

22ND SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

October 29, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



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

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

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 25

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

October 29, 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.

At the conclusion of worship, there will be a Stewardship presentation here in the church, followed by a Chili Feed in Cowans Hall across the courtyard.

Prelude

Benjamin Belew, piano

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #372

Praise to the Living God

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



1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais-ed be his Name
2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;
3 His Spi - rit flow-eth free, high surg-ing where it will;
4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;



who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.
ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.
in pro-phet's word he spoke of old, he speak-eth still.
his loves shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.



The one e - ter-nal God ere_ aught_ that_ now ap - pears_
 Lo, he is Lord of all, Cre - a - tion_ speaks his praise,
 Es - tab-lished is his law, and change-less_ it shall end,
 Praise to the liv-ing God. All_ prais - ed_ be his Nam_

the first, the last, be-yond all_ thought, the_ time-less years!
 and ev - ery-where a-bove, be - low, his_ will o - beys.
 deep writ up - on the hu-man_ heart, on_ sea, on land.
 who was, and is, and is to_ be, for_ ay the same.

Words: Medieval Jewish liturgy; tr. Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and Newton M. Mann (1836-1926)
 Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

66. 84. D

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:

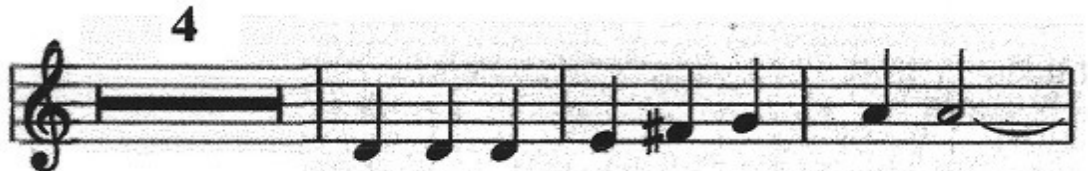
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known
 and from you no se - crets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
 hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
 love you and worthily magnify your ho - ly Name,
 Through Christ our Lord. A - men.

Gloria

WLP #900

*Please join in singing
the Gloria.*

*Zoom participants
please stay muted*

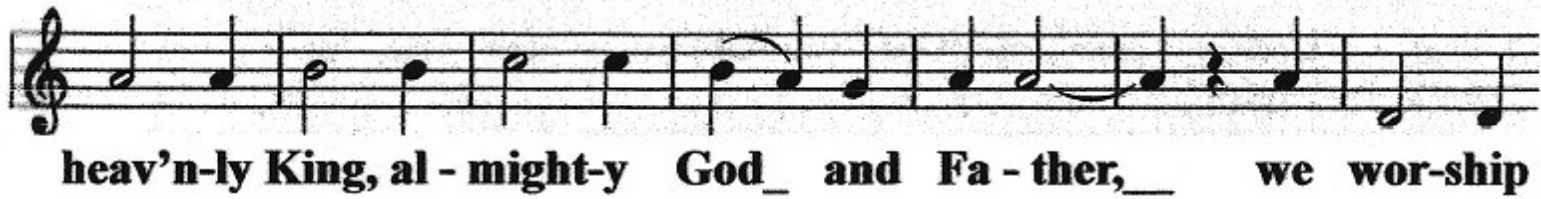


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, _

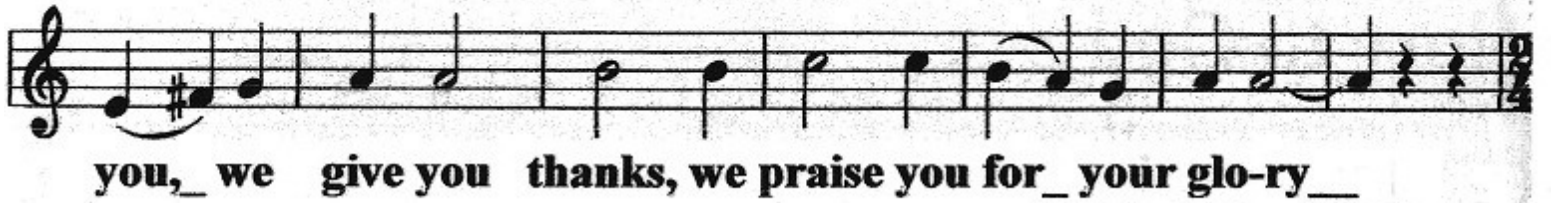


_ and peace to his peo-ple on earth _

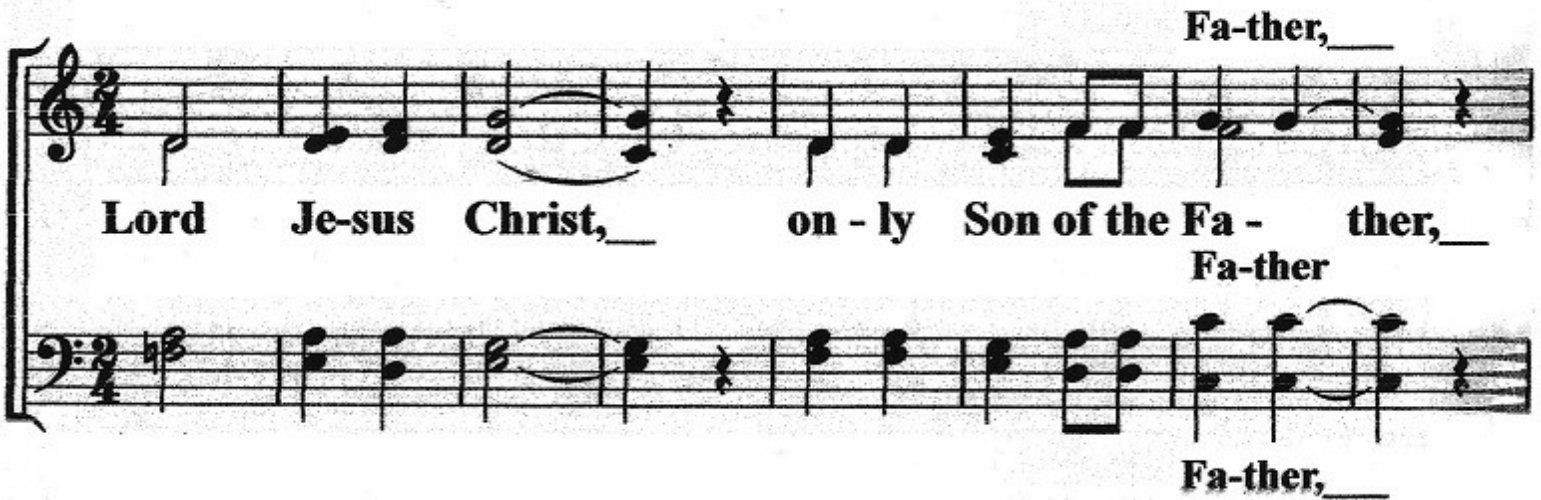
Lord God,



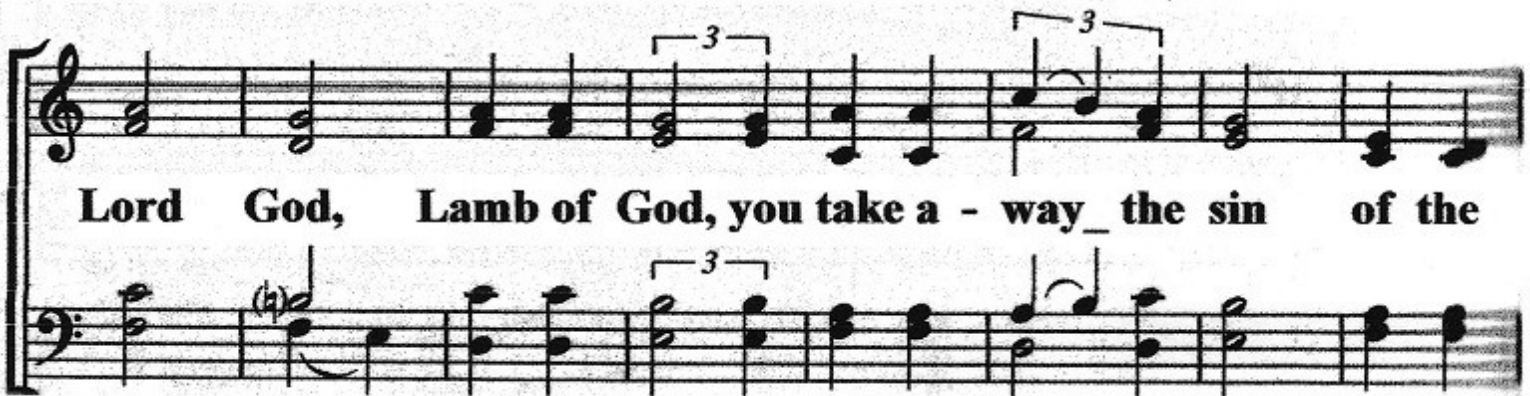
heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God_ and Fa - ther, we wor-ship



you, we give you thanks, we praise you for_ your glo-ry_



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



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

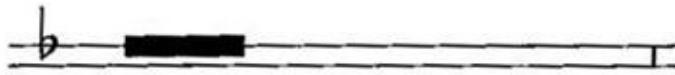
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High

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

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

Collect for the Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 25



Celebrant: God be with you.



People: **And also with you**



Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.


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

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

*The congregation may join the choir in singing the refrain:
Zoom participants please stay muted.*

Refrain




We _ shall re - joice _ all _ the days _ of our lives.

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God. *Refrain*

Refrain




We _ shall re - joice _ all _ the days _ of our lives.

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night. *Refrain*

Refrain




We _ shall re - joice _ all _ the days _ of our lives.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter).

You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. *Refrain*

Refrain



We _ shall re - joice _ all _ the days _ of our lives.


The musical notation is identical to the first refrain, consisting of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter).

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity. *Refrain*

Refrain

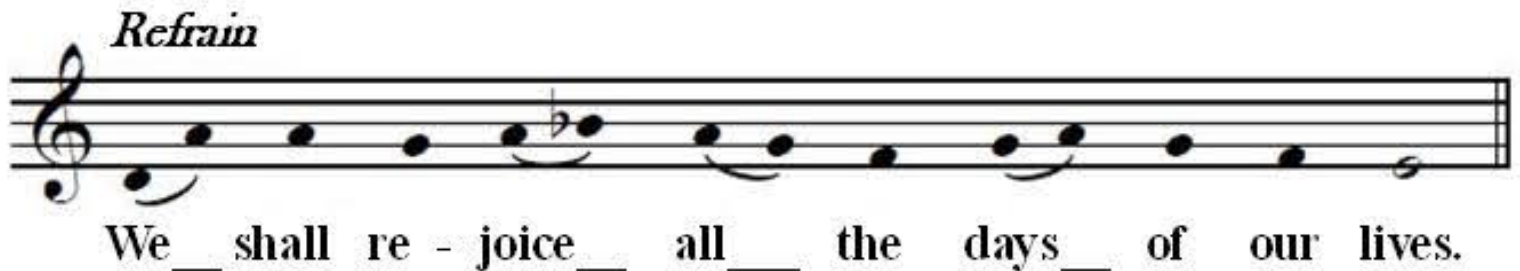


We _ shall re - joice _ all _ the days _ of our lives.

The musical notation is identical to the previous refrains, consisting of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter).

Show your servants your works
and your splendor to their children.

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork. *Refrain*



The Epistle 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

People: Thanks be to God

O Spirit of the Living God

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

1 O Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, in
 2 Give tongues of fire and heart of love, to
 3 Be dark - ness, at thy com - ing, light; con -
 4 Con - vert the na - tions! far and nigh the

all thy plen - i - tude of grace, where-e'er the foot of
 preach the rec - on - cil - ing word; give power and unc - tion
 fu - sion, or - der in thy path; souls with-out strength in -
 tri - umphs of the cross re - cord the Name of Je - sus

man hath trod, de - scend on our a - pos - tate race.
 from a - bove, when - e'er the joy - ful sound is heard.
 spire with might, but mer - cy tri - umph o - ver wrath.
 glo - ri - fy, till ev - ery peo - ple call him Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet””?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you Lord Christ

The Sermon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Core Values created by the Vestry,
September 2022

We follow Jesus. We study his life and teachings, so we might love God and do God's will.

We welcome all. We respect the dignity of everyone.

We serve those in need, whether physically or spiritually.

We thrive in community. It gives us comfort, strength and joy.
We embrace change so we can keep the church strong and relevant.

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

TENS

Celebrant: Gather us together, O God, that we might share the prayers, intentions, and thanksgivings of our community.

People: **We are generous with our gifts
Because we are Rooted in Abundance**

Leader: I ask your prayers for the Church, for all who worship God this day. For our clergy, our diocesan leaders, and for our congregation. We pray especially for this season in which we celebrate our stories of leadership and our support for mission...

People: **We are generous with our gifts of leadership,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask your prayers for our Nation and all nations; for refugees fleeing climate change and war; for conflicts of resources and land; for lawmakers, peacekeepers, and informed citizens. We pray for a distribution of wealth that helps the poor and the marginalized ...

People: **We are generous with our gifts of peace,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask your prayers for the sick, the lonely, the lost, and those who grieve. We remember those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now in silence or aloud.

People: **We are generous with our gifts of healing,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who have died, those who
are dying, and those who mourn. For those on our parish
list, and for those we name now in silence or aloud ...

People: **We are generous with our gifts of support,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask for your remembrances of thanksgivings and
blessings, for we are given time, talent, and treasure to
share with the world ...

People: **We are generous with our gratitude,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Celebrant: Hear the prayers of your people, Creator God. May we
who are blessed by so much wealth and wisdom, share
our works with a world in need. **Amen.**

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;**

Celebrant: People:




Lift up your hearts. 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: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

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:

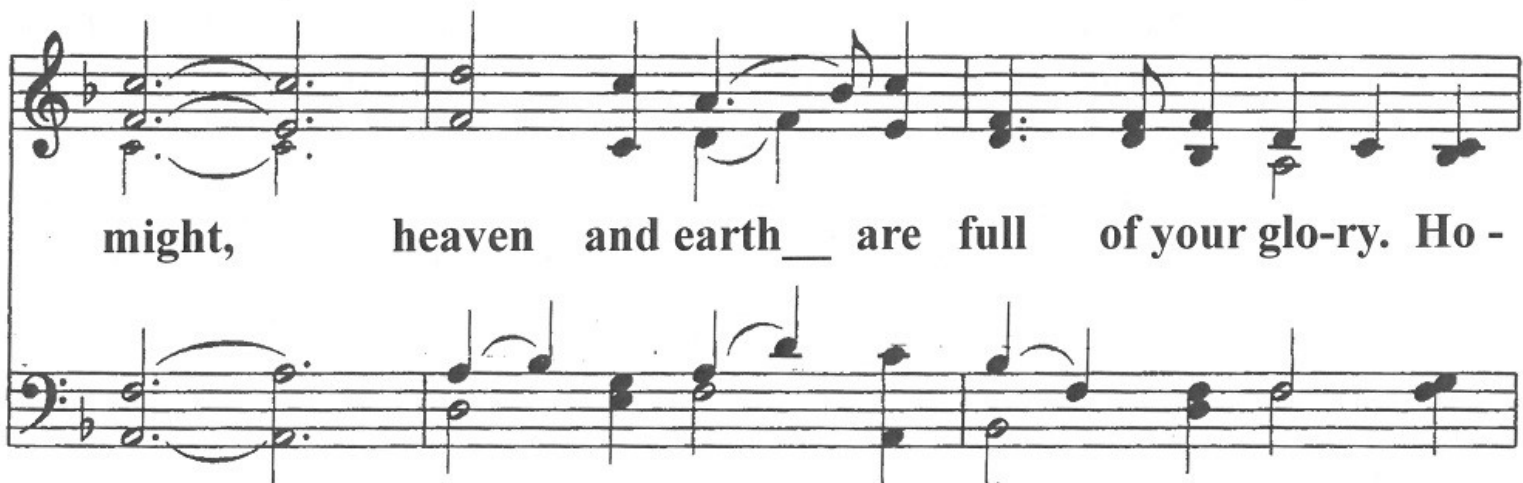
Sanctus

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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains the lyrics: "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in_ the". The second system contains the lyrics: "High - est. Ho - san - na in_ the high - est." The music is in a simple, folk-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

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.

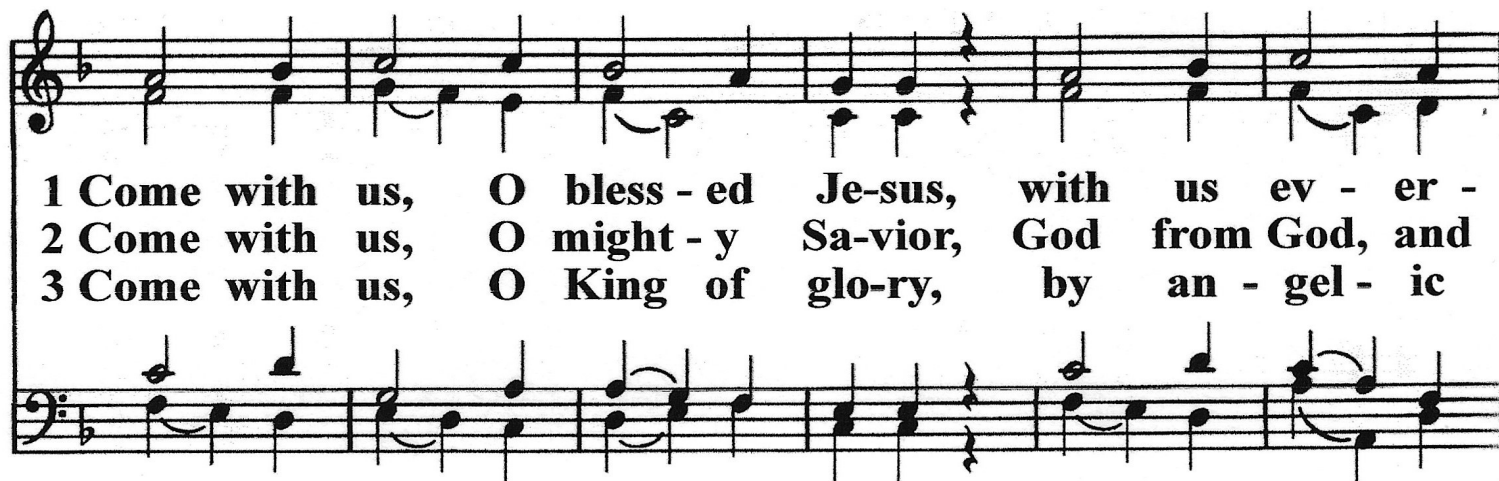
- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able.*
- *The wine will be served in the chalice and in the small cups. The chalice will precede the cups. If you do not reach for the chalice, it will pass and the cups will follow. (Please place the empty cup on one of the trays near the aisles.)*
- *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 #336

Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus

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



1 Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er -
2 Come with us, O might - y Sa - vior, God from God, and
3 Come with us, O King of glo - ry, by an - gel - ic

more to be; and though leav - ing now thine
 Light from Light; thou art God, thy glo - ry
 voic - es praised; in our hearts as in thy

al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee.
 veil - ing so that we may bear the sight.
 hea - ven be en - rap - tured an - thems raised.

Be thou one with us for ev - er, in our life thy
 Now we go to seek and serve thee, through our work as
 Let the might - y cho - rus ev - er sing its glad ex -

love di - vine our own flesh and blood has
 through our prayer; grant us light to see and
 ul - tant songs; let its hymn be heard for

tak - en, and to us thou giv - est thine.
 know thee in thy peop - ple ev - ery - where,
 ev - er— peace for which cre - a - tion longs.

P
 Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891) and Charles P. Price (b. 1920)
 Music: *Werde munter*, Johann Schop (d. 1665?); arr. and harm.
 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

87. 87. 76. 86

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 #551

Rise Up Ye Saints of God

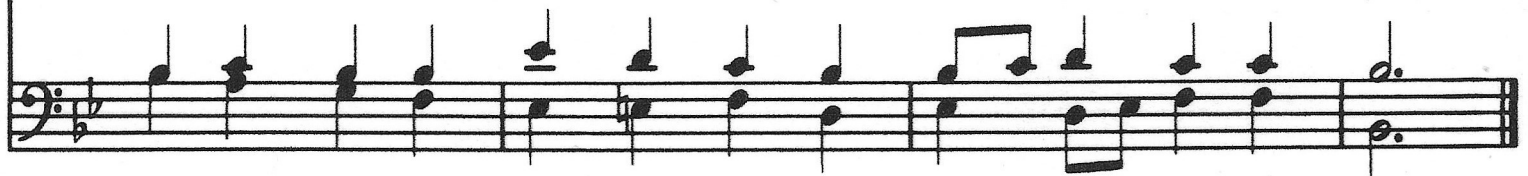
Zoom participants are invited to sing along. Please stay muted.



- 1 Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done_ with less-er things, give
- 2 Rise up, ye saints of God! His king - dom tar-ries long; Lord,
- 3 Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where_ his feet have trod; and



heart and_ soul and mind and strength to serve_ the King of Kings.
bring the_ day of truth and love and end_ the night of wrong.
quick-ened_ by the Spi - rit's power, rise up_ ye saints of God!



Celebrating Stewardship

We will hear from our Treasurer a preliminary list of expenses for 2024 so that we can make an informed pledge.

Introduction

Pastor Salying

Budget status 2023 & Proposed Budget 2024

Jim Cobb

Closing prayer

Pastor Salying

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Dismissal

People: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please proceed to the church hall for the Chili Feed.

Postlude

Benjamin Belew, keyboard



Serving us at 10:30 am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Celebrant: The Rev. Salying Wong
Preacher: Abby O'Connell, senior warden
Eucharistic Minister: Ann Kopischke
Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al
Lectors: Abby O'Connell, Sam Leen
Cantor: Chris Schmidt

The St. Thomas Choir

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk
Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Tech lead: Tian Zhu
Zoom host: Lou Poulain

TODAY IN THE PARISH

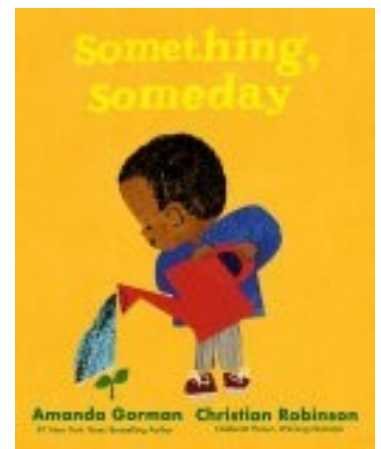
Stewardship Sunday is **TODAY**. At the conclusion of worship a report will be made on St. Thomas current and upcoming budgeting, Following the stewardship presentation, there be a chili feed, co-sponsored by Family Ministry and Parish Event Planners.

Library News:

Book of the Week **October 29**

[Something, someday](#) by Amanda Gorman,
illustrated by Christian Robinson. 2023

Reveals how even the smallest gesture can have a lasting impact on the world's biggest problems. A book for all ages but is advertised for ages 4-8. The illustrations are so well done and blend with the author's words.



Literature Rack – R side of Narthex

The November/December issues of Forward Day by Day and The Upper Room have arrived. They are available in the literature rack

found in the Narthex of the church. The Upper Room also includes a large print issue.

New Archives Display- Sunday School Treasures

The Archives Display is featuring treasures from the Sunday School. There is a large Noah's Ark altar cloth from the Children's Chapel made by Alice Bell. Also there is a painting by Alexandra Wallace, a former student, painted in 2008. Lastly, a colorful fabric wall hanging is displayed.

This display is dedicated to our beloved **Sue Beckham** who donated these treasures to the Archives.

Submitted by Stephanie Daugherty



October is Stewardship Month

Reflection for October 29:



My family of origin is where I learned about love, respect and compassion, these values were the foundation of my familial relationships. When our family immigrated and there were constraints in our family situation, my mother worked in a factory and brought home “piece work” to sew (at 5 cents per zipper) for income. Regardless of those challenges I felt secure in her love and protection. As our situation improved and were blessed with more opportunities, my mother served as a source of hope for those that immigrated and those that did not. I was fortunate to grow up witnessing daily examples of love, respect, compassion, and solidarity.

With the passing of my mother’s generation including aunts and uncles, I have found that scripture has become more important in my life. In particular, my prayer group, friends and colleagues that strive

for the beloved community are a source of strength and grounding; especially during these times when hard fought rights are being taken back as though universal rights somehow have to be rationed.

Through my reading of the book of Genesis, creation is the very essence of possibility and abundance. God, the source of abundance, makes it available to us because of His infinite love for us, his children. Because this belief is an integral part of my faith, I feel fortunate to be rooted in abundance, to feel loved, to have options.

To be rooted in abundance suggests that gratitude and generosity are a natural consequence of a loving environment, a space where possibility, generosity, and abundance thrive.

Without love for God, self and others, you risk being trapped in an environment of scarcity.

+ + +

Dora Currea belongs to the Washington National Cathedral congregation where she is a Co-Chair of the Sanctuary Ministry advocating and supporting immigrants in partnership with diocesan and other faith groups in the DC area as well as the Church's Episcopal Migration Ministries. Dora currently serves the diocese as Chair of the Commission on Ministry.

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)

The next sessions on Wednesday are these:

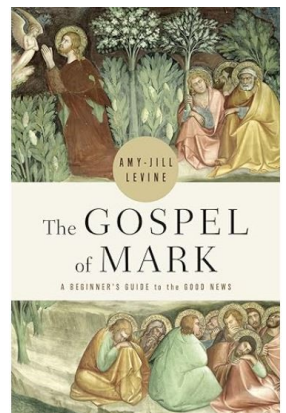
November 1, 8, & 15 **7:00 to 8:30 PM**

You are encouraged to purchase the book.



Questions for Reflection:

Often those with limited means show great generosity and solidarity, why do you think this is?



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)

also

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 November 28 at 7pm.**

Please contact Pastor Salying if you wish to attend. All regular business meetings are on Zoom..

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

see next page

MMXXIII 11/11

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11
6:00PM DOORS OPEN

ST THOMAS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
231 SUNSET AVE SUNNYVALE
CA 94086

SUGGESTED DONATION
\$20

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS
COLLECTED WILL BE DONATED
TO AN ORGANIZATION FOR
AIDING THE COMMUNITY.

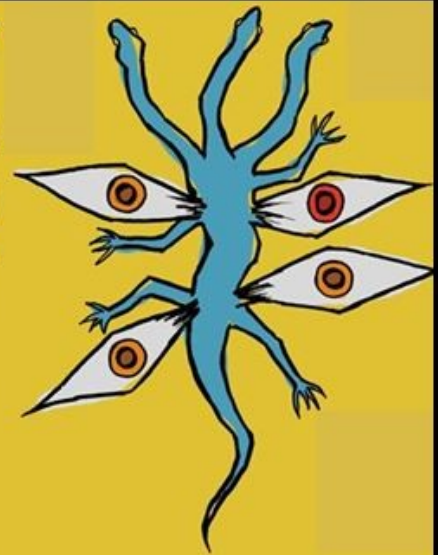
BENJAMIN BELEW

SAKAGCH AKEALA

PIANO

mephistoape.com

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 & Bake Sale, Saturday, December 2, 10a-2p and Sunday, December 3, 9a-1p** (which this year will be entirely in person - no on-line catalogue or sales).

Additional details may be found in the November issue of the newsletter.

The organizers encourage you to start thinking about what you might contribute to sell during this fundraising event. Donations of items to sell will take place **between Sunday November 26 and Friday December 1**. Thank you!

General Announcements

Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations to Altar Guild

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

Pledges, Offerings & Donations

Your pledges and other donations may always be mailed to the church office and marked to the attention of the Treasurer.

When donating by check, please make the check payable to "St. Thomas Episcopal Church".

Under our current public health restrictions, we encourage you to mail in your pledges and offerings to the church or use our online

donation option.

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

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

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

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

Peace, Jim Cobb

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

Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

St Thomas Stepping Stones Jail Ministry

Get proximate to the pain and you will make the deepest connection. Join the St. Thomas Stepping Stone Jail ministry and get proximate to those who are in need of community and love. We began by sending out pen-pal letters and the coming weeks we will try to organize going in person into the jail (only for persons who want/agreed to do this work).

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

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

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



Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!

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

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

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

2023
Pat Dare
Breno DeMedeiros
Abby O’Connell

2024
Nancy Allgeier
Gage McKinney
Rita Welsh

2025
Joe Gutierrez
Dena Ware
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Stephanie Daugherty Hugo Lopez-Laguna Mabel Cheng Sherene Nagarajah

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

Welcome

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accompanist: Benjamin Belew.....

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

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

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

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

(The hospital does not always automatically notify the parish)

The Rev. Salying Wong, Rector..... 510-478-3554

Parish Office408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

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