

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



statues at the New York Stock Exchange:
Charging Bull - by Arturo Di Modica
Fearless Girl - by Kristen Visbal

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

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

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 23

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

October 15, 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. She will re-mask to distribute communion, since she will come closer than six feet and want to make everyone as comfortable receiving. **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. Our coffee hour will be on the Alpha-Omega patio.

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 #646

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

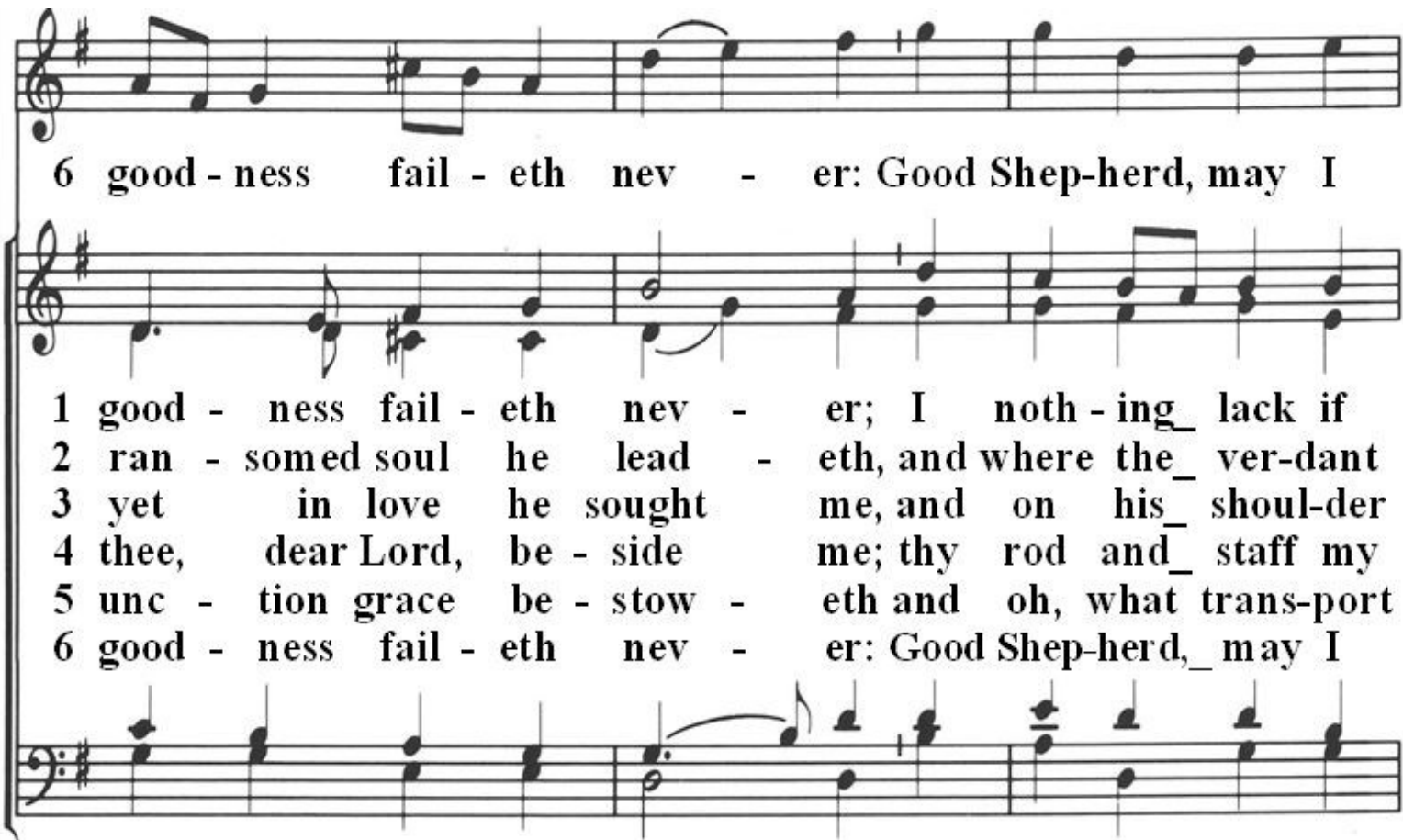
All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.

Descant

6 And so through all the length_ of days thy__

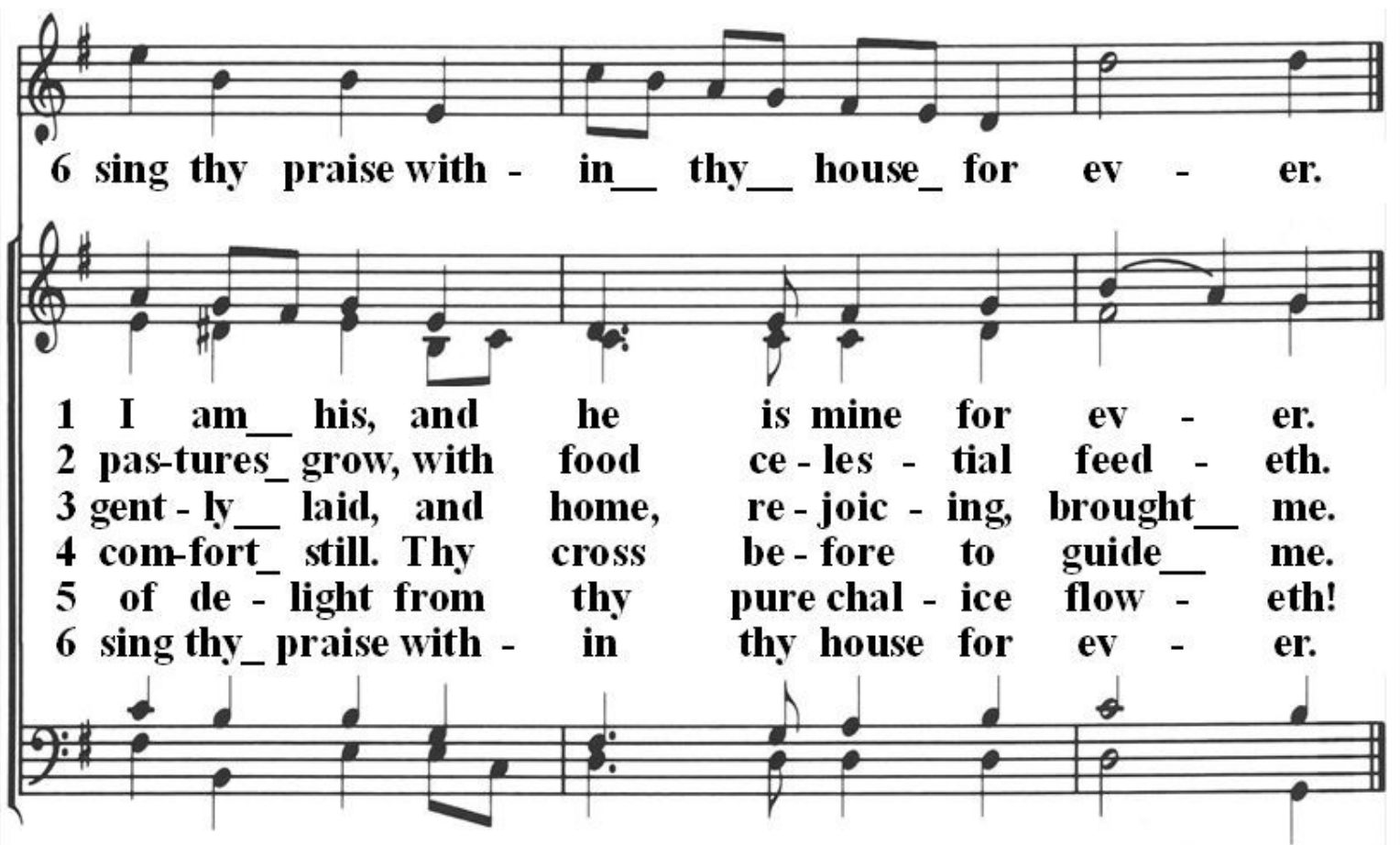
1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with
5 Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight, thy
6 And so through all the length of days thy

continued next page



6 good - ness fail - eth nev - er: Good Shep-herd, may I

1 good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing_ lack if
 2 ran - somed soul he lead - eth, and where the_ ver-dant
 3 yet in love he sought me, and on his_ shoul-der
 4 thee, dear Lord, be - side me; thy rod and_ staff my
 5 unc - tion grace be - stow - eth and oh, what transport
 6 good - ness fail - eth nev - er: Good Shep-herd, may I



6 sing thy praise with - in_ thy_ house_ for ev - er.

1 I am_ his, and he is mine for ev - er.
 2 pas-tures_ grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 3 gent - ly_ laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought_ me.
 4 com-fort_ still. Thy cross be - fore to guide_ me.
 5 of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
 6 sing thy_ praise with - in thy house for ev - er.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. of Psalm 23
 Music: *Dominus regit me*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); desc. David Willcocks (b. 1919)

Greeting

Celebrant:



Bless-ed be the one, ho - ly and liv - ing God.

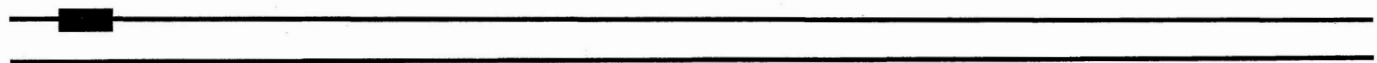
People:



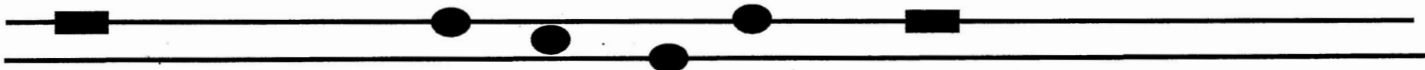
Glo - ry to God for ev - er and ev - er.

Collect for Purity

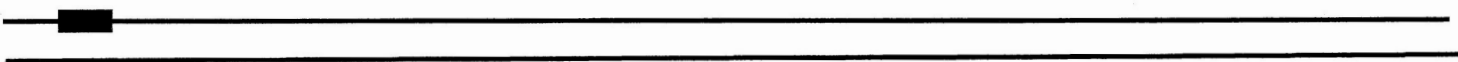
Celebrant:



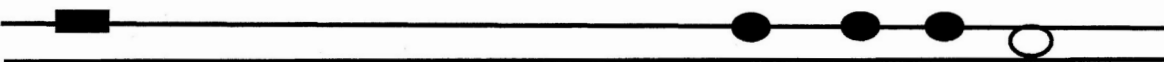
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known



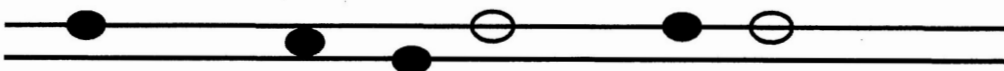
and from you no se - crets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our



hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly



love you and worthily magnify your ho - ly Name,



Through Christ our Lord. A - men.

Gloria

WLP #900

*Please join in singing
the Gloria.*

*Zoom participants
please stay muted*

4



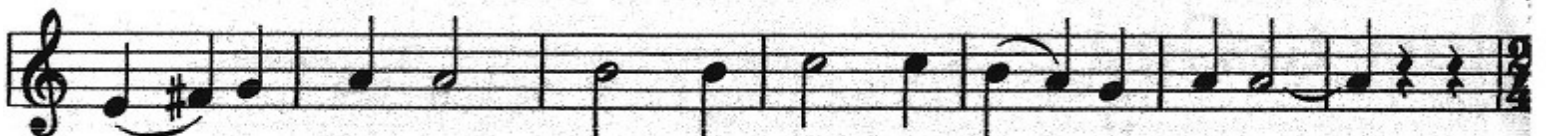
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, _



_ and peace to his peo-ple on earth _ Lord God,



heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God_ and Fa - ther, _ we wor-ship



you, _ we give you thanks, we praise you for _ your glo-ry _

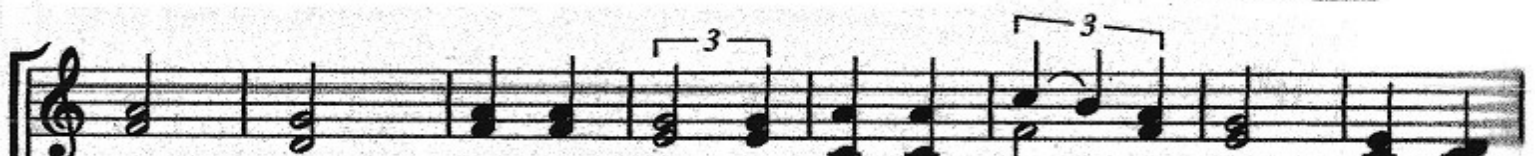
Fa-ther, _



Lord Je-sus Christ, _ on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, _
Fa-ther



Fa-ther, _



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way _ the sin of the



world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right

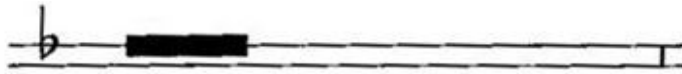
hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For
Fa - ther: re - ceive
Fa - ther: re - ceive

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Celebrant: God be with you.



People: And also with you



Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’

The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

The congregation may join the choir in singing the refrain.

Zoom participants please stay muted.:

Refrain:




De - clare _ the migh - ty acts _ of _ God our _ Sa - vior.

Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord
or show forth all his praise? *Refrain*

Refrain:




De - clare the migh - ty acts of God our Sa - vior.

Happy are those who act with justice
and always do what is right!

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people,
and visit me with your saving help;

That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people,
that I may glory with your inheritance. *Refrain*

Refrain:



De - clare the migh - ty acts of God our Sa - vior.

We have sinned as our forebears did;
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

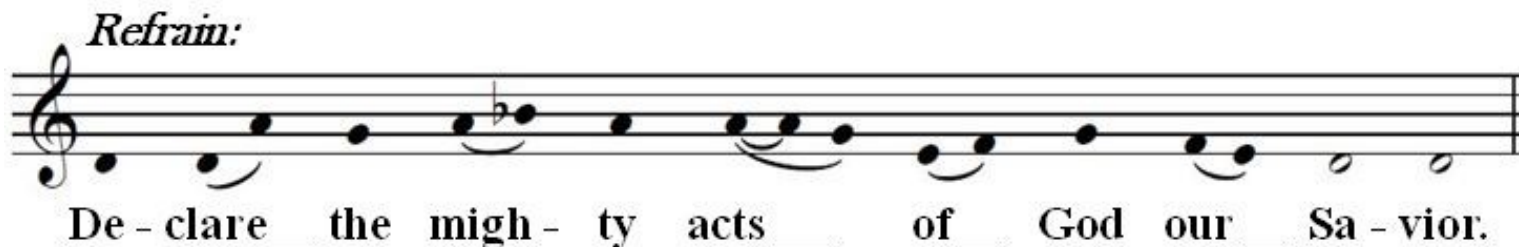
Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb
and worshiped a molten image;

And so they exchanged their Glory
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass. *Refrain (as above)*

They forgot God their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,

Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham,
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach,
to turn away his wrath from consuming them. *Refrain*



The Epistle: Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things

that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

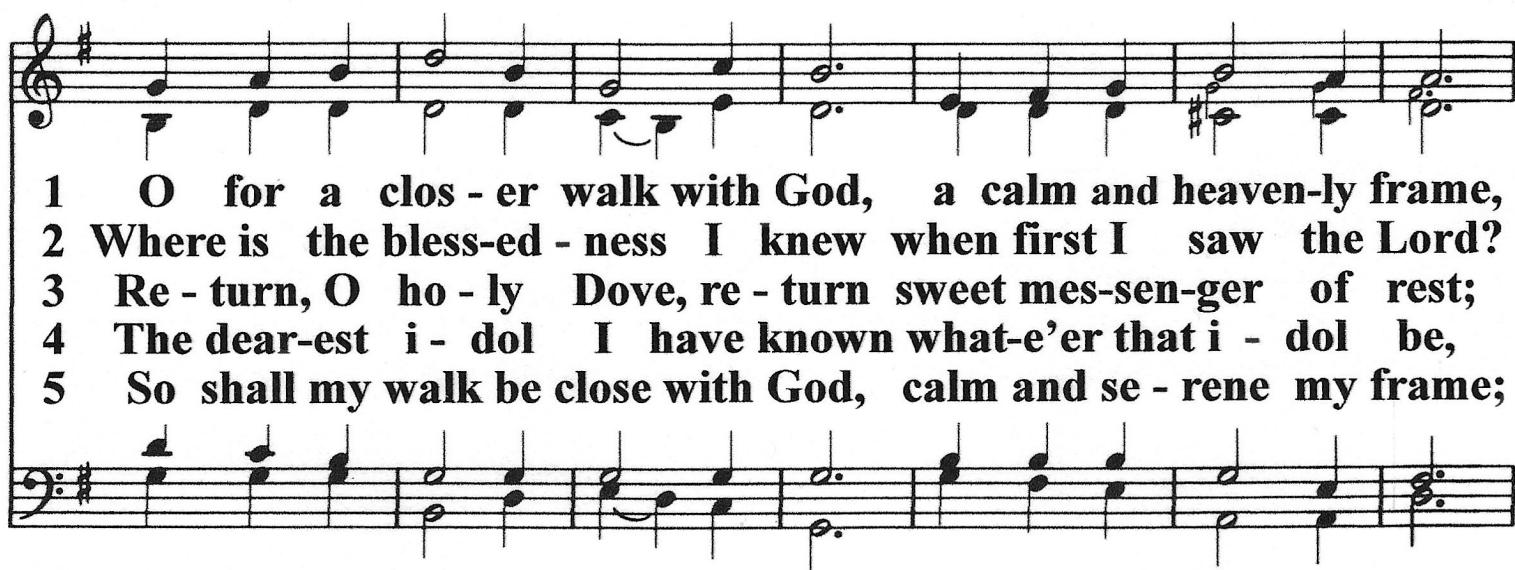
People: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

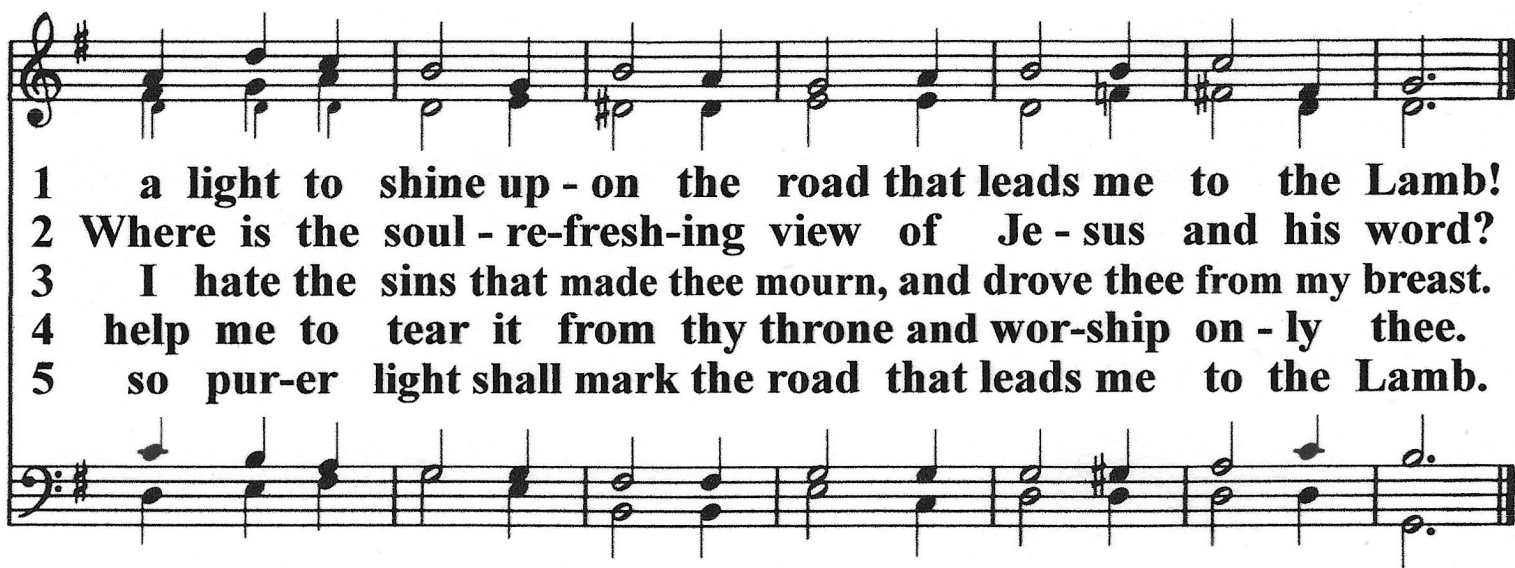
Hymnal #646

O For A Closer Walk With God

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



1 O for a clos - er walk with God, a calm and heav-en-ly frame,
2 Where is the bless-ed - ness I knew when first I saw the Lord?
3 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn sweet mes-sen-ger of rest;
4 The dear-est i - dol I have known what-e'er that i - dol be,
5 So shall my walk be close with God, calm and se - rene my frame;



1 a light to shine up - on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
2 Where is the soul - re-fresh-ing view of Je - sus and his word?
3 I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
4 help me to tear it from thy throne and wor-ship on - ly thee.
5 so pur-er light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800), alt.

Music: *Beatitudo*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

CM

The Gospel:

Matthew 22: 1-14

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Form III

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

The people may add their own petitions

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Confession

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

The Absolution

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

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you

People: And also with you.

The people and the ministers greet one another.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**People: By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

WLP #858

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



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

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

san - na in_ the high - est *Bless - ed_ is he who comes_

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

High - est._ Ho - san - na in_ the high - est.

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

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**People: We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant:

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, and Jacob;
Lord God of our Mothers: God of Hagar, Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel;
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

Celebrant and **People: AMEN**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem

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

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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

The Communion

Everyone is invited to 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

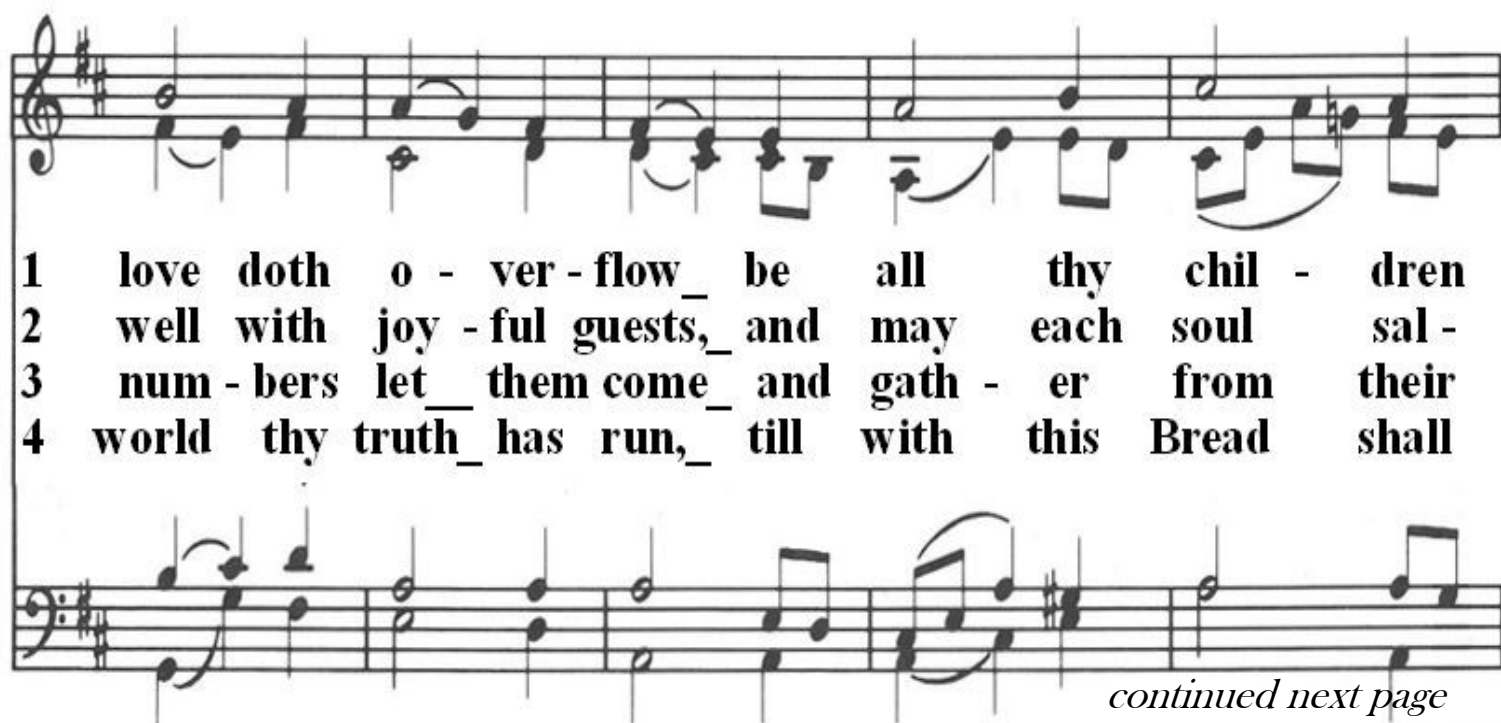
Hymnal #321

My God Thy Table Now Is Spread

Zoom participants are invited to sing along. Please stay muted.



1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
 3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in count - less
 4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the



1 love doth o - ver - flow be all thy chil - dren
 2 well with joy - ful guests, and may each soul sal -
 3 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
 4 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

continued next page

1 thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
 2 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
 3 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
 4 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
 Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalmsody in Miniature*, ca. 1780;
 adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816)

LM

Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand.

Celebrant and People:

**Almighty and everliving God,
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
 of the most precious Body and Blood
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
 that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
 to do the work you have given us to do,
 to love and serve you
 as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
 To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Hymnal #556

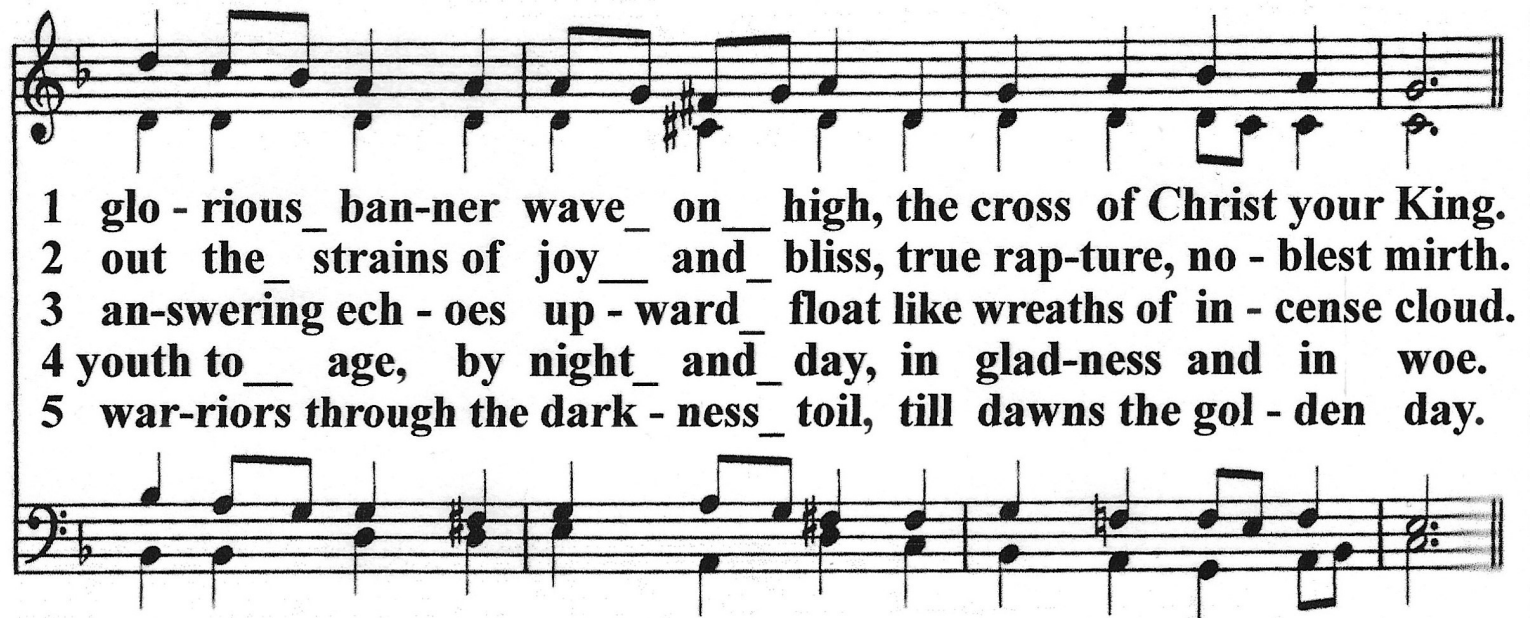
Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart

vs. 1-5

Zoom participants are invited to sing along. Please stay muted.



1 Re-joyce, ye_ pure in heart! Re-joyce, give_ thanks and sing! Your
2 With all the_ an - gel choirs, with all the_ saints of earth, pour
3 Your clear ho - san - nas raise, and al - le - lu - ias loud; while
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant-ing_ as ye go, from
5 Still lift your_ stand-ard high, still march in_ firm ar - ray, as



1 glo - rious_ ban-ner wave_ on_ high, the cross of Christ your King.
2 out the_ strains of joy__ and_ bliss, true rap-ture, no - blest mirth.
3 an-swering ech - oes up - ward_ float like wreaths of in - cense cloud.
4 youth to__ age, by night_ and_ day, in glad-ness and in woe.
5 war-riors through the dark - ness_ toil, till dawns the gol - den day.

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Refrain

Re - joyce, re - joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

Re-joyce, re-joyce,

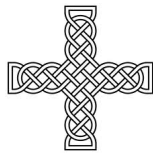
The Dismissal

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

Eucharistic Minister: Jeannie Battagin

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al

Lectors: John Pietrzyk, Patricia Pietrzyk

Cantor: Patricia Pietrzyk

The St. Thomas Choir

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk
Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Tech lead: Andrew Yeh

Zoom host: Abby O'Connell

TODAY IN THE PARISH

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

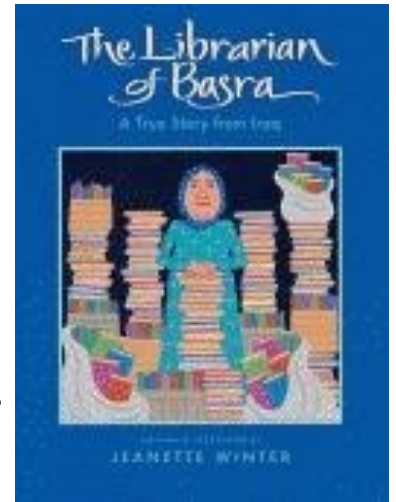
Library News:

Book of the Week October 15

[The Librarian of Basra: a true story from Iraq](#) by Jeannette Winter

A book for all ages.

Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For 14, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library--along with the thirty thousand books within it--will be destroyed forever. In a war-stricken country where civilians--especially women--have little power, this true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries.



New Display in the Archives Case The Library Committee is now featuring St. Thomas Sunday School.

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 15:



In Potawatomi culture, an understanding of being “Rooted in Abundance” comes from the notion that, through the gift of creation, the Creator provides enough for all of nature to thrive. In the Creator’s abundance there is enough, though not necessarily extra, for everyone. When we are caretakers of the garden of creation as the Creator intended, all creatures live in harmony and abundance. Through the gift of creation, I am rooted in the generosity of God and my life is found in the rich soil of gratitude and generosity.

Natural theology sees Father Sky as bringing forth fruit from Mother Earth. Christianity, in the same way, sees God the Father bringing forth Jesus, the Incarnate One, from his human mother. The Word of God made flesh, Jesus the Son, came that we might have life and have it abundantly. In the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina, a slow and deliberate meditation on the word, I am rooted in the living and abundant and incarnate Word of God. From those roots, I am able to draw the Creator’s own nutrients into my life. This enables me to grow in a life of gratitude and to bring forth the fruit of generosity. God blesses me to be a blessing for others and I show my gratitude for my own life “Rooted in Abundance” chiefly by being generous because the Creator has provided enough for everyone.



Questions for Reflection:

How does gratitude for your own life impact your generosity?

+ + +

The Rev. Michael Smith is an Assistant Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas and a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Formation - Bible Study

“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?": A deep dive into the Gospel of Mark on Zoom (link below)

Six consecutive Wednesday evenings, second class: **October 18**

October 25; November 1, 8, & 15 **7:00 to 8:30**

PM

You are encouraged to purchase the book.

The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News by Amy-Jill Levine

Join the class on **Zoom**:

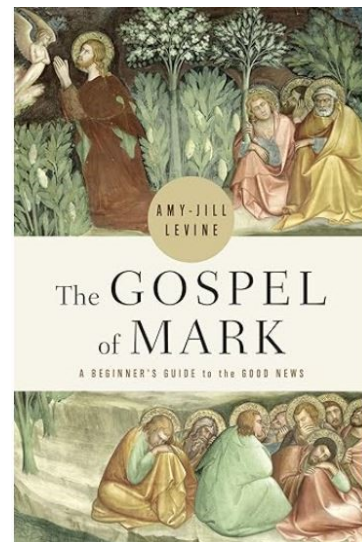
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84992277552>

Meeting ID: 849 9227 7552

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.

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. This service will be livestreamed on Zoom, as follows: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89682921099>
Meeting ID: 896 8292 1099

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!

CONCERT - Save the date: November 11

MMXXIII 11/11 **BENJAMIN BELEW**
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 **SAKAGCH AKEALA**
6:00PM DOORS OPEN

ST THOMAS' **PIANO**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
231 SUNSET AVE SUNNYVALE
CA 94086 mephistoape.com

SUGGESTED DONATION
\$20
A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS
COLLECTED WILL BE DONATED
TO AN ORGANIZATION FOR
AIDING THE COMMUNITY.

Original works,
and works by
Prokofiev, Schubert,
Liszt, Beethoven
& others



**MORE STORIES FOR THE FALL
ON PIANO**

A CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT SERIES VOLUME III

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Thomas



 **St. Thomas**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*You're invited to
Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 23, 2023
2:00 pm
in Cowans Hall*

*Traditional turkey and trimmings will be
provided.
You are more than welcome to bring a
dish to share.*

Please RSVP to: denaware@gmail.com

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!

General Announcements

Sue Beckham, dearly departed.

Our beloved Sue died on October 10 in Kentucky while on vacation, unexpectedly.

She was loved and valued at St. Thomas; she also loved us and we are grateful.

Please pray for Carl and their family.

When Carl returns from Kentucky, we will plan the service.

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



HOME

ABOUT

WORSHIP

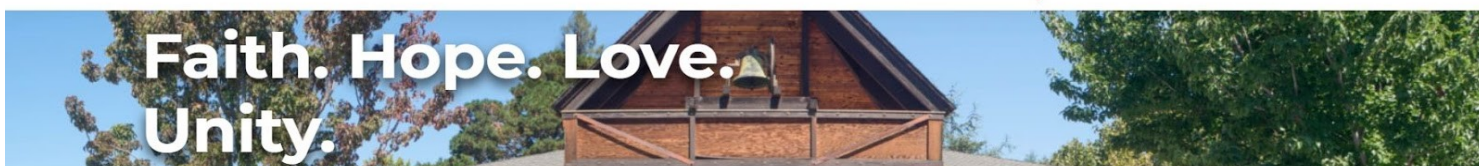
STUDY

SERVE

NEWS & EVENTS

GIVE

CONTACT



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.

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.

Family Ministry Contact us 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 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 for the Zoom link.

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

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

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