

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

Rite II, 10:30am



Healing of Peter's Mother-in-law by Rembrandt

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA. 94086

408-736-4155

www.stthomas-svale.org

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 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.

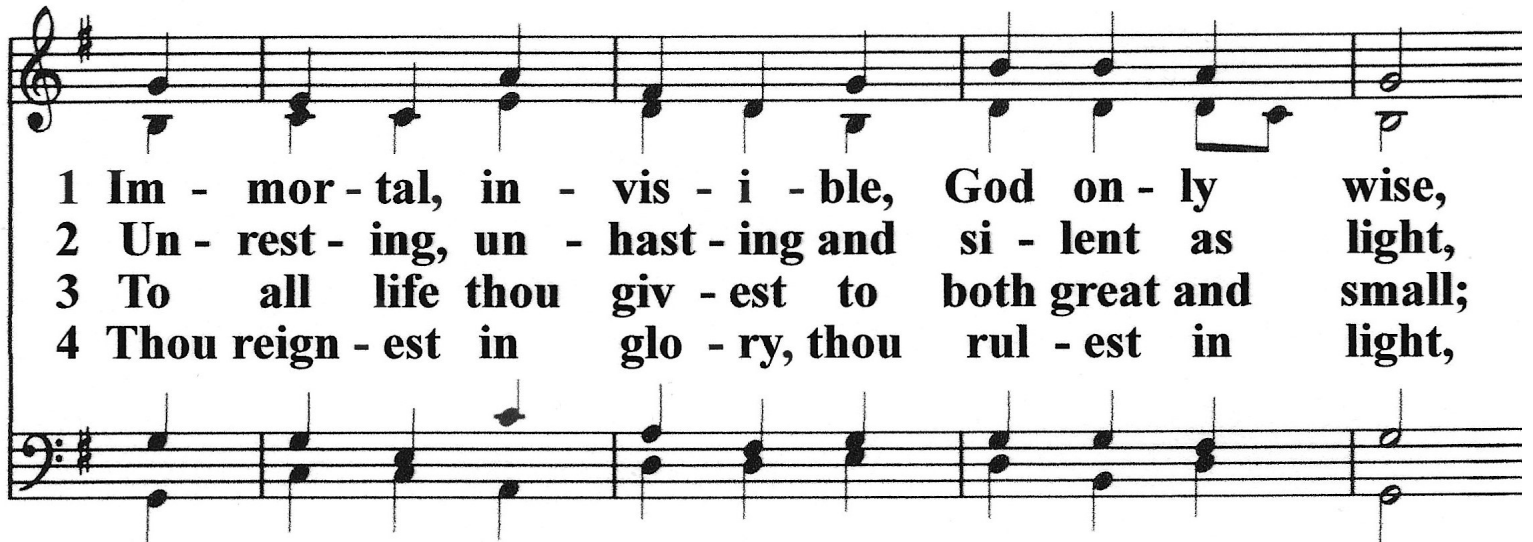
Prelude

Opening Hymn

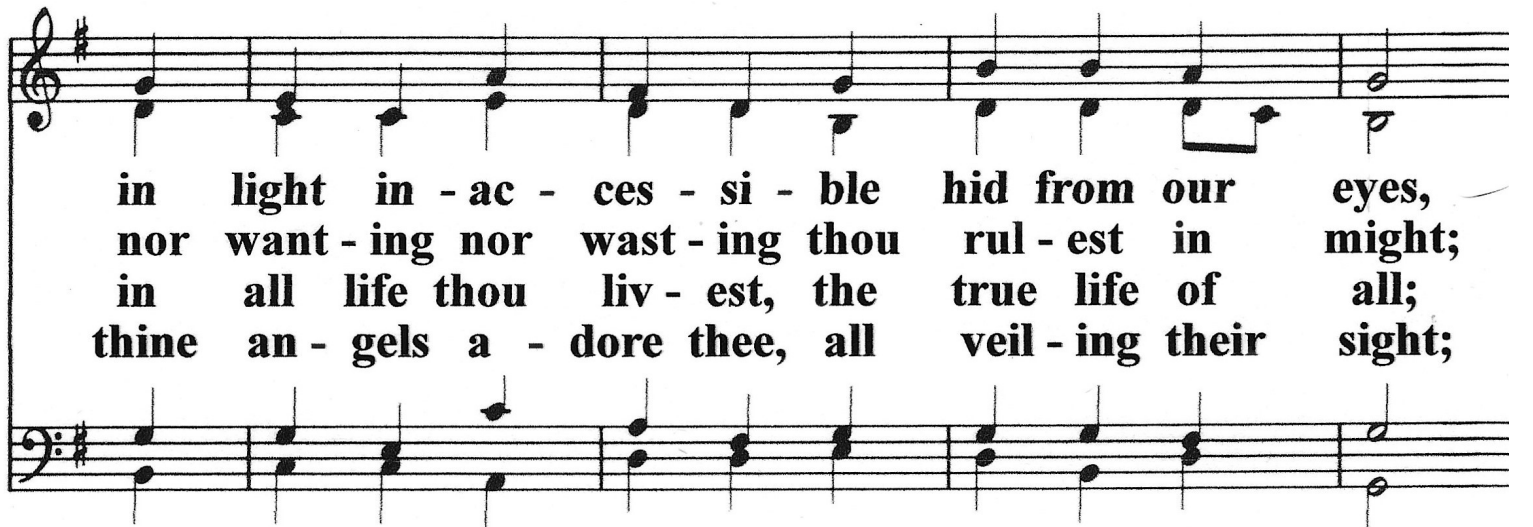
Hymnal #423

Immortal, Invisible

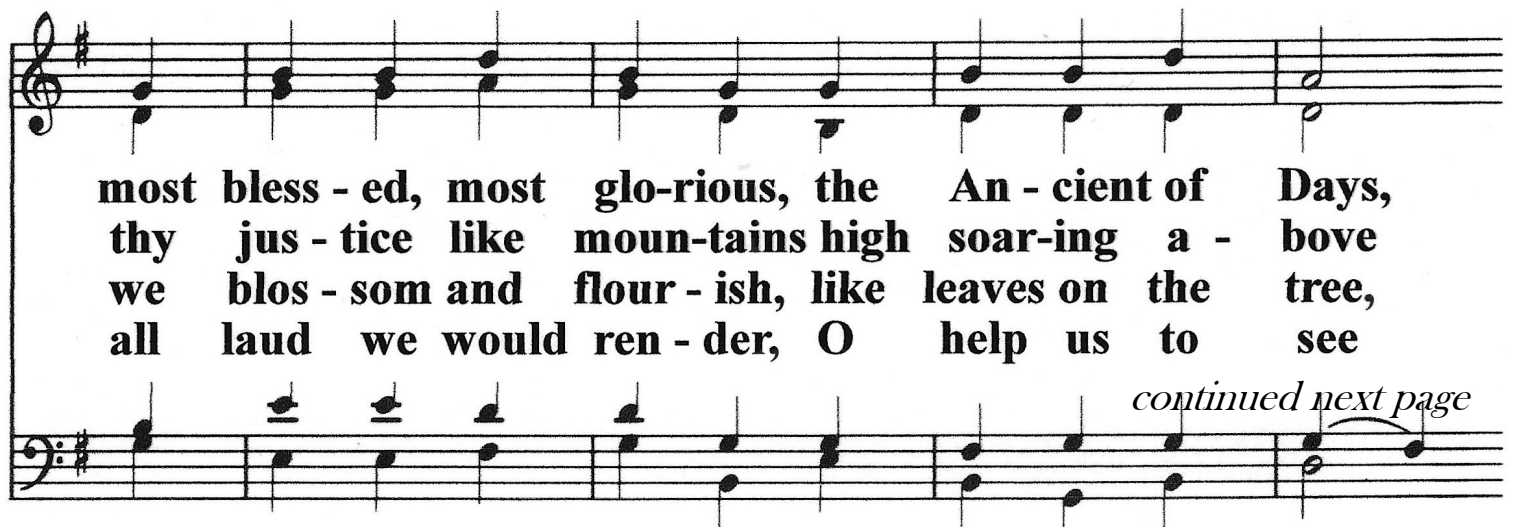
Please join in singing the hymn; zoom participants stay muted.



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing nor wast - ing thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der, O help us to see

continued next page

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun-tains of good -ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chang-eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen-dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.

Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877);
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

11 11. 11 11

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.

Greeting and Collect for Purity

Celebrant:

God be with you.

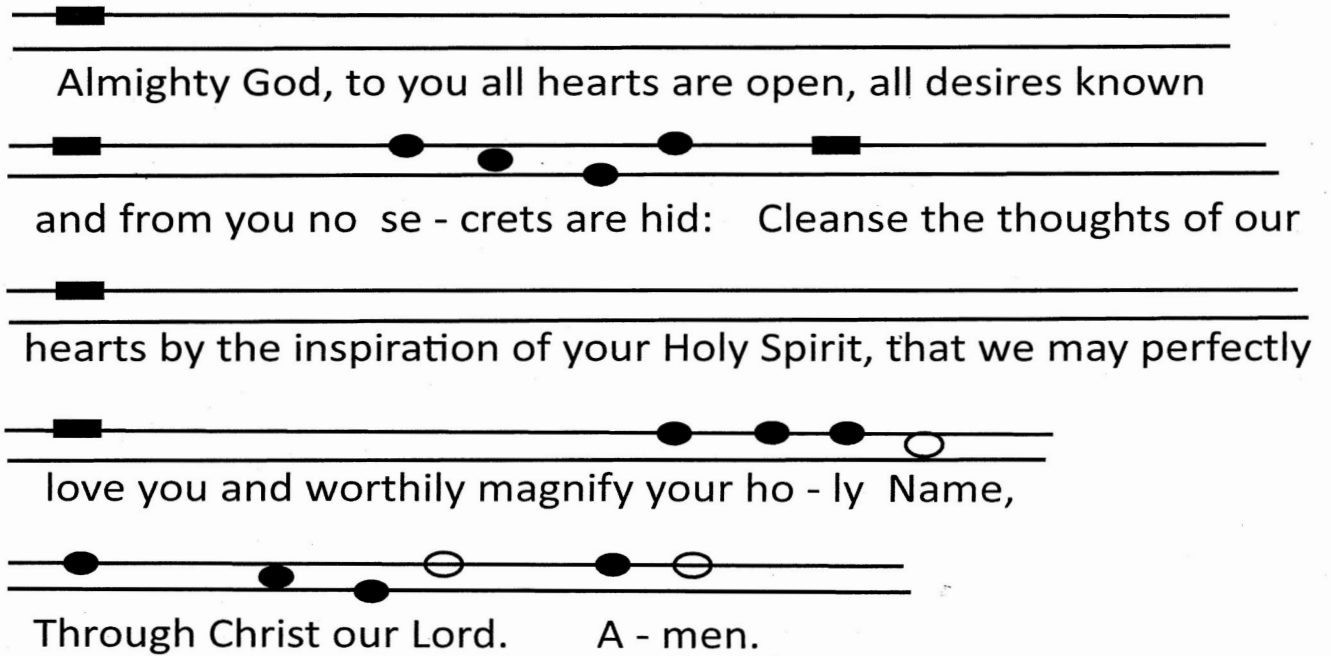
People:

And also with you

Celebrant:

Let us pray.

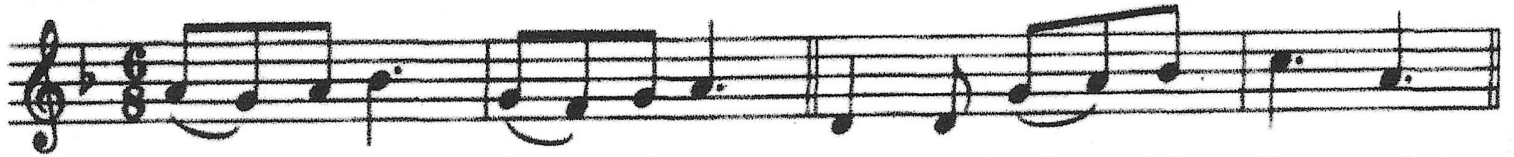
Celebrant:



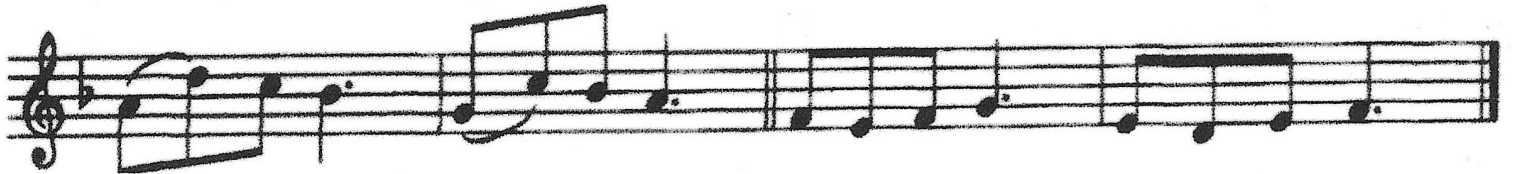
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known
and from you no se - crets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily magnify your ho - ly Name,
Through Christ our Lord. A - men.

Gloria

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



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God! al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord,
 and my right is disregarded by my God"?
 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 The Lord is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 He does not faint or grow weary;
 his understanding is unsearchable.
 He gives power to the faint,
 and strengthens the powerless.
 Even youths will faint and be weary,
 and the young will fall exhausted;
 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary,
 they shall walk and not faint.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

The congregation joins the choir in singing the refrain.

Zoom participants please stay muted.

Refrain

Sing _____ to the Lord _____ with thanks - giving.

Hallelujah!


How good it is to sing praises to our God!

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds. *Refrain*

Refrain




Sing _____ to the Lord ___ with thanks - **giv - ing.**

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B-flat2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B-flat3 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics are written below the staff, with a blank line under 'Sing' and a blank line under 'Lord'. The words 'giv' and 'ing' are underlined in red.

He counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
there is no limit to his wisdom. *Refrain*

Refrain




Sing _____ to the Lord ___ with thanks - **giv - ing.**

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B-flat2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B-flat3 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics are written below the staff, with a blank line under 'Sing' and a blank line under 'Lord'. The words 'giv' and 'ing' are underlined in red.

The Lord lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the harp. *Refrain*

Refrain



Sing _____ to the Lord ___ with thanks - **giv - ing.**

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B-flat2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B-flat3 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics are written below the staff, with a blank line under 'Sing' and a blank line under 'Lord'. The words 'giv' and 'ing' are underlined in red.

He covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains
and green plants to serve mankind.

He provides food for flocks and herds
and for the young ravens when they cry. *Refrain*

Refrain

Sing _____ to the Lord ___ with thanks - giv - ing.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B-flat4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), B5 (quarter), C6 (quarter), D6 (quarter), E6 (quarter), F6 (quarter), G6 (quarter), A6 (quarter), B6 (quarter), C7 (quarter). The notes are grouped into measures: the first measure contains G4, A4, and B-flat4; the second measure contains C5, D5, and E5; the third measure contains F5, G5, and A5; the fourth measure contains B5, C6, and D6; the fifth measure contains E6, F6, and G6; the sixth measure contains A6, B6, and C7; the seventh measure contains D6, E6, and F6; the eighth measure contains G6, A6, and B6; the ninth measure contains C7, D7, and E7. The lyrics 'Sing _____ to the Lord ___ with thanks - giving.' are written below the staff, with 'giv' and 'ing' underlined in red.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse;
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who await his gracious favor.

Hallelujah! *Refrain*

Refrain

Sing _____ to the Lord ___ with thanks - giv - ing.

This image is identical to the one above, showing the musical notation for the refrain 'Sing to the Lord with thanks - giving.' on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The notes and lyrics are the same, with 'giv' and 'ing' underlined in red.

The Epistle 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a

slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal #529

In Christ There Is No East or West

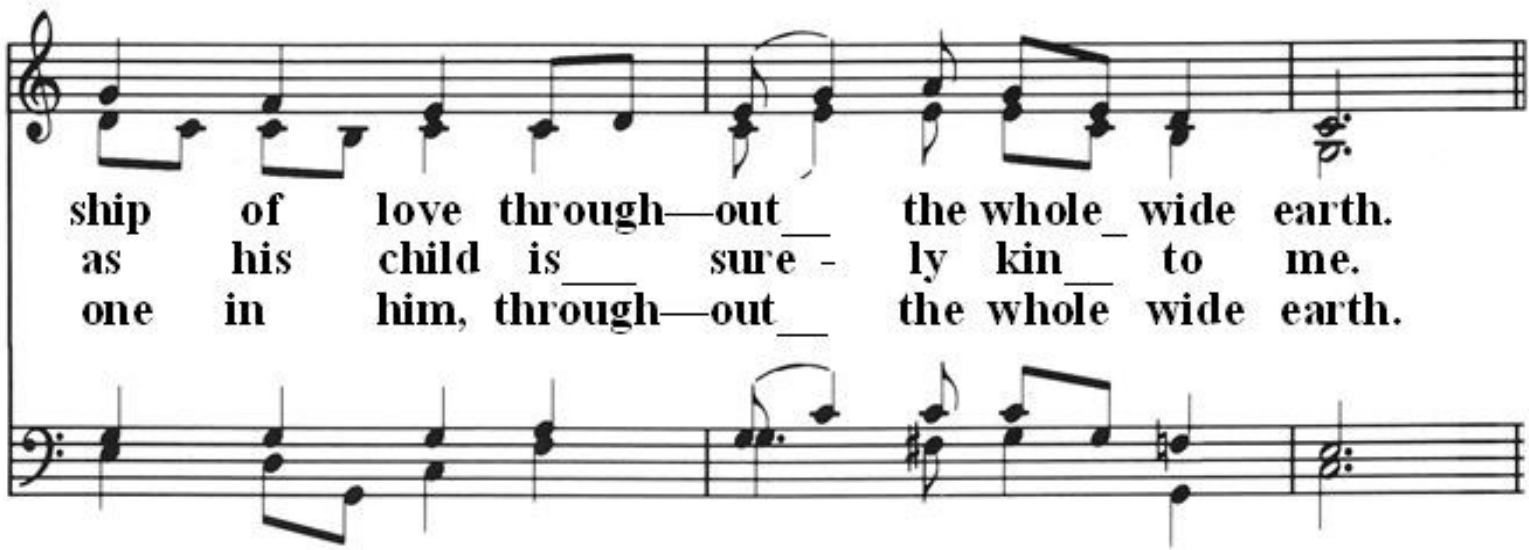
Please join in singing the hymn; zoom participants stay muted.

Unison or harmony

1 In Christ, there is no East or West, in
 2 Join hands, disciples of the faith, what
 3 In Christ, now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fellow-
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Father
 him meet South and North, all Christ-ly souls are

continued next page



The Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon

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

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.

The Prayers of the People

Marty Haugen

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

All: repeat continuously (under Leader)

A

(Hmmm)

Response

All: **B**

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

continued next page

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-va-tion, 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.

Leader: **A** **B** *Response above*

4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:

5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:

6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:

7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer-cy:

Leader:

Help us, com-fort us, all of our days:

All:

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

The Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

All: **God of all mercy,**
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

The Offertory Anthem

Michael Joncas

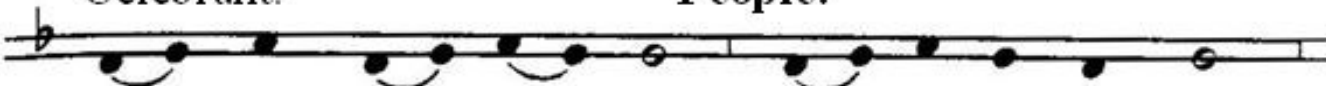
On Eagle's Wings

Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

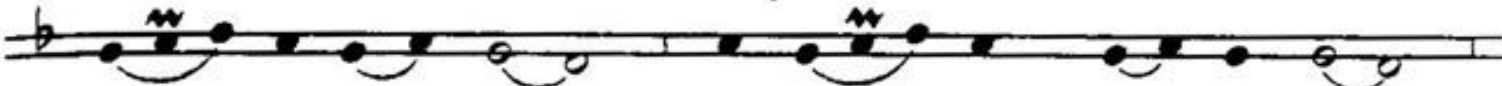
People: **And of your own have we given you.**

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

Please join in singing. Zoom participants please stay muted.

Celebrant and People:

Ho-ly, ho - ly ___ ho-ly, ho - ly ___ ho-ly Lord God
of hosts ___ Hea-ven and earth ___ are ___ filled with your
glo - - - ry. Ho - san - na in ___ the ___ high - est ___
Bless-ed is ___ He who ___ comes in the name ___ of the
Lord, ___ of the Lord ___ Ho - san - na ___ in the
high -- est, ho - san - na in ___ the ___ high - est. ___

Celebrant: 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

WLP #773

see next page

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus

You are invited to join in singing the hymn.

Zoom participants please stay muted.



1. Heal__ me, hands of Je-sus,__ and search__ out all my pain: re -
2. Cleanse__ me, blood of Je-sus,__ take bit - ter-ness a - way; let
3. Know__ me, mind of Je-sus,__ and show__ me all my sin; dis -
4. Fill__ me, joy of Je-sus,__ anx - i - e - ty shall cease and



store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace_a - gain.
me for-give as one for-given and bring me peace_to - day.
pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace_with- in.
heaven's se-ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings_me peace!

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Music: *Sharpe*, Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Tunes for Grace*; © 1997 Carl Haywood
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SM

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

Closing Hymn

WLP #779

The Church of Christ in Every Age

Please join in singing the hymn; zoom participants stay muted



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise. A car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but spir - it_ led, must claim and test its her - i -
of in - jus - tice_ cry for shel - ter and for bread to
church that longs to_ be a part - ner in Christ's sac - ri -
fe - ver in our_ blood. And teach us how to share our
be - dience to our_ Lord, to care for all with - out re -



tage and keep on ri - sing from the dead.
eat and nev - er live un - til they die.
fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
serve. And spread Christ's lib - er - a - ting Word.

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Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985); reprinted from the *New Catholic Hymnal*

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Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world as instruments of God's peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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



Serving us at 10:30 am

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Salying Wong

Eucharistic Minister: Joe Gutierrez

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson, Donna Cobb,
Stephanie Daugherty, Pat Turnbull

Lectors: Lou Poulain, Fulvia Govetto

Cantor: Dorothy Furgerson

The St. Thomas Choir

Patricia Pietrzyk, director

Accompanist: Benjamin Belew

Tech lead: Steve Williams

Zoom host: Fulvia Govetto

Today in the Parish

Coffee Hour today will be in Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of recommended Covid protocols.

Cantata Viewing Party If you wish to view the video of the Christmas Cantata by Benjamin Belew, please come to the hall around 1pm today.

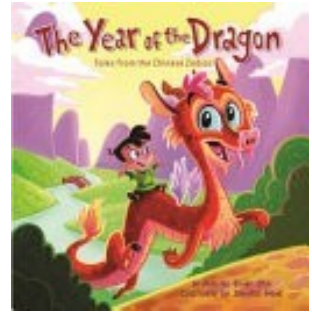
Library News:

Book of the Week February 4, 2024

[*The Year of the Dragon: tales from the Chinese zodiac*](#)

by Oliver Clyde Chin. 2023

2024 is the year of the dragon. Tales from the Chinese Zodiac is an annual children's book series showcasing the twelve charming animals that embody the Chinese New Year. It also lists the characteristics of individuals born in the Chinese Year of the Dragon.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Change in Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina Service:

Starting in February, this service will meet at **5pm** (moved from 6pm). Also, we've added the component of Lectio Divina following Centering Prayer. The zoom link remains the same. Please join us!

Transfiguration/Shrove Sunday/Lunar New Year Pancake Breakfast

Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast on Transfiguration **Sunday, February 11**, which we have traditionally called Shrove Sunday, as this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. We will be serving ham along with regular and blueberry pancakes **after both the 8 am and 10:30 am Sunday services**. Coffee, tea, and juices will also be provided.

That weekend also marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year or the "Chinese New Year of the Dragon"! We will celebrate it with a table of new year's treats for you to sample. If anyone wants to provide some extra treats to share, please bring them, and we will add them on the table.



In appreciation for the Pancake Breakfast and the Lunar New Year treats, we are collecting donations for Our Daily Bread. In addition to being our partners in sharing the kitchen, ODB has been very generous

to us by sharing their supplies, and the extra food pickups from their contributors. So, we would like to help them offset rising costs, which have been felt by everyone. Thank you for your support in coming to the breakfast and donating to ODB!

Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist Service will be on **February 14 at 12:15pm**. This will be available in-person and online.

Adult Lenten Series: MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS

Lou Poulain will lead six sessions on Zoom, Wednesday Evenings, February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20 and March 27 (Wednesday of Holy Week). 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Class outline available upon request.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82982394735>

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,82982394735# US (San Jose)

The cross is at the very center of our understanding of Jesus, and what it means for us to be his followers. Paul wrote at the beginning of the First Letter to the Corinthians (I Cor 1:23-25):

“... but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

We have probably heard many sermons on the meaning of the Cross, and Jesus' death. Some of the explanations probably make sense to you, and some might confuse and even disturb. There are important questions: What does it mean to say that Jesus “died for our sins”? Did God really demand a blood sacrifice of his only begotten Son in order to forgive sins? Was Jesus' death a “ransom for many”, and what does that really mean? You certainly have your own questions.

This series will review what the Bible has to say about the meaning

of Jesus' death. We will look at the ways (intentionally plural!) the church historically has explained the significance of Jesus' death, and how our worship shapes our understanding. We will also consider some contemporary efforts to make sense and re-articulate the meaning of the Cross and of salvation.

Each session will begin with Compline prayer at 7:00 pm. You do not need to register, it is best to do so to ensure you get class material: lpoulain@me.com.

General Announcements

Literature Rack – R side of Narthex

Join the Journey through Lent – found in the narthex on the table to the right. (A Forward Movement publication)

Join the Journey through Lent invites spiritual reflection and is a wonderful companion for the Lenten season. Keep this poster on your table for daily coloring or simple reflecting.

The latest *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 The Library Committee is now featuring the Altar Guild in the Archives Display Case. Two large albums contain pictures of past Altar Guild members and administrative matters such as schedules and guidelines.

There is a small green Altar Guild Manual copyright from 1947. The Altar Guild Handbook is a valuable resource. ~ Stephanie Daugherty

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 19th, we have received **54** 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.

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: 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 February 26, 2024**, when we meet to discuss *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier., the story of Violet, one of a generation doomed to a life of spinsterhood after the Great War killed so many young men. Yet Violet rebels, saving enough to move out of her mother's place and to the great Cathedral city of Winchester, where she is drawn into a society of broderers--women who embroider kneelers for the Cathedral, carrying on a centuries-long tradition of bringing comfort to worshippers—and finds support and community. Please join us—contact Dorothy through our website www.stthomas-svale.org/contact for the Zoom link.

*Please see website for week-to-week information:
www.stthomas-svale.org*

Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

Tuesdays, 6pm Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina

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

new link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381715053?
pwd=UmN1QXZ4UjNWdWdZbmZFYk9Bd0VwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381715053?pwd=UmN1QXZ4UjNWdWdZbmZFYk9Bd0VwQT09)
Meeting ID: 823 8171 5053 Passcode: 189002

One tap mobile
+16699009128,,82381715053#,,,*189002# US (San Jose)

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

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

Zoom link for livestream: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>
Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

Both Sunday services led by Pastor Salying

*Please see website for week-to-week information:
www.stthomas-svale.org*

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

Joe Gutierrez, **Senior Warden**
TBA, **Junior Warden**

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

2024
Ann Kopischke
Gage McKinney
Rita Welsh

2025
Joe Gutierrez
Dena Ware
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

2026
Jeannie Battagin
Naveen Prasad Durairaj
Tian Zhu

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Mabel Cheng Stephanie Daugherty Susan Durham Powers Angela Rausch

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.us
or 510-478-3554

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

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

Children's Ministry Co-ordinator.: Pam Storrer.....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 (organ/piano): Benjamin Belew

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 Office.....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

You may invite prayers online through The Intercessory Prayer Chain