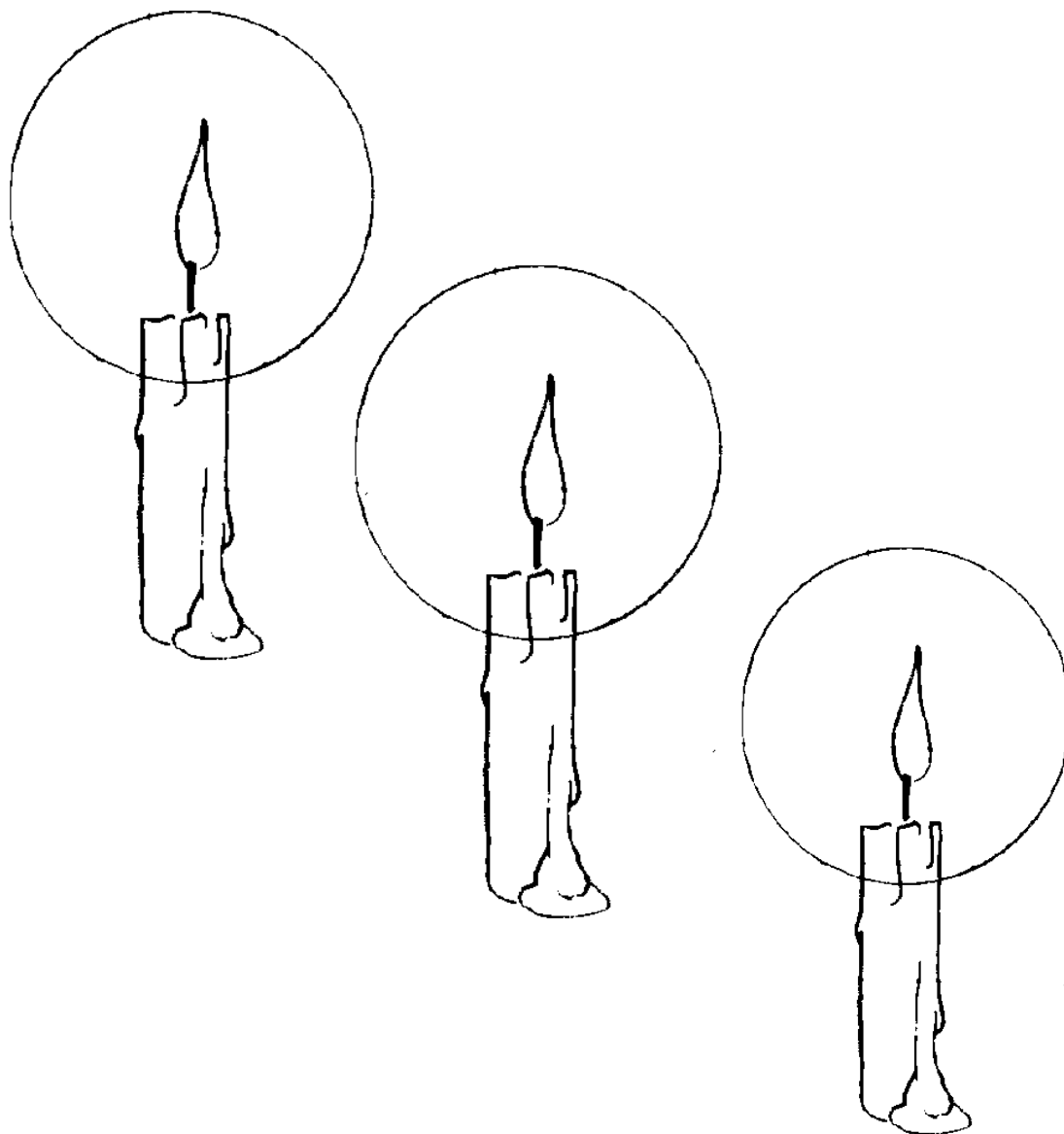


# Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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)

# Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 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.*

*Masking is now recommended at church services. For those who have vulnerable health issues, our 10:30am services always offer an option to worship from the safety of home. Please stay home if you feel sick.*

*For those attending remotely, you may connect in either of two ways:*

*1. by computer or smartphone (video and audio):*

*You may access our ZOOM meeting on the following link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>

*2. by telephone (audio only):*

*Dial +1 669 900 9128      Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101*

*When prompted for a participant number, touch the pound key (#).*

*Please follow the usual procedures for muting and unmuting (\*6) and raising a hand (\*9). For the sake of audio clarity, your mic will be muted on entry.*

*Please note: Regarding joining us on Zoom, we welcome newcomers and appreciate your **on-time** attendance. If you arrive more than 15 minutes after the service begins, our Zoom protocols may not permit your joining the service.*

*Equally important, please be sure that your zoom account ID includes your first and last name. We look forward to seeing you.*

*At the conclusion of worship, we will celebrate the bishop's visit with a special lunch in Cowans Hall across the courtyard.*

Tocatta in E minor

Opening Hymn

Hymnal # 74

*Blest Be the King Whose Coming*

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

*Descant*

3 Blest be the King whose\_ com - ing is in the name\_ of

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face\_ of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him  
 God! By those who tru-ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly  
 God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of  
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

God All power is his, all glo - ry! All  
 barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in  
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who  
 God All power is his, all glo - ry! All  
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

things are in\_ his hand, all a - ges and \_\_\_\_\_ all  
 power and pomp comes he; but clad as are the  
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the  
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all  
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

*continued next page*

peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!  
 prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.  
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!  
 bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. F. Pratt Green (b. 1903), alt.

Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.;  
 harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930)

76. 76 D

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## Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

**Celebrant:** Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

**People:** **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**Celebrant:** There is one Body and one Spirit.

**People:** **There is one hope in God's call to us.**

**Celebrant:** One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.

**People:** **One God and Father of all**

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets 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 holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Advent Wreath Lighting

We have lit the first two candles, one for HOPE and one for PEACE. Today we light the third candle, the candle of JOY. This should be the easy one, because JOY is all around us--in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together.



But how often do we let our preparations--or our memories--push JOY to the side? JOY is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but JOY is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to JOY, trusting that God has already planted it in us...all we need to do is give it care and offer to share.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus**

## 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.

3

19 *mf*

S. A.

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

T. B.

*mf*

3

23 *Unison*

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

27 *div. f*

S. A.

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

T. B.

3

S. A. *mp*  
 Je - sus, you are seat - ed there At God's right hand re - ceive our prayer

T. B.

38  
 S. A.  
 Peace is your king - dom now and ev - er, Li - on and lamb lay down to - geth - er,

T. B.

42 *f*  
 S. A.  
 We wor - ship you and sing to - day Christ, our Peace, is on the way.

T. B.

49 *f*  
 S. A.  
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, Lord of love, till a - ges run;

T. B.



53

S.  
A.

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

T.  
B.

57

S.  
A.

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

T.  
B.

*ff*

## Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent

Celebrant: God be with you.

**People:** **And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# Carol

## *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs.5, 6

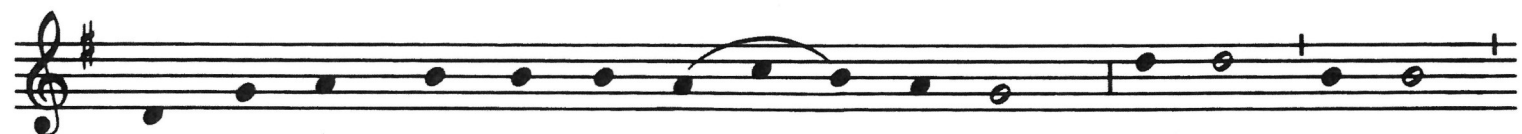
*All are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.*



5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
6. O come, thou Day-spring from \_\_\_\_\_ on high, and cheer us



wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads \_\_\_ on  
by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds \_\_\_ of



high, and close the path to mi - ser - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
night, and death's dark sha-dow put \_\_\_\_\_ to flight. 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.

## The First Lesson

## Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

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


**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle: The Song of Mary    *Magnificat*    Luke 1:46-55**

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

*Zoom participants please stay muted.*

*Refrain:*



**My soul pro-claims the great-ness\_\_ of the Lord.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.


He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.    *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



**My soul pro-claims the great-ness\_\_ of the Lord.**

**The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

People: **Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn**

Hymnal #72

*Hark! the Glad Sound*

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

*Descant*

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince\_ of\_ Peace thy\_ wel - come

1 Hark! The glad sound! The Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart\_ to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall\_ pro - claim; and heaven's\_\_ e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart\_\_ pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates\_\_ of brass\_\_ be -  
 soul to cure; and with\_\_ the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's\_\_ e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare\_\_ a throne, and ev - ery voice\_\_ a song.  
 fore\_\_ him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of\_\_ his grace toen - rich\_\_ the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with thy\_\_ be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816);  
 harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

CM

## **The Gospel:**

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ**

**The Sermon**

# BAPTISM & RECEPTION

## The Presentation of the Candidate for Baptism

Bishop: The candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Presenter: I present Flora to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

Bishop: Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Candidate: I do.

## The Presentation of Candidates for Reception

Bishop: The other candidates will now be presented.

Presenter: I present Angela, Kris, Jeannie, and Naveen to be received into this Communion.

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates: I do.



Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?  
Candidates: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

Bishop: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?  
**People: We will.**

Bishop: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?  
**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
**People: I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
**People: I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
**People: I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
**People: I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
**People: I will, with God's help.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop: Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader: Deliver them O Lord, from the way of sin and death.  
**People: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Open their hearts to you grace and truth.  
**People: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving spirit.  
**People: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
**People: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit  
**People: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**People: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**People: Lord hear our prayer.**

Bishop: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

*The bishop, baptismal candidate and members of the altar party go to the font.*

## Thanksgiving over the Water

*The Bishop blesses the water, first saying:*

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Bishop: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.

Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Bishop touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Baptism

Bishop: **Flora**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*When this action has been completed,  
the Bishop, in full sight of the congregation, prays over the baptized:*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

*The Bishop marks the forehead with chrism  
and the sign of the cross and saying:*

**Flora**, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Bishop and **People**:

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

*The newly baptized is seated  
and members of the altar party return to the chancel.*

Bishop: Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Silence*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*A period of silence follows.*

[Angela, Kris, Jeannie, Naveen], we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

Bishop: Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Asperging*

*The congregation is sprinkled with water.*

## The Peace

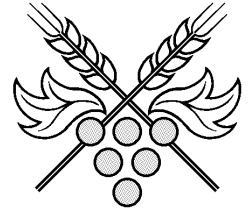
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you

**People: And also with you.**

*The people and the ministers greet one another.*

## Announcements

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



## Offertory sentence

## The Offertory Anthem

Richard Shephard

*Let Us Light A Candle*

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: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: 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 to the altar railing during Communion.*

- *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.*

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

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

1 Watch-man\_ tell\_ us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise  
 2 Watch-man\_ tell\_ us of the night, high-er yet that star\_ a -  
 3 Watch-man\_ tell\_ us of the night, for the morn-ing seems\_ to

are. Trav-eler, o'er\_ yon moun-tain's height see the\_ glo - ry -  
 scends. Trav-eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and\_ truth its  
 dawn. Trav-eler, dark-ness takes its flight, doubt and\_ ter - ror

beam-ing star. Watch-man, does its beau-teous\_ ray  
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone  
 are with-drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan-derings\_ cease,

*continued next page*

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
 gild the spot that gave them\_ birth. Trav-eler, a - ges  
 hie thee to thy qui - et\_\_ home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day; prom - ised\_ day\_ of Is - ra - el.  
 are its own; see, it\_ bursts\_ o'er all the earth.  
 Prince of Peace, lo! the\_ Son\_ of God is come!

*Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.*

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872)

Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903)

77. 77. D

## 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

Closing Hymn

Hymnal #76

*On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry*

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

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark-en  
2 straight the way for God with-in, and let each heart pre -  
3 ref - uge, and our great re-ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall-en sin - ner stand; shine forth and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free, whom with the Fa - ther

*continued next page*

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944),  
 after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.  
 Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690;  
 harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889). alt.

LM

## The Dismissal

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

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

## Postlude

Benjamin Belew

*Aria*  
 Benjamin Belew, piano



## **Serving us this morning at 10:30am**

### **The St. Thomas Altar Guild**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Salying Wong/The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby

**Preacher:** The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby

**Bishop's Chaplain:** Joe Gutierrez

**Eucharistic Minister:** Ann Kopischke

**Torch-bearers:** Clare AU, Michelia Paulkandasamy

**Greeters:** Mary Jane Johnson, Donna Cobb

**Intercessor:** Ann Kopischke

**Lectors:** John McVey, Sophia DeMedeiros

**Cantor:** Patricia Pietrzyk

**Accompanist:** Benjamin Belew

**Advent Wreath:** Bora, Breno, & Sophia

**Zoom Host:** Abby O'Connell

**Tech Lead:** Steve Williams

## **Today in the Parish**

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

**Discretionary envelopes** Your generosity to the Discretionary Fund provides financial support to those with special needs beyond what a parish is normally able to attend to - whether clergy or lay.

**After worship today** instead of our usual coffee hour...

### **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!

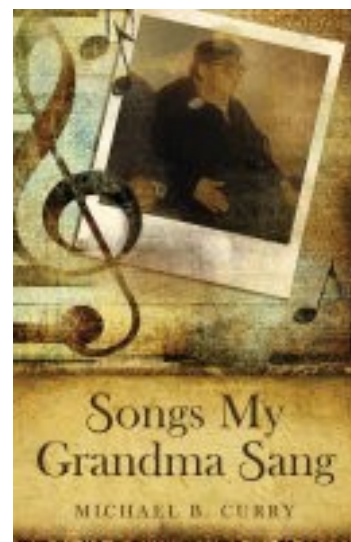
## Library News:

**Book of the Week December 17**

[Songs my Grandma Sang](#) by Michael B. Curry.

Morehouse 2015

Bishop Curry shares the music of his childhood—the songs that have grown with him to shape an adult and vibrant faith.



## 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.

## 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..

**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



4pm-4:45. Carol-singing will follow and then Holy Eucharist service will begin at 5:15pm.

**Office closure:** Please note the office staff will be off, and Pastor Salying will be away, between Christmas and New Year's. Administrative issues may be sent to the office: [office@stthomas-svale.us](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.us). (Response may not be immediate.) Immediate pastoral concerns may be addressed to one of the wardens, who will contact the Rev. Nikky Woods, rector of St. Timothy's in Mountain View, for assistance.

**Agape Circle** First Friday of each month (mostly!) at 6:30pm, 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 January *Upper Room* has arrived. They are available in the literature rack found in the Narthex of the church. The *Upper Room* also includes Large Print copies. We are still waiting for the latest *Forward Day by Day*.

## **New Archives Display- Sunday School Treasures**

The Archives Display is featuring treasures from the Sunday School. There is a large Noah's Ark altar cloth from the Children's Chapel made by Alice Bell. Also there is a painting by Alexandra Wallace, a former student, painted in 2008. Lastly, a colorful fabric wall hanging is displayed. This display is dedicated to our beloved **Sue Beckham** who donated these treasures to the Archives.

## **Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations to Altar Guild**

Our altar guild appreciates your support in making our space holy and beautiful. You can make a donation for fresh flowers on a designated date or a general donation for supplies, like communion wine and bread and oil for the candles. You can make this donation online or by check, with “altar guild” on the memo line. If applicable, **please also include** (1) the date for the commemoration and (2) the person or occasion to be commemorated.

## **Pledges, Offerings & Donations**

### **Stewardship update: Pledges Gratefully Accepted**

Through Sunday, December 10th, we have received **51** pledges towards our goal of **60** pledges. If you have already submitted a pledge for 2024, **THANK YOU!**

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

### **2023 End of Year Contributions:**

Contributions must be postmarked **on or before December 31, 2023,**

or handed to the Treasurer by that date to count as tax-deductible contributions for 2023. If you are donating during the December 25-31, 2023 period, please send a notification email to [finance@stthomas-svale.org](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. Note: Chinese ESL is on hiatus, resuming January 5; Japanese ESL is on hiatus, resuming January 10.

**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.

## **December at St. Thomas**

**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.

## **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**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VGhJUT09)  
pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VGhJUT09  
Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424  
One tap mobile: +16699009128,,89699188717#,,\*225424# US (San Jose)  
*[on hiatus until January 11]*

**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)

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