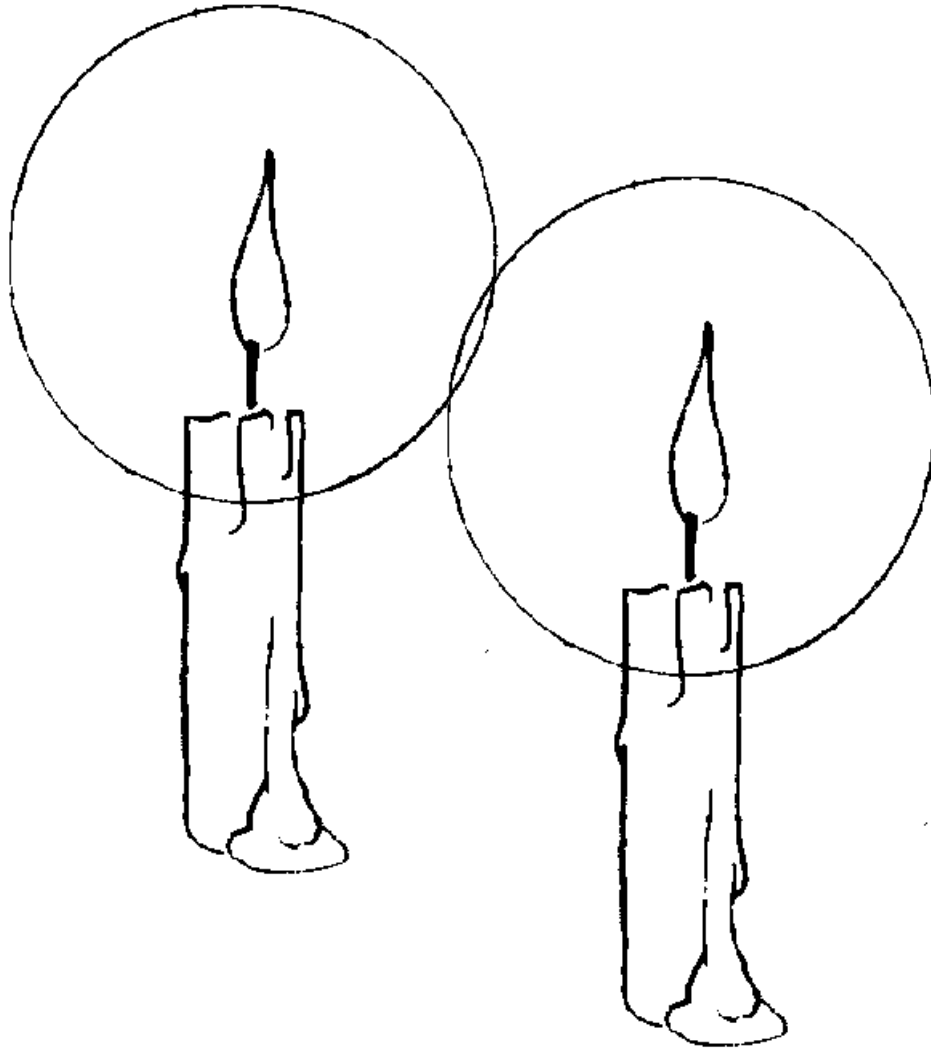


# Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Rite II, 10:30am



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

231 Sunset Avenue

Sunnyvale, CA. 94086

408-736-4155

[www.stthomas-svale.org](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)

# Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 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

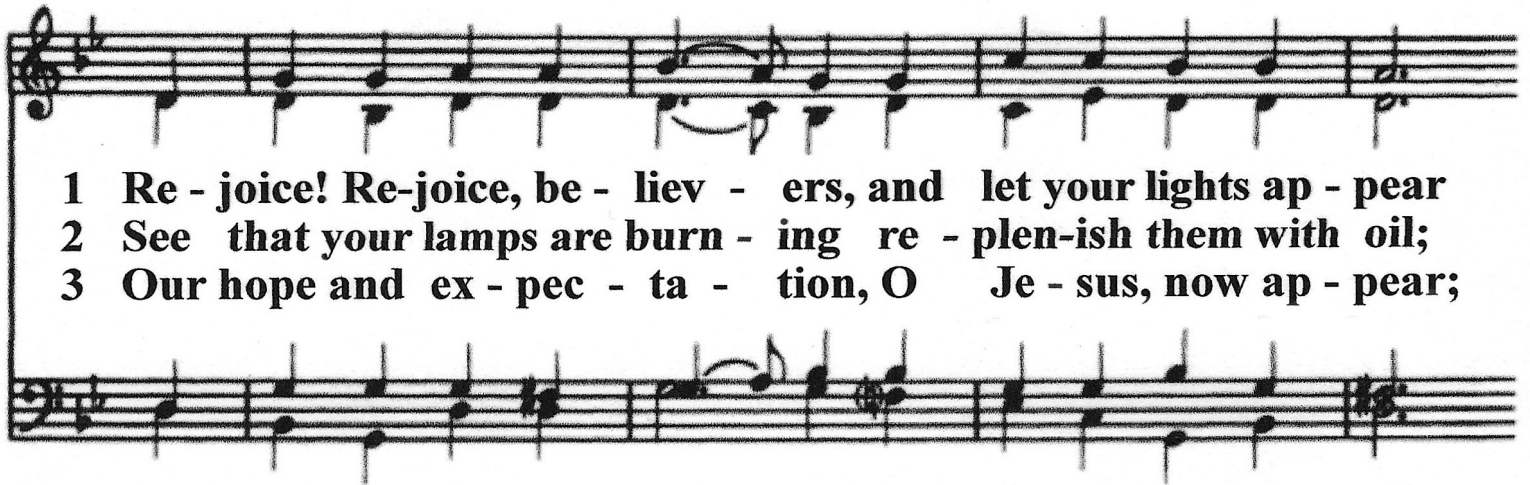
Benjamin Belew, piano

## Opening Hymn

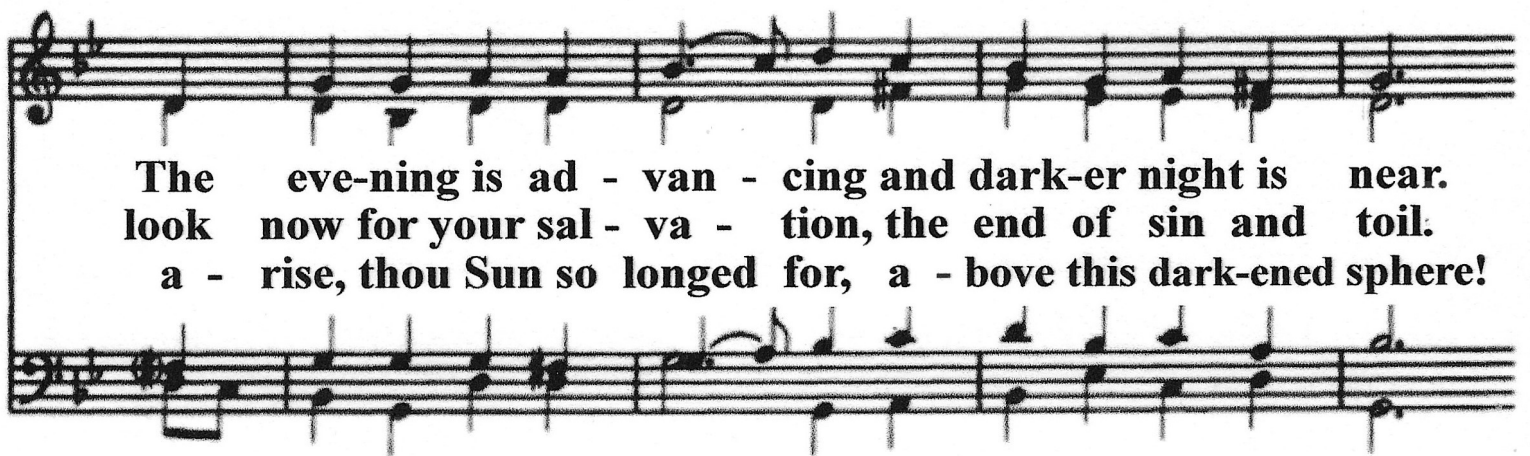
Hymnal # 68

### *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

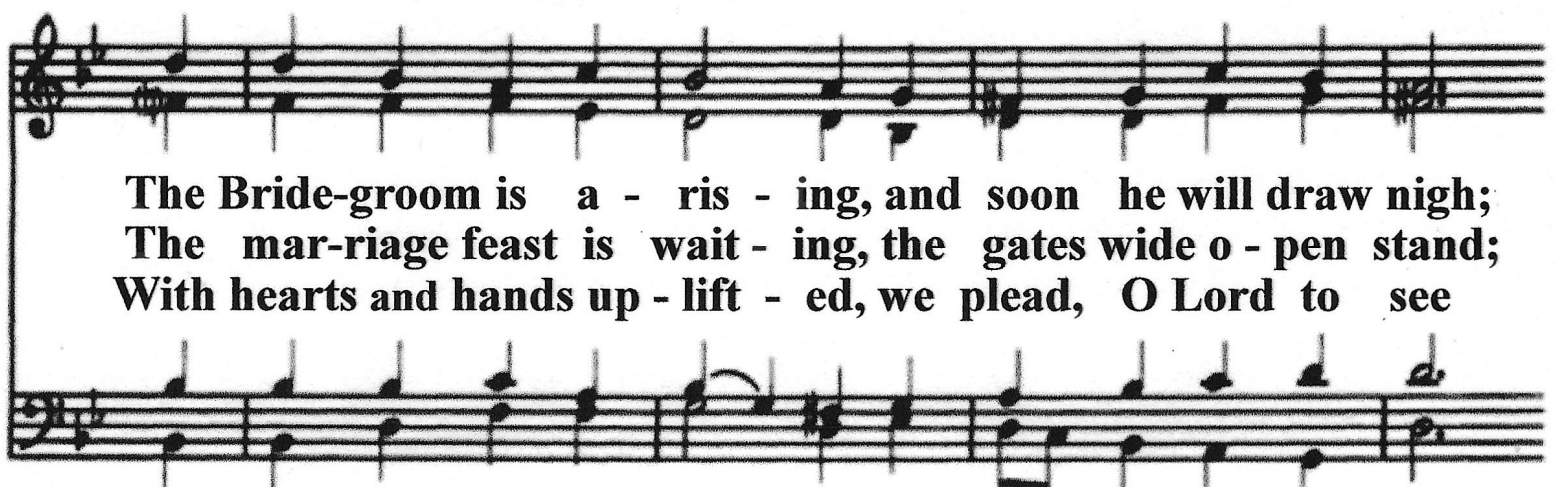
*All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.*



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



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



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

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid-night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp-tion and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.

Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865

76. 76 D

## 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:

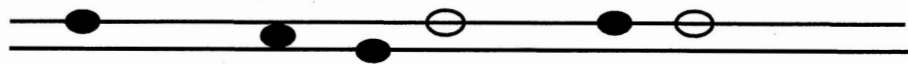
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known

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,

*continued next page*



Through Christ our Lord. A - men.

# Gloria

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

4 *f*

S. A.

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

T. B.

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.

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

T. B.

19 *mf*

S. A.

**Je - sus Christ the on - ly Son, Lamb of God, the Bles - sed One;**

T. B.

*continued next page*

45 *UNISON*

Tak-ing a - way our sin and sad-ness, Turn-ing our sor - row in - to glad-ness;

27 *div. f*

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

*mp* Je - sus, you are seat - ed there At God's right hand re - ceive\_our prayer

38

Peace is your king-dom now and ev - er, Li - on and lamb\_lay down\_to-geth-er,

42 *f*

*f* We wor-ship you\_and sing to - day Christ, our Peace, is on\_\_ the way.

*continued next page*

49 *f*

S. A. *f*

T. B. *f*

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, Lord of love, till a - ges run;

53

S. A.

T. B.

Glo-ry to God, e - ter - nal mer - it, Fath - ther, Son\_ and Ho - ly Spi - rit;

57

S. A.

T. B. *ff*

We wor-ship you and sing\_ to-day, Christ, our Love is on\_ the way.

## Advent Wreath Lighting

This Sunday we light the second candle, the candle of PEACE. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord,



whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

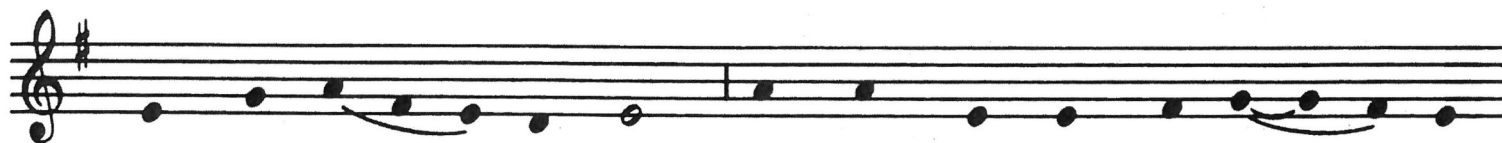
**All: Come, Lord Jesus**

**Carol**                      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
(verses 3, 4)

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



3. O come, O come, thou Lord \_\_\_\_\_ of might, who to thy  
4. O come, thou branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from



tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give \_\_\_ the  
Sa - tan's tyr - ra - ny that trust thy might - y power \_\_\_ to



law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty \_\_\_ and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
save, and give them vic - tory o'er \_\_\_ the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!



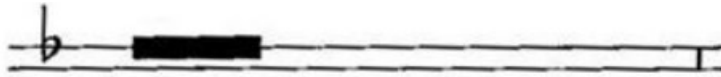
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th Cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode I, *Processionale*, 15th cent.



## Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent



Celebrant: God be with you.



People: **And also with you**



Celebrant: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson      Isaiah 40:1-11

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 for ever.

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.

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


**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

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

*Zoom participants please stay muted.*

*Refrain:*




Show us your mer - cy, O\_ Lord\_\_ and\_ grant\_ us your\_ sal - va - tion.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*




Show us your mer - cy, O\_ Lord\_\_ and\_ grant\_ us your\_ sal - va - tion.

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



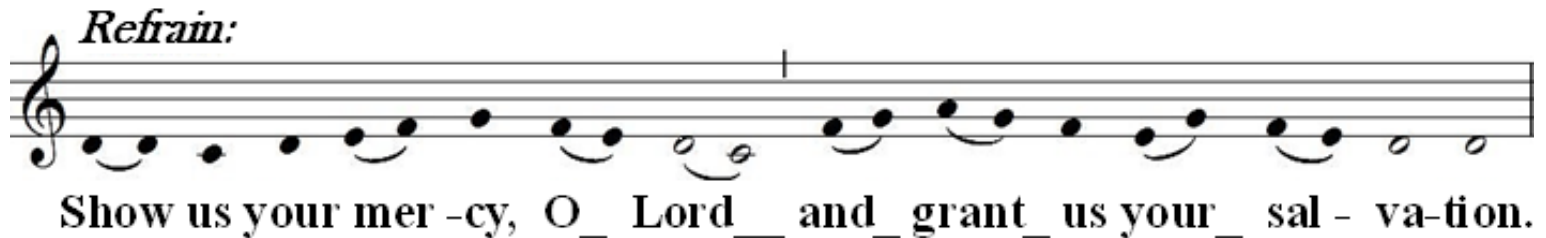
Show us your mer - cy, O\_ Lord\_\_ and\_ grant\_ us your\_ sal - va - tion.

Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven. *Refrain (as above)*

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him,  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. *Refrain*



## **The Epistle:            2 Peter 3:8-15a**

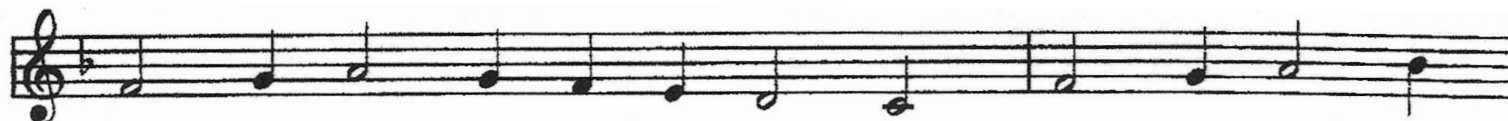
Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

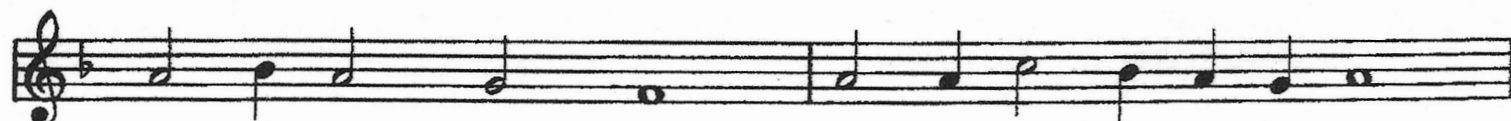
**People: Thanks be to God**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.*

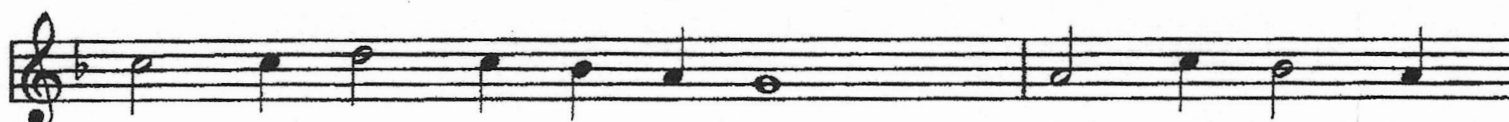
1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
 2 Hark the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough - er



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

## **The Gospel:**

**Mark 1:1-8**

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ**

## **The Christmas Pageant:**

### *Legend of the Christmas Animals*

created in the honor and loving memory of

*Sue Beckham*

Cast:

Narrator

Joe Gutierrez

Mary

Marilyn Winans

Goat	Jim O'Shea
Donkey	Charlie Mendoza
Lamb	Jeannie Battagin
Stork	Pam Storrer
Robin	Stephanie Daugherty
Nightingale	Patricia Pietrzyk
Camel	Ian Fugate
Sheepdog	Ed Asato
Star	Lana, Astrid, and Faye
Stage/Props	Carl Beckham
Sound/Stream team	Jim Cobb
Photographer	Pat Dare

## **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



from *Praying Our Goodbyes*, by Joyce Rupp

*Dena stands in the center of the main aisle.*

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

*Silence*

**Leader:** God of our life's journeys, we gather here to celebrate the goodness of Dena and to ask your blessing as she continues on the road of life. May the love that is in our hearts be a bond that unites us forever, wherever we may be. May the power of your presence bless this moment of her leave-taking. May she take with her all that we have treasured about his ministry and gifts among us. Let us name aloud our appreciation:

*The congregation names their appreciations.*

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

**People:** **We know that God goes with you.**

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

**People: We know that God goes with you.**

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

**People: We know that God goes with you.**

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

**People: We know that God goes with you.**

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

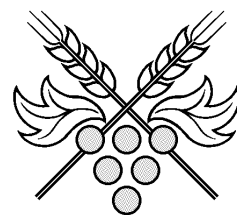
**People: We know that God goes with you.**

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

**All: Amen.**

*The leader offers Dena a gift.*

## **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.**



## 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.*

*Please come to the rail.*

- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able.*
- *The wine will be served in the chalice and in the small cups. The chalice will precede the cups. If you do not reach for the chalice, it will pass and the cups will follow. (Please place the empty cup on one of the trays near the aisles.)*
- *Please, do not dip the bread in the wine.*
- *If you do not wish to receive communion, you may receive a blessing: please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you wish to be blessed.*
- *Gluten free bread is available upon asking.*

## **Communion Hymn**

**WLP # 764**

### *Taste and See*

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

*(Refrain)*

The musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

**Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness**

*continued next page*

of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ O taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord. Fine

1. I will bless the Lord at all times. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with \_\_\_\_\_ me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Wor-ship the Lord all you peo-ple. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ His praise shall al-ways be on my  
 \_\_\_\_\_ To - geth-er let us all praise his  
 \_\_\_\_\_ You'll want for noth-ing if you

lips; \_\_\_\_\_ my soul shall  
 name. \_\_\_\_\_ I called the  
 ask. \_\_\_\_\_ Taste and

glo - ry in the Lord; \_\_\_\_\_ for  
 Lord and he an - swered me; \_\_\_\_\_ from  
 see that God is good, \_\_\_\_\_ in

he has been so good to me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 all my troubles he set me free. \_\_\_\_\_  
 him we need put all our trust. \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain (D.C.)*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

*Please stand.*

**Celebrant and People:**

**Almighty and everliving God,  
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
 of the most precious Body and Blood  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
 that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
 And now, Father, send us out  
 to do the work you have given us to do,  
 to love and serve you  
 as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
 To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**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 #59

### *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

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

*Descant*

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing from earth's bond - age, let us rise;  
5 hon - or, glo - ry, might\_ and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing from earth's bond - age, let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heav'n  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel - ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye chil - dren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel - ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

## 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

**Lectors:** Marilyn Winans, Dorothy Furgerson

**Cantor:** Chris Schmidt

**Advent Wreath:**

Zanda Pregeant

**Tech team:** Breno DeMedeiros, Sophia DeMedeiros

**Zoom host:** Aer van de Water

# 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(s!) of the Week December 10

In memory of Rosalynn Carter-

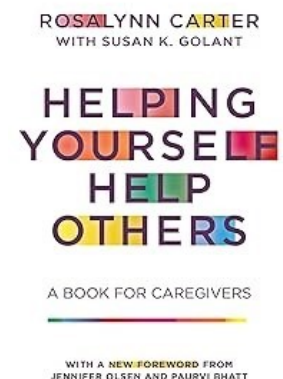
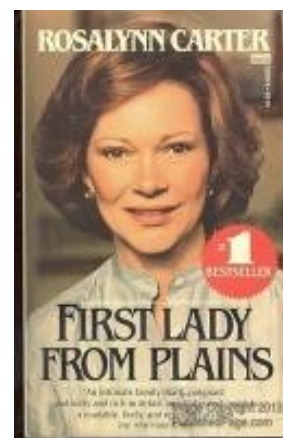
[First Lady from Plains](#) by Rosalynn Carter. 1984

The former first lady's memoir covers her small-town childhood, her life as a wife and mother, her role in the family business, her public and political efforts, and her years near the center of power. - publisher

[Helping Yourself Help Others: a book for caregivers](#)

by Rosalynn Carter with Susan Golant. 2023.

Former first lady Rosalynn Carter draws upon her own experiences and those of hundreds of others to offer reassuring, practical advice to caregivers. Long before the COVID-19 pandemic inspired national conversations about the vast undervaluing of unpaid caregiving, the dangers of burnout, and the merits of self-care for relief, Rosalynn Carter was shining a light on these matters and everything else that caregivers confront. - 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.

## **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, families where a parent is incarcerated. This drive continues today. Buy the gifts, pack them, and bring them to church **this week 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 Salyng if you wish to attend. All regular business meetings are on Zoom..

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

Next Sunday, December 17, Bishop Lucinda Ashby will visit St. Thomas. Following 10:30am worship, we will have the

#### **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!

**Christmas Decorating** After the Advent IV service at 9:00am, please stay behind to decorate the church with poinsettias and garlands for Christmas.

Please note that we will have only one service on the morning of Advent IV, which is also the same day as Christmas Eve. December 24. The morning Advent IV service will be at 9am and the Christmas Eve service begins with the Cantata at 4-4:45pm. Carol-singing will follow and then Holy Eucharist service will begin at 5:15pm.

**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**

### **Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale**

The 2-day boutique was a great success. **Many thanks** to the quilters, bakers, knitters, crocheters, card makers, and donors of artworks of all kinds. The total, including raffle ticket sales in November, is **\$3,452.00!** That includes a total of **\$651.00** in raffle ticket sales!. Congratulations to Mary Jane Johnson, winner of the fabulous Christmas quilt made by Peg Prior and congratulations to Keerthana Alagesan, winner of the mystery Treasure Chest. Additional details in the newsletter!

The Boutique Committee

Fran, Peg, Donna, Marilyn, Carol, Anne, and Jim.

**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**

#### **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](mailto: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](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](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.

## **Weekly Worship at St. Thomas**

**Tuesdays, 6pm Centering Prayer,** led by Pastor Salying

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

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

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

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

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

**Thursdays, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom**

led by Deacon Bertram: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VGJIJUT09)

[pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VGJIJUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VGJIJUT09)

Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424

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

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

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

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

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

Both Sunday services led by Pastor Salying

*Please see website for week-to-week information:  
[www.stthomas-svale.org](http://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](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)

## **December at St. Thomas**

**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

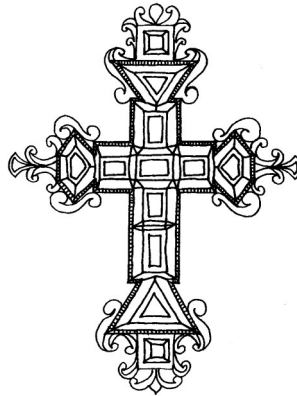
**Sunday, December 31**      **First Sunday of Christmas**  
8am & 10:30am Morning Prayer



## Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!

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



THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

Abby O’Connell, **Senior Warden**  
Joe Gutierrez, **Junior Warden**

2023  
Pat Dare  
Breno DeMedeiros  
Abby O’Connell

2024  
Nancy Allgeier  
Gage McKinney  
Rita Welsh

2025  
Joe Gutierrez  
Dena Ware  
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Stephanie Daugherty

Hugo Lopez-Laguna

Mabel Cheng

Sherene Nagarajah

St. Thomas website: [www.stthomas-svale.org](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