

# ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Petersburg, FL



## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022

10:00 am - Rite II

Welcome to St. Thomas'!

### THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*We come together as the new week dawns to worship God, meet in fellowship,  
and gather strength and hope for our work in the world.*

*For your convenience and use, the Book of Common Prayer is the red book in your pew racks,  
the Hymnal is the blue book, and Wonder Love and Praise is the green book.*

**Prelude**  
**Bells of St. Thomas'**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Arr., Susan Geschke

**Introit**

"Matin Responsory"

Richard Shephard

*I look from afar: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.  
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?  
(Ezekiel 38:9; Matthew 11:3 & 25:6, Luke 7:19; I Samuel 9:17)*

**The Entrance Hymn**  
**Blue Hymnal 65**

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant and People together say*

### The Collect for Purity

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets 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 holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Kyrie and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

traditional French Carol  
arr., Rick L. Smith

7 Come, Lord Je - sus, bless us with mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us, we pray.

13 Come, Christ Je - sus, bless us with mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy on us, we pray.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us, we pray.

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.  
People          **And also with you.**  
Celebrant      Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Lord speaks to us in scripture and preaching. We respond proclaiming our belief, praying for the world, and greeting one another in His Name.*

### A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader          The Word of the Lord.  
People          **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19

Refrain, Ps 72:18, 19, alt.

Refrain, ES IST EIN ROS  
Michael Praetorius, (1571-1621)  
Arr., Rick L. Smith, 2020

Refrain

Bless - éd be the Lord God, the God of Is - ra - el. \_\_\_

5  
\_\_\_ Bless - éd Name for ev - er! His glo-ry fills\_\_\_ the earth. \_\_\_

Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;  
That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;  
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people;  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

### [Refrain]

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

### [Refrain]

Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous deeds!

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen. Amen.

### [Refrain]

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 15: 4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all

the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader           The Word of the Lord.  
People           **Thanks be to God.**

### The Gospel Acclamation

### God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

arr., Rick L. Smith



### The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Matthew 3: 1-12

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Celebrant       The Gospel of the Lord.  
People           **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### The Sermon

The Rev. Martha Goodwill

### The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

### The Prayers of the People

*Please stand or kneel.*

*The strange word "Maranatha" is actually two Aramaic words put together (Marana - tha). Aramaic was the dialect of Hebrew spoken by Jesus. The phrase is generally interpreted as a statement of belief, meaning: "Our Lord has come." When combined in these petitions with the prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus," we are holding together the two themes of Advent - preparing for the annual remembrance of the Nativity of Christ, and preparing for our Lord's Second Coming at the end of days.*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop Coadjutor; Ryan and Anne, our priests; Martha, our Deacon; and David, our Canterbury Chaplain. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for Joe our President; Ron, our Governor; Ken, our Mayor; and all those in civic authority. Before you rulers will stand in silence. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for the sick, especially Mark, Dona, Geoff, Sharon Joanne, Tara, Anne, Marsha, Mari, Madison, Don, Mike, Tim, Ed, Yvonne, Bob, Christie, Howard, Ann, Jean, Joe, Jan, Hayden, Brooke, Greg, Elizabeth, Tecla, and for those whom we name in our hearts before you. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you forever. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember especially, Lindsey Ardelle Fleece Henderson, sister of Mary Jane Cartier. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as Sustainer. Help us to cherish and revitalize your creation with care and in thanksgiving of your great love for us. May Benison Farm be a bond between the faithful among the parishes of St. Augustine's and St. Thomas' along with this beloved community, our home. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with blessed Thomas, our Patron, the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Celebrant*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

BCP p. 360

*Please kneel.*

Deacon            When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept*

All                **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have**

mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### Community Announcements and Welcome of Visitors

*Please be seated.*

#### THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

*To sustain us until he comes for the final time  
the Lord comes to us now in His sacrifice banquet and we receive Him*

### The Offertory

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates”

William Mathias

Chancel Choir

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle....the Lord of host, he is the King of glory*

### The Presentation Hymn

traditional French carol  
arr., Rick L. Smith

7 Glo - ry be to God, the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to God, the Son.

13 Glo - ry be to God, the Spi - rit, Ho - ly Trin - i - ty in One.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most High!

### † The Great Thanksgiving †

### Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

Please stand.

**Sanctus and Benedictus**

BCP p. 362

Puer Nobis  
arr., Rick L. Smith

8 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo -  
 14 - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

After the Sanctus, the people remain standing or kneel.

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP p. 364

**The Breaking of the Bread**

A period of silence is kept.

**Fraction Anthem**

Blue Hymnal S161

"Lamb Of God"

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

*All baptized persons regardless of denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*If you desire a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free host is available.*

*As part of our life together at St. Thomas Church, we continue a ministry practiced by our Lord Jesus Christ – the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. If you wish additional prayer for any reason, please gather around the Baptismal font after you receive Holy Communion. We welcome you to participate in this life-enriching ministry.*

**Communion Hymn**  
Blue Hymnal 60

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

## The Post-communion Prayer

BCP p. 366

*Please stand or kneel. Celebrant and People together say,*

**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 SENDING OUT OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

*We go out into the world having received the Body and Blood of Christ. As our time of worship ends, our time of service begins.*

## The Advent Blessing

*Please stand*

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

*People* **Amen.**

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

*People* **Amen.**

## Processional Hymn Blue Hymnal 76

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

WINCHESTER NEW

## The Dismissal

*Deacon* As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

“Aria in F Major”

George Frederic Handel

## **Community Announcements**

### **FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES**

Holy Eucharist, Sunday, 10 am

### **WOW, WOMEN OF THE WORD**

Thursdays at 9:15 am in the Founder's Room

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays at 7:30 am in the Guild Room

### **SUPPER, SONG, AND PRAYER**

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

### **CHORUS ANGELORUM CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Tonight, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Sanctuary  
featuring Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" with harp.

### **CANTERBURY SCHOOL LESSONS AND CAROLS**

You are invited to attend Canterbury School of Florida's Annual Lessons and Carols Service on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 pm at St. Thomas Church. Join us as students from across all grades will read Scripture and share their musical gifts. We will also get a chance to sing along to some beloved Christmas hymns! We look forward to seeing you there! For more information contact David Gould, Chaplain at Canterbury ([dgould@canterburyflorida.org](mailto:dgould@canterburyflorida.org), 727-521-5918)

### **WINDOWS OF CHRISTMAS**

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Re-telling the Christmas story in theater, dance, and choral and instrumental carols.

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING AN ACOLYTE?!**

There will be an Interest Meeting and Training opportunity from 10:00 am to Noon on Saturday, January 7 in the sanctuary at St. Thomas. Children (starting around 2nd grade) and adults are all welcome to attend. It is a wonderful way to support and enhance the beauty of our church services by dressing up in nice vestments, holding the holy implements (cross and torches), and supporting the clergy at the altar. It's also a great way to learn so much more about the meaning behind our worship traditions. We look forward to seeing you there. If you are interested in learning more, please contact David Gould, Chaplain at Canterbury School ([dgould@canterburyflorida.org](mailto:dgould@canterburyflorida.org), 727-521-5918, cell: 614-216-1742).



**Decorating for the Christmas Season**

Soon the Flower Guild will be decorating the Church for the Christmas season. If you would like to remember a loved one or want to give thanks for someone, your contribution to the Christmas decorations is a way to share your remembrance with your St. Thomas family.

If you would like to make a donation of \$25 or more, for Christmas decorations, please send in your check with the name(s) of the person(s) to be remembered to Grace in the Church office. The **deadline is December 20th** in order for your dedication to appear in the Christmas bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity. From the entire Flower Guild.....  
"We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!"

**Christmas Dedication Order Form**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:  
Name of person(s) being remembered: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for:  
Name of person(s) being remembered: \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure to include your check, payable to St. Thomas, with order and send to:  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1200 Snell Isle Blvd. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704



**ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

1200 Snell Isle Blvd.  
St. Petersburg, FL, 33704

The Rev. Ryan R. Whitley, *Rector*

**Thanks to those who are helping today ...**

Acolytes: Colin Burkhart, David Gould  
Altar Guild: Barbara Bice, Laura Vrooman  
Camera Operator: Everett Jennings  
Coffee Host: Liz Stiles  
Flower Guild: Marilyn Lanctot, Laura Vrooman  
Healing: Liz Stiles  
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Dudley Savage, Tom Shevlin  
Lector 10am: Kanika Tomalin, Kay Mahoney  
Musicians: Chancel Choir, Bells of St. Thomas'  
Prayers of the People: Tom Alison  
Ushers: George Burkhart, Bill Thomas

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Facebook: [comeseestthomas](https://www.facebook.com/comeseestthomas)

The Rev. Anne Hartley, *Curate*  
The Rev. Martha Goodwill, *Deacon*  
The Rev. Hayden Crawford, *Assisting Clergy*  
Rick Smith, *Director of Music*  
The Rev. Randy Hehr, *Interim Organist*  
Joe Master, *Director of Finance*  
Grace Smith, *Director of Communications*  
Jon Ward, *Sexton*

**Vestry Members**

Class of 2022

Tom Shevlin  
Jay Hill, *Treasurer*  
Russ Martin

Class of 2023

Russ Ball, *Secretary*  
Michelle Jennings, *Jr. Warden*  
Ann Leavine

Class of 2024

Bill Barns  
Pam Holley  
Mary Jane Park, *Sr. Warden*