in recognition of our kinship with all that is, in which we all thrive?”

*What image comes to mind when you hear the phrase Rooted in Abundance?*

I think of a beautiful image of the tree of life in aboriginal art. The image shows the relationship of being in a circle where animals and plants, people, land and air and water are all interdependent. Wisdom and care for eight generations, including past, present, and future, inform decisions and stewardship in a reciprocal relationship.

*What is it that grounds you?*

Place, context, environment, communities, Creator, the community I am serving. Wherever the Creator has put us is where we are in spiritual relationship. It is often said, “Wherever you go, there you are.” I would add, “Wherever you go, the Sacred is there.”

*What role does gratitude play?*

Gratitude is a spiritual practice. Indigenous elders are giving thanks all the time: “Thank you, Creator, for the gift of the cedar tree.” And then thanking the cedar tree for the gift it gives. Gratitude for our gifts invites us into community, and thus into responsibility for the flourishing of our community, which is our kinship with all of creation.

*If we put all this together, what does being rooted in abundance look like for you, in your context?*

It's a circular understanding. All community is responsible for each individual to nurture a sense of being meaningful and valuable. And every person has responsibility for meeting the needs of the community.

+ + +

*The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, a Shackan First Nation member, is the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Everett, WA, and the vice-president of the House of Deputies.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Adult Formation - Bible Study

“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”: A deep dive into the Gospel of Mark

Six Wednesday evenings, October 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8, 15  
7:00 to 8:30 PM on Zoom (link below)

Amy-Jill Levine, preeminent Jewish New Testament scholar, authored *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*. This series is based on her book, and during the course of study we will follow the book as we read Mark's Gospel in its entirety. Each session will include a video presentation by “AJ” Levine, and group discussion.

In the Introduction to the book, Levine writes:

*This study seeks to learn from and about the Gospel of Mark on its own terms, without the details the other three Gospels introduce. Going chapter by chapter rather than by themes allows us better to experience Jesus' complex identity.... This progressive approach helps readers to answer the question Jesus asks his disciples midway through, Who do you say that I am? (Mk 8:29). The answer may change at the end of each chapter. When we*



### Questions for Reflection:

What does being rooted in abundance look like for you?

*reread Mark's Gospel, the answer may change again, just as our sense of our loved ones changes over time.*

You are encouraged to purchase the book ahead of the series. The **first session, October 11**, will cover the Introduction and first chapter of the book, and Mark, chapters 1 through 4.

***The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*** by Amy-Jill Levine Abington Press. Available at Amazon in paperback (\$14.39) and Kindle edition (\$9.99)

Join the class on **Zoom**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84992277552>

Meeting ID: 849 9227 7552

Dial in by location:

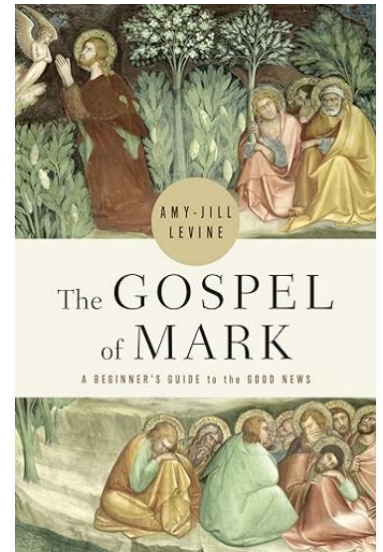
•+1 669 444 9171 US

•+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

One tap mobile:

+16694449171,,84992277552#US

+16699006833,,84992277552#US (San Jose)



## **Confirmation - A Visit from the Bishop - December 17**

On December 17 Bishop Lucinda Ashby will visit St. Thomas. If you wish to be confirmed, reaffirmed in your baptismal vows and commitment to the church, or, if you wished to be received into membership of the Episcopal Church, please let Pastor Salying know.

**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 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	<b>one service only</b> 10:30am - Hybrid Stewardship Sunday	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, November 5 23rd Pent. proper 26	8am - in person 10:30am - Hybrid	Holy Eucharist Rite I 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.

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.

**The next Vestry Meeting** will be **Tuesday October 17 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**

Plan on lots of opportunities for the workday on October 28th (starting at 9 AM) including:

- \*Lunch! A chance to share time and successes with all the volunteers
- \*A large team cleaning the outside of the Ed building to shine it up.
- \*Some painting projects - all the supplies set ready for you.
- \*Preparing our gardens for the fall - including tackling some of the summer growth.
- \*And - a few "some assembly required" projects to update our facilities.

**Thank you!** Our campus looked so much better following our July workday. The education center is now empty, clean, and ready for viewing by a prospective tenant. The next steps will be taken on **Saturday, October 28, 9AM to about 2PM** Save the date!

**John Buck Celebration of Life** A memorial service for John Buck is scheduled for **October 21 at 1:00pm** in the church, followed by a reception in Cowans Hall.

**Agape Circle** First Friday of each month (mostly!) at 6:30pm, Cowans Hall (we will observe "mask" protocols as necessary).

Join us **Friday, November 3 at 6:30 pm.** 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!

**Looking ahead—December** It's really not so very far away! Just a reminder that following Stewardship month and All Saints/ Pledge Sunday, we will arrive again at the beginning of our church year—**Advent.** The first weekend in December will feature our **Greening of the Church** for the Season AND our **Advent Festival/ Holiday Boutique**, which this year will be entirely in person (no on-line catalogue).

The organizers encourage your contributions of items to sell during this fundraising event. Thank you!

### **Also in December - A Visit from the Bishop - December 17**

On December 17 Bishop Lucinda Ashby will visit St. Thomas. If you wish to be confirmed, reaffirmed in your baptismal vows and commitment to the church, or, if you wished to be received into membership of the Episcopal Church, please let Pastor Salying know.

We congratulate Angela and Chris Rausch who will be received.

## **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](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](mailto:bertramemail@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.

**Coming soon - Christmas gift drive for the children of inmates** As described in the recent newsletter, we will again this year be collecting gifts for kids who have an incarcerated parent. This year, St. Thomas has paired up with Angel Tree – a national organization that does the required background checks of incarcerated inmates and their relationship with their families. After the family information is verified and vetted, St. Thomas will be notified with the names of children and their caregivers. Sign-ups will begin **November 19**.

### **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](mailto:prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us).

**Family Ministry** Contact Sue Beckham through our website for information: [www.stthomas-svale.org/contact/](http://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/](http://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](mailto: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 October 30**, when we meet to discuss *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. In this extraordinary and beloved Pulitzer Prize winner, 13-year-old New Yorker Theo Decker miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Grieving, abandoned by his father, he is taken in by a wealthy family, where he clings to the one thing that

reminds him of his mother: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws the adult Theo into a wealthy and insular art community. Please join us—contact Dorothy through our website [www.stthomas-svale.org/contact](http://www.stthomas-svale.org/contact) for the Zoom link.

## **And in the wider community...**

### **Artists Wanted – Art in the Park Event**

Show us your favorite aspect of autumn! We're looking for groups of Sunnyvale artists ages 5 and up to decorate canvases depicting their favorite aspects of Autumn. A prepared canvas measuring 3' x 3.5' will be provided.

Pre-approval and completion of designs is required by Monday, October 16. The imagery on your canvas must be suitable for people of all ages.

Completed canvases will be displayed in Washington Park from October 26 to November 27. Limited to the first 18 groups to submit a design for approval.

Email [publicart@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:publicart@sunnyvale.ca.gov) to apply or for more information.

*- Angela Rausch*

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

[https://docs.google.com/document/](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg)

[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](http://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](http://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](mailto:pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.org)  
or 510-478-3554

**Deacon:** The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah.....[bertramemail@gmail.com](mailto:bertramemail@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jim Cobb.....[Finance@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:Finance@stthomas-svale.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Anne Buelteman.....[office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

**Family Ministry Director.:** Susan Beckham.....[family\\_ministry@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org)

**Library and Resource Center Coordinator:** Carol Campbell .....[resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org)

**Music Director:** Patricia Pietrzyk,..... [patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com](mailto:patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com)

**Accompanist:** Benjamin Belew.....

**Newsletter Editor:** Anne Buelteman..... [office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

**Our Daily Bread (ODB) Coordinator:** David Barnes.....408-736-4108, [odb@stthomas-svale.org](mailto: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 Office .....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

You may invite prayers online through The Intercessory Prayer Chain  
at [prayerchain@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:prayerchain@stthomas-svale.org)