

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*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025 AT 4 P.M.
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ADVENT PROCESSION

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.

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Vicar and Chief Operating Officer

The Reverend Dr. Alison J. Turner

Associate for Children and 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

The Reverend Preston Gonzalez-Grissom

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SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

The Rev. Dr. Alison J. Turner, *Director of Transition*

202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Telephone: 212-247-3311 email: admissions@choirschool.org

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

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



ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDES

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 Johann Sebastian Bach
Trio super 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland', BWV 660 (1685-1750)
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Fantasy on 'Veni Emmanuel' Kenneth Leighton
(1929-1988)

The People remain seated and silent as the lighting is reduced.

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

From the High Altar, the Choir sings

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

Daniel Castellanos
**STCS Class of 2009*
(b. 1995)

ETERNAL Light shine into our hearts,
Eternal Goodness deliver us from evil,
Eternal Power be our support.
Eternal Wisdom scatter the darkness of our ignorance.
Eternal Pity have mercy upon us through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Alcuin of York (c. 735-804)

READING

Genesis 1:1-5
Let there be light

IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

During the following hymn, the Choir moves to the back of the nave.



HYMN

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

The Choir sings verses one and two.

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Thy peo - ple's e - ver -
2. Thou, grie - ving at the bit - ter cry Of all cre - a - tion
3. Thou ca - mest, Bride - groom of the bride, As drew the world to
4. At thy great name, ex - al - ted now, All knees must bend, all
5. To thee, O ho - ly One, we pray, Our judge in that tre -

las - ting light, O Je - su, Sa - viour of us all, Re -
doomed to die, Didst come to save a ru - ined race With
eve - ning - tide, Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine, The
hearts must bow, And things in heav'n and earth shall own That
men - dous day, Pre - serve us, while we dwell be - low, From

gard thy ser - vants when they call.
hea - ling gifts of heav'n - ly grace.
Son of Man, yet Lord di - vine. (6.) A - - - men.
thou art Lord and King a - lone.
e - v'ry on - slaught of the foe.

6. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And spirit blessed, for evermore.

Creator of the stars of night— Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.
Music: *Puer nobis nascitur*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582.



The People turn to face the narthex. The Officiant says

DEARLY Beloved, as we enter, eager and expectant, into this solemn season of Advent, looking forward to the birth of the Christ child, let us renew in ourselves that vision of God's perfect kingdom which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In sorrow and penitence we confess our failures and shortcomings, and seek pardon for those sins which frustrate his redemptive purposes and hinder the advent of his reign of love.

So in prayer, praise, and song do we give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures, that his kingdom shall come; and as we prepare for that day to dawn upon us from on high, so we commend ourselves and the whole human family to his keeping.

May he guide us into the way of peace, give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and kindle in us the fire of his love.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

COLLECT

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

*Barry Rose
(b.1934)*

PEOPLE, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.



Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

READING

Genesis 1:26-27

God creates humankind in his own image

THEN God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)
arr. Christopher Robinson
(b. 1936)

THIS is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from the door
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate,
is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I'll tell,
woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes
till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run:
that he'd redeem us by his Son.



And at that season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear,
he here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what he did say.

READING

Genesis 3:1-7
The Fall

NOW the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

Laura Shiels
(b. 1996)

A DAM 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 taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A been hevenè queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple take was.
Therefore we moun singen
"Deo gracias."

15th century carol



READING

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

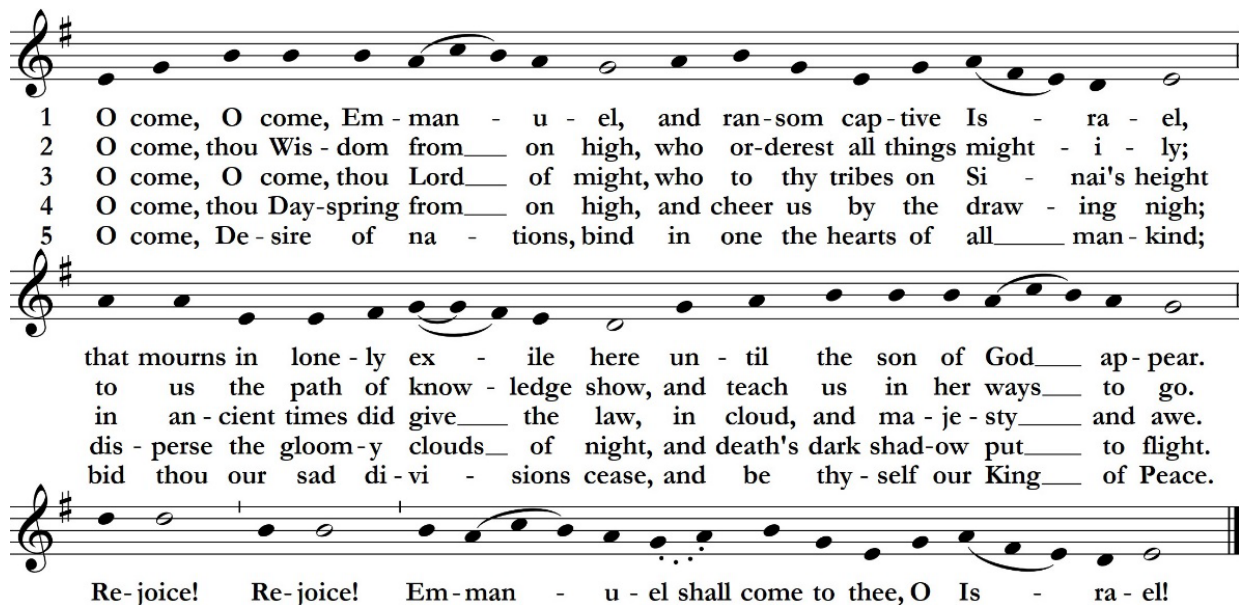
A light shines on those who dwell in darkness

THE people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The People stand. During the following hymn, the Choir processes to the crossing.

HYMN

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el,
2 O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derest all things might-i-ly;
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Si-nai's height
4 O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by the draw-ing nigh;
5 O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind in one the hearts of all man-kind;
that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here un-til the son of God ap-pear.
to us the path of know-ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
in an-cient times did give the law, in cloud, and ma-je-sty and awe.
dis-perse the gloom-y clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ow put to flight.
bid thou our sad di-vi-sions cease, and be thy-self our King of Peace.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, #56 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890).

The People sit.

READING

Isaiah 7:10-15

A young woman shall bear a Son and name him Emmanuel

AGAIN the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Imman'u-el. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."



ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

William Byrd
(1540-1623)

RORATE caeli desuper,
et nubes pluant justum:
aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.
Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam:
avertisti captivitatem Jacob.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Drop down ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness:
Let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Lord, thou hast blessed thy land:
Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Introit for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

COLLECT

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

The People stand.

MERCIFUL God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

MERTON

During this hymn, the Choir moves to the chancel.

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;
4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding, #59 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Latin, c. 6th cent.;
tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

The People sit.



READING

Isaiah 60:1-5a

The glory of the Lord will appear over you

ARISE, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

Sir James MacMillan
(b.1959)

ORADIANT dawn,
splendour of eternal Light, sun of justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Advent Antiphon for the Magnificat on December 21

COLLECT

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

The People stand and remain standing for the Gospel Procession and Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

STIR up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

GOSPEL PROCESSION

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

NUN komm, der Heiden Heiland,
der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt,
des sich wundert alle Welt,
Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt.

*Now come, thou Savior of the Gentiles,
recognized as the Virgin's Child,
at whom all the world is amazed,
that God ordained such a birth for him.*

Martin Luther (1483-1546)



GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.



People

Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord.

IN the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



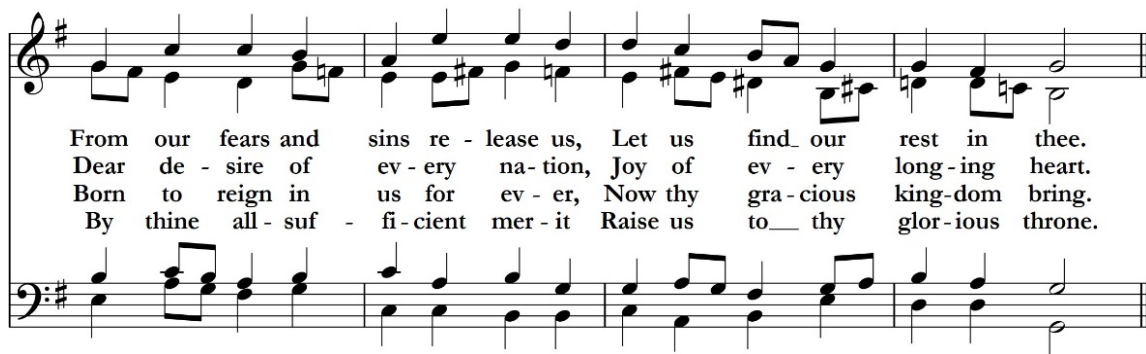
People

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

HYMN

CROSS OF JESUS

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free, -
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art, -
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king, -
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit, Rule in all our hearts a - lone; -



Come, thou long-expected Jesus, #3 from *The New English Hymnal* – Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).
Music: *Cross of Jesus*, John Stainer (1840-1901).

The People sit.

READING

Galatians 4:1-7

It is time to awake from sleep

THE heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

ANTHEM

Sung by the Choir

*Andrew Simpson
(b. 1967)*

CIVITAS non eget sole neque luna,
ut luceant in ea:
nam claritas Dei illuminavit eam,
et lucerne ejus est Agnus.

*The city has no need of sun or moon
to shine upon it,
for the Glory of God is its light,
and its lamp is the Lamb.*

Etio venio cito.

Surely I come quickly.

Nox ultra non erit:
et non egebunt lumine lucernae,
neque lumine solis,
quoniam Dominus Deus illuminabit illos,
et regnabunt in saecula saeculorum.

*Night shall be no more;
they need no light
of lamp or sun,
for the Lord God will be their light,
and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Amen. Veni, Domine Jesu.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



COLLECT

Let us pray.

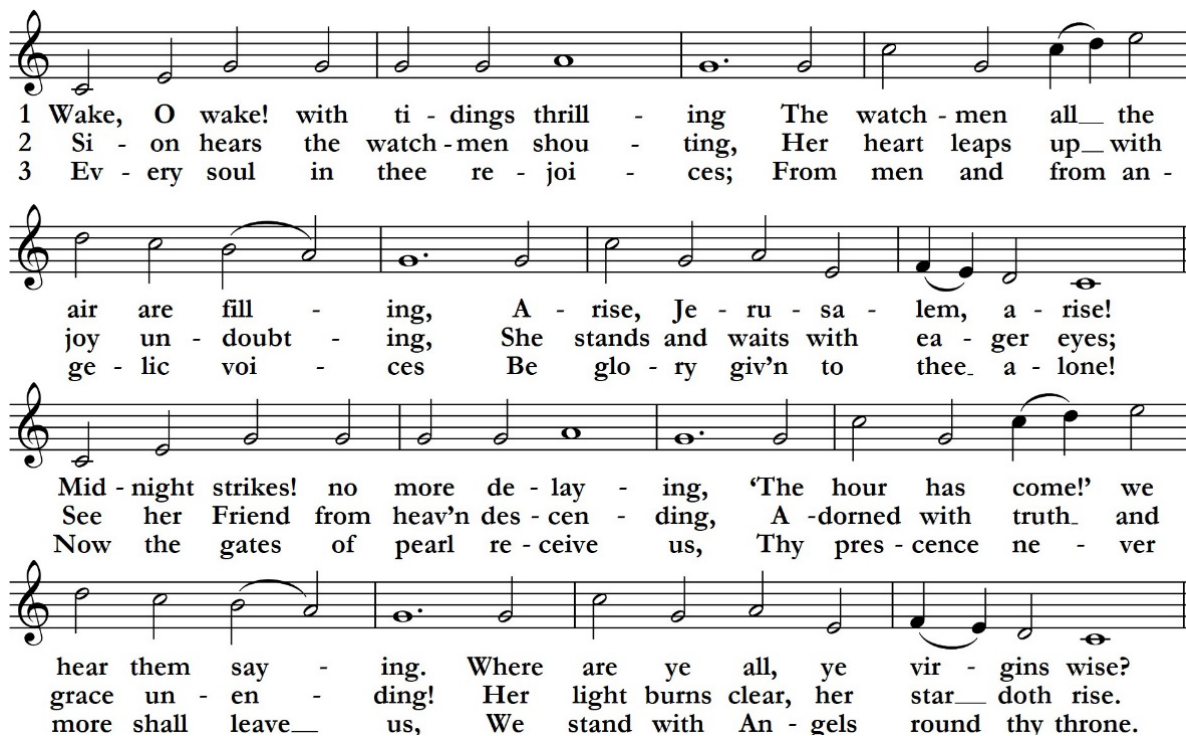
The People stand.

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

WACHET AUF

During the singing of this hymn, the clergy move to the sanctuary, and the offering shall be taken.



1 Wake, O wake! with ti - dings thrill - ing The watch - men all the
2 Si - on hears the watch - men shou - ting, Her heart leaps up with
3 Ev - ery soul in thee re - joi - ces; From men and from an -
air are fill - ing, A - rise, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!
joy un - doubt - ing, She stands and waits with ea - ger eyes;
ge - lic voi - ces Be glo - ry giv'n to thee a - lone!
Mid - night strikes! no more de - lay - ing, 'The hour has come!' we
See her Friend from heav'n des - cen - ding, A - dorned with truth and
Now the gates of pearl re - ceive us, Thy pres - ence ne - ver
hear them say - ing. Where are ye all, ye vir - gins wise?
grace un - en - ding! Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
more shall leave us, We stand with An - gels round thy throne.



The Bride - groom comes in sight, Raise high your tor - ches
Now come, thou pre - cious Crown, Lord Je - su, God's own
Earth can - not give be - low The bliss thou dost be -
bright! Al - le - lu - ia! The wed - ding song Swells
Son! Ho - san - na! Let us pre - pare To__
stow. Al - le - lu - ia! Grant us to raise, To__
loud and strong: Go forth and join the fes - tal throng.
fol - low there, Where in thy sup - per we__ may share.
length of days, The tri - umph - cho - rus of__ thy praise.

Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling, #16 from *The New English Hymnal* – Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), tr. F. C. Burkitt (1864-1935).
Music: *Wachet auf*, melody by Philipp Nicolai; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

The People remain standing.

READING

Revelation 22:12-17, 20

Surely I am coming soon

BEHOLD, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and every one who loves and practices falsehood. “I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.” The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let him who hears say, “Come.” And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE BLESSING

CHRIST the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



HYMN

HELMSLEY

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, #57 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).

Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt. Descant: Richard Lloyd.

VOLUNTARY

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Andrew Carter
(b. 1939)



Saint Thomas gives thanks for those who have given endowed funds to provide flowers to beautify the church in perpetuity. This week, we give thanks for the memory of Linda Griffith Vorsanger, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, Helen Green Battle, and Arthur Turnbull Hill. and pray for the repose of their souls.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works. (Psalm 104:31)



STC
200

God's Love at the Heart of New York

WORSHIP & RECITALS THIS WEEK

* indicates livestreamed.

Monday December 1st – Friday, December 5th

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers*

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist*

Friday 5th

3 p.m. Contemplative Prayer

Saturday 6th *Nicholas of Smyrna*

11-11:45 a.m. Confessions, Spiritual Advice,
Ministry of Healing in the Resurrection Chapel

Confessor: Fr. Mark Brown

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers*

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist*

Next Sunday: December 7th

The Second Sunday of Advent

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9 a.m. Sung Mass

Sung by the Noble Singers

followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish House

**11 a.m. Litany in Procession & Solemn
Eucharist***

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

& the Choir of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, UK

Sermon by Fr. Moretz

4 p.m. Solemn Evensong*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Sermon by Fr. Gonzalez-Grissom



Parish Notices

Children and Family Ministries: The Blessing of the Crèche Service, a telling of the Nativity Story, is Saturday, December 13th at 4pm. If your child wishes to participate, please email Fr. Preston at pgonzalezgrissom@saintthomaschurch.org. 10am Children's Formation is available for children Pre-K - High School from 10-10:45 following the 9am Mass. The Children's area (near the icon of Saint Thomas) is available for families during all services, with quiet activities for young children. The Nursery also continues to be available for the sole use of babies and toddlers with their parents/caregivers, from 9am-1pm on Sundays in the Parish House, 3rd floor. To receive more information, contact childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org.

The **Noble Singers**, our children's parish choir for singers (ages 5-14+) sing in the 9am Mass. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 4:15-5:15pm, and new singers are always welcome. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music! For more information, and to register your singer, contact JLane@saintthomaschurch.org.

Saint Thomas Choir School is home to the boy choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Since September 2025, the Choir School (grades 4-8) has partnered with Professional Children's School for the boys' academic education, while they continue to live and train at STCS in a close-knit, music-centered environment. They sing five weekly services at Saint Thomas Church and perform in the Concerts at Saint Thomas series. If you know a boy who loves to sing and may thrive in this unique setting, please contact Margaret White at mwhite@choirschool.org.

Concerts at Saint Thomas presents the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys in their annual performances of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by the period instrument ensemble New York Baroque Incorporated on December 9 and 11 at 7:30pm. The Choir is joined by soloists Margaret Carpenter Haigh, Daniel Moody, James Reese, and Paul Max

Tipton, led by conductor Richard Tanner. Tickets for in person and livestream are available now at www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts

You are cordially invited to the **Holy Eucharist in the Korean language** every **second Sunday** of the month at 1:30pm. It is preceded by brunch at 12:45pm in the Dining Room of the Parish House. 매달 둘째 주일 오후 1:30에 본당에서 올리는 한국어 감사 성찬례에 여러분을 초대합니다. 오후 12:45에 2층 식당에서 브런치를 함께 나누니 조금 일찍 오셔서 친교도 나누세요. 아래 주소로 등록하시면 월요일 아침묵상글을 이메일로 받아볼 수 있습니다. <https://mailchi.mp/saintthomaschurch/korean>

Contemplative Prayer takes place on Fridays at 3pm in the Resurrection Chapel. You are welcome to join this sacred time of silent prayer and quiet praise in the presence of God. The service includes Taizé Songs, Centering Prayer, and Lectio-Divina, and is led by Mo. Prisca Lee-Pae. For more information, please contact Mo. Lee-Pae at pleepae@SaintThomasChurch.org.

The Saint Thomas Theological Education Program, rooted in Scripture, tradition, and spirituality, is for those who seek a deeper understanding of faith, worship and prayer. Lecturers are The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence, and internationally renowned guest speakers committed to making theology accessible to non-specialists. Classes are held Sundays at 10am on the 5th Floor of the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org.

Explore the Beauty and History of Saint Thomas Church each Sunday following the 11am service with a guided tour. These tours offer a unique



opportunity to delve into the rich history, sacred art, and exquisite architectural details of our landmark building. To take part, please meet the Tour Guide at the "Tour Guide - Meet Hear" sign on the south side of the Narthex. All are warmly welcome.

Friday Bible Study occurs at 1pm on Zoom, currently focusing on the book of Ecclesiastes. To receive the zoom link, contact Fr. Brown at mbrown@saintthomaschurch.org

The Annual Election for the Vestry of Saint Thomas Church will be held on December 2, 2025. The following parishioners are standing for election: As warden, Lloyd Stanford; and for the vestry, Samyel Lee, John Oghia and Karl Saunders. The by-laws of the parish define those eligible to vote as follows: "Persons of full age belonging to the Parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to such election or special meeting, shall be qualified voters at any such election or special meeting." Ballots have been e-mailed and mailed if we have no emails on file. If you have not received one and are a qualified voter, please contact Lizette Hernandez at LHernandez@saintthomaschurch.org.

The Angelus Tree. We invite you to donate gifts for disadvantaged children and children who will spend Christmas Day in a municipal shelter this year. We also give gifts to children who are with their mothers in a shelter for those who are escaping domestic violence. Simply take a gift tag from the tree and bring your gift unwrapped before Christmas. If you prefer to make a donation and for us to shop for the gift, use the QR code:



Christmas Candles in Memory of Loved Ones:

During Christmastide, the time between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will light an eight-day candle for your loved one(s), and place it before the Crèche of Saint Thomas Church. Each candle will be affixed with the name(s) you submit. The suggested donation for each eight-day candle is \$25. All of these names will be added to the prayer list during Christmastide.



Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25 per name. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. You can also email your list to giving@saintthomaschurch.org. We cannot guarantee that any names received after December 8 will appear in print, but will be printed and placed on the altar for the Christmas services. The deadline is Monday, December 8 for names printed in the leaflets.



The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program **Neighbor to Neighbor** provides coffee, tea, water, muffins, fresh fruit, yogurt and hot oatmeal to neighbors in need. The program serves guests between 9-10am every Saturday, with volunteers arriving at the Parish House on 53rd Street around 8:15am. Please note that there is a signup form for interested volunteers. If you are interested in knowing more about the program and getting involved, please register to be on the mailing list for this group using the QR code:



