

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

Morning Prayer

10:30am



Word Made Flesh ~ Donald Jackson

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

231 Sunset Ave.

Sunnyvale, CA 94086

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

Morning Prayer

10:30am

Welcome to worship this morning.

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.

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.

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.

Prelude

Benjamin Belew, piano

The bell tolls.

Announcements

may also be referenced on line [here](#).

The Blessing of Birthdays & Anniversaries

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #98

Unto Us A Boy Is Born

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



1 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -
2 Cra-dled in a stall was he with sleep - y cows and
3 He - rod then with fear was filled; "A prince," he said "in
4 Now may Ma - ry's son, who came so long a - go to
5 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -



1 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the
2 ass - es; but the ve - ry beasts could see that
3 Jew - ry!" All the lit - tle boys he killed at
4 love us, lead us all with hearts a - flame un -
5 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the



1 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.
2 he all men sur - pass - - - es.
3 Beth-lehem in his fu - - - ry.
4 to the joys a - bove _____ us.
5 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a namaste of peace.

The bell tolls and the officiant continues.

Christmastide opening sentence

Officiant: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10, 11

The Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and **People:**

**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.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all

goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us
in eternal life. **Amen.**

Invitatory and Psalter

Opening versicle

Enriching Our Worship 1

Officiant: O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People: And your glory all the day long.

Doxology

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Christmas Antiphon

V. Alleluia. To us a child is born:

R. O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Invitatory Psalm: Venite *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 147:13-21

*The people join in speaking the responses;
Zoom participants please stay muted*

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *
**to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!**

The Lessons

The First Lesson Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

People: Thanks be to God

Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah *Surge, illuminare*

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

The people join in speaking the responses;

Zoom participants please stay muted

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

The Epistle Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Lector: A reading from the letter to the Galatians

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God..

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

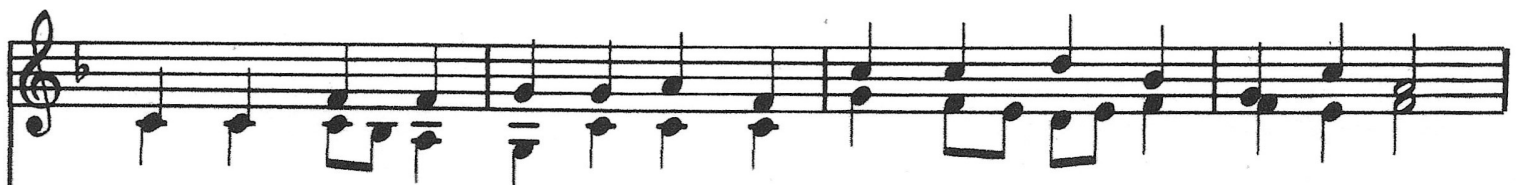
People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Hymnal #127

Earth Has Many A Noble City

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



- 1 Earth has ma-ny a no - ble ci - ty; Beth-lehem thou dost all ex-cel;
- 2 Fair - er than the sun at morn-ing was the star that told his birth,
- 3 East-ern sa - ges at his cra - dle make ob - la - tions rich and rare;
- 4 Sa - cred gifts of mys-tic mean-ing: in-cense doth their God dis-close,
- 5 Je - sus, whom the Gen-tiles wor-shiped at thy glad E - pi - pha-ny



- 1 out of thee the Lord from hea-ven came to rule his Is - ra - el.
- 2 to the world its God an-nounc-ing seen in flesh - ly form on earth.
- 3 see them give, in deep de - vo - tion, gold and frank-in-cense and myrrh.
- 4 gold the King of kings pro-claim-eth, myrrh his sep - ul - cher fore-shows.
- 5 in - to thee, with God the Fa - ther and the Spi - rit, glo - ry be.



The Gospel John 1:1-14

Gospeller: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

There will be a period of silence for meditation.

Anthem

Benjamin Belew, piano

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Apostles Creed

Enriching Our Worship

Officiant and People:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Suffrages

EOW1

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

A Litany for Peace in the Holy Land

Leader: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All: Have mercy upon us.

Leader: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All: Have mercy upon us.

Leader: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All: Grant us your peace.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the birth in Bethlehem of the Word made flesh, your Son, Jesus Christ; who dwelt among us full of grace and truth.

For your love and your goodness

All: We give you thanks, O God

Leader: We thank you for his life; his death in Jerusalem as he carried our sins and suffering, and for his glorious

Resurrection in which he gave us new life with him.

For your love and your goodness

All: We give you thanks, O God

Leader: We thank you for the church universal, for entrusting to us the ministry of forgiveness, reconciliation and peacemaking for the healing of your creation.

For your love and your goodness

All: We give you thanks, O God

Leader: We pray for all victims of bloodshed, violence, and persecution in all the world. We especially pray for all in danger, for those fleeing and seeking shelter and safety in the Holy Land.

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

Leader: We pray for those who have died. We pray also for those who grieve, especially for the loss of a loved one as a result of violence, terror, and injustice.

Let us name the departed aloud or silently.

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

Leader: We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all leaders, especially those who lead the peoples in the Land of the Holy One, the United Nations and upon all in authority, so your people may seek ways of peace and justice.

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

Leader: Heavenly Father, we praise and glorify you. You are our only refuge in a troubled world. We name before you those for whom we pray:

The people add their intercessions and thanksgivings aloud or silently.

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to us and the people of all the nations a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that all of your people may use their liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Collects

Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

**All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your
praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

**Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with
one accord to make our common supplication to you; and
you have promised through your well-beloved Son that
when two or three are gathered together in his Name you
will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our
desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in
this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come
life everlasting. Amen.**

Concluding Sentence

EOW1

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

The Blessing

Officiant: May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten our hearts with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give us his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**

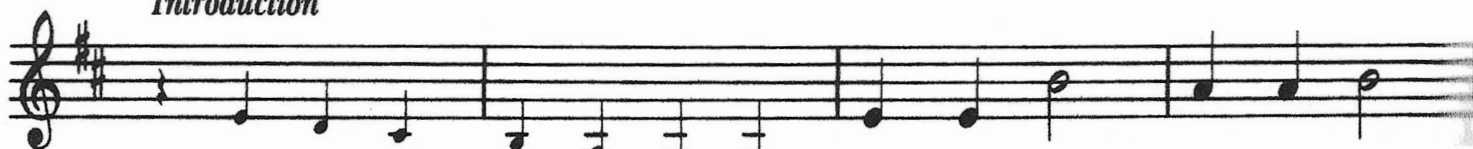
Closing Hymn

Hymnal # 92

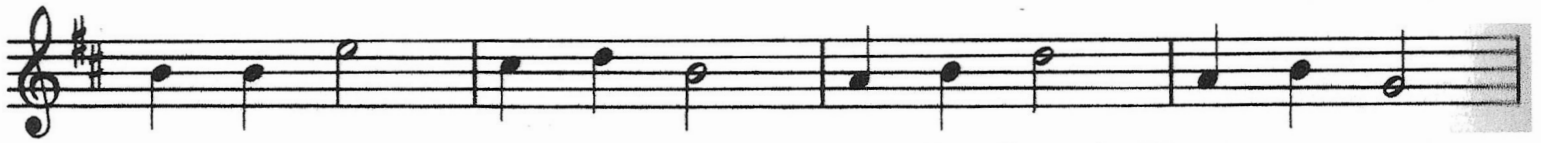
On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

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

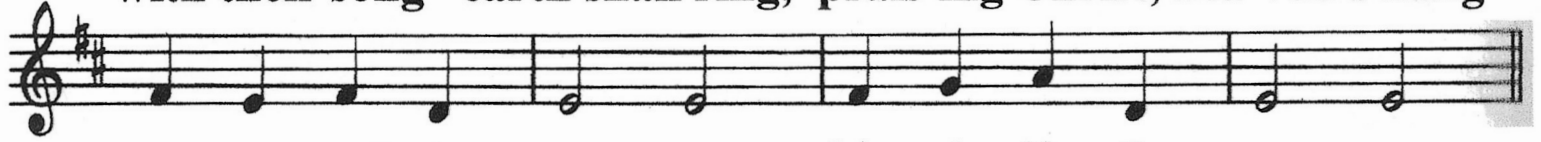
Introduction



1 On this day earth shall ring
2 His the doom, ours the mirth;
3 God's bright star; o'er his head,
4 On this day an - gels sing;

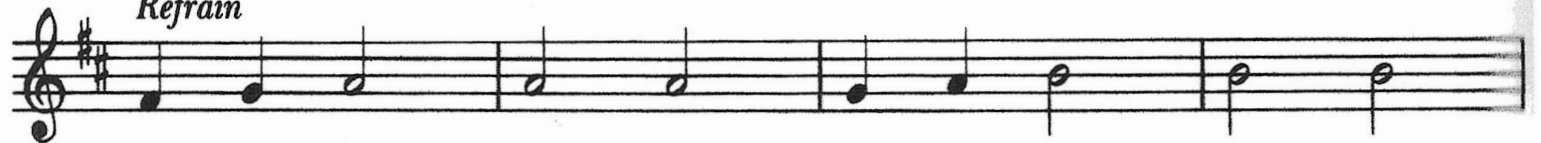


with the song chil-dren sing to the Lord; Christ our King,
 when he came down to earth Beth-le - hem saw his birth;
 Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
 with their song earth shall ring, prais-ing Christ, hea-ven's King

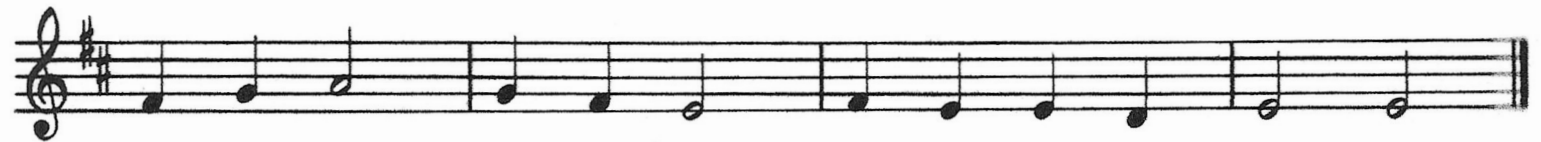


born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Refrain



Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)

Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

666. 66 with Refrain

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Benjamin Belew, piano

Serving today at 10:30am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Officiant & Preacher: Lou Poulain, LLP

Intercessor: Jim Cobb

Readers: Abby O'Connell, Marilyn Winans

Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Tech lead: Steve Williams

Zoom host: Aer van de Water

Today in the Parish

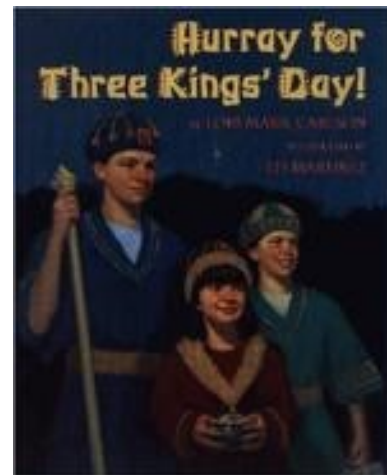
Coffee Hour today will be inside Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of Covid protocols. Thank you.

Library News:

Book of the Week December 31

[Hurray for Three King's Day](#) by Lori Carlson.

A Hispanic family enjoys the traditional celebration of El Día de los Reyes, or Epiphany, by reenacting the long walk of the three wise men bringing gifts to baby Jesus.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Office closure: Please note the office staff will be off, and Pastor Salying will be away, between Christmas and New Year's.

Administrative issues may be sent to the office: office@stthomas-svale.us. (Response may not be immediate.) Immediate pastoral concerns may be addressed to one of the wardens, who will contact

the Rev. Nikky Woods, rector of St. Timothy's in Mountain View, for assistance.

Agape Circle First Friday of each month (mostly!) at 6:30pm. Next circle will be Twelfth Night, **January 5, 2024**. We will have a simple service of Evening Prayer before a potluck dinner. During dinner, we will pick a star-word (or bring the one sent to you in the Christmas letter. Joe Wilhelm-Leen will be baking the King's cake! So, come see who gets the baby Jesus and gets crowned.

Coming Soon: Annual Meeting / Annual Report

The annual meeting will take place on **Sunday January 28, 2024** at the end of the 10:30am worship service, which will be the only service that day. Individual reports for the report are due by Friday **January 19**. Earlier is appreciated!

General Announcements

Gift bags and tissue for Boutique '24

Something to keep in mind as you tidy up in the aftermath of Christmas: in preparation for the annual Boutique & Bake Sale, we will need your recycled medium, large, and extra-large Christmas gift bags. Please, no small bags or liquor bags. We had bags at the Boutique this year and were able to package most items and send buyers off with a gift bag. They loved it. Leftover tissue paper is also needed.

Do you have Christmas cards you would be willing to part with? We would love to have them.

You may leave bags, tissue paper and cards in the Library Return box in the narthex or the Return Box in the Library or give to Carol Campbell.

Literature Rack – R side of Narthex

The January *Upper Room* has arrived. They are available in the literature rack found in the Narthex of the church. The *Upper Room* also includes Large Print copies. We are still waiting for the latest *Forward Day by Day*.

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.

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

Stewardship update: Pledges Gratefully Accepted

Through Monday, December 18th, we have received **52** pledges towards our goal of **60** pledges. If you have already submitted a pledge for 2024, **THANK YOU!**

If you are considering pledging to our annual budget for 2023, you can still do so. You may submit a pledge card by mail, by email at finance@stthomas-svale.org, and by hand-delivery to Jim Cobb.

2023 End of Year Contributions:

Contributions must be postmarked **on or before December 31, 2023**, or handed to the Treasurer by that date to count as tax-deductible

contributions for 2023. If you are donating during the December 25-31, 2023 period, please send a notification email to finance@stthomas-svale.org. Although the Parish Office will be closed beginning Friday afternoon, Dec. 22nd, until Tuesday Jan. 2nd, we will be periodically checking the US mail and email for messages.

Also, if you choose to donate securities, please contact the Treasurer, Jim Cobb, if you need the account number and transfer information. It is important to notify us when the transaction is submitted to ensure our prompt attention to your donation!

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. You can participate by becoming a pen-pal and/or visiting people in jail (requires special training).

Marilyn Winans and Naveen Prasad are the liaison to this ministry. Please request their contact information through the office.

The Prayer Chain 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.

Children's and Youth Ministry Pam Storrer is leading our children's Sunday School. Pastor Salying leads our youth ministry and is organizing a confirmation class for those who will be 14 years old by the time of confirmation. Please contact them through the church office.

Senior Ministry Pam Storrer and Carol Campbell lead our senior ministry, which means getting a weekly senior activity over email and an annual luncheon. If you wish to be included, please contact them through the office.

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. Note: Chinese ESL is on hiatus, resuming January 5; Japanese ESL is on hiatus, resuming January 10, 2024.

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 January 29, 2024**, when we meet to discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, based on interviews with more than a thousand people, the story of America's Great Migration through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author brilliantly captures their first treacherous and exhausting cross-country journeys, as well as how they changed their new homes forever.

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

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

on hiatus, resuming Tuesday, January 3, 2024

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

on hiatus, resuming Wednesday, January 4, 2024

Thursdays, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom

[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)

on hiatus, resuming Thursday, January 5, 2024

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>

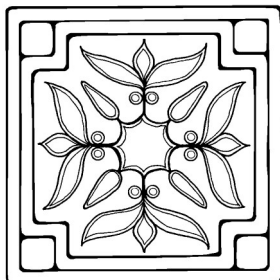
Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

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



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**

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

2023
Pat Dare
Breno DeMedeiros
Abby O'Connell

2024
Nancy Allgeier
Gage McKinney
Rita Welsh

2025
Joe Gutierrez
Dena Ware
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

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.us
or 510-478-3554

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accompanist (organ/piano): Benjamin Belew

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 Office.....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

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