



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020

Organ Prelude

Adagio in B-major

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

– performed by Music Intern Jake Mitchell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

PEOPLE OF GOD, AWAKE! The day is coming soon when you shall see the Lord face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of her coming. You are God's children.

All: Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and forever. Amen

Opening Hymn 56

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(verses 1, 5, 6, 7)



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Trisagion S102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

First Reading

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Leader: Please join me in reading the Song of Mary, the Magnificat.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Sequence

"Wait for the Lord"

Taize

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with block chords and some moving lines.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. It features a treble clef staff with lyrics and a bass clef staff with accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1: 26-38

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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



The Sermon

Bishop Chilton Knudsen

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

Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Mariann and Chilton our Bishops; and
for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We remember today those listed on our prayer list.

You are invited to add your own prayers, either in silence or by sharing them in the chat box on Zoom or comment section on Facebook.

Silence

(The People may add their own petitions)

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

(The People may add their own thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

(The People may add their own petitions)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Confession

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People:

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

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

“O viridissima virga”

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

performed by the Vocal Ensemble Eya

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

“Behold Your God”

LEVAS 2

Oh thou — that tell - est good ti - dings to Zi - on, Oh

thou — that tell - est good ti - dings to Je - ru - sa - lem:

Lift up your voice with strength, — Lift it up don't be a - fraid. Be -

hold — your — God. — A - rise, — and shine, — for the

light of the world is come. Be - hold — your — God! —

Blessing

Dismissal

Celebrant: As we await our coming Savior, go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

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ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

Announcements for Sunday, December 20, 2020

A NOTE FROM OUR RECTOR

To our beloved St. Thomas' Community,

In the season of Advent we join the larger Church in calling upon Christ to enter in, and we pray God prepares Christ room. The hope that accompanies us this season is a hope for peace, joy, wholeness, and justice to come in full with Christ. We wait and pray for the power of God to come among us and show us what we did not believe would be possible in our lifetime. As people of faith, we also discern how it is we can participate in preparing Christ room and working for the Kingdom of God to enter in.



Our Vestry met this Monday, after a weekend of again witnessing violence in our city with our Black siblings and their churches being targeted. Their signs of solidarity with Black Lives Matter were stolen, burned on video, and posted to social media. Black Lives Matter protestors were beaten, stabbed, and arrested while the racist, white perpetrators walked free. As Bishop Budde and the Dean Hollerith wrote this week, "Such hatred grieves the very heart of God, and we cannot turn a blind eye to such displays of white supremacy."

It seems right that this Advent, after a year of witnessing the COVID-19 racial disparities in our city, continued police brutality against our Black siblings, and most recently violence against our Black siblings and their churches that our parish responds more formally. We've had a number of study opportunities and social justice opportunities this year, but as a Vestry this week we felt it was important to make a resolution that commits us to action for racial justice as we move into the future.

Together we wrote and unanimously passed the following resolution:

St. Thomas' Parish Episcopal Church affirms the gospel message that Black Lives Matter. We acknowledge that as an institution we have upheld white supremacy. We repent of this sin of racism, and we commit ourselves to racial justice by listening to our Black siblings and through study, worship, and outreach. Devoting ourselves to the work of racial justice is one

way to live out our baptismal covenant publicly, respecting the dignity of every human being and rejecting the evil inherent in racism.

Further, we are forming a task force at St. Thomas' Parish to explore ways to be intentional about racial justice with all that is entrusted to us for making Christ known in this broken world.

It is easy to write a resolution. It's much harder to remember the resolution and allow it to inform how we live as a community in the years to come. In writing this resolution, the Vestry chose to include some actions to hold us accountable. Here are some ways we intend to live with this resolution as a community:

- We will learn our own history as an institution that has caused injury to our Black siblings.
- Together we will practice repentance for our participation in institutional racism in the past and in our present, exploring ways to dismantle those institutions and build a more inclusive St. Thomas' Parish.
- Members of our parish, including our outgoing Senior Warden, will facilitate a new round of Sacred Ground. Sacred Ground is the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries and our society. Rev. Lisa will participate in this series, and invites all parish members to join her.
- Our Outreach Committee will continue to explore joining Washington Interfaith Network, an organization that is currently focused on matters of justice identified primarily in Ward 7 and 8.
- We will form a task force to explore ways to be intentional about racial justice with all that is entrusted to us for making Christ known in this broken world.

Each of these initiatives leaves room for our learning, transformation, and participation.

Come, Lord Jesus! Come among us with power and might!

God bless you,

Lisa+ & Jessie

Bishop Chilton Knudsen to preach at St. Thomas' this Sunday

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent! Bishop Chilton Knudsen, Assistant Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington will be our preacher and give us a final blessing. She will also be interviewed during our "Meet a Member" time and join us for Coffee Hour.



The Tacky Christmas Sweater Party

Thank you to Jane Saari for organizing our Tacky Christmas Sweater Party this week. A fun time was had by all caroling, playing games, and spending time with one another.





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.

Here is our Zoom online schedule for this coming week.

Sunday, December 20: **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:30 am Advent Study on Zoom: Light of the World
10:30 am Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)
11:15 am Coffee Hour on Zoom

Monday, December 21:
6:30-7:00 pm **St. Thomas' Day Evening Prayer**

Tuesday, December 22:
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Wednesday, December 23:
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship with Taize Chant

Thursday, December 24: **Christmas Eve**
6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25: **Christmas Day**

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

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)

WORSHIP AT ST. THOMAS'



Private Prayer in our Bishop Gene Robinson Chapel

Some of us miss prayer in our building. We now have someone in the office each weekday from 10:30 am-3:30 pm. If you would like to come in to pray by yourself or with your family unit, you are welcome to come during this window of time for private prayer. Please ring the doorbell when you arrive. You'll be required to fill out a covenant to be in the building and asked to clean your space with sanitizing wipes.

STUDY AT ST. THOMAS'

"Kings of Judea" Radio Play

Please join Murray & Brian Wednesday, December 30, at 7:00-8:30 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!!



YOGA and PRAYER: will resume in the New Year.

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>.

Tutors Needed:

We are looking to bring on Online Academic Tutors for rewarding volunteer work that can make a difference in people's lives: tutor Hispanic teen parent students from Bell High School. Our clients are both not English speakers and high school teen parents. You are welcome to help with English as well as the following subject: Essay Writing, Computer Science, Physics, Calculus, Statistics, Trigonometry, and many more! Spanish fluency is not necessary to be a tutor. For more information call or text Al Llanos cell 202-604-3084

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

Anne Marie Bohler

Matthew Briggs

Peggyann Cohen

Jerry Donahoe

Jan Harrison

Mark Herzog

Kristin Jones

Mike Knapp

Dave Kucharski

Linda Long-Jarosik

Donna Norman

Renee Pilone

Mary Ellen Reed

Bishop Gene Robinson

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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