

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am

The Parable of the Talents

A stack of approximately ten gold coins, likely 100 Euro coins, is positioned in the center of the page. The coins are stacked vertically, with the top coin showing its obverse side. The stack is slightly offset to the right, partially overlapping the word 'Talents' in the title below.

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

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

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 28

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

November 19, 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 #290

Come Ye Thankful People Come

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



- 1 Come ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest-home:
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his har-vest home;
- 4 E - ven so, Lord quick-ly come to thy fi - nal har-vest-home;



all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win-ter storms be - gin;
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, in - to joy or sor - row grown:
from his field shall in that day all of - fens-es purge a - way;
gath-er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin;



continued next page

Descant

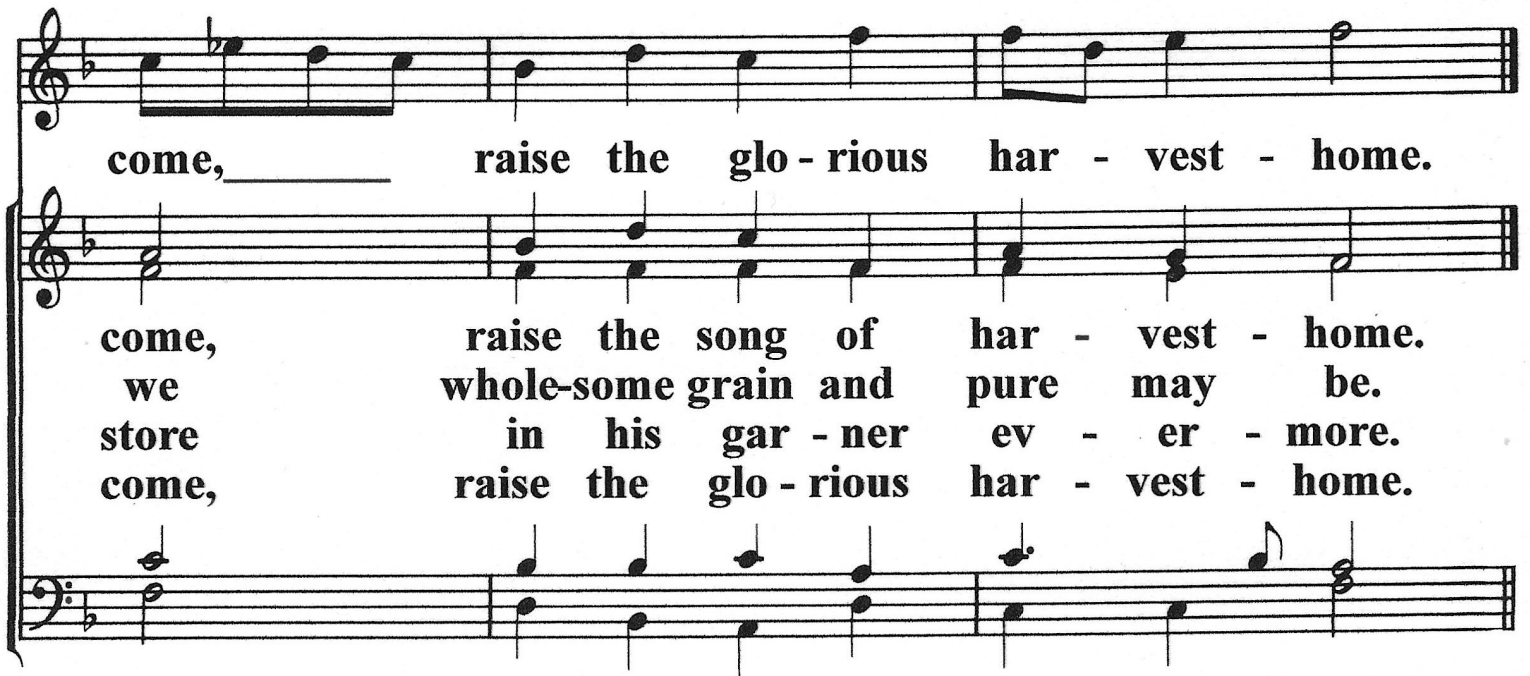
4 there, for ev - er pur - i - fied, in thy pres-ence

1 God, our Ma - ker doth pro - vide for our wants to
2 first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn
3 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the
4 there, for ev - er pur - i - fied, in thy pre-ence

to a - bide; come, with all_ thine_ an - gels

be sup - plied; come to God's own tem - ple,
shall ap - pear: grant, O har - vest Lord, that
tares to cast, but the fruit - ful ears to
to a - bide; come, with all thine an - gels

continued next page



come, _____ raise the glo-rious har-vest-home.

come, raise the song of har-vest-home.
 we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
 come, raise the glo-rious har-vest-home.

Thanksgiving Day.


Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.

Music: *St. George's, Windsor*, George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

77. 77. D


Greeting

Celebrant:



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

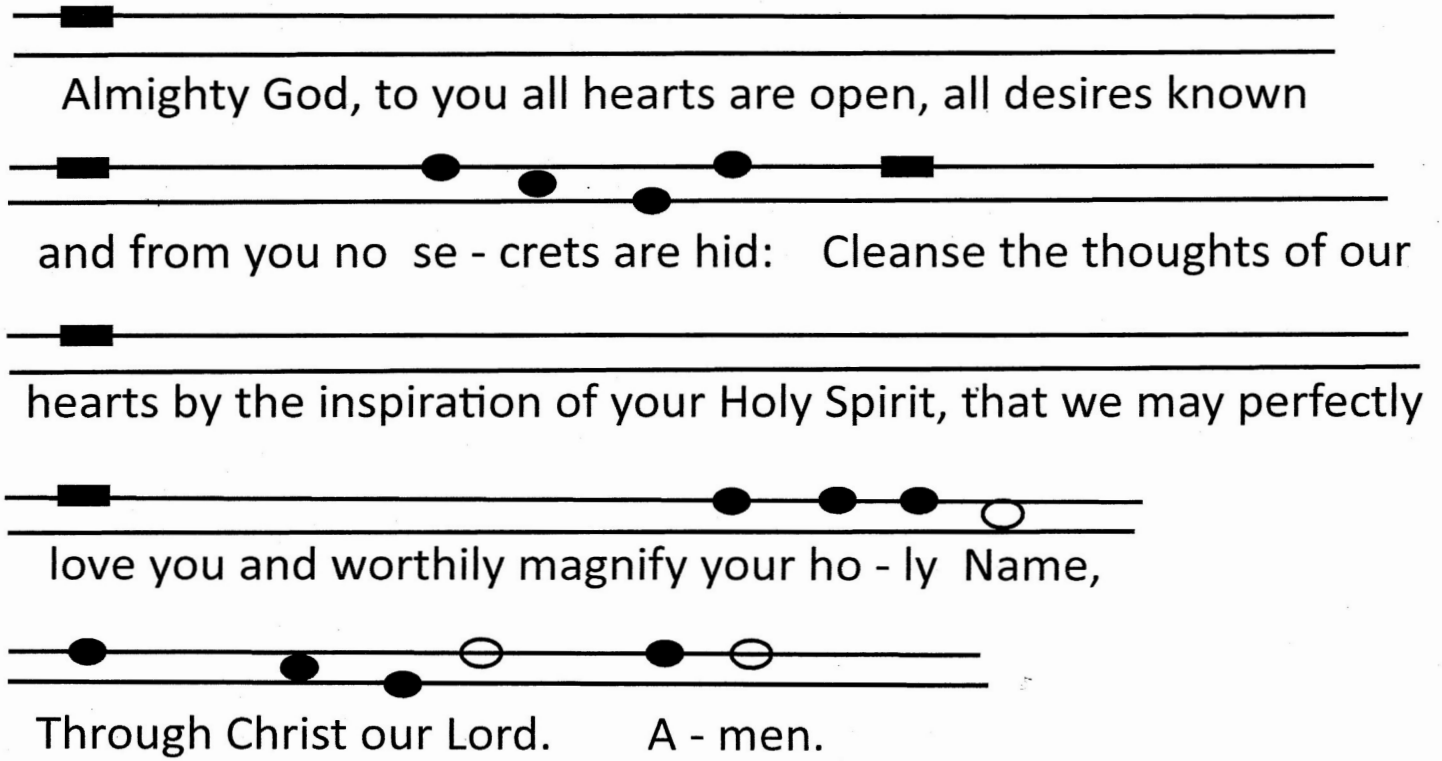
People:



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

Collect for Purity

Celebrant:



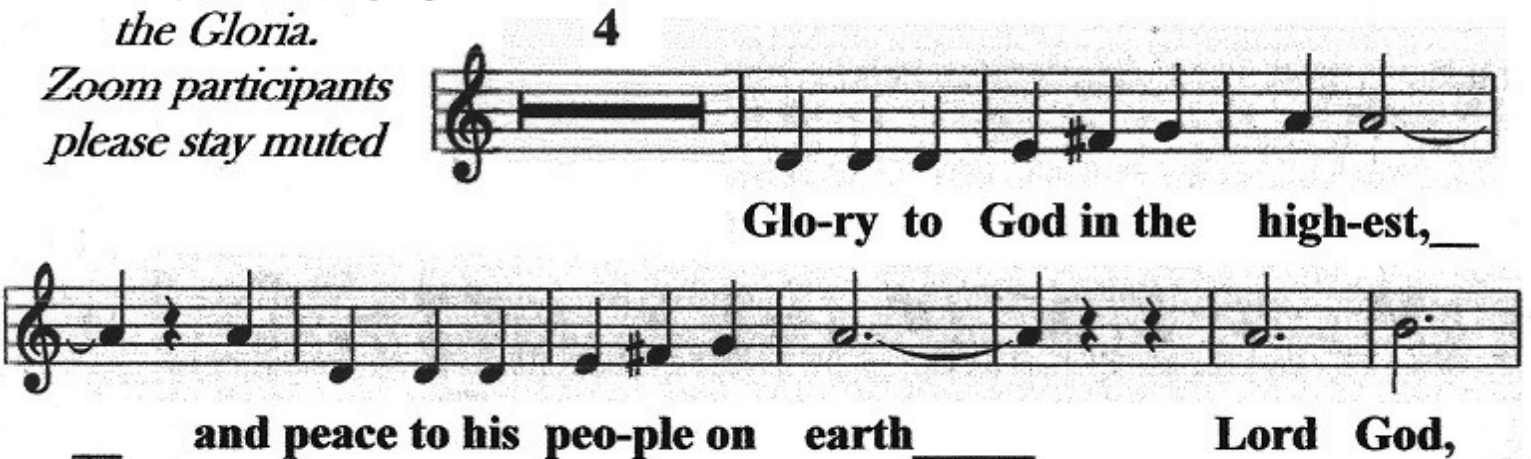
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known
and from you no se - crets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily magnify your ho - ly Name,
Through Christ our Lord. A - men.

Gloria

WLP #900

*Please join in singing
the Gloria.*

*Zoom participants
please stay muted*



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__



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

Fa-ther,___

Fa-ther



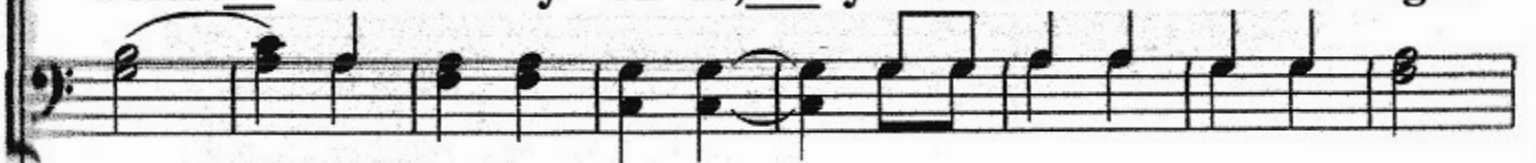
Fa-ther,___



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

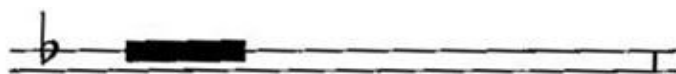
Fa - ther: re - ceive

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.

Celebrant: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of

Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

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

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 123

The congregation may join the choir in singing the refrain:.

Zoom participants please stay muted.

Refrain:



Our eyes_ look_ to the_ Lord our_ God, from whom_ we seek_ mer-cy.

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens. *Refrain*

Refrain:



Our eyes_ look_ to the_ Lord our_ God, from whom_ we seek_ mer-cy.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he show us his mercy. *Refrain (as above)*

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud. *Refrain*



The Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

People: **Thanks be to God**

We Plough the Fields and Scatter

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

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
 2 He on - ly is the Ma - ker of all things near and far,
 3 We thank thee then, O Fa - ther, for all things bright and good

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al-migh-ty hand;
 he paints the way-side flow - er, he lights the eve - ning star;
 the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food:

he sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 the winds and waves o - bey him, by him the birds are fed;
 the gifts we have to of - fer are what thy love im - parts,

continued next page

the breez-es and the sun-shine, and soft re-fresh-ing rain.
 much more to us, his chil-dren, he gives our dai-ly bread.
 but chief-ly thou de - sir - est our hum-ble thank-ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heaven a - bove;

then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all _ his _ love.

Thanksgiving Day.

Words: Matthias Claudius (1740-1815); tr. Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-1878), alt.
 Music: *Wir pflugen*, Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747-1800)

76. 76. D with Refrain

The Gospel:

Matthew 25:14-30

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

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 Anthem and Hymn

John Rutter

With Hearts and Hands
Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Benjamin Belew, piano

Hymn

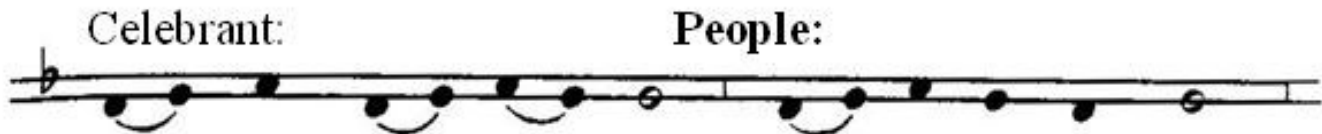
Hymnal #397

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

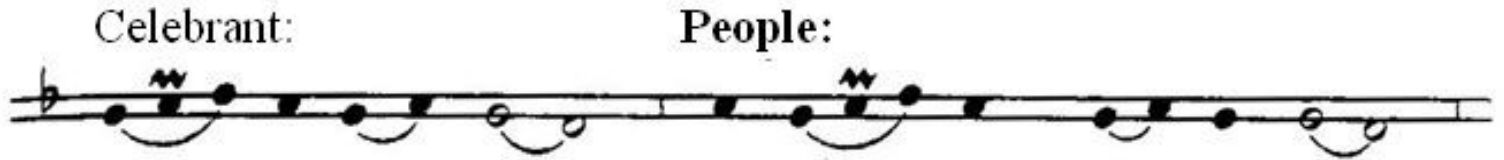
**Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands, and voices
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices
who from our mothers arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love and still is ours today.**

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

People: **And of your own have we given you.**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 -

continued next page

The image shows a three-system musical score for a hymn. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "san - na in__ the high - est *Bless - ed__ is he who comes_ in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in__ the High - est. Ho - san - na in__ the high - est." The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords and rests.

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 #490

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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

1 I want to walk as a child of the light
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

1 I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 2 I want to look at Je - sus.
 3 I want to be with Je - sus.

1 God set the stars to give light to the world, The
 2 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 3 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b.1934)
 Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)

1 star of my life, is Je - sus.
2 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
3 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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.

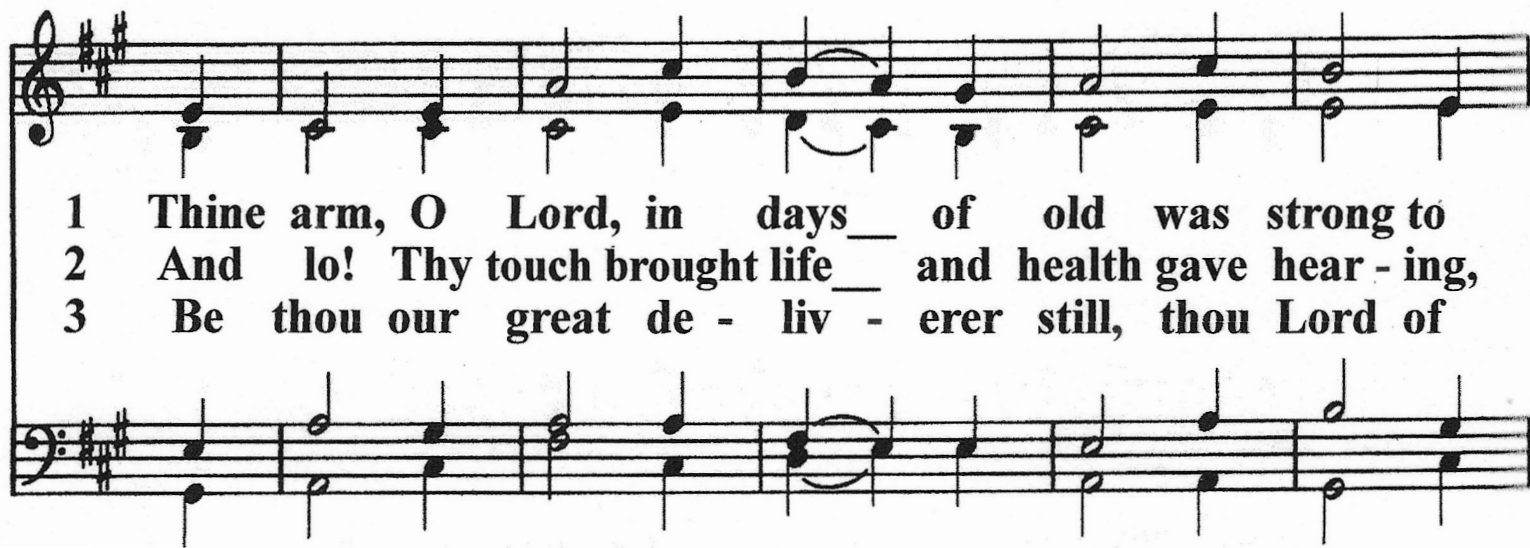
The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Hymnal #567

Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old

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



1 Thine arm, O Lord, in days_ of old was strong to
2 And lo! Thy touch brought life_ and health gave hear - ing,
3 Be thou our great de - liv - erer still, thou Lord of

heal_ and save; it tri-umphed o'er dis - ease_ and death,
 strength, and sight; and youth re-newed and fren - zy calmed
 life_ and death; re - store and quick-en, soothe_ and bless,

o'er dark-ness and_ the grave. To thee they went, the
 owned thee, the Lord_ of light: and now, O Lord, be
 with thine al - might - ty breath: to hands that work_ and

blind, the deaf, the pal - sied, and the lame, the lep - er
 near_ to bless, al - might - ty_ as of yore, in crowd - ed
 eyes_ that see, give wis - dom's_ heaven-ly lore, that whole and

set a - part and shunned, the sick with fe - vered frame.
 street, by rest - less couch, as by Gen - nes - aret's shore.
 sick and weak and strong, may praise thee ev - er - more.

Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891), alt.

Music: *St. Matthew*, from *Supplement to the New Version of Psalms* by Dr. Brady and Mr. Tate, 1708

CMD

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: Ann Kopischke

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al

Lectors: Patricia Pietrzyk, John Pietrzyk

The St. Thomas Choir

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk
Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Tech lead: Abby O'Connell

Zoom host: Steve Williams

TODAY IN THE PARISH

The Altar Flowers are given today by Sharon Glassett in loving memory of her mother, Jane Doman.

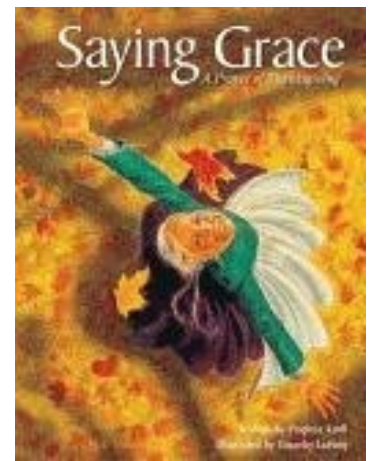
Coffee Hour today will be inside Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of Covid protocols. Thank you.

Library News:

Book of the Week November 19

[A Prayer of Thanksgiving](#) by Virginia Kroll

A young girl named Grace starts a tradition for her family of giving blessings to God before the Thanksgiving meal. A lovely thanksgiving book for all ages to enjoy.



Stewardship

Reflection for November 19



Roots run deep in Appalachia. A college graduate was asked why she returned to Harlan, far from opportunities to use her degree. Smiling she said, “I came home because I want to pick blackberries off of the same bush my grandparents picked from.” Another graduate returned home and explained, “If I don’t come home, who will take care of grandma?”

This rootedness reminds the Venerable Bryant Kibler, Priest-in-Partnership with St. Timothy’s Outreach Center in Estill County, KY, of the Syrian commander and leper Naaman, who took loads of dirt back to Syria with him because God’s healing presence was rooted in that soil (2 Kings 5). As Bryant ministers alongside communities in Appalachia, he witnesses how deeply rooted God’s people are to the land where they have known God’s healing through community and family. A place where abundance is known in caring for loved ones and tasting berries from ancestral bushes.

The mountains and valleys of Appalachia have abundantly provided resources to the rest of the world, especially coal that is used to create

electricity elsewhere. Companies have taken from the abundance and cleared out as soon as resources grew scarce, leaving whole communities unemployed. Some families migrate elsewhere. Others stay on the land they love, in mountains and valleys abundant in natural beauty and family connection.

St. Timothy's partners with many congregations to explore Appalachian culture and to repair homes during summer work weeks. When a team came to assist a homeowner rebuild after the devastating recent flooding along the Kentucky River, the homeowner graciously pointed the team to a neighbor's house, whose home was more destroyed. "They need you more than we do," the homeowner announced.

In this place, abundance is rooted in a community that trusts God's grace to heal what is broken.

+ + +

The Venerable Bryant Kibler serves as the Archdeacon for the Mountain Region and as Director of Mountain Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington.

St Thomas joins Angel Tree this Christmas: begins today

"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.

Starting **today**, there will be a list at the entrance of the church to



Questions for Reflection:

Where do you plant your roots? How does your location and history of being in or from a place impact your ministry?

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.

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!

Thanksgiving Day worship service On **Thursday, November 24** Thanksgiving Day we will worship together at **10:30am** with Holy Eucharist. This service will also be livestreamed on Zoom. Please join us!

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..

Diocese of El Camino Real Advent Retreat on December 2
You are invited to a diocese-wide Advent Retreat and we hope you

will join us! On Saturday, December 2nd we will be at St. Francis in Willow Glen (San Jose), and will gather at 10am for worship, Bible study, and reflection. You are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and bring a journal or computer, if you are someone who enjoys writing while reflecting. Lunch will be provided, and there is a \$10 suggested donation to help with the cost of lunch, but this is not a required contribution. The retreat will end by 3pm. The theme of the day is “The Mysteries of the Season of Advent” and the retreat will be led by the diocesan Advent Retreat committee. Questions? Please email Canon Martha at canonmartha@realepiscopal.org. To register, please click [HERE](#).

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



HOME

ABOUT

WORSHIP

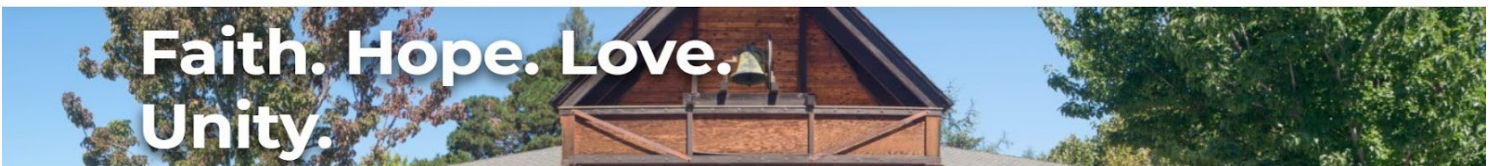
STUDY

SERVE

NEWS & EVENTS

GIVE

CONTACT



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. 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.

An updated **Announcement page** is available on line at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg and updates of various parish events and activities may also be found on our website at www.stthomas-svale.org

Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

Tuesdays, 6pm Centering Prayer, led by Pastor Salying

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom

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

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

Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424

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

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

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

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

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

Both Sunday services led by Pastor Salying

*Please see website for week-to-week information:
www.stthomas-svale.org*

A decorative border consisting of a repeating pattern of small, stylized birds in flight, arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

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 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