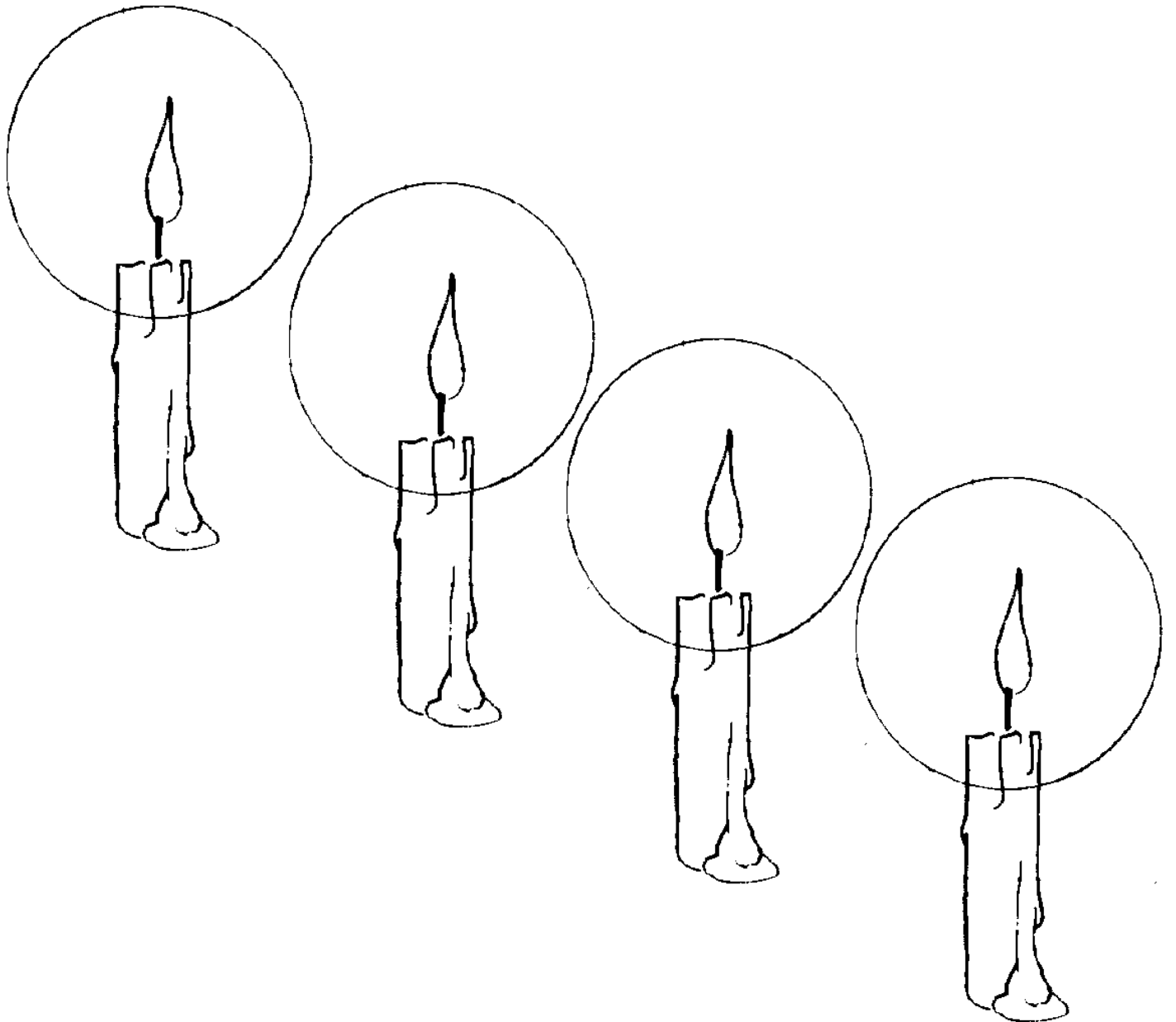


Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

Rite I, 9:00am



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA. 94086
408-736-4155
www.stthomas-svale.org

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Holy Eucharist

9:00am, Rite II

December 24, 2023

We are so happy you are here today, in-person and online.

For those of you coming to church in-person, please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe.

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.

Greeting and Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

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.

The Gloria

spoken in unison

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Candle-lighting - Fourth Sunday in Advent

The first three candles we lit were for hope, peace, and joy.

Today we light the fourth candle--the candle of LOVE.

With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all time, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than LOVE. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. We love, because God LOVES us.

Advent Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

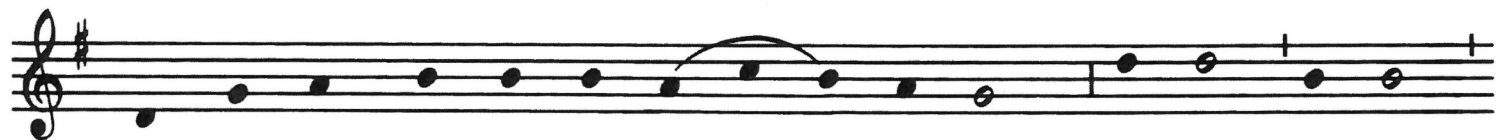
Please join in singing. Zoom participants please stay muted.



7. O come, De - sire of na - tions bind in one the
8. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



hearts of all _____ man - kind. Bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



cease, and be Thy - self our King _____ of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!
here un - til the son of God _____ ap - pear. 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own

place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

‘I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
**“I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.**

I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’”

The Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is

with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ

The Sermon

There will be a period of silence for meditation.

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

A Litany for Peace in the Holy Land

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

All: Have mercy upon us.

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

All: Have mercy upon us.

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

All: Grant us your peace.

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

For your love and your goodness

All: We give you thanks, O God

Leader: We thank you for his life; his death in Jerusalem as he carried our sins and suffering, and for his glorious Resurrection in which he gave us new life with him.

For your love and your goodness

All: We give you thanks, O God

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

For your love and your goodness

All: We give you thanks, O God

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

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

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

Let us name the departed aloud or silently.

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

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

may seek ways of peace and justice.

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

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

The people add their intercessions and thanksgivings aloud or silently.

Lord, hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

Leader: Let us pray.

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

The Confession

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

Celebrant and **People:**

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

**that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

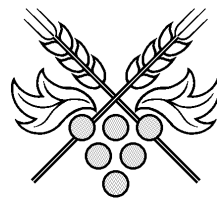
People: **And also with you.**

The people and the ministers greet one another.

Announcements

The Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Sursum corda

Eucharistic Prayer D

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It it meet and right so to do.

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

a seasonal preface will be said here

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus

Celebrant and **People:**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 say,

Sanctus

Celebrant and **People:**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.*

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.**

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude



Serving us at 9:00 am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Salying Wong

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Cobb

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson et al

Lectors: Steve Williams, Maureen Davies

Advent Wreath:

Keri & Steve Williams

Zoom host: Pastor Salying

Today in the Parish

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

Christmas Decorating No coffee hour after 9am service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

After the 9:00am service, please stay behind to decorate the church with poinsettias and garlands for Christmas. Please note that we will have only one service this morning for Advent IV.

Christmas Eve worship begins at 4:00pm with the Christmas Cantata

in concert, followed by carol-singing at 4:45 and then family worship beginning at 5:15pm.

A simple cookie reception will follow the 4pm Concert and Christmas Eve Service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Administrative issues may be sent to the office: office@stthomas-svale.us. (Response may not be immediate.) Immediate pastoral concerns may be addressed to one of the wardens, who will contact the Rev. Nikky Woods, rector of St. Timothy's in Mountain View, for assistance.

Midweek Service Cancellations: There will be no midweek services the week after Christmas.

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

General Announcements

Literature Rack – R side of Narthex

The January *Upper Room* has arrived. They are available in the

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

New Archives Display- Sunday School Treasures

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

Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations to Altar Guild

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

Pledges, Offerings & Donations

Stewardship update: Pledges Gratefully Accepted

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

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

2023 End of Year Contributions:

Contributions must be postmarked **on or before December 31, 2023**, or handed to the Treasurer by that date to count as tax-deductible contributions for 2023. If you are donating during the December 25-

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

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

Your pledges and other donations may always be mailed to the church office and marked to the attention of the Treasurer.

When donating by check, please make the check payable to “St. Thomas Episcopal Church”.

Under our current public health restrictions, we encourage you to mail in your pledges and offerings to the church or use our online donation option.

Online Giving Please look for the “GIVE” option on the main menu bar on the St. Thomas website. It is located on the upper right side of the home page. Once you select “GIVE”, you will be taken to a new page where you may donate through PayPal, using a debit or credit card. OR, if you prefer, you may go directly to the PayPal site through the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9C43D8TLRQCLU&source=url

If you choose to give online, please be aware that St. Thomas does pay a fee for each transaction.

As always, we want to say “Thank You!”

Peace, Jim Cobb

St. Thomas Library The church library will be open on Sundays after the 8 a.m. service, and again after the 10:30 service. Carol or a member of the Library Committee will be available to answer questions on Fridays from 10-12; after 12:00 our administrator Anne will be available until 4:00 to open the door for you. Call 408-736-4155 for access, or knock loudly! We request that you remember to wear your mask.

Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

St Thomas Stepping Stones Jail Ministry

Get proximate to the pain and you will make the deepest connection. Join the St. Thomas Stepping Stone Jail ministry and get proximate to those who are in need of community and love. You can participate by becoming a pen-pal and/or visiting people in jail (requires special training).

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

The Prayer Chain Anyone who needs prayers or needs pastoral care assistance or would like to join in this ministry, please send an email to: prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us.

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

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

Zooming in Men's Spiritual Growth Group

Yes! Now you can be there in your pajamas (at least), and therefore sleep a bit longer. But on the other hand we can no longer advertise coffee + if you arrive a bit early. We are now meeting **weekly** with a standard format, alternating between wondering what the scriptures

might be leading us to personally on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays (9-10 AM on your computer), and on the other Saturdays, a check-in and just for sanity's sake (starting at 9 AM). Our Zoom meetings are password protected so you'll need to connect with Chris Schmidt (randischris@gmail.com) if you are new to the group. We invite all men (even those not a part of St. Thomas) to join with us for fellowship and good discussion.

St. Thomas offers English Language Classes. A class for Chinese speakers meets most Fridays at 10:00am in the chapel. A class for Japanese speakers meets Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the chapel. Note: Chinese ESL is on hiatus, resuming January 5; Japanese ESL is on hiatus, resuming January 10, 2024.

Book Club usually meets once a month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the St. Thomas Library. We are an open book club: All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. Our next meeting will take place on **Monday January 29, 2024**, when we meet to discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, based on interviews with more than a thousand people, the story of America's Great Migration through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author brilliantly captures their first treacherous and exhausting cross-country journeys, as well as how they changed their new homes forever.

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

December at St. Thomas

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 after Christmas

8am Morning Prayer
in the church

10:30am Morning Prayer
in the church and livestreamed on Zoom



Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

Tuesdays, 6pm Centering Prayer, led by Pastor Salying

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

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

on hiatus, resuming Tuesday, January 3, 2024

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

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

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

on hiatus, resuming Wednesday, January 4, 2024

Thursdays, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09)

[pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89699188717?pwd=dzNuY1VkOWpnbzFvQkpwRnJ0VG1JUT09)

Meeting ID: 896 9918 8717 Passcode: 225424

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

on hiatus, resuming Thursday, January 5, 2024

Sundays: 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the church

and

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the church

(Hybrid format: with simultaneous livestream on Zoom)

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

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

Both Sunday services led by Pastor Salying

Please see website for week-to-week information:

www.stthomas-svale.org

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



Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!

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

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

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

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

2023
 Pat Dare
 Breno DeMedeiros
 Abby O'Connell

2024
 Nancy Allgeier
 Gage McKinney
 Rita Welsh

2025
 Joe Gutierrez
 Dena Ware
 Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Stephanie Daugherty Hugo Lopez-Laguna Mabel Cheng Sherene Nagarajah

St. Thomas website: www.stthomas-svale.org

Welcome

St. Thomas' Parish is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love, and service to welcome all people just as God created them. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical, or mental ability. God delights in the diversity of creation, and so do we!

Rector: The Rev. Salying Wong.....pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.org
 or 510-478-3554

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

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

Children's Ministry Pam Storrer.....family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org

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

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

Accompanist: Benjamin Belew.....

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

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

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If you or a loved one is in urgent need of pastoral care (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), PLEASE CALL US.

(The hospital does not always automatically notify the parish)

The Rev. Salying Wong, Rector..... 510-478-3554

Parish Office408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

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