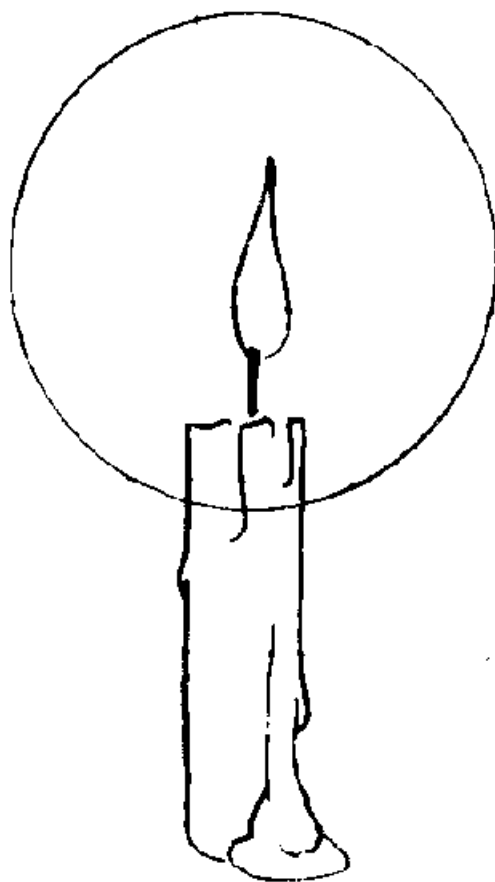


# First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am

## Lessons & Carols



St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
231 Sunset Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA. 94086  
408-736-4155  
[www.stthomas-svale.org](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)

# First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am

*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 #65

### *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

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



- 1 Pre-**pare** the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa-**vi**or's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred stor - ry.  
Lift high your praise re-sound-ing for grace and joy\_\_ a - bound - ing.  
All lands will now be - fore him their voic-es will\_\_ a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ\_\_ that\_\_ came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920)

Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697

76. 76. 77 with Refrain

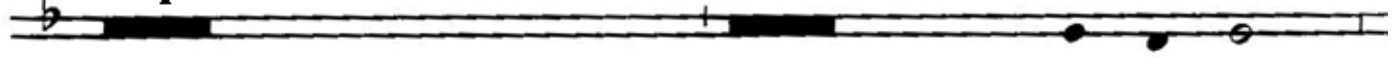
# The Salutation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant:



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People:



And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

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

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

**Glo-ry to God in high - est heav'n Peace to all your peo - ple given**

*continued next page*



8 *Unison mf*

Al-migh-ty God, your grace a - boun-ding We give you glo-ry your praise\_ re-soun-ding

12 *f*

S. A. T. B.

We wor-ship you, and sing to-day. Christ, our Hope, is on\_the way.

## Advent Wreath Lighting

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language--the coming of Christ--because it speaks to a deep truth.

Christ IS coming. Christ IS ALWAYS coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart.

And so we light the first candle, the candle of HOPE, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing and the well-being of all creation.

Light one candle; see it glow  
 Brightly, so that all may know  
 How one candle shows the way  
 Making our darkness bright as God's day.



**All: Come, Lord Jesus**

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

(verses 1, 2)

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



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som  
2. O come, thou Wis-dom from \_\_\_\_\_ on high, who or-derest



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
all things migh - ti - ly; to us the path of know - ledge



here un - til the son of God \_\_\_\_\_ ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
show and teach us in her ways \_\_\_\_\_ to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!



Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both

the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Bidding Prayer**

Celebrant: Dear People of God:

In this Advent Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

## **Lesson 1    Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25**

read by John Pietrzyk

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.”

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

*Of the Father's Love Begotten vs.1-3*

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



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore\_\_ him; an - gel hosts, his



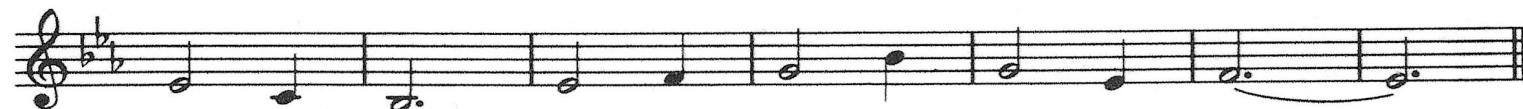
gan\_\_ to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full\_\_ of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 Ghost to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of\_\_ our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God\_\_ and King, let no tongue on



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem \_\_\_\_\_ er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
 and his arm rules for him;  
 his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.  
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
 and carry them in his bosom,  
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

Carol

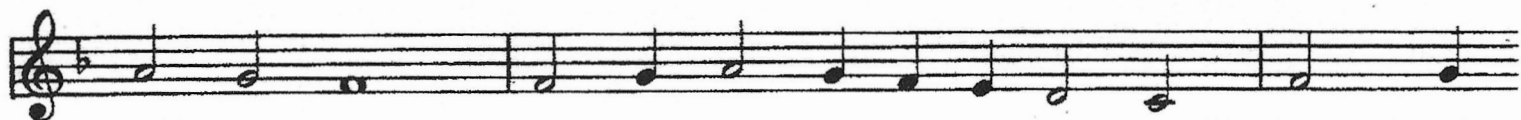
Hymnal #67

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

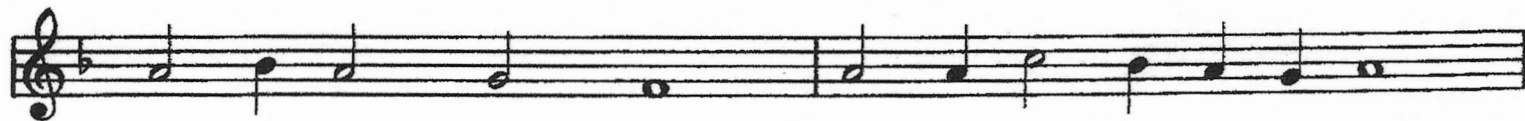
*All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.*



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
 2 Hark the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn - ing  
 far and near, call - ing us to new re-pent-ance since the  
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum-ble, as be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 King-dom now is here. Oh, that warn-ing cry o - bey!  
 Fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her  
 Now pre-prepare for God a way; let the val - leys  
 now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet\_\_ him.  
see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.  
Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

**Lesson 3**      **Baruch 4: 36-5:9**      read by Susan McVey

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem,  
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.  
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;  
they are coming, gathered from east and west,  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing in the glory of God.  
Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.  
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;  
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.  
For God will give you evermore the name,  
“Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.”  
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look toward the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.  
For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.  
For God has ordered that



every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low  
 and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
 so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.  
 The woods and every fragrant tree  
 have shaded Israel at God's command.  
 For God will lead Israel with joy,  
 in the light of his glory,  
 with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

**Carol**

**WLP #724**

*People, Look East*

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



1 Peo - ple, look East! The time is near of the crown-ing of\_\_ the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed  
 3 Birds, tho' you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must\_ be  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl\_\_ shall  
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life\_ to



1 year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim\_ the hearth\_ and set\_ the  
 2 there: give up your strength the seed to nou-rish, that\_ in course\_ the flow'r\_ may  
 3 filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro-zen God\_ for fledg - ing time\_ has  
 4 brim, shin-ing be - yond the frost-y wea - ther, bright\_ as sun\_ and moon\_ to-  
 5 earth. Set ev-ery peak and val-ley hum-ming with\_ the word,\_ the Lord\_ is





- 1 ta-ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the guest is on\_\_the way.
- 2 flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the rose is on\_\_the way.
- 3 cho-sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the bird is on\_\_the way.
- 4 geth-er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the star is on\_\_the way.
- 5 com-ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the Lord is on\_\_the way.



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon; Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Associates, Inc.

Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944); harm. © 1997 John L. Hooker

87.98.87

## Lesson 4      Isaiah 7:10-15

read by Tim Evatt

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Carol

Hymnal #265

*The Angel Gabriel*

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

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid-en Ma - ry,  
 Thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 And Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say—

most high-ly fa-vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high-ly fa-vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high-ly fa-vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 “Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!

*The Annunciation (March 25).*

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)  
 Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

♩ = 66  
 10 10. 12 10

**Lesson 5**      **Micah 5:2-4**      read by Dorothy Furgerson

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to rule in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
 to the ends of the earth;

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

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

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore-told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 3 O Flower whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing as seers of old have sung.  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo-rious splen-dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where.

It came, a blos - som bright \_\_\_\_\_ a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right \_\_\_\_\_ she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, \_\_\_\_\_ from sin and

cold of win - ter., when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859);  
 tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal* 1940  
 Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;  
 harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

76. 76. 676

## Lesson 6 Isaiah 11:1-9

read by Sam Wilhelm-Leen

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
 the spirit of counsel and might,  
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
 He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
 or decide by what his ears hear;  
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,



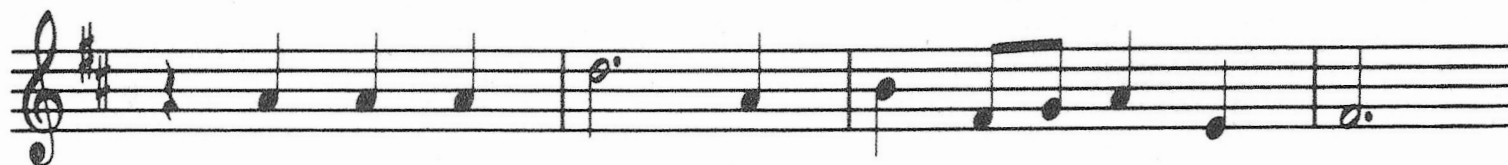
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
 They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain;  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
 as the waters cover the sea.

Carol

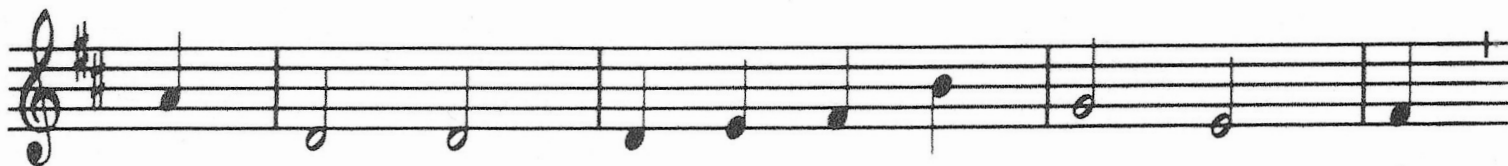
Hymnal #438

*Magnificat: Tell Out, My Soul*

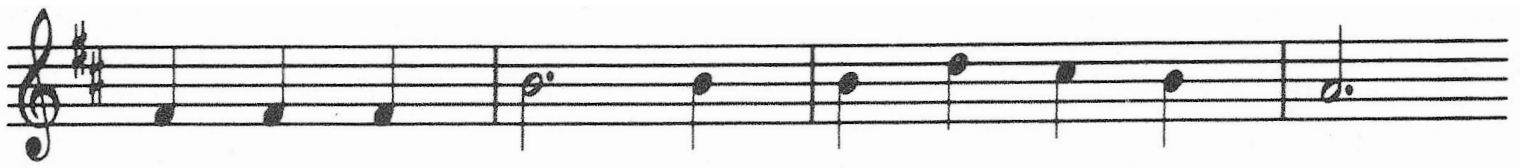
*All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.*



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness\_ of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness\_ of his Name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness\_ of his might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glor - ies\_\_ of his word!



Un - num - bered bless-ings give my spi - rit voice;  
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
 Firm is his prom-ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
 tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord.



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.  
 his ho - ly Name—the Lord, the Might - y One.  
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*

Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

10 10. 10 10

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## The Lessons for Advent 1

### The First Lesson      Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
 as when fire kindles brushwood  
 and the fire causes water to boil--  
 to make your name known to your adversaries,  
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
 From ages past no one has heard,  
 no ear has perceived,



no eye has seen any God besides you,  
    who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
    those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
    because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
    and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
    and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
    or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
    and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
    we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
    we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
    and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 80:1-2, 4-6, 16-18

*The congregation joins the choir in singing the refrain.*

*Zoom participants please stay muted.*

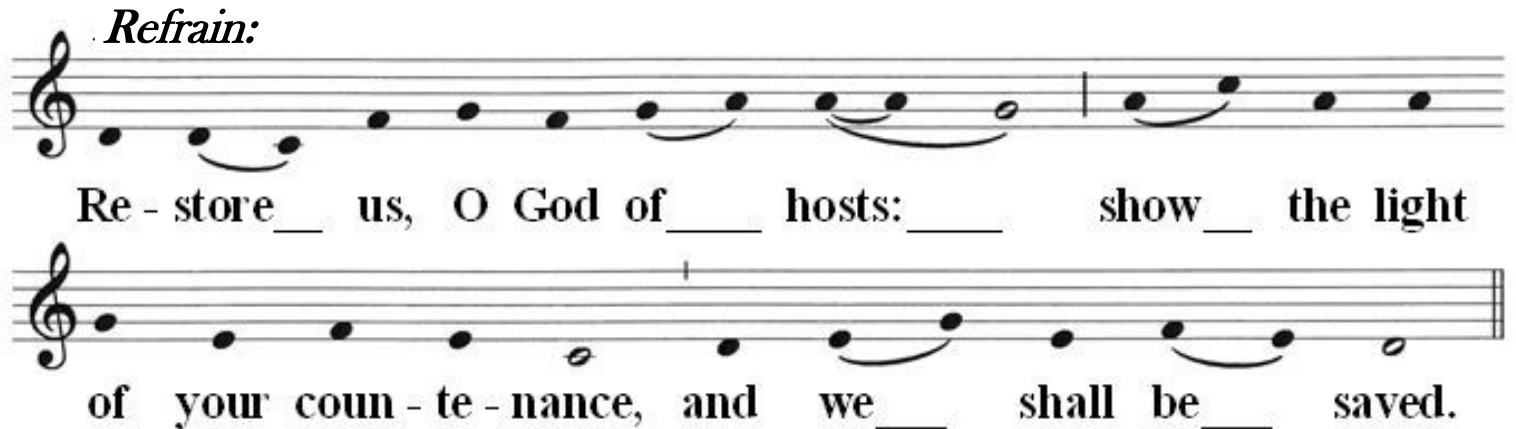
*Refrain:*

Re - store us, O God of hosts: show the light  
of your coun - te - nance, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



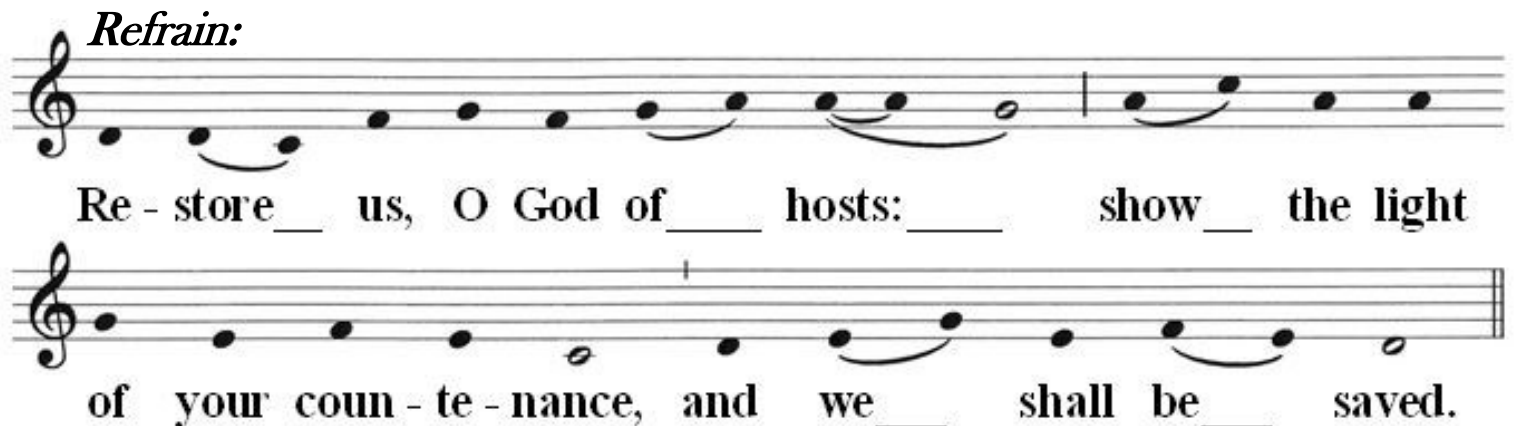
Re - store \_\_ us, O God of \_\_ hosts: \_\_ show \_\_ the light  
of your coun - te - nance, and we \_\_ shall be \_\_ saved.

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*

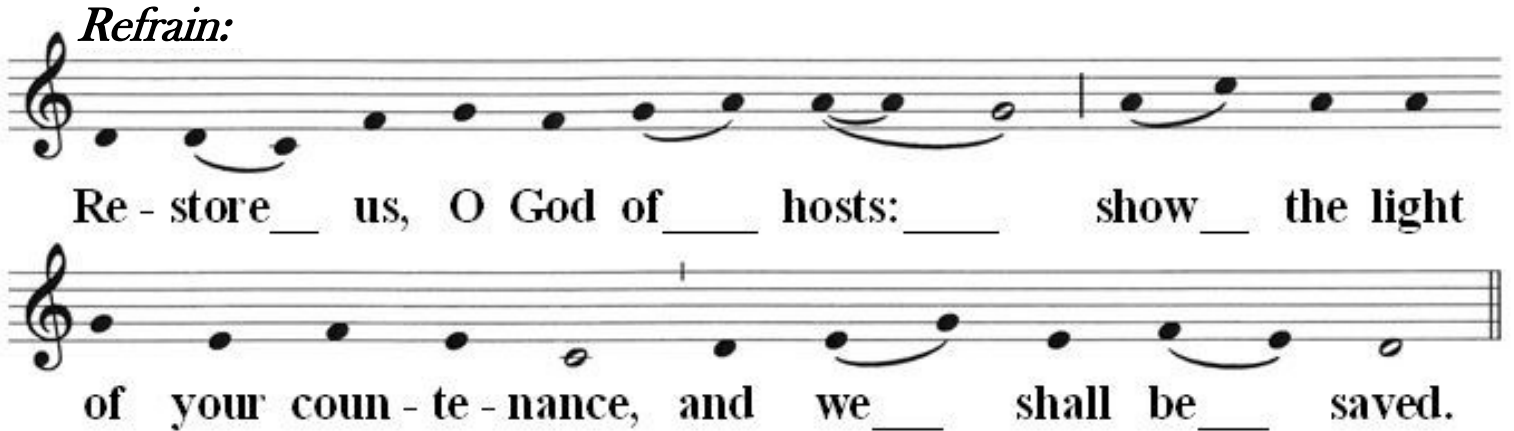


Re - store \_\_ us, O God of \_\_ hosts: \_\_ show \_\_ the light  
of your coun - te - nance, and we \_\_ shall be \_\_ saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



Re - store \_\_ us, O God of \_\_ hosts: \_\_ show \_\_ the light  
of your coun - te - nance, and we \_\_ shall be \_\_ saved.

### **The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**People: Thanks be to God**

*Blest Are the Pure In Heart*

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

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the  
 2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to  
 3 He to the low - ly soul will still him-self im - part and  
 4 Lord, we thy pres-ence seek; may ours this bless-ing be; give

se - cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.  
 dwell in low - li - ness with us, our pat - tern and our King.  
 for his dwell-ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.  
 us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem - ple fit for thee.

Words: Sts. 1 and 3, John Keble (1792-1866), alt.; sts. 2 and 4, William John Hall (1793-1861), alt.

Music: *Franconia*, melody Johann Balthasar König (1691-1758):  
 adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)

SM

**The Gospel:**

**Mark 13:24-37**

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ**

## Homily

*After the homily 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.**

## 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 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.**

## **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.**

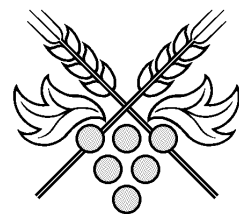
*The people and the ministers greet one another.*

## **Announcements**

## **The Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries**



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

The Offertory Anthem

arr. Heather Sorenson

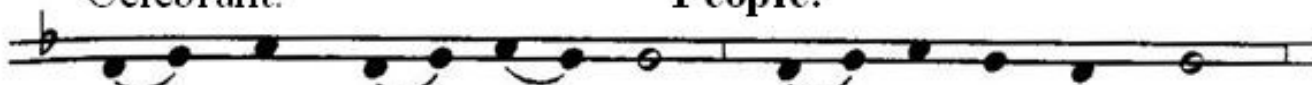
*Advent Coventry Carol*  
Members of the St. Thomas Choir


**Celebrant:** All things come of you, O Lord.


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

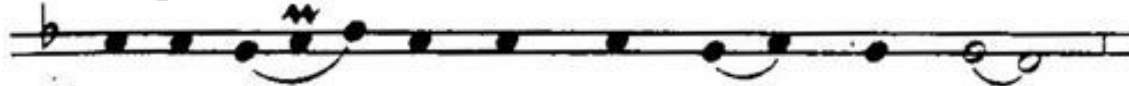
Sursum Corda

Eucharistic Prayer D

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:

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

## Sanctus

LEVAS #255

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

Celebrant and **People**:

Ho-ly, ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ ho-ly, ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ ho-ly Lord God \_\_\_\_\_  
of hosts \_\_\_\_\_ Hea-ven and earth are \_\_\_\_\_ filled with your  
glo - - - ry. Ho - san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the high - est \_\_\_\_\_  
Bless-ed is \_\_\_\_\_ He who comes in the name \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
high -- est, ho - san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant:

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**Celebrant and People:**

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

**Celebrant:**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **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 Fraction Anthem**

**Celebrant:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## **The Communion**

*Everyone is invited to come forward to receive Communion.*

- *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.*
- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able.*
- *Adults and children are welcomed to receive the bread and the wine.*
- *You may either drink from the cup or carefully dip your bread into the wine.*
- *Gluten free bread is available upon asking.*

## **Communion Hymn**

Hymnal # 655

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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



1 O Je-sus I have\_ prom-ised to serve thee to the  
2 O let me hear thee\_ speak-ing in ac-cents clear and  
3 O Je-sus thou hast\_ prom-ised to all who fol - low



end; be now for ev - er\_\_ near me, my  
still, a - bove the storms of\_\_ pas - sion, the  
thee that where thou art in\_\_ glo - ry there



Mas - ter\_ and\_ my Friend. I shall not fear the  
mur murs\_ of\_ self - will. O speak to re - as -  
shall thy\_ ser- vant be. O Je - sus I have



bat - tle if thou art by my side, nor  
sure\_\_ me, to has - ten or con - trol; and  
pro - mised to serve thee to the end, O



wan-der from the\_ path-way it thou wilt\_ be\_ my guide.  
speak and make me\_ lis-ten, thou Guar-dian\_ of\_ my soul!  
give me grace to\_ fol-low my Mas-ter\_ and\_ my Friend.

**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.**

**Blessing for Advent**

**Book of Occasional Services**

**Celebrant:** May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

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



# Announcements

## The Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Closing Hymn

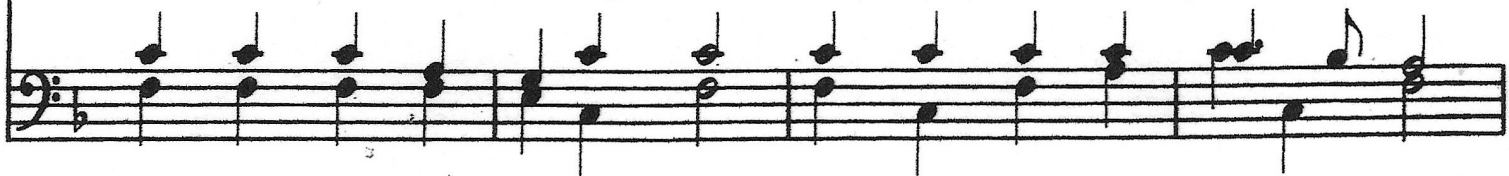
Hymnal #96

### *Angels We Have Heard On High*

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



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing-ing sweet-ly through the night.
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
- 3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
- 4 See him in a man-ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun-tains in re-ply ech - o - ing their brave de-light.  
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid-ings did you hear?  
Come, a-dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



*continued next page*

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri-a

in ex-cel-sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.  
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

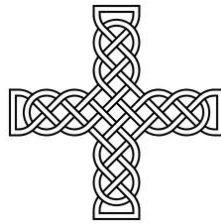
77. 77 with Refrain

## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!  
Alleluia!

**People:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Postlude



### Serving us at 10:30 am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

**Celebrant & Preacher:** The Rev. Salying Wong

**Eucharistic Minister:** Jeannie Battagin

**Greeters:** MaryJane Johnson et al

**Lessons & Carols Readers:** John Pietrzyk, Jeannie Battagin, Susan McVey,  
Tim Evatt, Dorothy Furgerson, Sam Wilhelm-Leen

**Lectors:** Lou Poulain, Daniel Ng

**Cantors:** John McVey, Susan McVey

#### ***Advent Wreath:***

Bill, Lana, Astrid, & Faye

**Tech team lead:** Tian Zhu

**Zoom host:** Abby O'Connell

## Today in the Parish

**The Altar Flowers** at this season are replaced by greens for this season of Advent.

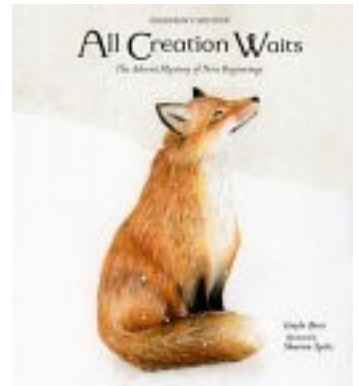
**Coffee Hour today** will be inside Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of Covid protocols. Thank you.

## Library News:

### Book of the Week December 3

[All Creation Waits: The Advent mystery of new beginnings.](#) (children's edition), Paraclete Press 2023.

“Written specifically for early readers and their families, this book explores the idea that animals from frogs to deer wait for the hope of spring and new life just as God our heavenly Father promised in the coming of his only son Jesus Christ”-- Publisher.



### 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.

**Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale**, continues after church today **Sunday, December 3, 9a-1p**. If you ordered a wreath or poinsettia, you may pick them up today.



### St Thomas joins Angel Tree this Christmas

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

**The next Vestry Meeting** will be **Tuesday December 19 at 7pm.** Please contact Pastor Salying if you wish to attend. All regular business meetings are on Zoom..

### **Confirmation - A Visit from the Bishop - December 17**

On December 17, Bishop Lucinda Ashby will visit St. Thomas.

### **Saint Nicholas and Saint Lucinda Luncheon**

Please join us for a feast in the form of a luncheon following the confirmation service when Bishop Lucinda visits us on December 17. Menu will include Corn Chowder and/or Vegetarian (vegan) soup accompanied by coleslaw salad, and an array of garnishes, including some meats, toppings to suit your taste. To make the luncheon more of a feast, in our Agape Circle fashion we are inviting anyone who wants to bring something special to share, to bring either an appetizer or dessert to help complement the meal. You do not have to bring anything to come to the feast!

For some light-hearted entertainment to get to know Nicholas and Lucinda better, we will play a Jeopardy game!

**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

**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 is complete. **Thank you** for your patience as we work out any issues that may arise from this new procedure!

### **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 edition.

### **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**

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](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.

### **Little Free Library: Thank You, Chris**

The Little Free Library has a new red door installed thanks to Chris Schmidt. It looks very sturdy and one that will be around for a long time. While he was repairing it, a door counter was installed. It will allow us to see how many people are visiting the LFL monthly. Charlie Mendoza will be keeping track of those numbers for us.



# 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](mailto: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

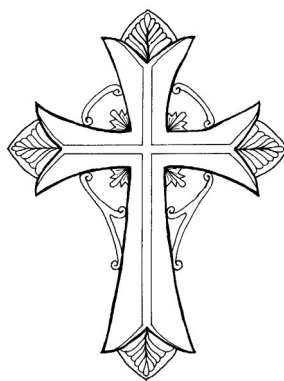


just for sanity's sake (starting at 9 AM). Our Zoom meetings are password protected so you'll need to connect with Chris Schmidt (randischris@gmail.com) if you are new to the group. We invite all men (even those not a part of St. Thomas) to join with us for fellowship and good discussion.

**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.

**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](http://www.stthomas-svale.org/contact) for the Zoom link.



## Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!

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

## **December at St. Thomas**

**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**

8am & 10:30am Morning Prayer

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](http://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](mailto:pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.org)  
or 510-478-3554

**Treasurer:** Jim Cobb.....[Finance@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:Finance@stthomas-svale.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Anne Buelteman.....[office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

**Family Ministry** .....Pam Storrer .....[family\\_ministry@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org)

**Library and Resource Center Coordinator:** Carol Campbell .....[resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org)

**Music Director:** Patricia Pietrzyk,..... [patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com](mailto:patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com)

**Accompanist:** Benjamin Belew.....

**Newsletter Editor:** Anne Buelteman..... [office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

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