

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE
in the
CITY OF NEW YORK



One West Fifty-third Street
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: 212-757-7013
www.SaintThomasChurch.org
The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT 4 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys



STC
200

Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

*Our mission is to worship, love, and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.*

contact us: welcome@saintthomaschurch.org

Please do not take photographs or videos, or make recordings during the service.

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Matthew Moretz

Vicar and Chief Operating Officer

The Reverend Alison J. Turner

Associate for Children & Family Ministry and School Chaplain

The Reverend Mark Schultz

Associate for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Prisca Lee-Pae

Associate for Pan-Asian Ministry

The Reverend Dr. Luigi Gioia

Theologian in Residence

STAFF

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*

Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*

Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*

Bruce Smith, *Chief Advancement Officer*

Adam MacDonald, *Director of Development*

Blake Martin, *Director of Communications and Digital Production*

Lizette Hernandez, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*

David Bryan, *Head Verger*

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

Christopher Seeley, *Head of School*

202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Telephone: 212-247-3311

www.ChoirSchool.org

email: admissions@choirschool.org

HONORARY CLERGY

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*

The Right Reverend Andrew R. St. John, DD, *Bishop in Residence*

The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Gina Gore, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Canon Anne Mallonee, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Stephen Morris, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, *Honorary Assistant*

THE LAY MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Lloyd G. Stanford, *Warden*

Karen Duncan

Christopher M. Haley, *Clerk*

Darren Littlejohn

Winnie Kung

Gregory Zaffiro, *Warden*

Samyel Lee

John G. Oghia

Benita Potters

Inge Reist

Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org.



PRELUDE

Fantasia: The Christmas Light

Simon Preston
(1938-2022)

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

Adeste fideles

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921-1968)

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

The People stand at the entry of the Choir and Ministers.

HYMN

IRBY

Choir Only:

ONCE in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir Only:

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All:

And, through all his wondrous childhood,
he would honor and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

All:

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

All:

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

All:

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)



THE BIDDING

BELOVED in Christ, at this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city and diocese of New York.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The People sit.



CAROL

This Joy

Bob Chilcott
(b. 1955)

THIS joy is a new joy, the wondrous birth of a baby boy.
Be glad, it is for us he came, sing out, Jesus is his name.
This birth is a new birth, that will bring us peace on earth.
Be glad, it is for us he came, sing out, Jesus is his name.
This light in its majesty shines for all the world to see,
A light of love and giving, a light for all the living.
This love is a new love, sent to us from heaven above.
Be glad, for the hope that springs, sing out for the joy it brings,
Sing out this joy!

Bob Chilcott

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Read by a Chorister

CAROL

Adam lay ybounden

Richard Webster
(b. 1952)

ADAM lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple take been, the apple taken been,
ne had never our lady a been heav'ne queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
therefore we moun singen "Deo gracias."

Anonymous 15th-century

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Read by A Gentleman of the Choir

The People stand.



HYMN

FOREST GREEN

All:

O LITTLE town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

All:

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

Choir Only:

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

All:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

The People sit.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Read by a Lector of the Parish

CAROL

Novo profusi

Matthew Martin
(b. 1976)

NOVO profusi gaudio,
Benedicamus Domino.

Omnes gentes, plaudite,
Car notre Saviour est né;
Over all blessed he be,
Rex Alpha et O.

A solis ortus cardine,
Comme le monde est long et lé,
All mankind maketh glee,
Angeli canunt Deo.

Enixa est puerpera,
Que Saint Esprit en engrossa;
Blessed be time that she said ya,
Gabriele nuncio.

*News of great joy,
Let us bless the Lord.*

*All people, clap your hands,
For our Saviour is born
Over all blessed he be
King, first and last.*

*From the rising of the sun,
As the world is long and wide,
All mankind maketh glee,
The angels sing to God.*

*She brings forth a son,
Whom the Holy Spirit enlarged;
Blessed be time that she said ya,
Gabriel the messenger.*



Ex illibata virgine,
Est nascu le Roi de Majesté;
The hirds him see in low degree,
Jacentem in presepio.

Gloria tibi, Domine,
Fontaine de grâce et de pitié;
Of all thy goodness we thank thee;
Benedicamus Domino.

*From the undefiled virgin,
Born is the King of Majesty;
The hirds him see in low degree
Lying in a manger.*

*Glory to you, O Lord,
Fount of grace and mercy;
Of all thy goodness we thank thee;
Let us bless the Lord.*

Anonymous 15th-century English

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Read by The School Chaplain

CAROL

Welcome all wonders

*Jay Wilcox
(b. 1954)*

WELCOME all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night,
Heaven in earth, and God in man.
Great little one! Whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.
Welcome all wonders in one sight!
To thee, meek majesty! Each of us his lamb will bring,
Each his pair of silver doves; Till burnt at last in fire of thy fair eyes,
Ourselves become our own best sacrifice.
Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Words by G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Read by the Head of the Choir School



CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

Philip Moore
(b. 1943)

THE angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout all the world will ever say:
'Most highly favoured lady,' Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Read by the Organist and Director of Music

The People stand.

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

GLORIA

ANGELS we have heard on high
singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
Which glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

French carol tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882)

The People sit.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Read by a Warden of the Parish



CAROL

Shepherd's Cradle Song

Karl Lenner
arr. Charles McPherson
(1870-1927)

O SLEEP thou heavenborn treasure, thou,
Sleep sound, dearest child;
White angel wings shall fan thy brow
With breezes soft and mild.
We shepherds poor are here to sing
A simple lullay to our King.
Lullaby, sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

See, Mary has with mother's love
A bed for thee outspread,
While Joseph stoops him from above,
And watches at thy head,
The lambkins in the stall so nigh,
That thou may'st sleep, have hushed their cry.
Lullaby, sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

And when thou art big and art a man
Full woe's in store for thee;
For cruel men thy death will plan,
And hang thee on a tree.
So sleep, my baby, whilst thou may,
'Twill give thee rest against that day.
Lullaby, sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

Arthur Foxton Ferguson (1866-1920)

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.
Read by a Young Member of the Parish

CAROL

Sans Day Carol

Arr. John Rutter
(b. 1945)

NOW the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:
*And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!*

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross.

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all.

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead.

Traditional Cornish Carol

The People stand.

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.
Read by the Rector

The People sit.



CAROL

Earth, strike up your music

Jessica French
(b. 1984)

CHRISTMAS hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

The People stand.

HYMN

ADESTE FIDELES

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;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

18th-century Latin

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Officiant Let us pray.

O GOD who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son,
Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**



THE BLESSING

CHRISt, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill,
and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN

MENDELSSOHN

HARK! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

VOLUNTARY

IX. Dieu parmi nous from La Nativité du Seigneur (1935)

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)



PILGRIMS' COURSE 2024



Want to know more about the Christian Faith? Want to be baptized or confirmed? Want to become a member of Saint Thomas Church? The Pilgrims' Course explores the Christian Faith as the Episcopal Church has received it, and as Saint Thomas expresses it through its mission to worship, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the Anglican Tradition and our unique choral heritage. Classes are open to all and, each year, a number of parishioners attend to refresh their faith and support those who are new to the faith or to our community. The first class will commence on Wednesday, January 17. A simple hot meal is available at 6:30pm, and the class runs from 7-8pm. Classes are hybrid, so if you cannot be present in-person, you can join us on-line.

To register please email: pilgrims@saintthomaschurch.org



CHRISTMAS AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE



(Immediately after this service)

5:30 p.m.

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Said at the High Altar)

10 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN AND BRASS

10:30 p.m.

PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY (MIDNIGHT MASS)

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys with Brass

Music of *Malcolm, Moore, Willcocks, Rutter, and Filsell*

Sermon by The Right Reverend Matthew Heyd, Bishop Coadjutor of New York



Monday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

9 a.m.

SAID EUCHARIST at the High Altar

11 a.m.

PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of *Walton, Martin, Willcocks, and Rutter*

Sermon by The Rector

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

The Church is open for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche

Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shrine Prayers (Intercessions) and Mass

Tuesday – Saturday at 12 p.m. *Live audio stream and then on-demand.*

Please send your requests for prayers via the website or via email: prayer@saintthomaschurch.org

Confessions, Spiritual Advice, and Healing Ministry

Saturday, December 30, 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Confessor: Fr. Schultz

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – FESTAL EUCHARIST

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9:00 a.m. Said Mass

11:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sermon by Fr. Gioia