



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



Christmas Eve – December 24, 2020

Prelude

– Monika Vasey Rhodes, harp

Greensleeves

arr. John B. Escosa

Opening Hymn 83

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain



Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
 People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Song of Praise 96

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness-
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord **People:** Thanks be to God

Leader: Please join me in reading Psalm 96.

1 Sing to God a new song; *
sing to God all the whole earth.
2 Sing and bless God's holy Name; *
proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.
3 Declare God's glory among the nations, *
God's wonders among all peoples.
4 For God is great and greatly to be praised, *
more to be feared than all gods.
5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols, *
but it is God who made the heavens.
6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of God's presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of God's sanctuary!
7 Ascribe to God, you families of the peoples, *
ascribe to God honor and power.
8 Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name; *
bring offerings and come into God's courts.
9 Worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before God.
10 Tell it out among the nations that God reigns! *
God has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
and will judge the peoples with equity.
11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before God, who will come, *
who will come to judge the earth.
13 God will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2: 11-14

A reading from Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector: The Word of the Lord People: Thanks be to God

Sequence

“Lo How a Rose”

by Three Composers edited and arranged by Rev. William Bradley Roberts.

Stanza 1 by Michael Praetorius, 1609; Stanza 2 by Melchior Vulpius, 1615; Stanza 3 by Hugo Distler, 1933.

Conducted by Music Intern Isabel O'Hagan

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of

David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja

✠ *Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon*

The Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People

Intercessors: Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ Child; Draw us, your Church, and all your people to you – that we might be the Church, and the people you call us to be.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence; fill us with your Spirit and a desire for justice and peace on earth. Renew our lives.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' light, and kings to the brightness of his rising; draw our nation, our President, our Congress, our mayor, and all in authority, to Christ's brightness.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; bring to us your peace, and bring an end to terror and strife in our world.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; help us to be present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As the holy family gathered together in Bethlehem; bless all families, especially the families of our parish. We remember tonight families who ache to be together.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal; give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine on them.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant:

O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this season, and of your Son's incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**



The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

✠*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

Offertory

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

PADRE NUESTRO, que estás en el cielo.
Santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos
del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

Spiritual Communion Prayer, adapted from the Prayer Book for Armed Services

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. The leader invites the following prayer to be said by all:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you now in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Closing Hymn 111

“Silent Night”

The musical score for "Silent Night" is presented in four systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen**

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in Peace! Proclaim the Word made flesh!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE
Announcements for Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020

A NOTE FROM OUR RECTOR

*I will light candles this Christmas.
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all of my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.*

Howard Thurman



Dear St. Thomas' Parish,

Christmas greetings to you, community of St. Thomas' Parish. On behalf of our community, we welcome you to our Christmas worship with us this year. We gather together online this year, and in our worship, I hope you can hear the care and delight (and creativity!) our church members have for sharing the story of Christ's birth with you. In our worship we share the story of his birth with music, scripture, and prayers. Following our worship, we will share in a festive celebration on Zoom.

I hope that the story of Christ's birth reminds you that into our world love incarnate was *and is* born. Into our world, which seems quite broken and grieving right now, love is born. Whether we have made Christ room, or our homes are cluttered and filled with worry, love is born. The love that comes with Jesus is an ultimate desire to bring about perfect peace, justice, and joy to our broken world.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, bless you this day and always.

Lisa+



End of the Year Financial Plans!

A big thank you to our community for faithfully fulfilling pledges, and also for communicating when it has been difficult to fulfill your pledge. This has helped us to pay our bills and staff throughout the year and continue our mission even while mostly online!

End of the year pledges, capital pledges, Christmas offerings, and financial gifts

Our parish office will be closed the week after Christmas (December 28 – January 1). Please do know that if you have a pledge or financial gift you would like to include in your 2020 taxes, we need to receive it electronically by December 31, or by check no later than January 10. Please ensure your check is dated prior to December 31 if you are sending it in the mail or dropping it off by January 10, 2021. This helps us to follow healthy financial reporting practices.

Pre-paying your 2021 Pledge

If you plan to pre-pay your 2021 pledge before December 31, 2020, please indicate this in the memo of your check or when paying online. This will appear on your end of year giving statement, but on Realm also appear as a fulfilled 2021 pledge on your profile.

Please do be in touch with Nolan in the parish office with any questions at administrator@stthomasdc.org.



Meet the Vestry Nominating Committee!

Got questions about joining Vestry? We have answers! Join the Vestry Nominating Committee this **Sunday, December 27th**, after church services for an informational session to ask your questions and get answers directly on the regular worship Zoom. This year's Vestry Nominating Committee is being chaired by outgoing Vestry member Bettina Hager, bettinamiriam@gmail.com. Joining her on the committee are John Johnson, johnbjohnsoniv@gmail.com, and Vibha Sazawal, vibha.sazawal@gmail.com. Please feel free to reach out to the members of the committee if you are interested in being a member of the Vestry slate or have questions.

In order to be considered for a position on the Vestry, the following qualifications must be met:

1. Current supporter of the Parish for at least three months.
2. *Have received communion at St. Thomas' Parish at least three times during the past 12 months (n/a due to pandemic).*
3. Be a member of the church in good standing.
4. Be at least 16 years of age.
5. Have made an identifiable monetary contribution to St. Thomas' Parish in the past year.

Zoom Code for Vestry Informational Session

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94764424718?pwd=WFhJM0M5N2VxT2dVbVpaelljaVQ2UT09>

Meeting ID: 947 6442 4718

Password: 151718th

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Here is our Zoom online schedule for this coming week.

Sunday, December 27: **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**
10:30 am Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)
11:15 am Coffee Hour on Zoom

Monday, December 28:
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Tuesday, December 29:
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Wednesday, December 30:
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
7:00-8:30 pm Reading of "Kings of Judea"

Thursday, December 31: Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Friday, January 1: **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Sunday, January 3: **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**
10:30 am Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)
11:15 am Coffee Hour on Zoom

Zoom Code for all of our Worship, Social (Coffee Hour, etc.), Study, and Open Office Hours.

Meeting ID: 947 6442 4718
Password: 151718th

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94764424718?pwd=WFhJM0M5N2VxT2dVbVpaelljaVQ2UT09>
Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

“Kings of Judea” Reading

Please join Murray & Brian Wednesday, December 30, at 7:00-8:30 pm on Zoom for a reading of Dorothy Sayers's short (40 min.), written-for-radio play called "Kings of Judea," a dramatization of the Christmas story. In addition to writing murder mysteries, Ms. Sayers also wrote a number of Christian-themed plays, essays, and books, including a series of short radio plays for the BBC based on stories from the gospels. "Kings of Judea" dramatizes the nativity according to Matthew and Luke. If you are interested in reading a part, please contact Brian Crane at bdcrane@mac.com by Boxing Day (St. Stephen's Day) 12/26. Gaudete!!

TAKE ACTION WITH ST. THOMAS'

Responding to Grief and Joy (and everything in between!) in our Community:

In this time when we cannot check in with one another face to face each week, you may wish to respond to the grief or joy in our community by sending a greeting card or making a phone call. If you do not have the individual's contact information, please check Realm or send your greeting card to that person % our church. We will make sure to share with them.

- **Healing: Jerry Donohoe:** Here is a link to his Caring Bridge page for updates on his health: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerrydonahoe>.

Reverend Lisa's Contact Information:

**The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja
St. Thomas' Parish
1517 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036
1-202-361-2018 (cell)
lahuja@stthomasdc.org**

Celebrating Our December Birthdays

Ryan Winfield (December 8)
Stephen Schembs (December 13)
Chris Norman (December 14)
Benny Young (December 14)
Al Llanos (December 15)

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at
administrator@stthomasdc.org.*

Parish Prayer List

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Alan Allison | Jeremy Gee | Linda Long-Jarosik |
| Charlotte Anderson | Jan Harrison | Donna Norman |
| Anne Marie Bohler | Mark Herzog | Renee Pilone |
| Matthew Briggs | Kristin Jones | Sue Ray |
| Peggyann Cohen | Mike Knapp | Bishop Gene Robinson |
| Jerry Donahoe | Dave Kucharski | Billy Shepherd |

*For the repose of the soul of:
Annette Carver*

You may submit a name for the list by sending an e-mail to: administrator@stthomasdc.org



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

"As St. Thomas' Parish we are followers of Jesus, striving to see Christ in each person, and to be Christ in our community, our city, and our world."

Vestry

Jessie Eddy, Senior Warden
Stephen Schembs, Junior Warden
Jennie Allison, Treasurer
Jean Holman, Clerk
Jennie Allison, Brian Crane, Jason Crighton, Bettina Hager,
Jane Saari, Brett Snyder, Gregory Zitterkob

Staff

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja | Rector | lahuja@stthomasdc.org cell: 202-361-2018 @BishopGRobinson |
| The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson | Bishop in Residence | mldico@stthomasdc.org |
| Michael Lodico | Interim Music Director | administrator@stthomasdc.org |
| Nolan DiFrancesco | Administrator | |
| Kimberly Davis | Nursery Care Worker | |
| Clifford Bowens | Nursery Care Worker | |

St. Thomas' Parish

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