

*First Sunday after the Epiphany*  
*The Baptism of Our Lord*  
Service of Healing for New Beginnings

January 7, 2024

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)

*First Sunday after the Epiphany*  
*The Baptism of Our Lord*  
*Service of Healing for New Beginnings*

**January 7, 2024**

**Rite II, 10:30am**

*Welcome to worship this morning.*

*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.*

# Prelude

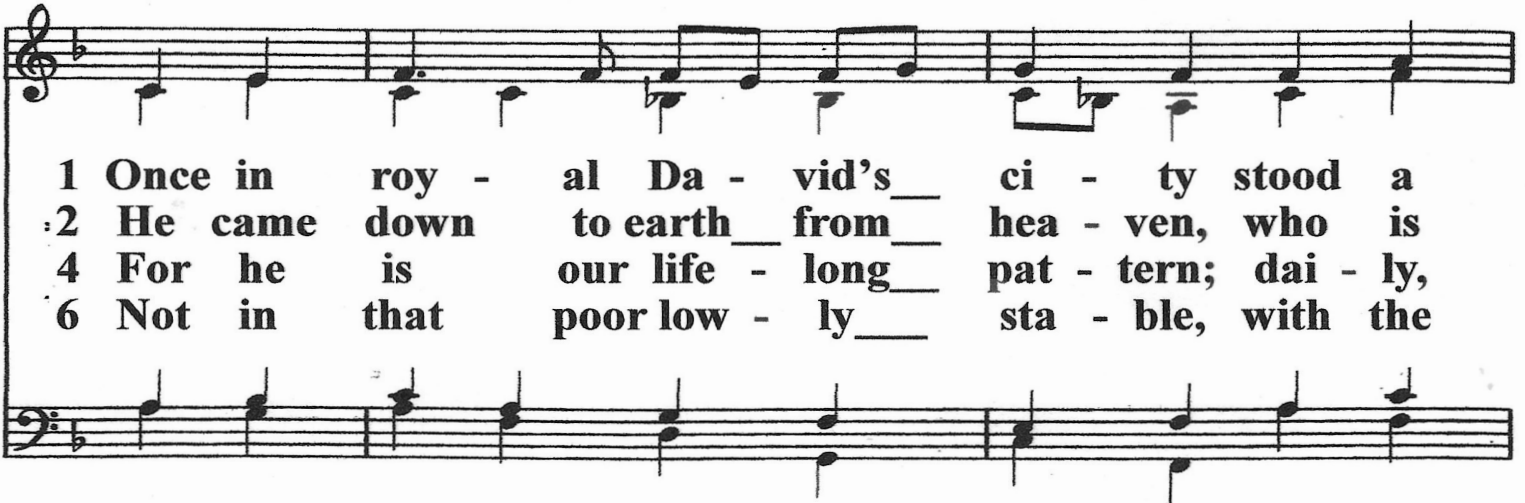
## Opening Hymn

Hymnal #102

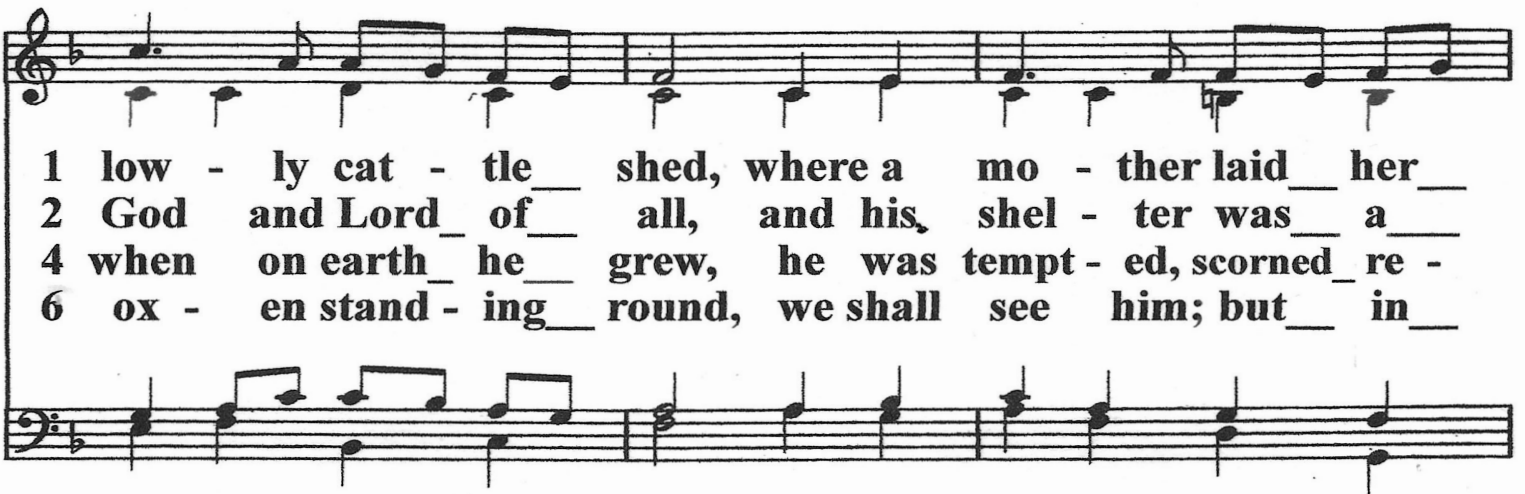
### Once in Royal David's City

vs. 1,2,4,6

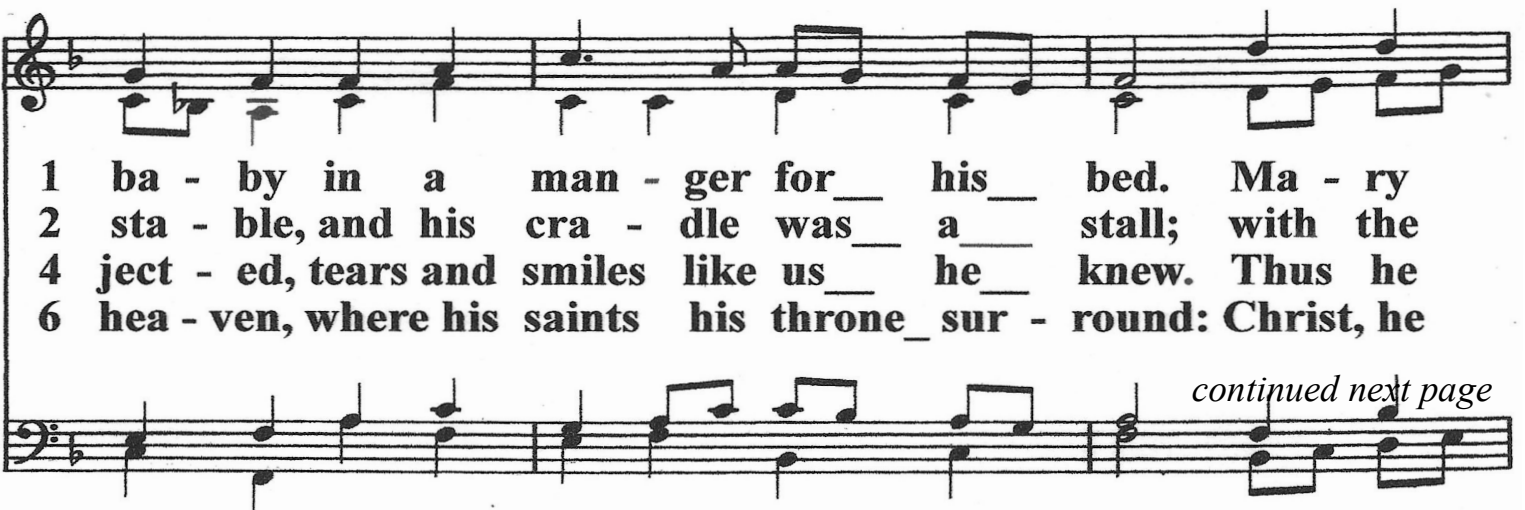
*Please join in singing the hymn; zoom participants stay muted.*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's\_\_ ci - ty stood a  
2 He came down to earth\_\_ from\_\_ hea - ven, who is  
4 For he is our life - long\_\_ pat - tern; dai - ly,  
6 Not in that poor low - ly\_\_ sta - ble, with the



1 low - ly cat - tle\_\_ shed, where a mo - ther laid\_\_ her\_\_  
2 God and Lord\_\_ of\_\_ all, and his, shel - ter was\_\_ a\_\_  
4 when on earth\_\_ he\_\_ grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned\_\_ re -  
6 ox - en stand - ing\_\_ round, we shall see him; but\_\_ in\_\_



1 ba - by in a man - ger for\_\_ his\_\_ bed. Ma - ry  
2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was\_\_ a\_\_ stall; with the  
4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us\_\_ he\_\_ knew. Thus he  
6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne\_\_ sur - round: Christ, he

*continued next page*

1 was that mo-ther mild,\_\_\_ Je - sus Christ her lit - tle\_ child. \_\_\_  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior\_ ho - ly.  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all\_ our\_ glad-ness.  
 6 vealed to faith-ful eye,\_\_\_ set at God's right hand\_ on\_ high. \_\_\_

**Opening Acclamation**

**EOW1**

**Celebrant:**

Bless-ed be the one, ho - ly and liv - ing God.

**People:**

Glo - ry to God for ev - er and ev - er.

**Celebrant:**

There is one Body and one Spi - rit;

**People:**

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

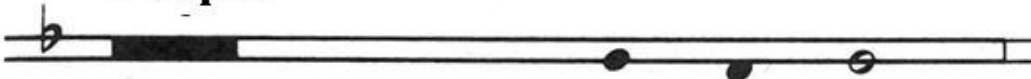
*continued next page*

Celebrant:



One Lord, one Faith, one Bap - tism;

People:

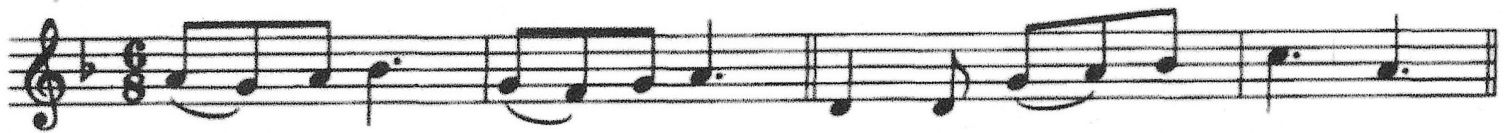


One God and Fa - ther of all.

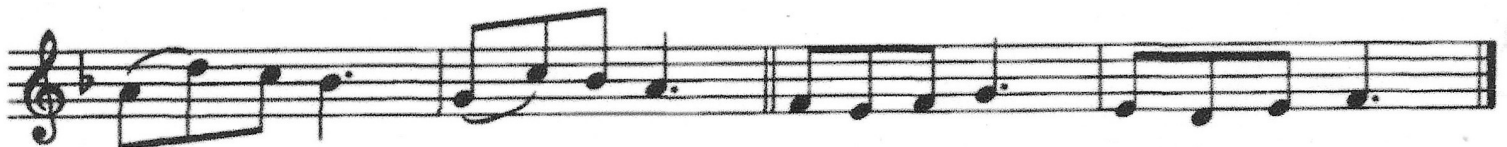
Setting: Ambrosian chant; adapt. *Hymnal 1982*

## Gloria

*Please join in singing the Gloria; zoom participants stay muted.*



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## Collect for the Baptism of Our Lord

Celebrant:

People:

Celebrant:



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.



Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



The voice of the Lord\_\_ is up - on the wa - ters.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*




The voice of the Lord\_\_ is up - on the wa - ters.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



The voice of the Lord\_\_ is up - on the wa - ters.

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD  
all are crying, "Glory!"

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*



The voice of the Lord\_\_ is up - on the wa - ters.

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The LORD shall give strength to his people;  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*



The voice of the Lord\_\_ is up - on the wa - ters.

## **The Epistle            Acts 19:1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his



hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

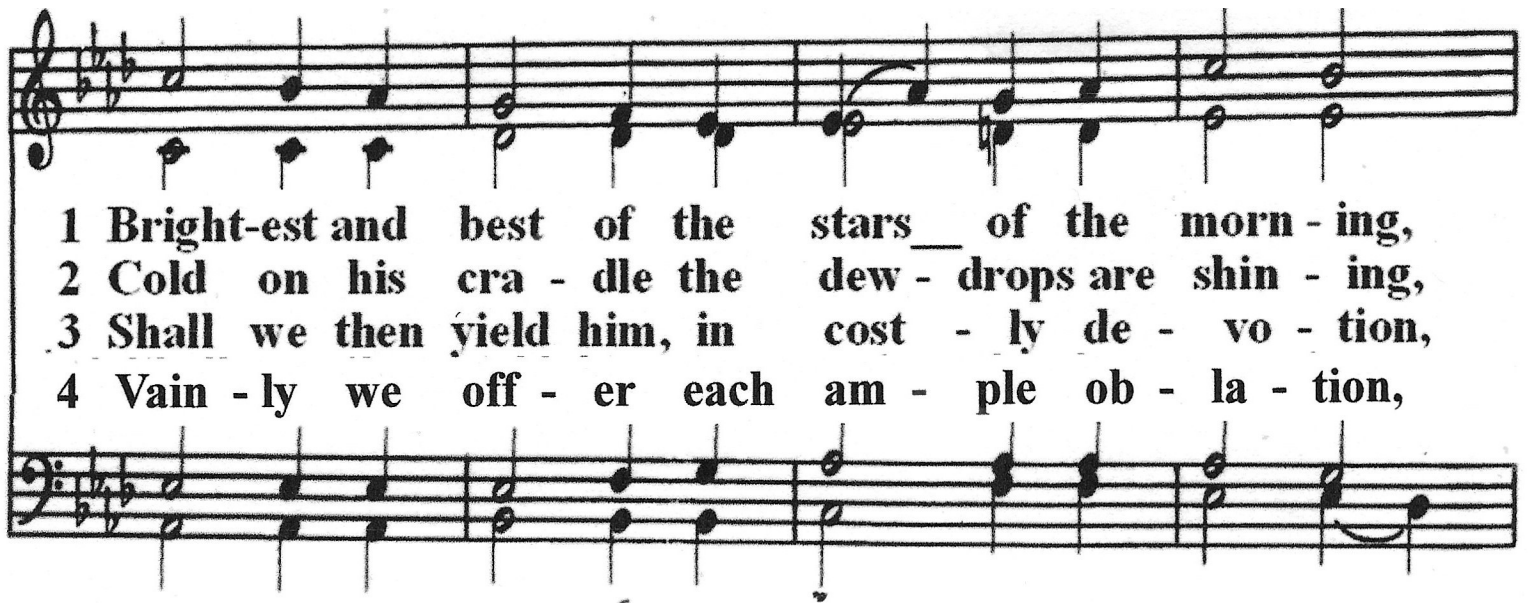
People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

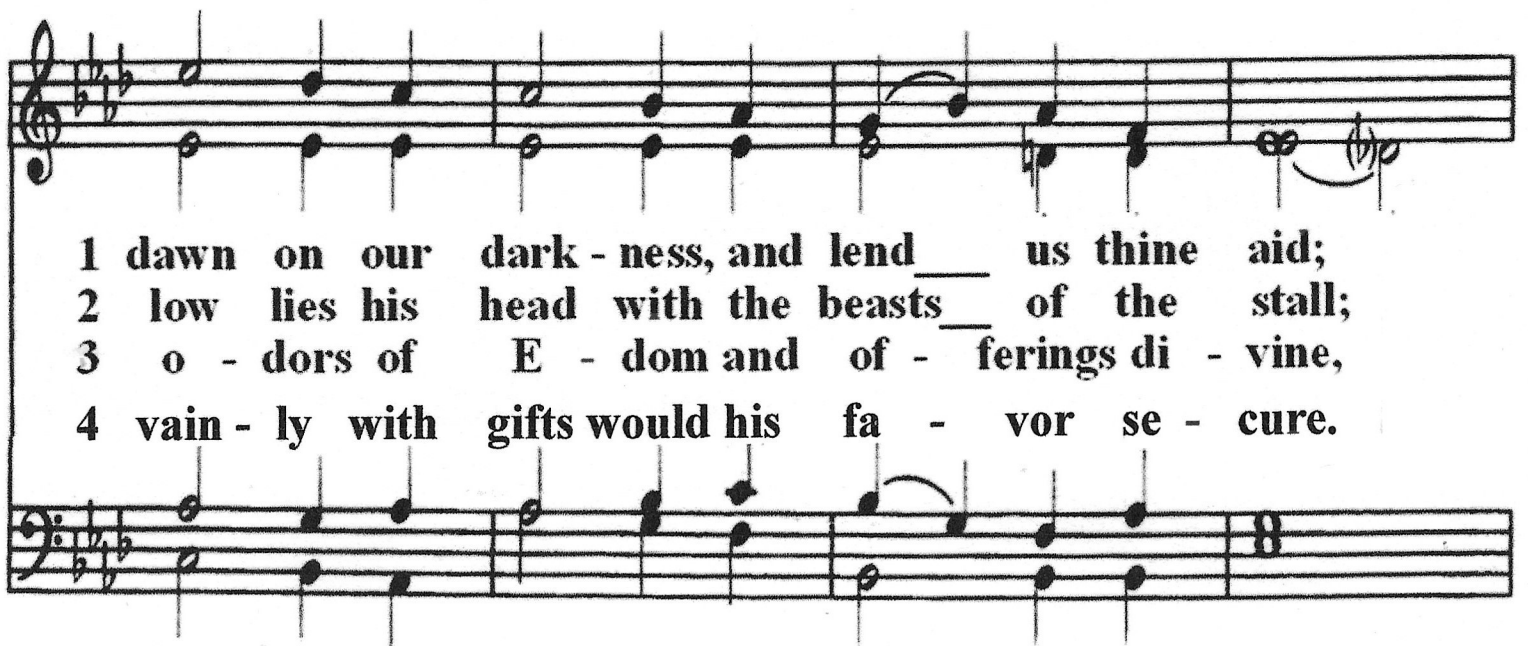
Hymnal #117

*Brightest and Best*

*vs. 1-4*



1 Bright-est and best of the stars\_ of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we off - er each am - ple ob - la - tion,



1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend\_\_ us thine aid;  
2 low lies his head with the beasts\_\_ of the stall;  
3 o - dors of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,  
4 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure.

1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,  
 4 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,

1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.  
 3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold\_\_ from the mine?  
 4 dear - er to God are the prayers\_ of the poor.

Words: Reginal Heber (1783-1826), alt.

Music: *Morning Star*, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911)

11 10. 11 10

## **The Gospel**

**Mark 1:4-11**

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

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

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ**

## **The Sermon**

*After the sermon there will be a time of silence  
for reflection.*

# THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

## The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good New

of God in Christ?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

**Celebrant:** Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

**Celebrant:** 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.

**Celebrant:** May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

## Anointing for New Beginnings

*If you wish to be anointed, please come forward.*

## The Prayers of the People

Marty Haugen

*Please join in singing the response. Zoom participants stay muted.*

**All:** *repeat continuously (under Leader)*

The musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. Both staves are in 6/8 time and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The treble staff begins with a square box containing the letter 'A'. The melody in the treble staff starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note G3. The bass staff begins with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note A2. The piece concludes with a double bar line. The text '(Hmmm)' is written below the treble staff, and 'continued next page' is written below the bass staff.

*Response*

All: **B**

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: **A**

**B** *Response (as above)*

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

Leader: **A**

**B** *Response (as above)*

2. For peace and sal-vation, we pray to you:

Leader: **A**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:

*Response*

All: **B**

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

*continued next page*

4. For us who are gathered to worship and praise you:
5. For all of your servants who live out your gospel:
6. For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:
7. For all those who labor in service to others:
8. Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:
10. For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

Leader:



Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

All:

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

## The Peace

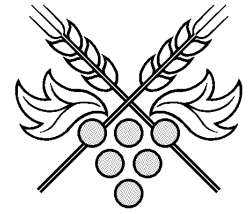
Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*The people and the ministers greet one another.*

## The Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

The Offertory Anthem

Hymnal #119

## *We Three Kings*

*John McVey, Chris Schmidt, John Pietrzyk, soloists*

*Please join in singing the refrain. Zoom participants please stay muted.*

*Refrain*

O \_\_\_\_\_ star of won - der, star of night,

The first line of the refrain is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in the key of D major. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "O \_\_\_\_\_ star of won - der, star of night,". The word "O" is followed by a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note.

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

The second line of the refrain continues the melody and harmony. The lyrics are: "star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,". The music is written on a grand staff.

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

The third line of the refrain concludes the phrase. The lyrics are: "still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!". The music is written on a grand staff.







Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.


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


Sursum Corda

Eucharistic Prayer 3. *Enriching Our Worship 1*

Celebrant:  People:   
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant:  People:   
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Celebrant:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places,  
our true and loving God;  
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,  
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.  
You laid the foundations of the world  
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;  
You brought forth all creatures of the earth  
and gave breath to humankind.  
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,  
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;

And so as the morning stars sing your praises  
we join the heavenly beings and all creation  
as we shout with joy:

## Sanctus

LEVAS #255

Celebrant and People:

*Please join in singing. Zoom participants please stay muted.*

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: Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,  
your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage  
and led them to a land of promise.  
Of your grace, you gave Jesus  
to be human, to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign  
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life,  
reconciled us to you,  
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us  
Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,  
gave it to his friends and said:  
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,  
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
“Drink this, all of you:  
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,  
longing for Christ’s coming in glory,  
and presenting to you these gifts  
your earth has formed and human hands have made,  
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Celebrant and People:**

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us  
the Body and Blood of your Christ.  
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,  
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,  
and in the fullness of time gather us  
with blessed Thomas, and all your people  
into the joy of our true eternal home.  
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator  
in voices of unending praise.

**Celebrant and People:**

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

Celebrant: 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.*

## **Communion Hymn**

Hymnal #247

*See next page*

### *Lully, Lullay*

*You are invited to join in singing the hymn.*

*Zoom participants please stay muted.*

*Burden*

Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou lit - tle tin - y child; bye - bye, lul -

ly lul - lay. 1 O sis - ters, too, how may we do  
2 He - rod the King in his ra - ging  
3 That woe is me, poor child for thee!

for to pre - serve this day this poor young - ling for  
charg - ed he hath this day his men of might in  
and ev - ery morn and day, for thy part - ing nor

*Repeat Burden after verse 3*

whom we sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?  
his own sight, all young chil - dren to slay.  
say nor sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?

## 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.**

## The Blessing

**Celebrant:** May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Celebrant:** May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

**People: Amen.**

**Celebrant:** May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

**People: Amen.**

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

**People: Amen.**

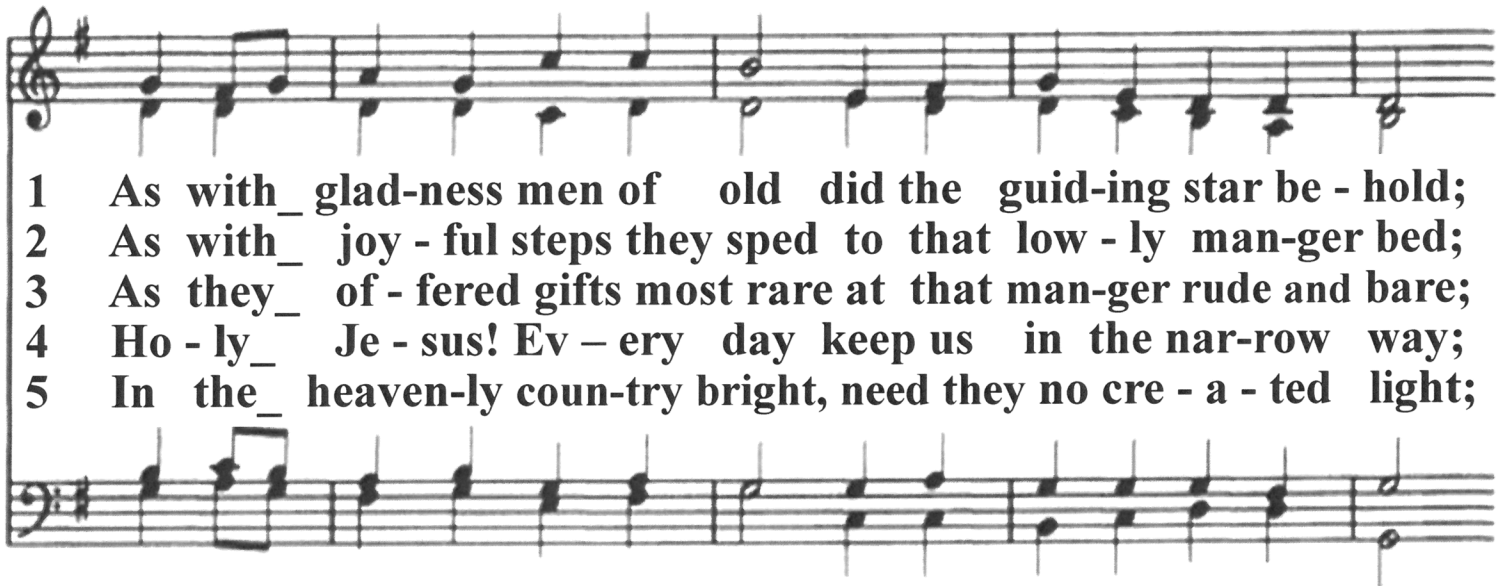
# Announcements

## Closing Hymn

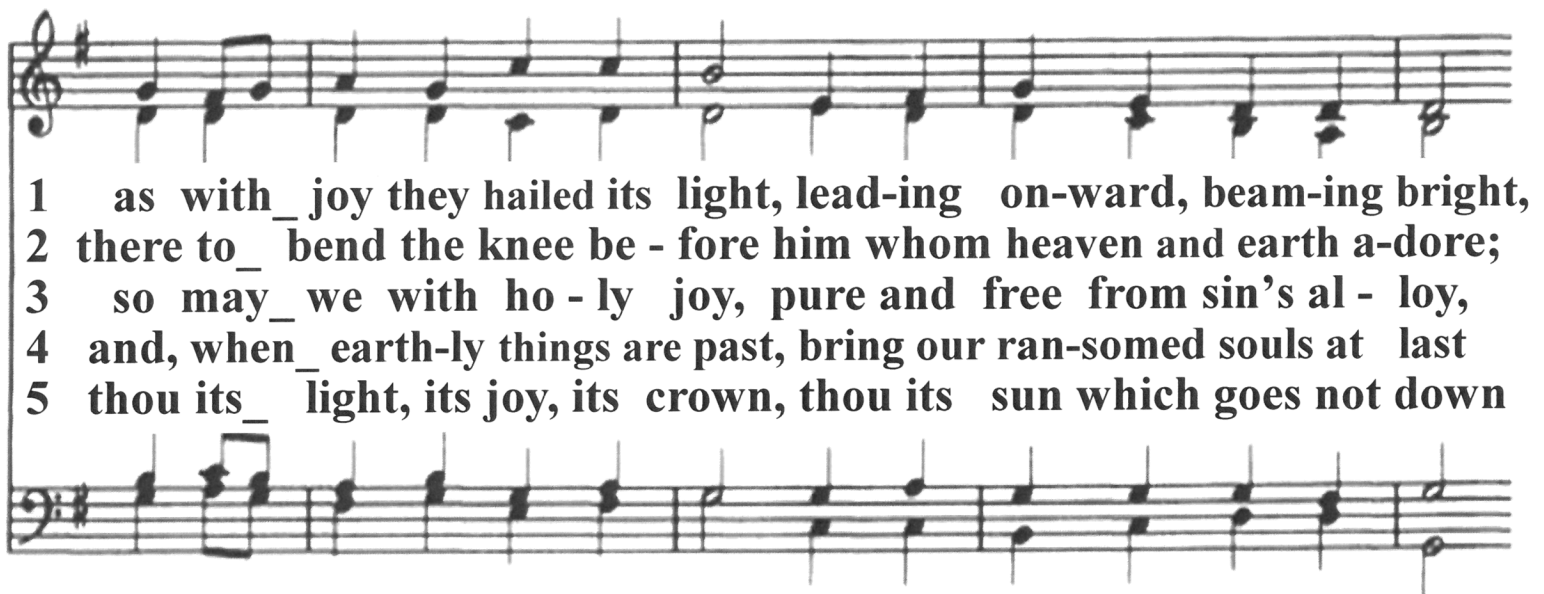
Hymnal #119

### *As With Gladness, Men of Old*

*Please join in singing the hymn; zoom participants stay muted.*



1 As with\_ glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
2 As with\_ joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed;  
3 As they\_ of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger rude and bare;  
4 Ho - ly\_ Je - sus! Ev - ery day keep us in the nar-row way;  
5 In the\_ heaven-ly coun-try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;



1 as with\_ joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,  
2 there to\_ bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
3 so may\_ we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
4 and, when\_ earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last  
5 thou its\_ light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down

*continued next page*



1 so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.  
 2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 3 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ! To thee, our heaven-ly King.  
 4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Music: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889);  
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

77. 77. 77

## The Dismissal

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

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

## Postlude



### Serving us at 10:30 am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

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

**Eucharistic Minister:** Ann Kopischke

**Greeters:** MaryJane Johnson et al

**Lectors:** Susan McVey, John McVey

**Cantor:** Chris Schmidt

**Accompanist:** Benjamin Belew

**Zoom host:** Aer van de Water **Tech lead:** Steve Williams

# Today in the Parish

**Anointing for New Beginnings.** Anointing is an ancient ritual of healing and commissioning. Today, you are invited to receive blessed oil at the communion rail after communion. May this sign be a blessing to you of healing and empowerment in Christ.

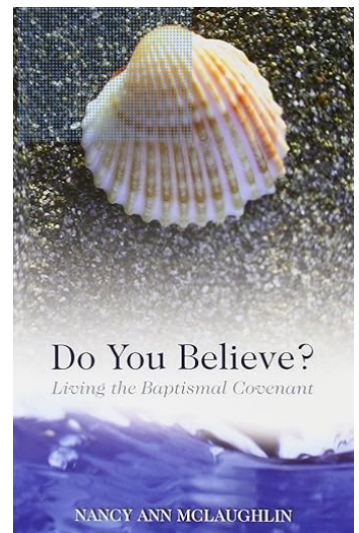
**Coffee Hour today** will be inside Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of Covid protocols. Thank you.

## Library News:

**Book of the Week January 7**

**[Do you believe? Living the baptismal covenant](#)** by Nancy Ann McLaughlin.

The author looks at parishes around the country to see just what an active, intentional, energized awareness of baptismal ministry looks like. She examines each of the elements of the covenant—from believing in God to continuing the preaching of the apostles – the book offers practical advice for turning words into concrete actions.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**No more weekly reminders** will be sent out for weekday services. We want to reduce the amount of email you are receiving. You may find the weekday services schedule with their zoom links in the weekly e-news which will still be sent on Tuesdays, OR you may find this information on our website: <https://stthomas-svale.org/worship-schedule/>.

**Annual Meeting Sunday January 28, 2024** At the Annual Meeting, the Annual Report for 2023 will be presented along with important announcements about St. Thomas as we go forward in 2023, There will be a **single worship service that morning** to facilitate attendance by all. Please put this date on your calendar!

**The Annual Report** consists of budget information from the Treasurer and Finance group, as well as individual summations of the 2022 activities of all the groups at St. Thomas.

Please submit your individual reports **no later than Friday January 19, 2024** for inclusion in the report! Thank you!

**New Vestry members** have been nominated. They will be confirmed at the Annual meeting later this month.

Here they are, to introduce themselves:

**For a three-year term:**

- **Jeannie Battagin**

Two years ago, when I moved to Santa Clara, I prayed to be led to a church community that would be a place of welcome to All and where relationship to God and Jesus is truly nurtured.

Finding St Thomas Episcopal Church was like coming home in a new way, and a very hopeful and joyful experience. Additionally, I've enjoyed the fun and laughter we share at different times! After a year and a half of participating in various ways, I was Received as an Episcopalian on Sunday, December 17th, 2023. I've also been learning how to be a Lay Eucharistic Minister, thanks to the mentoring of Joe Gutierrez and Pastor Salying. I hope that being on the Vestry will help serve this wonderful community.

- **Naveen Prasad Raja Durairaj**

I moved from Portland, Oregon in March 2016 for my work. I came to St. Thomas to attend Good Friday service and have been coming to St Thomas since then. This community has very much helped me in my spiritual journey. I am taking Education for Ministry class along with other members of our church and enjoy the fellowship. The

prayer chain ministry has helped me walk through the toughest of times. I had great milestones to cherish here including the blessing of my twin daughters and my recent reception to the church. This community is an extended family and I greatly appreciate the love and friendship we have here. I have been serving in the Altar guild for the past year and I am honored to be considered for the vestry.

- **Tian Zhu**

I was born and grew up in Shanghai and spent the first 28 years of my life until I moved to the US as a software engineer recruited by my company. I've been living in Sunnyvale almost the whole time since then. I joined St Thomas during COVID in order to get more connected to the local community. I regard St Thomas as my home, just as I regard Sunnyvale as my hometown. So as a member, I want St Thomas to be continuously an inclusive community for the locals and reach out to more people in future.

**For a one-year term:**

- **Ann Kopischke.**

Ann is experienced on vestry, having served multiple times and as Sr. Warden. She is taking the last year of a term vacated by Nancy Allgeier. Ann will be able to hit the ground running, as she knows the work of the vestry well. She loves St. Thomas and is always willing to help our community thrive.

## **General Announcements**

### **Gift bags and tissue for Boutique '24**

Something to keep in mind as you tidy up in the aftermath of Christmas: in preparation for the annual Boutique & Bake Sale, we will need your recycled medium, large, and extra-large Christmas gift bags. Please, no small bags or liquor bags. We had bags at the Boutique this year and were able to package most items and send buyers off with a gift bag. They loved it. Leftover tissue paper is also needed.

Do you have Christmas cards you would be willing to part with? We would love to have them.

You may leave bags, tissue paper and cards in the Library Return box in the narthex or the Return Box in the Library or give to Carol Campbell.

### **Literature Rack – R side of Narthex**

The January *Upper Room* and *Forward Day by Day* copies have arrived. They are available in the literature rack found in the Narthex of the church. The *Upper Room* also includes large print copies.

### **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 Friday, January 5th, we have received **53** 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: 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*

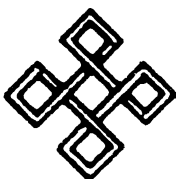


*Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, based on interviews with more than a thousand people, the story of America's Great Migration through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago; sharp and quick-tempered George 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](http://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](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)



## 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=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)

*Note: Zoom address may change.*

**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)*



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.us](mailto:pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us)  
or 510-478-3554

**Deacon:** The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah.....[bertramemail@gmail.com](mailto:bertramemail@gmail.com)

**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 Director.:** Susan Beckham.....[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)

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

**Accompanist (organ/piano):** Benjamin Belew .....

**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