



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



First Sunday after Christmas – December 27, 2020

Opening Hymn 109

“The First Nowell”

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

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.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Psalm 147

(read by all)

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.]
- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Holy Gospel

John 1: 1-18

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant: 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*

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

— performed by Music Intern Jake Mitchell

Adagio in B-major

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

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 100

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

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 First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 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
Charlotte Anderson
Anne Marie Bohler
Matthew Briggs
Peggyann Cohen
Jerry Donahoe

Jeremy Gee
Jan Harrison
Mark Herzog
Kristin Jones
Mike Knapp
Dave Kucharski

Linda Long-Jarosik
Donna Norman
Renee Pilone
Sue Ray
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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