

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Petersburg, FL



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 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 "Savior of the Nations, Come" Dietrich Buxtehude

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 "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" HELMSLEY
Blue Hymnal 57

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.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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 2: 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

Psalm 122

Refrain: Ps 122:1

Refrain: PSALM 42 - Claude Goudimel
arr., Rick L. Smith, 2020



Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

[Refrain]

To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,*
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.

For there are the thrones of judgment,*
the thrones of the house of David.

[Refrain]

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:*
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

[Refrain]

For my brethren and companions' sake,*
I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the LORD our God,*
I will seek to do you good."

[Refrain]

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 13: 11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 24: 36-44

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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.

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 Chaplin. 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, Sharon, Dan, Tara, Anne, Marsha, Mari, Madison, Don, John, Mike, Tim, Ed, Yvonne, Louise, Bob, Christie, Howard, Ann, Jean, Joe, Jan, Hayden, Brooke, Greg, 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,____.) 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 a friend to all. Give to us your blessing for the coming year and be ever-present in our lives as you were present with the disciples. 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

“Zion, at thy Shining Gates”

George Guest

Chancel Choir

Zion, at thy shining gates, Lo, the King of Glory waits, haste thy monarch's pomp to greet, strew thy palms before his feet. Christ, for thee their triple light, faith and hope and love unite; this the beacon we display to proclaim thine advent day. Come and give us peace within, loose us from the bands of sin, take away the falling weight laid on us by Satan's hate. Give us grace thy yoke to wear, give us strength thy cross to bear, make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord. So, when thou shalt come again, judge of angels and of men, we with all thy saints shall sing Alleluias to our King. [B. H. Kennedy 1804-1889]

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.

The Communion Hymn

"Wait For the Lord"

J. Berthier, Taize community

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
 Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart*

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 59

“Hark!, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

MERTON

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

J. S. Bach

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

EVENING CHAPEL HOLY EUCHARIST

Wednesdays at 5:15 pm

SUPPER, SONG, AND PRAYER

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

LIGHTING OF CURRY GARDEN

Today, November 27, 2022, from 3-5 pm

We would love your help to make Curry Garden beautiful for the season.

ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS GALA

Saturday, December 3rd 2022

Cocktails/Silent Auction 6:00 - 6:50 pm Silent Auction closes at 8:15 pm

Dinner 7:00 PM - 8:15 pm

Silent Auction Winners Announced 8:30 - 8:45 pm

Live Auction at 9:00 pm

CHORUS ANGELORUM CHRISTMAS CONCERT

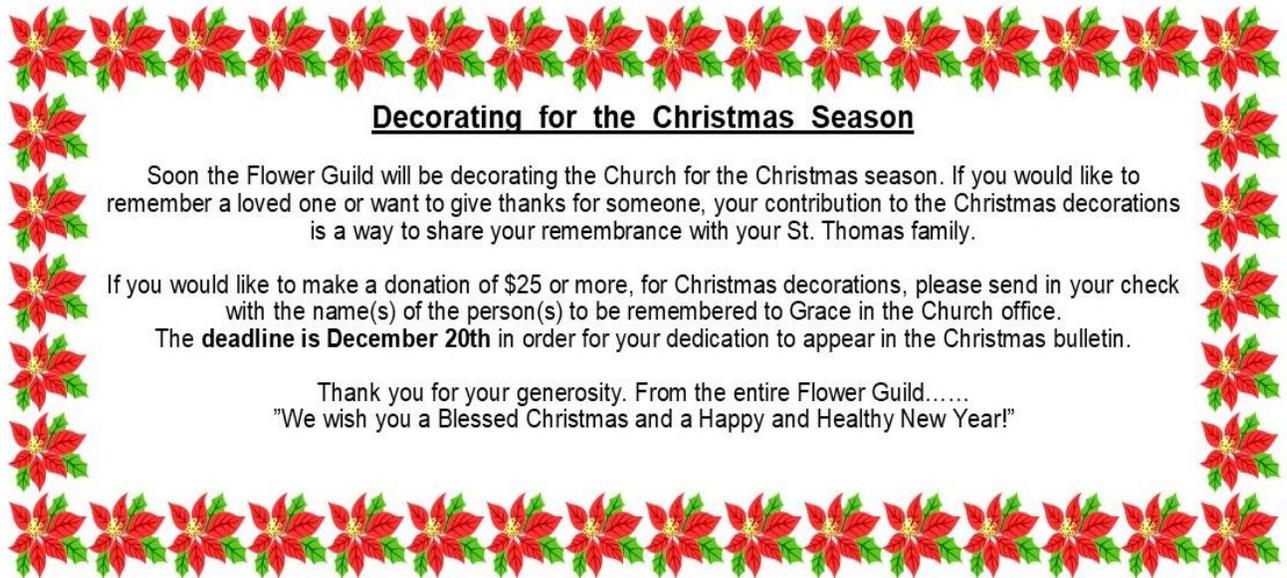
Sunday, December 4th at 6 pm in the Sanctuary

Featuring Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" with harp.

WINDOWS OF CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 pm

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



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Spoken Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 8:00 am
Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 10:00 am

WEDNESDAY CHAPEL EUCHARIST

Wednesday, 5:15 pm

MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Friday, Chapel 9:00 am

OUR MISSION

Making a difference for others, because God is making a difference for us.

OUR VISION

To create a safe, loving, and accepting place for all people to grow in their faith and spread love out into the beloved community.



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
Altar Guild: Nancy Day
Camera Operator: Molly Goodwill
Coffee Host: Laura Reitan
Flower Guild: Pam Holley, Elizabeth Alison
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Liz Stiles
Lector 10am: Elise Whitley, Nancy Day
Musicians: Chancel Choir
Oblations: Jim and Anne Elstun
Prayers of the People: Jaime Elstun
Ushers: Chris Finch, Tom Brady

Church Telephone: 727-896-9641
Rector's Cell Phone: 727-685-9224
Email: graces@stthomasstpete.org
Website: www.stthomasstpete.org
Facebook: [comeseesthomas](https://www.facebook.com/comeseesthomas)

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*