

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Petersburg, FL



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023

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.*

Preludes

Bells of St. Thomas'

"Fanfare in G"

"Ring a Joyful Song"

Michael Ryan

Michael Helman

The Entrance Hymn

Blue Hymnal 438

"Tell Out My Soul"

WOODLANDS

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.**

Hymn of Praise
Blue Hymnal S280

"Glory to God"

The Collect of the Day

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

**Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the
supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 Micah

Micah 6: 1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord. "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

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

Psalm 15

E. F. Rimbault

E. F. RIMBAULT



LORD, who may dwell/ in your /tabernacle? *
who may abide up/on your/ holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does/ what is/ right, *
who speaks the/ truth- /from/ their /heart.

There is no guile upon their tongue; they do no evil/ to their/ friend; *
they do not heap con/tempt up/on their /neighbor.

In their sight the wicked/ are re/jected, *
but they honor/ those who/ fear the/ LORD.

They have sworn to /do no/ wrong *
and do/ not take /back their/ word.

They do not give their money in/ hope of/ gain, *
nor do they take a/ bribe a/ gainst the/ innocent.

Whoever/ does these/ things *
shall /never be /over/thrown.

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

The Gospel Acclamation
Green Hymnal 847

"Alleluia with Verses"

Antiphon *Cantor, then All*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Ryan Whitley

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

The Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel.

For the church and for all your creation, we pray to you, Lord God, saying: Lord hear our prayer.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the dominion of heaven. And so we pray: Unite the church, guide Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Ryan and Anne our priests; Martha, our Deacon; David, our Canterbury Chaplain, and all other leaders; let us show the world the love of Jesus.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God. And so we pray: Give your people the will and the courage to value your service above all lesser goods.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Blessed are the peacemakers, God's own children. And so we pray: Bring peace to the world, security to the nations and safety to the cities. We pray especially for Joe, our President; Ron, our Governor; Ken our Mayor; and all those in civic authority.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. And so we pray: Remove from us prejudice and injustice, and raise up among us those who will labor for the good of all whom you have made.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. And so we pray: Be present with those who are sick, imprisoned, or in distress, especially Mark, Dona, Geoff, Sharon Joanne, Tara, Anne, Marsha, Mari, Madison, Don, Ed, Yvonne, Christie, Howard, Ann, Jean, Jan, Brooke, Greg, Elizabeth, Tecla, Frances, Deborah, Kathy, Tina, Tony, Pat, Shannon, David, and those we now name. Make us quick to love and serve our neighbors.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Rejoice and be glad for those who have died, for their reward is great in heaven. And so we pray: We remember all who have witnessed to your love with their lives; give us strength to testify to Christ before the rulers of our own day. (We pray especially for _____).

Lord, hear our prayer.

Blessed are those Lord who care for your creation. You have gifted us with this magnificent home and we ask that you make our senses attuned to preserving it. Bless those who tend Benison Farm now with their labor and their prayers; bless also those who benefit from its bounty.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant

Almighty God, you have taught us to do justice, love kindness, and practice humility before you; make our faith active in love, that your name may be praised and your people served throughout the earth, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Please kneel.

Deacon The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Savior Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

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 Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new. 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
Chancel Choir

“Teach Me, O Lord”

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I will keep it unto the end.

Please stand.

The Presentation Hymn “As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought”
Blue Hymnal 705

FOREST GREEN
Vs. 3

*With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to thee
To serve thy cause and share thy love with all humanity.
O thou who gavest us thyself in Jesus Christ thy Son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.*

† The Great Thanksgiving †

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

Sanctus
Blue Hymnal S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

After the Sanctus, the people remain standing or kneel.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Fraction Anthem

Green Hymnal 875

"Be Known to Us"

Cantor or Choir

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, { in the

1. *Congregation*

break - ing of the bread. Be

*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
Green Hymnal 825

"Bless the Lord My Soul" Jacques Berthier, Taize community

The Post-communion Prayer

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,

The Epiphany Blessing

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

People **Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

Processional Hymn
Blue Hymnal 490

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

The Dismissal

Deacon Led on by the light of Christ, now made manifest to the world, let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

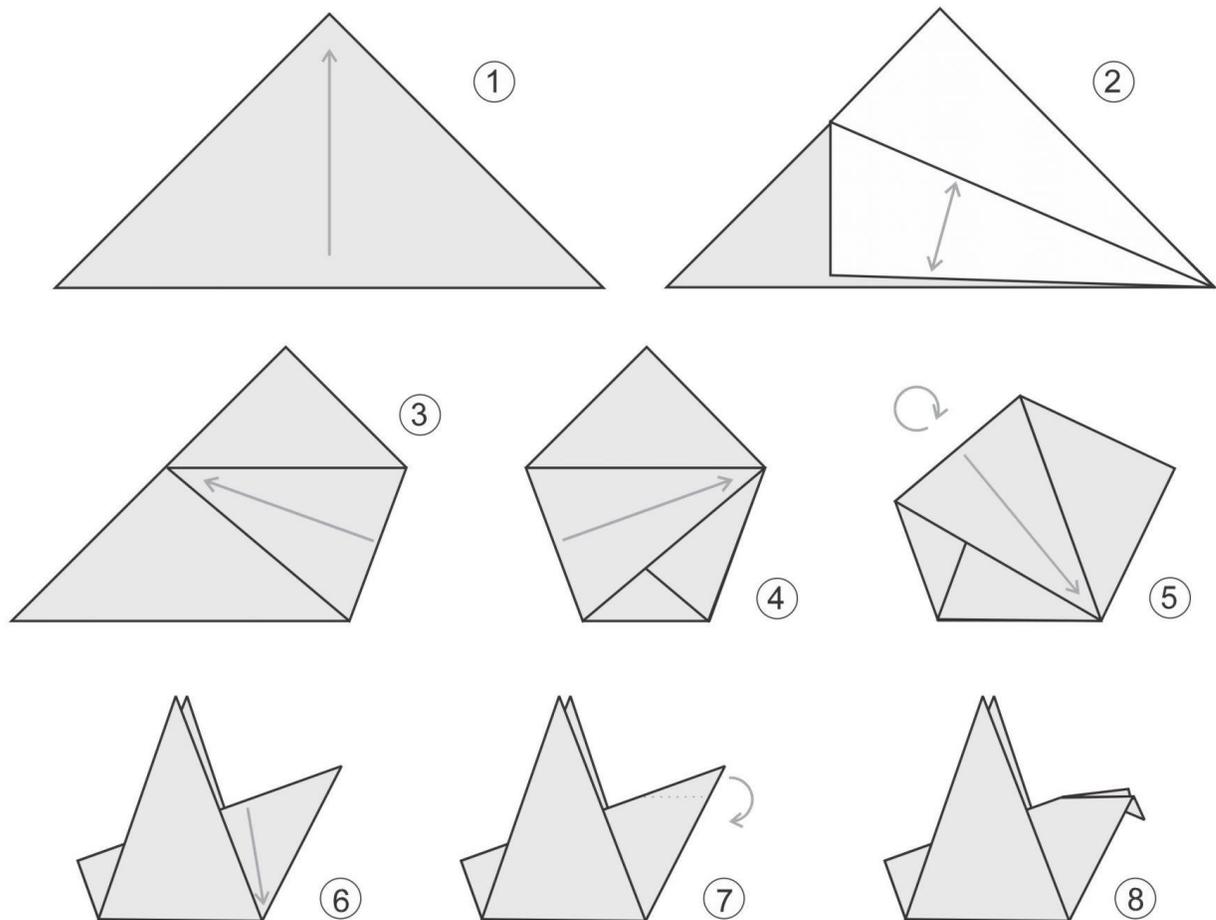
"Postlude in G Major"

George Frederick Handel

Cover: " Russian Orthodox icon of the Prophet Micah, 18th century, Iconostasis of Transfiguration Church, Kizhi Monastery, Karelia, Russia

Origami Bird

1. Fold paper in half diagonally. Crease.
2. Fold top point of front piece down to bottom fold. Crease and open up.
3. Fold right hand point to edge of crease. Crease well.
4. Fold left hand point to edge of crease. Crease well.
5. Rotate as shown in diagram.
6. Fold in half towards the back. Do not fold the wings. Allow them to stay flat pointing upwards as shown in diagram.
7. Crease the right side point down ward. Open up. Crease down in the other direction. Use your index finger to push the crease section inside the fold to form the beak.



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

Men's Bible Study Wednesday at 7:30 am in the Founder's Room.

EVENING CHAPEL SERVICE

Wednesdays at 5:15 pm

SUPPER, SONG, AND PRAYER

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

ST. THOMAS' ART PROJECT

Please join the St. Thomas 'Art Project to create origami doves.

In Christian tradition, doves represent the Holy Spirit, hope, and peace. With members of the Canterbury School of Florida community, we hope to create several thousand doves inscribed with individual prayers and meditations. The doves will be suspended in St. Thomas' main worship space during Eastertide. Paper and instructions are available in the back of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today, Gina and Mike White will invite children to consider how Paul's words can help them live together as a church group.



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 Burkhardt, David Gould,
Caroline Whitley, Jace Viera
Altar Guild: Linda Sordan, Jean Irwin
Camera Operator: Russ Martin
Coffee Host: Rene Clark
Flower Guild: Teri Coryell
Healing: Nancy Day
Lector 10am: Liz Stiles, Nancy Day
Musicians: Chancel Choir, Bells of St. Thomas'
Oblations: Ellen and George Burkhardt
Prayers of the People: Grace Smith
Ushers: Leslie Ritch, Enrique Woodroffe

Church Telephone: 727-896-9641
Rector's Cell Phone: 727-685-9224
Email: graces@stthomasstpete.org
Website: www.stthomasstpete.org
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*