

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Petersburg, FL



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

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 "Variations on Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" Held/Johnson/Brahms

Introit "Matin Responory" 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 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 Jeremiah


Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

Psalm 25: 1-9

Refrain



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul: my God I put my trust in you.
Show me your ways, O Lord, I pray; teach me your paths, O Lord to - day.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

[Refrain]

Refrain



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul: my God I put my trust in you.
 Show me your ways, O Lord, I pray; teach me your paths, O Lord to - day.

Show me your ways, O LORD, *
 and teach me your paths.
 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 in you have I trusted all the day long.
 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
 for they are from everlasting.
 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
 remember me according to your love
 and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
 [Refrain]
 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
 He guides the humble in doing right *
 and teaches his way to the lowly.
 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
 to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
 [Refrain]

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

The Gospel Acclamation

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
 arr., Rick L. Smith



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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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; Ryan, our priest and Martha, our Deacon; 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; Rick, 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, Lindsey, Taylor, Michael, Charlotte, Christina, Connie, Barbara, Susan, Bill, Caitlin, Mark, Russ, Chris, Kathy, David, Frank, Julia, Laurie, Geoff, Ben, Bjorn, Christy, Caroline, Ursula, Dale, Kevin, Thomas, Marion, Gil,

Terry, and Julie, and those we now name _____. 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
Chancel Choir

“Send Forth Thy Light”

Mily Balakirev

Send forth thy light, send forth thy truth, and let them lead me to thy holy hill.

*My soul shall praise the Lord in heaven, whose glory yet I will sing, who is my hope of my salvation,
and my God. [Ps 43:3,5]*

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

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

"Christ Our Passover"

Blue Hymnal S151

"Lamb Of God"

Blue Hymnal S161

All baptized persons regardless of denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you desire a blessing instead, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. At this time communion will be the bread only.

Communion

Organ Improvisation

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 64

“O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light”

O HEILAND REISS

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

Wilbur Held

Please remain seated until after the Postlude (camera still rolling).

The flowers are given to the Glory of God in Memory of Peggy Day by Jack and Nancy Day.



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 Founder's Room

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

This will be a standing weekly event on Thursdays from 6 - 7:15 pm

EVENING CHAPEL SERVICE

Wednesdays at 5:15 pm

SUPPER, SONG, AND PRAYER

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

LIGHTING OF CURRY GARDEN

Today, November 28, 2021, from 3-5

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

ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS MASQUERADE GALA

Saturday, December 4, 2021

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

Tickets for Basket of Cheer \$20.00 each and Wine Pull \$5.00 each

At the Gala we will have 18 Christmas trees for sale for \$75 stand included (if you need a stand). They are about 6 ft. tall. You can purchase at the Gala or if you want to reserve one in advance, please let John or Linda know at the signup table after Church. You can either pick them up Sunday the 5th, after Church services or we will deliver them to your home that afternoon.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday December 19, 2021, at 4:00 pm

BENISON FARM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Egg CSA: Participate in our egg CSA by purchasing a whole year of fresh eggs. Every week you can pick up the eggs at the church on Sunday; Cost for year is \$250 for full or \$125 for a share.

Pumpkins: Our chickens love to snack on pumpkins. Once your fall decorating is finished, please bring your pumpkins to the farm or bring them with you on Sunday and give them to Deacon Martha or Misty Landers.

SACRED GROUND CIRCLE / WINTER - SPRING 2022

Our circle is to begin on Thursday January 20, 2022 meeting every two weeks and conclude by May 19. We will meet over the lunch hour (11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.) and will likely be a hybrid approach with a combination of meeting in-person and a virtual platform.

If you are interested in participating, or have other questions, please contact Bill Barns (williambarns@cox.net) at 757.646.5146 or Misty Landers (mistylanders@gmail.com) at 479.445.8052.

COLLAGE ART

Parishioners and friends of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church have a creative opportunity in early 2022. From 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 29, and Saturday, Feb. 12, artist Dee Perconti will lead classes in which participants will create collages depicting the Stations of the Cross. The finished works will be displayed along the ambulatory aisles of the nave during Lent 2022.

Classes are open to persons of all ages and abilities, including people with no artistic experience. Several options are available: Attend one or both sessions and work alone or with a partner or in a group. Further details will be forthcoming about materials. The cost is a minimum suggested donation of \$10 per session per participant. All contributions will benefit Rapha International, a nonprofit organization that fights exploitation and abuse of children.

For questions or to participate, please contact arts committee co-chairs Gina White, ginabwhite@yahoo.com or Mary Jane Park, maryjanepark@aol.com

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: Susan McMullen, Laura Vrooman
Camera Operator: Molly Goodwill
Coffee Host: Laura Reitan
Flower Guild: Pam Holley, Elizabeth Alison
Lector 10am: Elise Whitley
Musicians: Chancel Choir
Oblations: Jim and Anne Elstun
Ushers: David and Jane Ann Knowlton

The Rev. Martha Goodwill, Deacon
The Rev. Hayden Crawford, Assisting Clergy
Rick Smith, Director of Music
Joe Master, Organist and Director of Finance
Grace Smith, Director of Communications
Jon Ward, Sexton

Vestry Members

Class of 2019-2021

Dick Nelson, Sr. Warden
Valery Hendry, Secretary
Dee McMahan, Jr. Warden

Class of 2020-2022

David Dreisbach
Jay Hill, Treasurer
Russ Martin

Class of 2021-2023

Russ Ball
Mike Bice
Michelle Jennings

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