

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 Holy Eucharist Rite II 4:00pm



Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!

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

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Holy Eucharist Rite II 4:00pm

Merry Christmas!

We are so happy you are here, 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.*

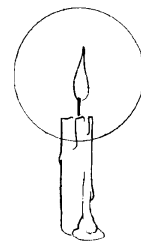
Equally important, please be sure that your zoom account ID includes your first and last name. We look forward to seeing you.

After the service there will be a festive reception in the narthex.

Thank you for joining us, and for continuing to observe our protocols.

Those attending on Zoom are encouraged to have a candle at the ready, for lighting at the close of the service as we sing

Silent Night.



*Those attending in person, please pick up a candle as you enter.
Children are encouraged to pick up an electric votive candle.*

When all are ready, the service will begin.



Carols

All are welcome to sing along; Zoom participants please stay muted.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymnal #96

- 1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis deo!

Gloria in excelsis deo!

- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?**

Refrain

- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

Refrain

- 4. See him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While we raise our hearts in love**

Refrain

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

1. **While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.** *Refrain*
2. **The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.** *Refrain*
3. **Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn** *Refrain*

What Child Is This?

1. **What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.** *Refrain*

2. **Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?**

**Good Christians, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain***

- 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain***

The First Nowell

Hymnal #109

- 1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

- 2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

- 3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

- 4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

- 5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain***

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made Heaven and earth of nought,
and with His blood our life hath bought. *Refrain*

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Hymnal #89

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious
King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings
unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of
wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels
sing.

Joy to the World

Hymnal #100

1. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room

**and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

- 2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy**
- 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

Please stand.

Processional Hymn

Hymnal #83

O Come, All Ye Faithful

All are welcome to sing along; Zoom participants please stay muted.

- 1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

2. **God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father; *Refrain***
3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain***
4. **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain***
5. **Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain***
6. **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain***

Opening Acclamation

[Live]

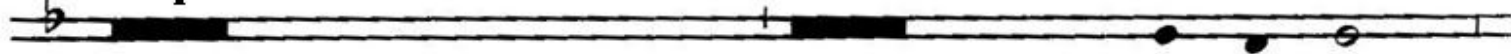
Please join in singing the responses. Zoom attendees please stay muted.

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.

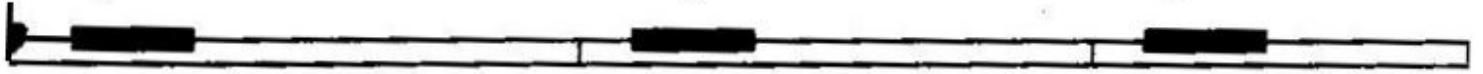
Setting: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

Greeting and Collect for Purity

Celebrant:

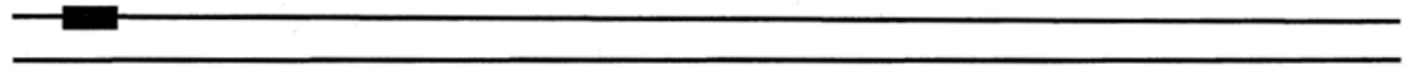
People:

Celebrant:



The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

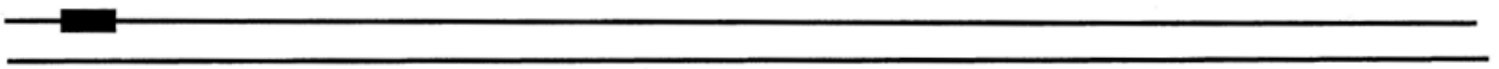
Celebrant:



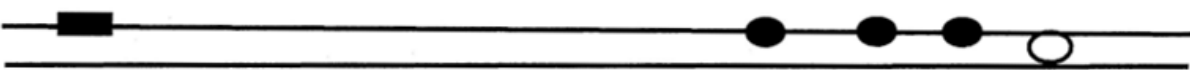
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known



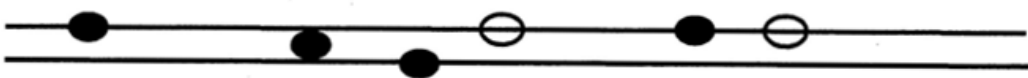
and from you no se - crets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our



hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly



love you and worthily magnify your ho - ly Name,



Through Christ our Lord. A - men.

Gloria

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

4 *f*

S. A. *f*

T. B. *f*

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

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. *f*

A. *f*

T. *f*

B. *f*

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

19 *mf*

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

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

23 *Unison*

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

27 *div. f*

S. *div. f*

A. *div. f*

T. *div. f*

B. *div. f*

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

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.

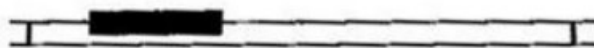
We wor-ship you and sing_ to-day, Christ, our Love is on_ the way.

T. B.

Collect of the Day



Celebrant: God be with you.



People: And also with you



Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with

you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please. sit.

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
 on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

*The congregation joins the choir in singing the refrain:
Zoom participants please stay muted.*

Refrain



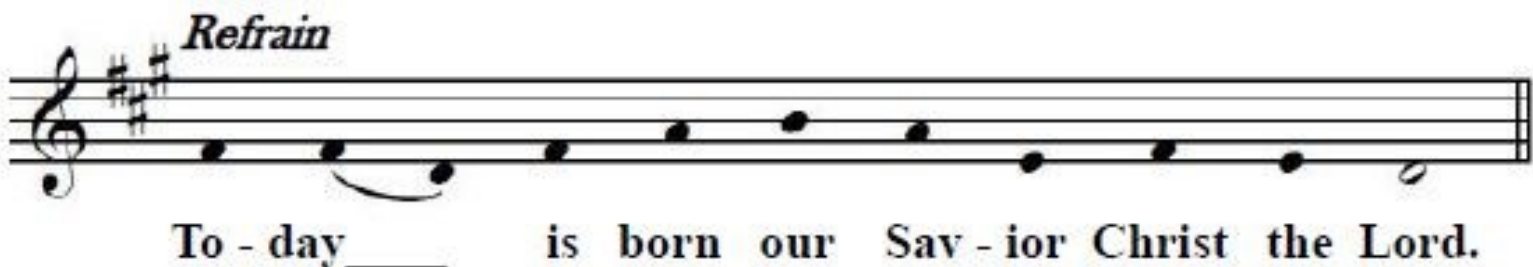
To - day ___ is born our Sav - ior Christ the Lord.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Refrain

Refrain



To - day ___ is born our Sav - ior Christ the Lord.

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

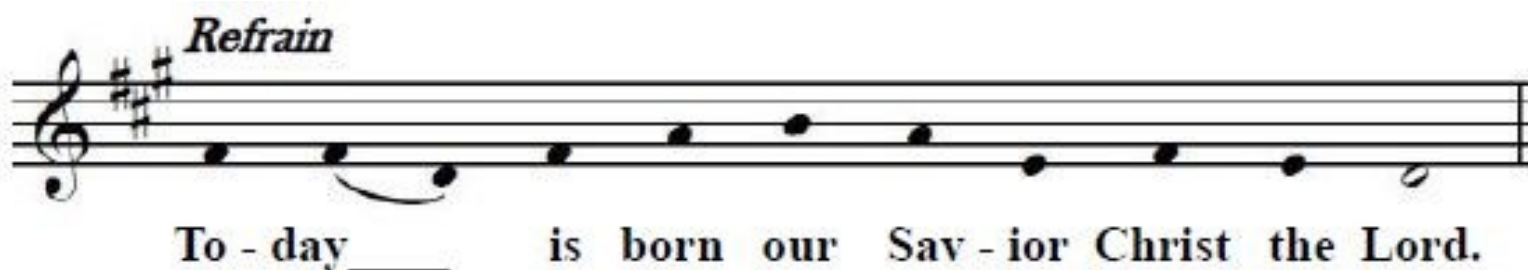
For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

Refrain (as above)

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary! *Refrain*

Refrain



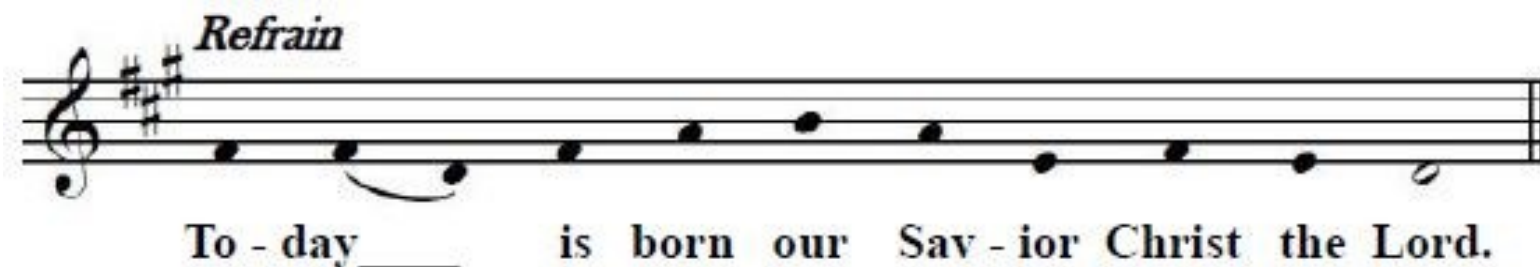
To - day ___ is born our Sav - ior Christ the Lord.

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him. *Refrain*

Refrain

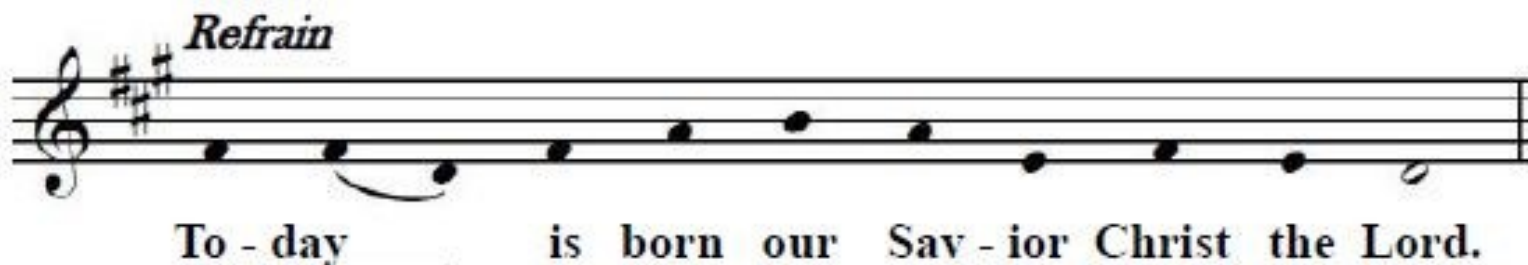


To - day ___ is born our Sav - ior Christ the Lord.

Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein. *Refrain*

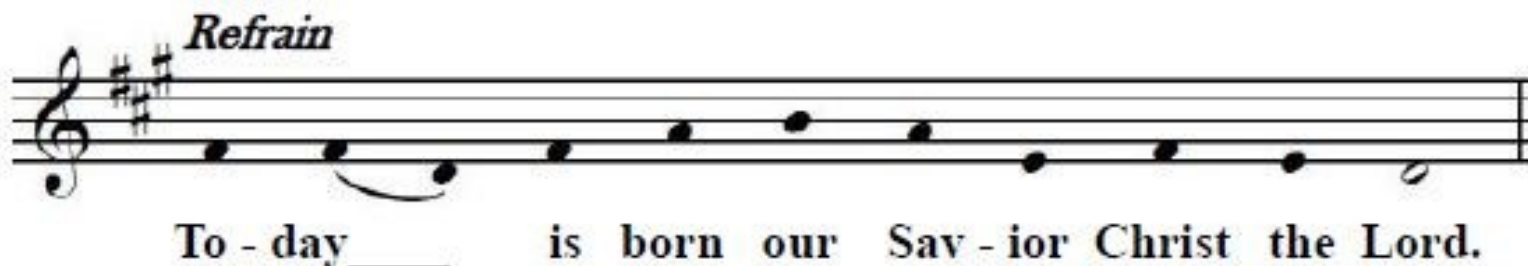
Refrain



To - day ___ is born our Sav - ior Christ the Lord.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth. *Refrain*



The Epistle Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

People: **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal #81

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

- Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old hath sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.**

2. **Isaiah 'twas fore-told it, the Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we be-hold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior when half spent was the night.**
3. **O Flower, whose sweetness tender with fragrance fills the air,
Dispel, in glorious splendor, the darkness everywhere;
True man yet very God,
From sin and death now save us, and share our every load,**

Please. stand.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you , Lord Christ.

Please sit.

Homily

There will be a period of silence for meditation.



Please stand.

The Nicene Creed

said in unison

**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.

Please. stand.

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a wave and a namaste of peace.

Offertory sentence

before time and for ever.

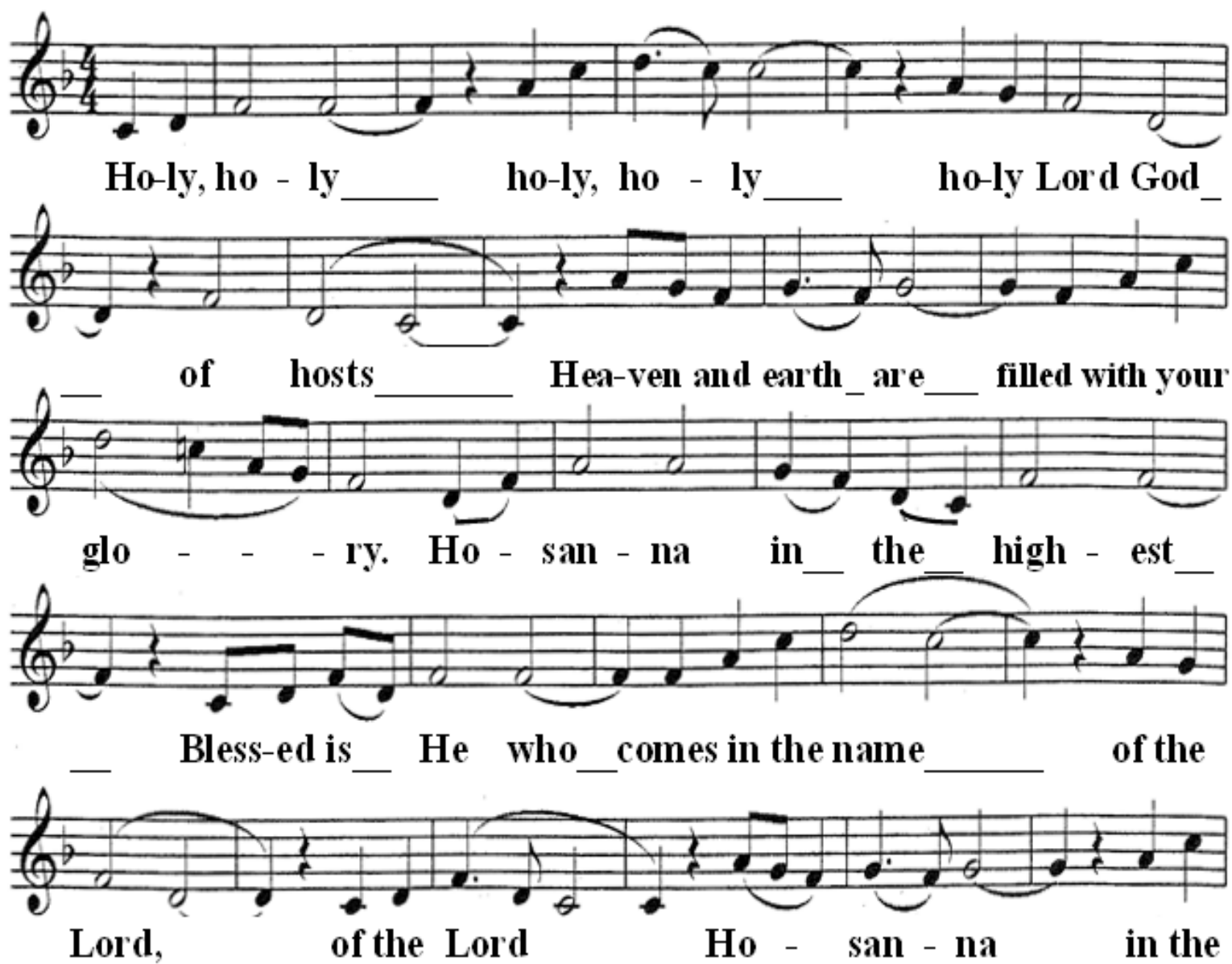
Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

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,

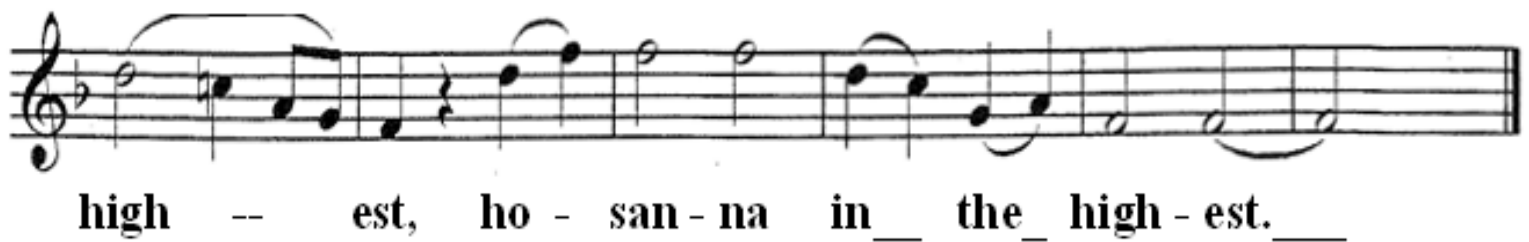
Sanctus

The people may join in singing the Sanctus. 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



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.

All: Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer *said in unison*

**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 Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem

The people may join in singing. Zoom participants please stay muted.

The musical score is written for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), Bass (B.), and Organ. It is in the key of D major and 8/8 time. The organ part is marked 'organ' and 'acc. ad lib.'. The lyrics are: 'Be known to us, Lord Je - sus Christ in the break - ing of the bread. God of hope and'.

8

S.
A.

God of pro - mise, you have pre-pared a ban - quet for us;

T.
B.

11

S.
A.

Come Lord Je - sus, come and cheer Come and make thine Ad - vent here.

T.
B.

rit.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

Everyone is invited to receive Communion. Please come to the rail.

- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able..*
- *As a symbol of our unity as the body of Christ, the wine will be served from the flagon into individual cups after the consecration. Once you have consumed your wine, please place the cup on one of the trays near the aisles.*
- *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

I Am the Bread of Life

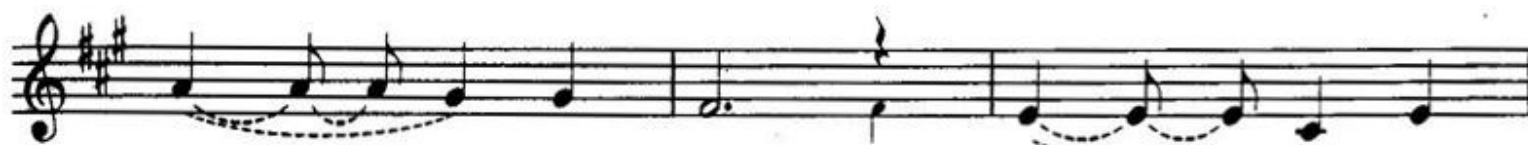
All may join in singing the hymn. Zoom participants please stay muted.



1 I am the bread of life; they who
 2 (The) Bread that I will give is my
 3 (Un-) less you eat of the
 4 I am the re - sur - rec - tion,
 5 (Yes,) Lord we be - lieve that



1 come to me shall not hun - ger; they who be -
 2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who
 3 Flesh of the Son of Man and
 4 I am the life. They who be -
 5 you are the Christ the



1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 2 eat of this bread they shall live for
 3 drink of his Blood, you shall not have life with -
 4 lieve in me, e - ven if they
 5 Son of God who has



1 me unless the Fa - ther draw them.
 2 ev - er, they shall live for ev - er,
 3 in you, you shall not have life with - in you.
 4 die they shall live for ev - er.
 5 come in - to the world.

Descant

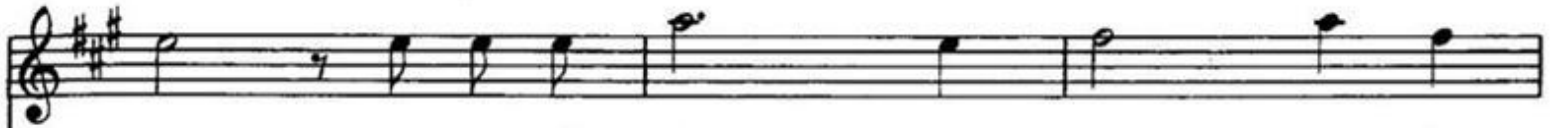


And I will raise ___ them up, and I will raise them

Refrain



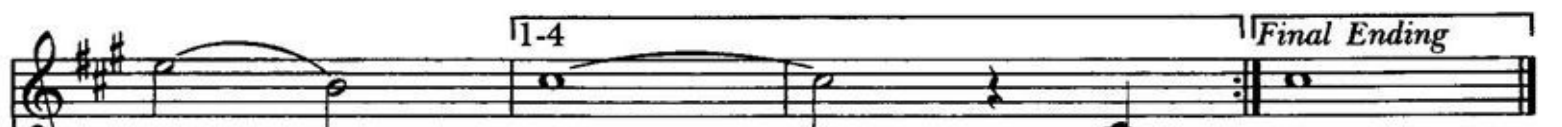
And I will raise ___ them up, and I will raise ___ them



up, and I will raise them up on the



up, and I will raise ___ them up ___ on the



last day. 5. Yes, day.



last day. 2 The day.

- 3 Un - day.
- 4 ___
- 5 Yes,



The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); adapt. of John 6

Words: © 1970, 1975, Celebration.

Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928)

Irr. with Refrain

Post Communion Prayer *led by the Celebrant, said in unison*

**All: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing for Christmas

Book of Occasional Services

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

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

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **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 altar party will light your candle.

Once your candle is lit, please pass on the light.

Silent Night

All are welcome to sing along; Zoom participants please stay muted.

1. *Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.*
2. *Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!*
3. *Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

The Dismissal

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Please remain to enjoy the postlude.

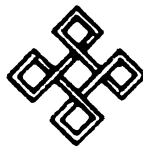
Postlude

Goody Bag of Christmas Music

Maretha Davel, flute
Yina Maroon, violin
K. Honjamaka, trumpet
Benjamin Belew, piano

*After the bell tolls, the people may adjourn to the narthex
for a special Christmas Eve reception.*

Extinguished candles should be placed in the basket in the narthex.



Serving today at 5:15pm

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Salying Wong

Eucharistic Minister: Joe Gutierrez

Readers: Lou Poulain, Patricia Pietrzyk

Cantor: Chris Schmidt

Usher/Greeter: MaryJane Johnson

Members of the St. Thomas Choir

Director: Patricia Pietrzyk

Organ/Piano: Benjamin Belew

Instrumentalists: Maretha Davel, flute

Yina Maroon, violin

K. Honjamaka, trumpet

Zoom Host: Lou Poulain

Stream team lead: Andrew Yeh

Reception: Pat Dare

TODAY

Reception Please join us for a festive reception after the Christmas Eve service in the narthex. All are welcome.

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.

An updated **Announcement page** is available on line at 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

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*

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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accompanist: Benjamin Belew.....

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

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

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

(The hospital does not always automatically notify the parish)

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

Parish Office.....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

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