

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CHRIST THE KING

November 26, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



Jesus Christ King of Peace - Gloria Ssali

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

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

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CHRIST THE KING

Holy Eucharist

10:30am, Rite II

November 26, 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 end of worship, there will be coffee hour in Cowans Hall across the courtyard.

Prelude

Benjamin Belew, piano

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #377

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

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

Unison or harmony

1 All peo-ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap-proach with joy his
4 For why? The Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for -
5 To Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heaven and

1 cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth
2 did us make: we are his folk, he doth us
3 courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -
4 ev - er - sure; his truth at all times firm - ly
5 earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel

continued next page

1 tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 2 feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 3 ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 4 stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
 5 host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Words: William Kethe (d. 1608?); para. of Psalm 100

Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.;
 harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

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, __

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

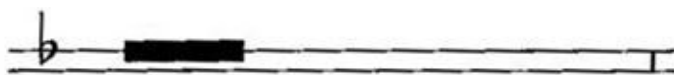
world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right

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 Last Sunday after Pentecost

proper 29



Celebrant: God be with you.



People: And also with you



Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I,

the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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


People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 100

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

Zoom participants please stay muted.

Refrain:




Be__ joy - ful in the__ Lord,__ all__ you lands!

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. *Refrain*

Refrain:



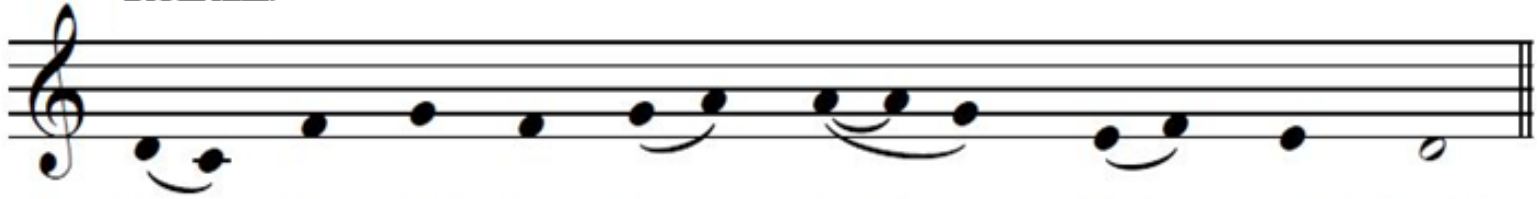
Be__ joy - ful in the__ Lord,__ all__ you lands!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;

and his faithfulness endures from age to age. *Refrain*

Refrain:



Be__ joy - ful in the__ Lord,__ all__ you lands!

The Epistle Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

People: Thanks be to God

Fairest Lord Jesus

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



1 Fair-est Lord Je - sus, Ru-ler of all na - ture, O thou of
 2 Fair are the mea-dows, fair-er still the wood - lands, robed in the
 3 Fair is the sun-shine, fair-er still the moon-light, and all the



God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,



thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo-ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe-ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an-gels heaven can boast.



Words: German composite; tr. pub. New York, 1850, alt.

Music: *St. Elizabeth*, melody from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; harm. Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

568, 568

The Gospel:

Matthew 25:31-46

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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.

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from ***Praying Our Goodbyes***, by Joyce Rupp

Deacon Bertram stands in the center of the main aisle.

Leader: Today we say goodbye to Bertram. Let us pause in silence for a few minutes, remember the presence of our God who is with us and who understands the goodbye we are experiencing.

Silence

Leader: God of our life's journeys, we gather here to celebrate the goodness of Bertram and to ask your blessing as he continues

on the road of life. May the love that is in our hearts be a bond that unites us forever, wherever we may be. May the power of your presence bless this moment of his leave-taking. May he take with him all that we have treasured about his ministry and gifts among us. Let us name aloud our appreciation:

The congregation names their appreciations.

Leader: As you journey onward, may you always remember that our love and appreciation for you are etched on our hearts.

People: We know that God goes with you.

Leader: As you experience the pain of change and the insecurity of moving on, may you also experience the blessing of inner growth.

People: We know that God goes with you.

Leader: As you meet the poor, the pained, the stranger on your way, may you see in each one the face of Christ.

People: We know that God goes with you.

Leader: As you walk through the good times and the hard times, may you never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms.

People: We know that God goes with you.

Leader: As you question your decisions and wonder about the fruits of your choices, may the peace of God reign in your heart.

People: We know that God goes with you.

Leader: We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for Bertram. We entrust him to your loving care, knowing that you are always the faithful traveler and companion on our way. Shelter and protect him from harm and useless anxiety. May the future be a source of many enriching and transforming moments.

All: Amen.

The leader offers Bertram a gift.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

Offertory Anthem

Thoro Harris, arr. Paul Ferrin

All That Thrills My Soul
Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Benjamin Belew, piano

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

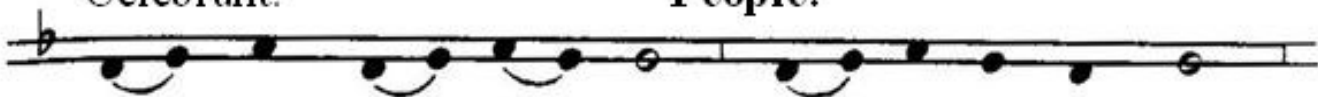
People: And of your own have we given you.

Sursum Corda

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant:

People:



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

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

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



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

Celebrant:

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 #335

I Am the Bread of Life

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



1	I	am	the	bread	of	life;	___	they	who	
2	(The)	Bread	that	___	I	will	give	___	is	my
3	(Un-)	less	___	you	eat	___	of	the		
4		I	am	the	re -	sur -	rec -	tion,	___	
5	(Yes,)	Lord	___	we	be -	lieve	___	that	___	

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1 come to me shall not hun - ger; they who be -
 2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who
 3 Flesh of the Son of Man and
 4 I am the life. They who be -
 5 you are the Christ the



1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 2 eat of this bread they shall live for
 3 drink of his Blood, you shall not have life with -
 4 lieve in me, e - ven if they
 5 Son of God who has



1 me un - less the Fa - ther draw them.
 2 ev - er, they shall live for ev - er,
 3 in you, you shall not have life with - in you.
 4 die they shall live for ev - er.
 5 come in - to the world.

Descant



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

Refrain



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them



up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

last day. 5. Yes, day.

last day. 2 The 3 Un - day. 4 5 Yes,

The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); adapt. of John 6

Words: © 1970, 1975, Celebration.

Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928)

Irr. with Refrain

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 #450

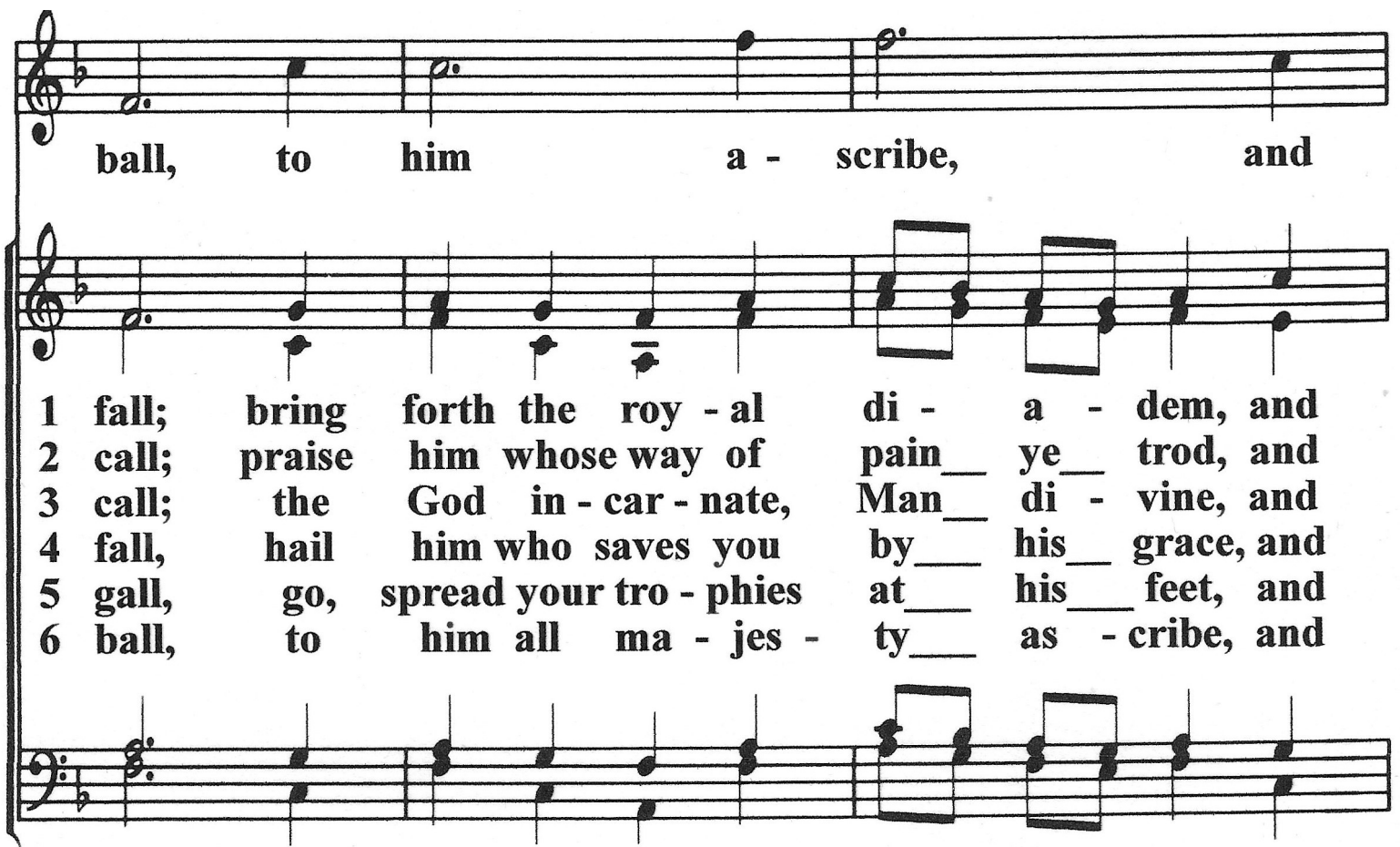
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

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

6 Let_ ev - ery kin - dred ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

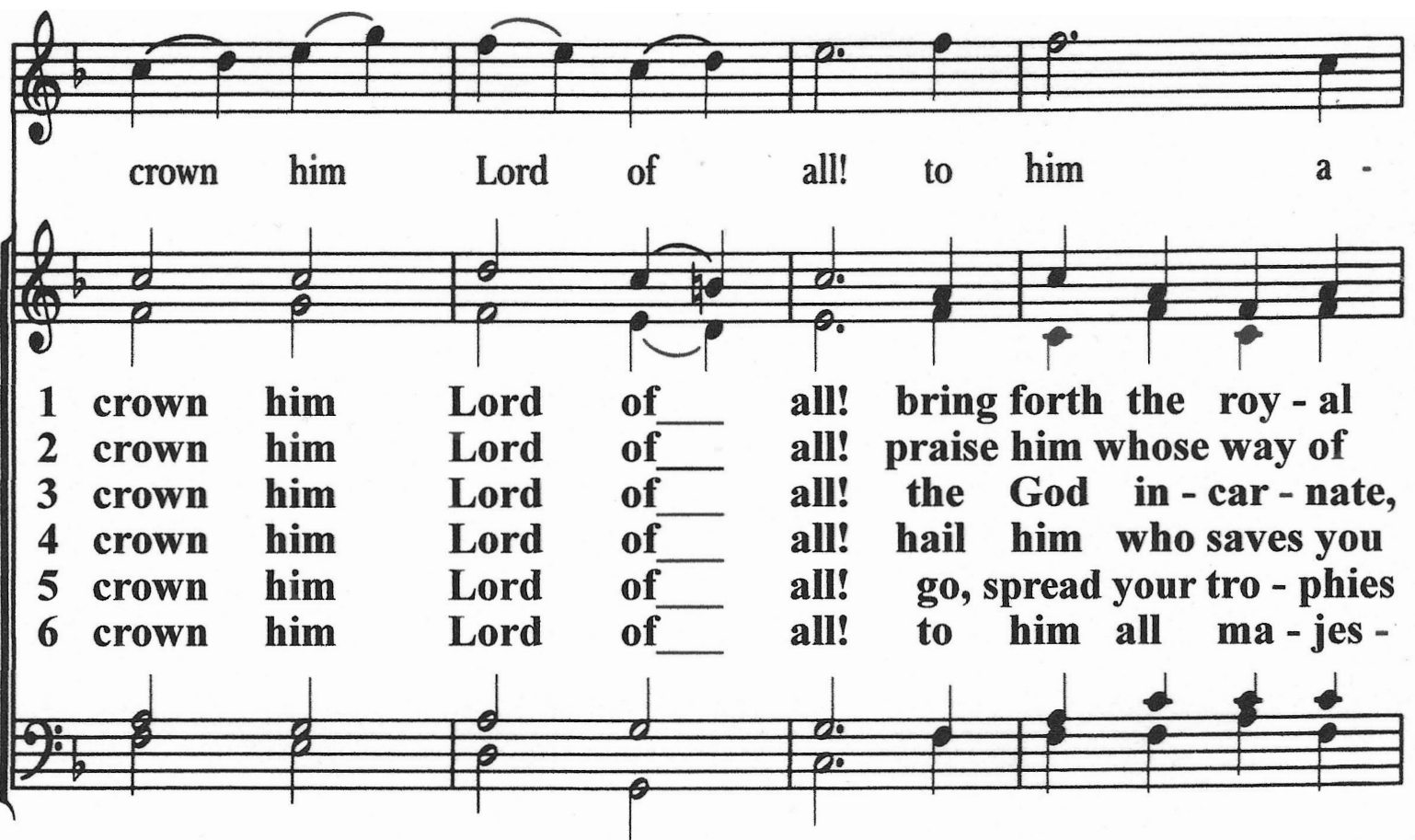
1 All hail the power of Je-sus' Name! Let an - gels pros-trate
 2 Crown him ye mar-tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar
 3 Hail him, the Heir of Da-vid's line whom Da - vid Lord did
 4 Ye heirs of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran-somed of the
 5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the
 6 Let ev - ery kin - dred ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

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ball, to him a - scribe, and

1 fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
 2 call; praise him whose way of pain__ ye__ trod, and
 3 call; the God in - car - nate, Man__ di - vine, and
 4 fall, hail him who saves you by__ his__ grace, and
 5 gall, go, spread your tro - phies at__ his__ feet, and
 6 ball, to him all ma - jes - ty__ as - crite, and



crown him Lord of all! to him a -

1 crown him Lord of__ all! bring forth the roy - al
 2 crown him Lord of__ all! praise him whose way of
 3 crown him Lord of__ all! the God in - car - nate,
 4 crown him Lord of__ all! hail him who saves you
 5 crown him Lord of__ all! go, spread your tro - phies
 6 crown him Lord of__ all! to him all ma - jes -

continued next page

scribe, and crown him Lord of all!

1 di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 2 pain_ ye_ trod, and crown him Lord of all!
 3 Man_ di - vine, and crown him Lord of all!
 4 by_ his_ grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 5 at_ his_ feet, and crown him Lord of all!
 6 ty_ as - crite, and crown him Lord of all!

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: The Rev. Salying Wong

Preacher: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Cobb

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al

Lectors: Fulvia Govetto, Abby O'Connell

Cantors: Patricia Pietrzyk & the Choir

The St. Thomas Choir

directed by Patricia Pietrzyk

Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Zoom host: The Rev. Salying Wong

TODAY IN THE PARISH

Deacon Bertram's Last Sunday is today.. We will have a a goodbye liturgy in the midst of the service at 10:30am 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.

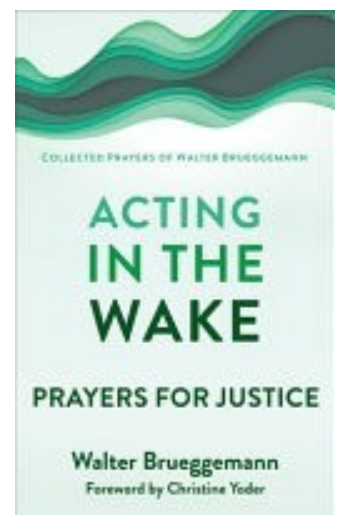
Coffee Hour today will be inside Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of Covid protocols. Thank you.

Library News:

Book of the Week November 26

[*Acting in the wake: prayers for justice: collected prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, 2023.](#)

"The prayers are geared toward concerns surrounding justice, from violence to poverty to denying oneself rest. The prayers can be used communally or individually. The book would be a good resource for anyone working in public ministry." – *The Bible Today*



Slow Down. Quiet. It's Advent. 2023 Advent Calendar

Copies of this popular Advent Calendar by *Forward Movement* are available for you on the back table in the narthex. The calendar offers ideas for prayer, helping others, and being thoughtful about the true meaning of Christmas.

Stewardship

Reflection for November 19



“It all begins with Gratitude,” says Guillermo Vasquez, the head of the Bay Area nonprofit Indigenous Permaculture. “I give thanks one, two, three times to our creators and makers for everything.” This has been the attitude and action of Indigenous Permaculture since its creation in 2002. The idea behind this project is to form partnerships with local communities and indigenous peoples as a part of the “obligation to bring in Mother Earth’s way of thinking” to all systems, Guillermo reports from a yellow flowering field of mustard, groundcover in the Bay Area’s East Bay.

“We are all connected,” he continues. “We empower low-income peoples to understand and respond directly to how food, nutrition, health, and land are intertwined.” IP is more than a food production and gardening program, although the food they produce does provide free vegetables to local food pantries and other distribution sites. Guillermo is most interested in seeing how the connection between creation and the creator are formed through partnership with the land and the cycles of the Earth. He operates with an idea of Tiguanceguité, or, working together. “Always together, never out of alignment.”

“It is all related,” he explained, “food, energy, water, community.”

Whether in rural or urban environments, permaculture, also known as biointensive polyculture, is a blend of traditional farming techniques that help people grow food while conserving water, land, and energy. It is a holistic way of examining gardening and the world, a process Guillermo calls cosmovision. When we share our most sacred meal, we are giving thanks for a system rooted in an ancient abundance, blessing upon blessing. We honor the life of the created land and the many lives who have touched it, sown, reaped, and shared its increase with a hungry world.

+ + +

Guillermo Vasquez is of Mayan descent and grew up in Central America. He came to the Bay Area to study Agroecology at University of California, Santa Cruz.



Questions for Reflection:

The concept of alignment is a powerful one, allowing us to bring all our energies into focus. How do you seek alignment in your ministry?

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*

St Thomas is joining with Angel Tree in the unique opportunity to minister to families in our community. This drive continues today—there is 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.

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 November**.

Thank you in advance for your patience while we work out any issues that may arise from this new procedure!

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

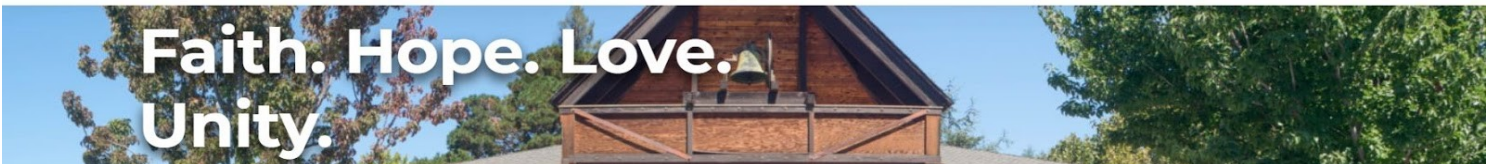
STUDY

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).

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.

Note: this is the last Book Club meeting for 2023. Our next meeting will be January 29, 2024.

Please join us—contact Dorothy through our website www.stthomas-svale.org/contact for the Zoom link.

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



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*

December at St. Thomas

Saturday, December 2

Greening the Church 10:30am -
Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale 10am-2pm

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday in Advent

8am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Lessons & Carols
Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale 9am-1pm

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday in Advent

8am & 10:30am Holy Eucharist
Christmas Pageant

Sunday December 17 Third Sunday in Advent

8am & 10:30am Holy Eucharist / visit from Bishop Lucinda
St. Nicholas & St. Lucinda celebration luncheon

Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday in Advent

One morning service only Holy Eucharist at 9am

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Concert: Christmas Cantata
4:45pm Carols Sing
5:15pm Worship

No worship service on Monday December 25

Sunday, December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

One morning service only Holy Eucharist at 9am

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