

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins - William Blake

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

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

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 27

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

November 12, 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 coffee hour in Cowans Hall across the courtyard.

Prelude

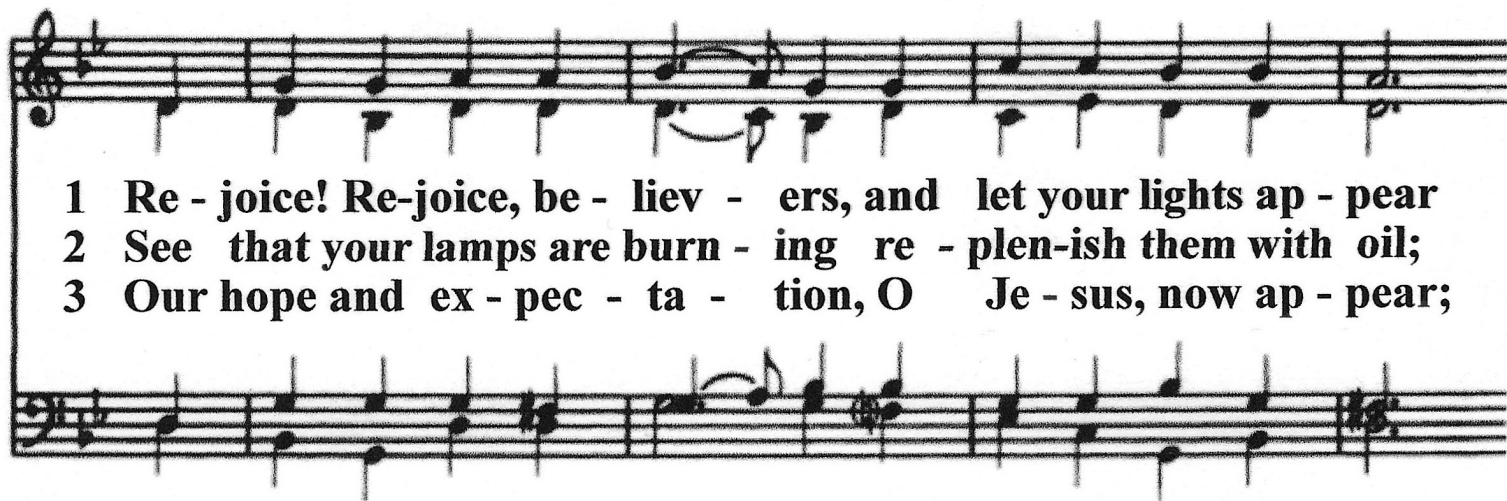
Benjamin Belew, piano

Opening Hymn

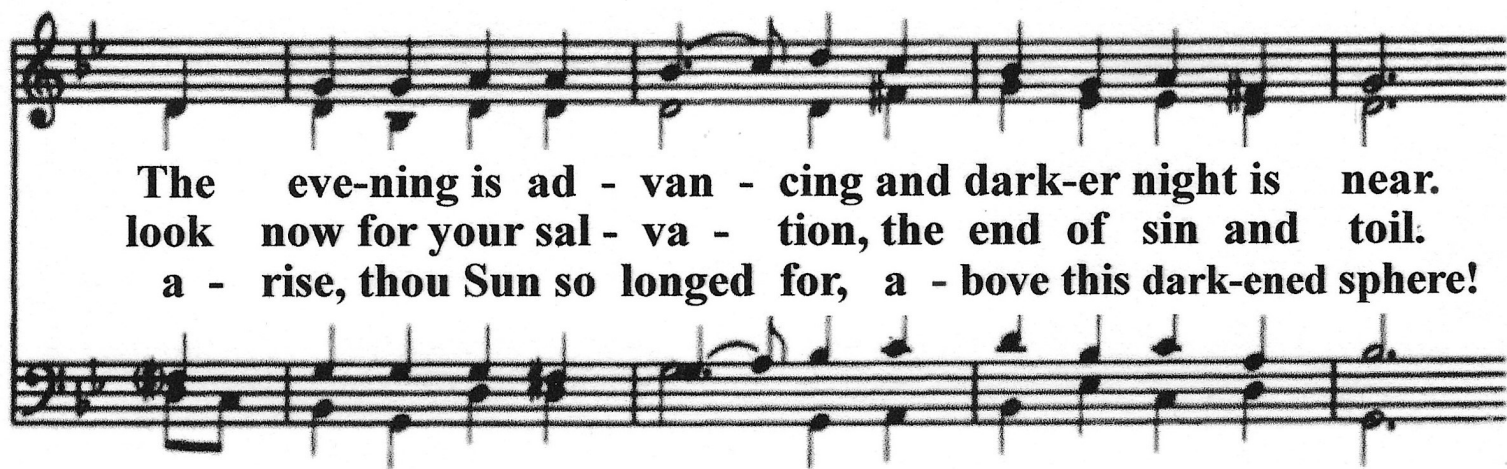
Hymnal #68

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

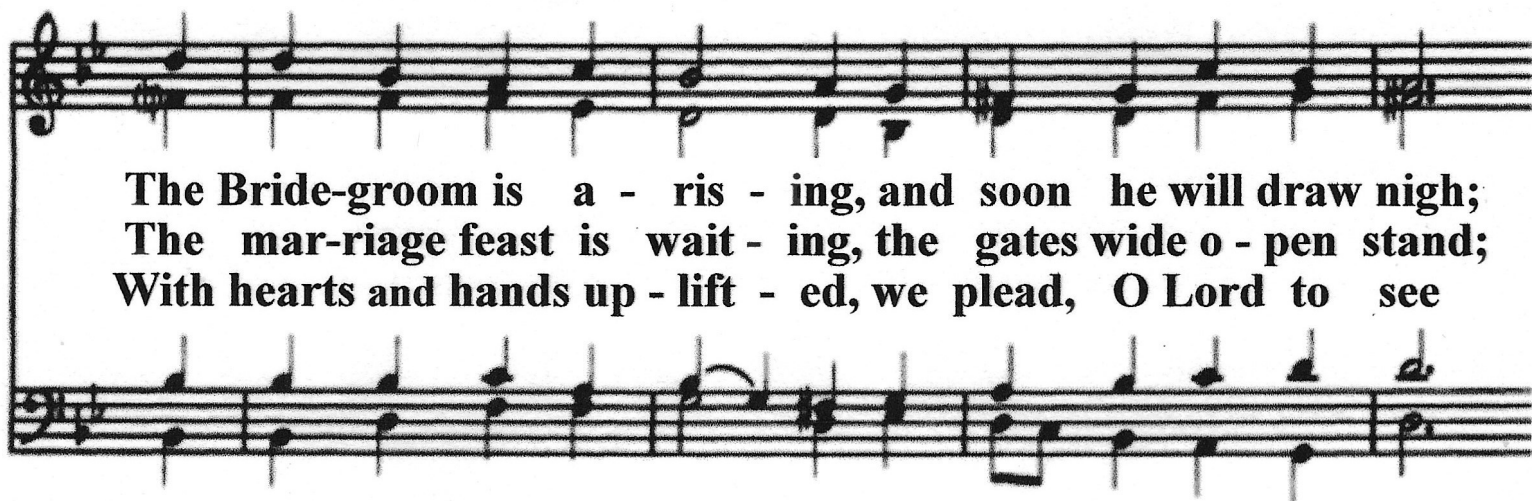
All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.



1 Re - joice! Re-joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing re - plen-ish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve-ning is ad - van - cing and dark-er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar-riage feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord to see

what ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, what bliss be-yond com - pare!
 the pas-tures of the bless - ed are decked in glo-rious sheen.
 for ev - er and for ev - er are clad in robes of white.
 who art, with God the Fa - ther, and Spi - rit ev - er blest.

Words: Bernard of Cluny (12th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.
 St. 4, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861
 Music: *Ewing*, Alexander Ewing (1830-1895)

76. 76. 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,

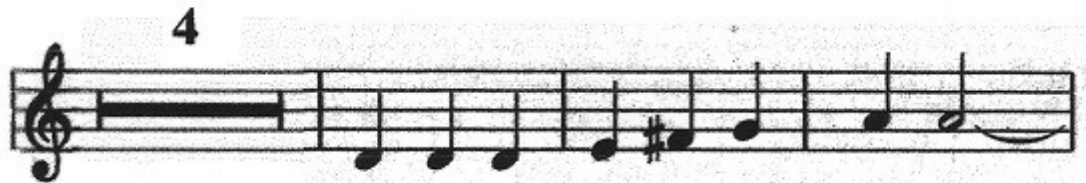
Through Christ our Lord. A - men.

Gloria

WLP #900

*Please join in singing
the Gloria.*

*Zoom participants
please stay muted*



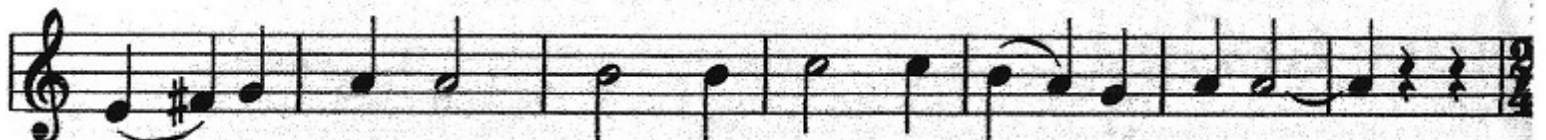
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, _



_ 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_

Fa-ther, _

Fa-ther, __

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

Fa-ther, __

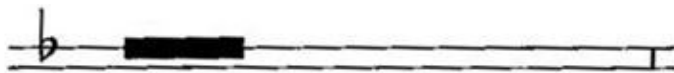
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

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.

Collect for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost proper 27



Celebrant: God be with you.



People: And also with you



Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors-- Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor-- lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will

serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD; for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

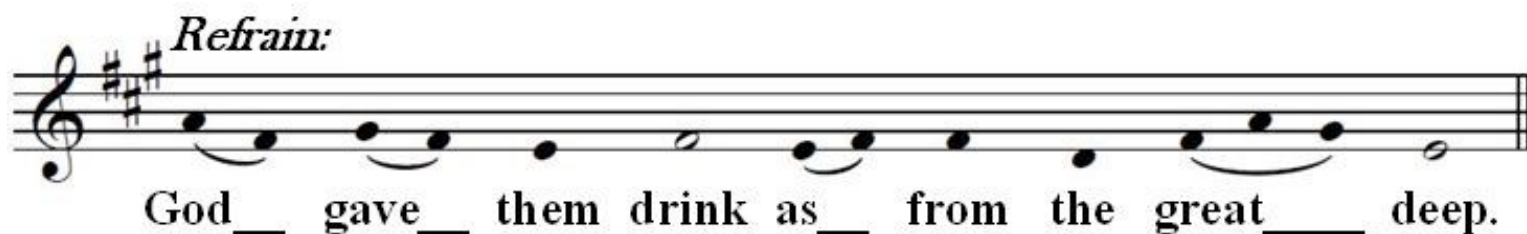
People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 78:1-7

The congregation may join the choir in singing the refrain:

Zoom participants please stay muted.

Refrain:



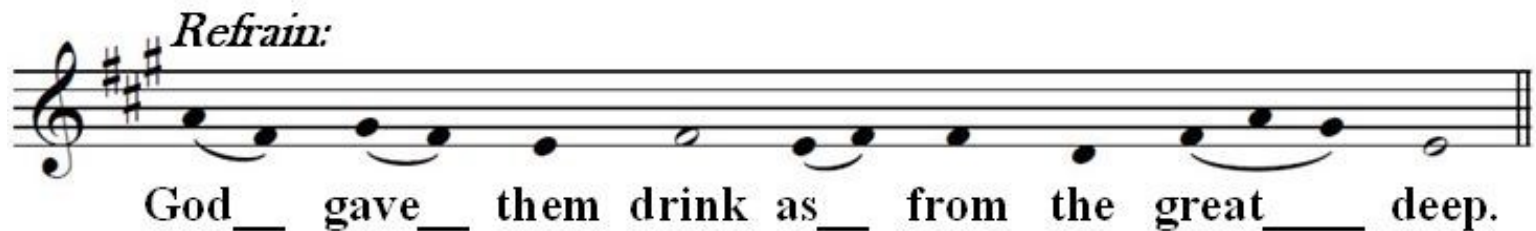
God_ gave_ them drink as_ from the great_ deep.

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

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

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

the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD,
and the wonderful works he has done. *Refrain*



He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel,
which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments; *Refrain*



The Epistle 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this

we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

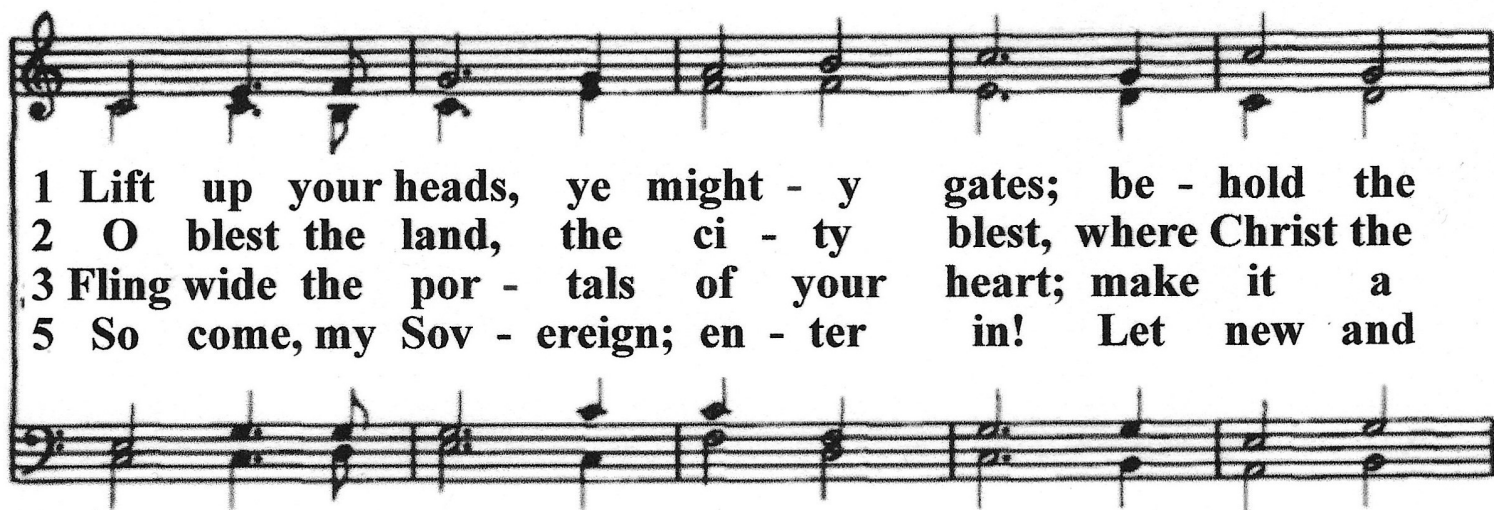
People: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

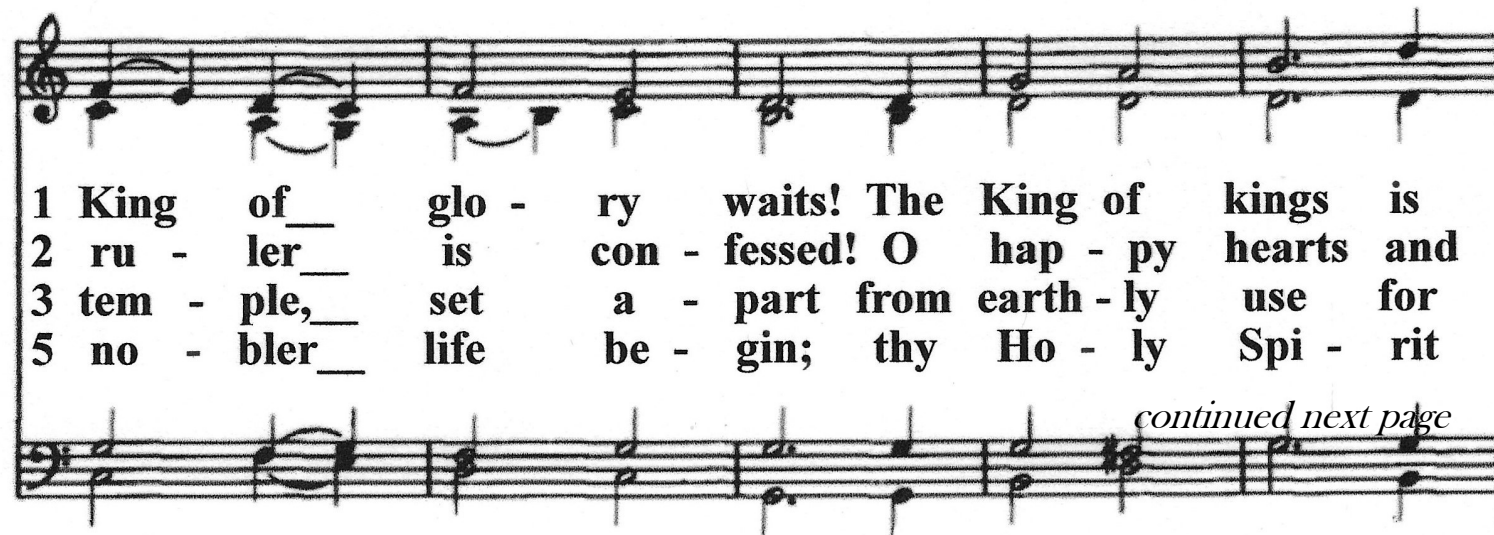
Hymnal #436

Lift Up Your heads, Ye Mighty Gates, vs. 1,2,3,5

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



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and



1 King of__ glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
2 ru - ler__ is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
3 tem - ple,__ set a - part from earth - ly use for
5 no - bler__ life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

continued next page

1 draw - ing__ near; the Sa - vior of__ the__ world is here.
 2 hap - py__ homes to whom this King of__ tri - umph comes!
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 5 guide us__ on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmody Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

LM

The Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he

replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you Lord Christ

The Sermon: Bishop Lucinda's address to Convention

may be found on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-BY0A6aCrI>

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;
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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING





Offertory sentence

Offertory

trad. Spiritual

My Lord, What a Morning
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.**

<p>Celebrant:</p>  <p>The Lord be with you.</p>	<p>People:</p>  <p>And al - so with you.</p>
<p>Celebrant:</p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p>People:</p>  <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>
<p>Celebrant:</p>  <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	
<p>People:</p>  <p>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>	

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__

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

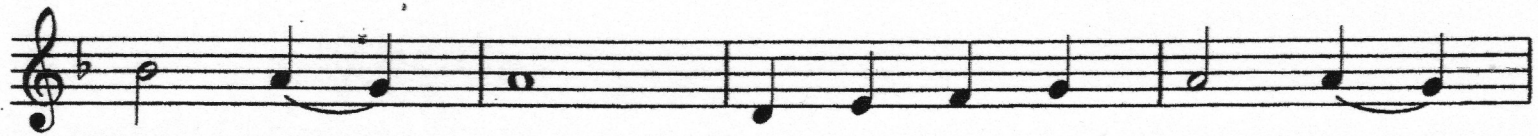
Everyone is invited to come forward to receive Communion.

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.*

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**Zoom participants are invited to sing along. Please stay muted.*

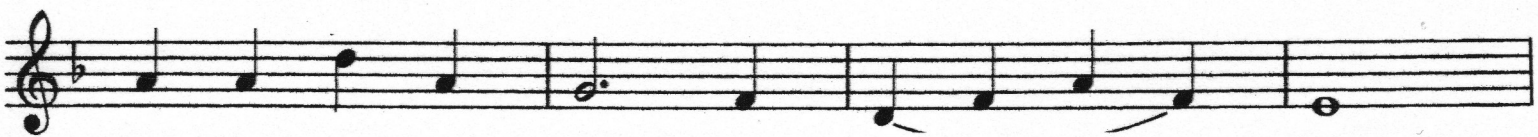
1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep__ si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of__ Ma - ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of__ hea - ven spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged__ ser - aph cher - u - bim with



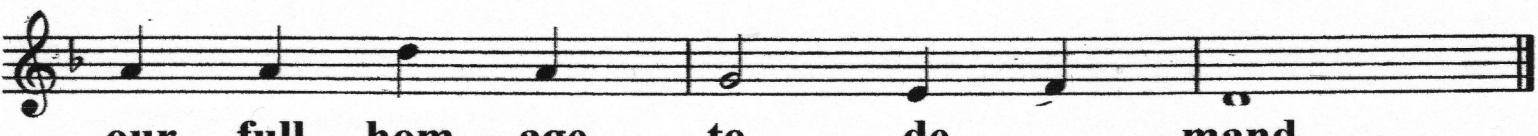
trem - bling__ stand, pon - der noth - ing earth - ly__
 earth he__ stood, Lord of lords in hu - man__
 on the__ way, as the Light of Light de -
 sleep - less__ eye veil their fa - ces to the__



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his__ hand.
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the__ Blood.
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less__ day,
 Pres - ence, as with cease-less voice they__ cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va - nish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly__ food.
 as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 Al - le - lu - ia Lord Most__ High.

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 #690

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

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

1 Guide me, O thou great_ Je - ho - vah, pil-grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal_ foun-tain whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge_ of_ Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

The image shows the first two staves of musical notation for the hymn. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 on the left. The lyrics are: '1 Guide me, O thou great_ Je - ho - vah, pil-grim through this', '2 O - pen now the crys - tal_ foun-tain whence the heal - ing', and '3 When I tread the verge_ of_ Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious'. The musical notation consists of notes and rests on a five-line staff.

continued next page

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might-y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side, death of death, and hell's de - struc-tion,

hold me with thy power-ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour-ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

continued next page

more, shield, thee, feed me now_ and_ ev - er - more. be thou still_ my_ strength and shield. I will ev - er_ give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt.
 Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

87. 87. 877

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Benjamin Belew, keyboard



Serving us at 10:30 am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Salying Wong

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Eucharistic Minister: Jeannie Battagin

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al

Lectors: John McVey, Susan McVey

Cantor: Patricia Pietrzyk

The St. Thomas Choir

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk

Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Tech lead: Breno DeMedeiros, Sophia DeMedeiros

Zoom host: Lou Poulain

TODAY IN THE PARISH

The Altar Flowers are given today by Fran Hostettler in loving memory of her parents, Joseph and Dorothea Downes on their birthdays and anniversary.

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

Library News:

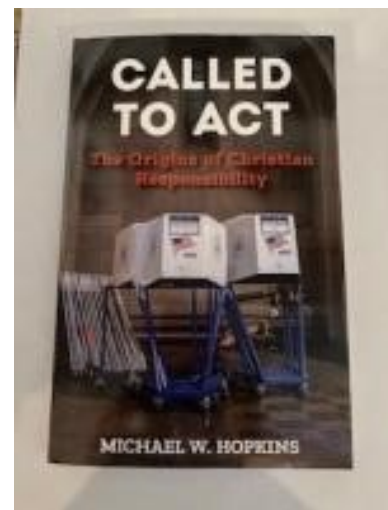
Book of the Week November 12

[*Called to Act: the origins of Christian Responsibility*](#)

by Michael W. Hopkins. Church Pub. 2023.

"The theological foundations of social action Christ himself lived in a time of immense social and political turmoil, as did his early followers. But can those early struggles provide guidance for God's faithful in our own divided time? Episcopal priest and peace advocate Michael W. Hopkins proves that they can, tracing the origins of Christian responsibility all the way back to the indissoluble bond of baptism, drawing a clear line between those fraught early days and the turbulent present that Jesus commands us to engage in.

Rather than allow differences of opinion or misguided attempts at neutrality to divorce us from the necessary work of political and community engagement, Hopkins provides compelling scriptural evidence for a new kingdom, united not by what we have left undone, but by what we are called to do for each other"—publisher.



Stewardship

Reflection for November 12:



A Conversation between The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III and the Rev. Sheleta Fomby

I am blessed to be able to have individuals in my life who are willing to discuss their faith lives. Over the course of my years in ministry, I have met some wonderful people. Recently, I have become acquainted with a powerful preaching sister from Washington, D.C., the Rev. Sheleta E. Fomby. She has become both a friend and a spiritual guide in my life. In a recent conversation, Rev. Fomby and I were discussing how blessed we were in our individual and collective lives. And in a quiet moment, she stated that she lives a great life because she has experienced God's abundance. "If it were not for that, how could she be generous to others."

When God created the earth, God deposited upon the earth and gave to its inhabitants all that they would need for survival. God provides more than enough for all to live fully and completely.

Rev. Fomby blessed me with sharing this simple lesson. The more she reflected upon her own life and the lives of those who have poured into her own ministry, I had a moment of understanding the distinction. She was generous in her sharing because of all that others had given to her out of their own abundance. And now the cycle continues because now I can share with others out of the abundance of love, care and prayers that others have showered upon me.



Questions for Reflection:

How has God's abundance formed your generosity?

+ + +

The Rev. Sheleta Fomby is the Pastor at New Life AME Church in Laurel, Maryland and is fully committed to liberating lives, encouraging hearts, and inspiring hope through the faithful proclamation of God's word.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Campus Security There has been illicit, dangerous and disrespectful activity in our parking lot. This has become a problem for our staff and has raised neighbor complaints. The vestry has initiated installation of a bollard-and-chain set-up at our entrance driveways to deter these activities. The chain will be secured by a padlock keyed to our campus keys so that any authorized keyholder will be able to unlock and lock up after access. Regularly scheduled events should continue without any impediment. In addition, street parking will always be available to anyone needing to make a quick stop on campus at a time when the parking lot is locked up (when no specific event has been scheduled). Installation should be complete by the end of the third week of November. **Thank you** in advance for your patience while we work out any issues that may arise from this new procedure!

St Thomas joins Angel Tree this Christmas.

“Did you know one in 49 children has a parent in prison? At Christmas, the emotional pain of a loved one’s incarceration grows even more intense; the distance is felt by children and parents alike. Prison Fellowship Angel Tree gives incarcerated parents a way to provide a Christmas gift and a personal message as a tangible representation of their love.” ~ *Prison Fellowship Angel Tree*

This year, St Thomas is joining with Angel Tree in the unique opportunity to minister to families in our community.

Next **Sunday, November 19**, there will be a list at the entrance of the

church to inspire volunteers to sign up to provide gifts to the children whose dad or mom is in jail or in prison. Like last year, we will be provided with the names and ages of the children in a family (typically 2, 3, or 4 children per family, and we would choose a family). Buy the gifts, pack them, and bring them to church the week of December 10-15. The caretakers for the children will come to St Thomas on **Saturday, December 16** in the morning to pick them up.

Adult Formation - Bible Study

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

Concludes on **Wednesday November 15 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

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)

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Thomas



Deacon Bertram's Last Sunday will be **November 26**. We will have a a goodbye liturgy in the midst of the service to bless Bertram before he goes. Bertram will preach at both services. There will be cake following the 10:30am service. Please come to wish him well as he goes to Trinity and to thank him for his faithful service at St. Thomas.

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.

Greening of the Church December 2 at 10:30am!

Come work off those Thanksgiving Day leftovers [previously frozen and in no way toxic] by decorating the church for Advent. We will put up trees and wreaths and prepare our hearts for the expectation of our Lord. Many hands make light work, so please help us.

Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 2, 10a-2p and Sunday, December 3, 9a-1p.

If you have items you'd like to donate for sale, including baked goods, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church and/or speak with Fran Hostettler.



If you would like to purchase an evergreen wreath or poinsettia, please sign up for them on the sheets at the back of the church and/or let Fran know you wish to purchase one.



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.

Agape Circle First Friday of each month (mostly!) at 6:30pm, Cowans Hall (we will observe "mask" protocols as necessary). There is **no Circle in December**—next time will be January 5, 2024!

General Announcements

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

Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations to Altar Guild

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

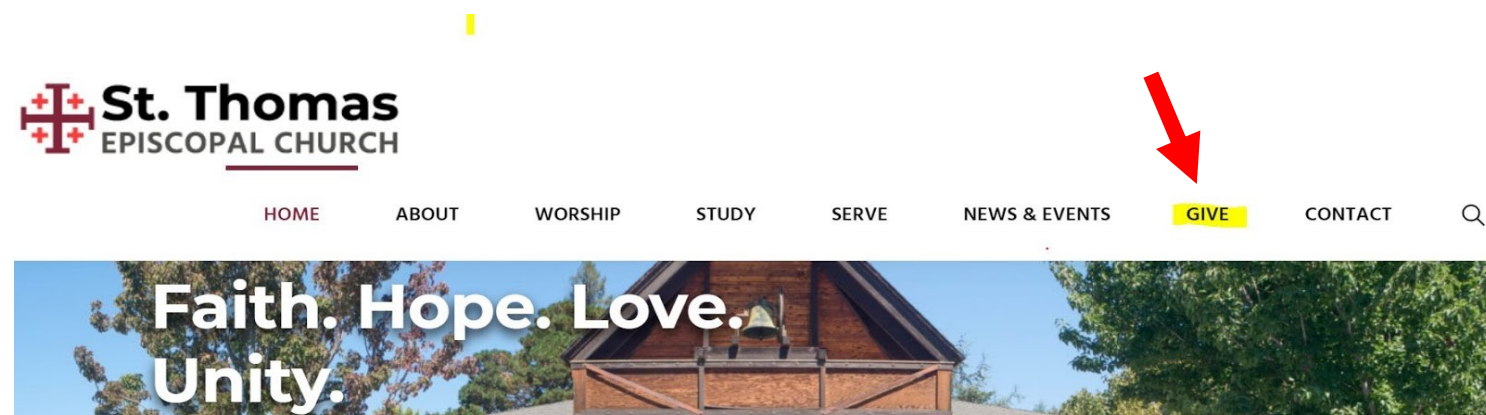
Pledges, Offerings & Donations

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

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

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

Online Giving Please look for the “GIVE” option on the main menu



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

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

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

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

Peace, Jim Cobb

St. Thomas Library The church library will be open on Sundays after the 8 a.m. service, and again after the 10:30 service. Carol or a member of the Library Committee will be available to answer questions on Fridays from 10-12; after 12:00 our administrator Anne

will be available until 4:00 to open the door for you. Call 408-736-4155 for access, or knock loudly! We request that you remember to wear your mask.

Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

St Thomas Stepping Stones Jail Ministry

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

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

The Prayer Chain and Helping Hands and Hearts

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

Family Ministry Contact 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. (This class will not meet on November 24.) 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 November 27** when we meet to discuss *The Light We Carry* by Michele Obama. Michelle Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress. Please join us—contact Dorothy through our website www.stthomas-svale.org/contact for the Zoom link.



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.

Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

Tuesdays, 6pm Centering Prayer, led by Pastor Salying

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/724376004>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 724376004

Wednesdays, 12:15pm Noonday Prayer with Commemoration of a Saint,

led by Pastor Salying: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86313271549>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 86313271549

Thursdays, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom

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

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

Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,89699188717#,,, *225424# US (San Jose)

Sundays: 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the church
and

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

Zoom link for livestream: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>

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

Both Sunday services led by Pastor Salying

Please see website for week-to-week information:

www.stthomas-svale.org

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

<https://docs.google.com/document/>

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

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

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 Ministryfamily_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