



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



Second Sunday after Christmas – January 3, 2021

Opening Hymn 112

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

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

- 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, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

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

Psalm 84

(read by all)

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- [9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!]

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2: 1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And

having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Karen Garlick, soloist

“The Three Kings”

arr. Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

1. Three Kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may
be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

2. The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

3. Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

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 128

“We Three Kings”



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O ——— star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

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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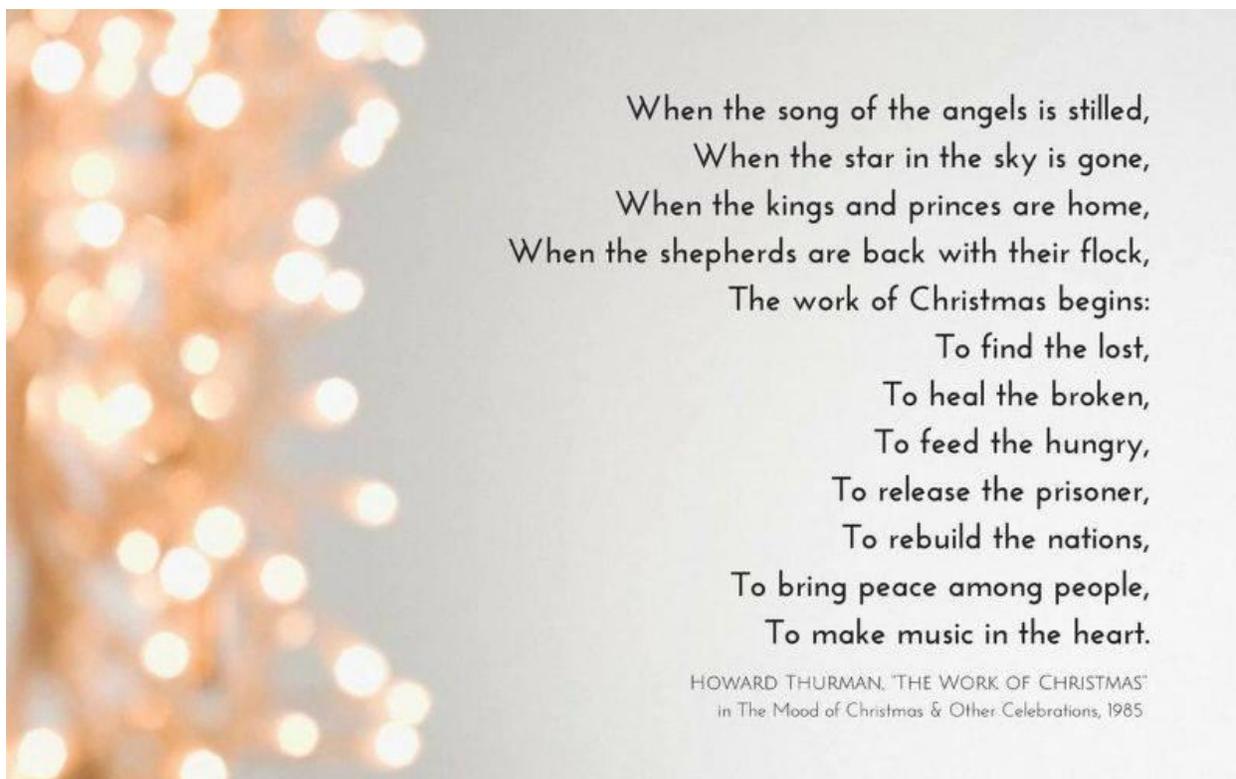


ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

Announcements for Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among people,
 To make music in the heart.

HOWARD THURMAN, "THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS"
in *The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations*, 1985

A LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP, THE RT. REV. MARIANN EDGAR BUDDE



Signs of Hope for the New Year

*Arise, shine, for your light has come.
Isaiah 60:1*

“In the fall of 2019,” writes science journalist Ed Yong, “exactly zero scientists were studying COVID-19, because no one knew the disease existed.” Yet by March of 2020, thousands of scientists around the world dropped what they were doing to study this new disease. “Never have so many researchers trained their minds on a single problem in so brief a time. Science will never be the same.”¹

We’re seeing the first fruits of their extraordinary effort now. The promise of light at the end of this long tunnel is something to hold onto in the coming months. The light is real, but darkness is still with us.

And it has always been so.

Light exists not to eliminate darkness, but to help us find our way through it. In the Christian calendar, we’re on the threshold of Epiphany, a season in which we remember the moments of revelation that guide us in life. Think of the wise men following a star on their journey to find the Christ child. Light shining in darkness enables us to take our next faithful step.

Never have I heard so many people, myself included, look forward to the end of a year. Yet even as we celebrate its passing we know that 2020’s impact will linger. It’s like a tornado passing through our town, suggests religious leader Cary Nieuwhof. Once it’s gone, there will be a lot to clean up and repair.² Surely more than science will never be the same.

We can’t fully absorb collective trauma and grief while we’re going through it. The rising death toll alone is numbing. “It’s as if ten airplanes are falling from the sky every

day,” a colleague said. Add to that the devastating economic impact for so many, the disrupted education for rising generations, and millions relying on food pantries to feed their families, and the scale of suffering is overwhelming. We just want it to be over.

Yet now is not the time to look away from what the pandemic has revealed. The great sin would be not to seek the hard-won wisdom born of pain. “I will not go until you bless me,” the biblical patriarch Jacob famously said to the angel who wrestled with him all night long. Never dare we say that the suffering was worth the wisdom gained, but, like Jacob, we can’t afford to let go too soon. For we need wisdom and clarity to focus on what matters most. 2021 is a pivotal year.

For Christians, hope is more than a response to positive signs on the horizon. It is a spiritual practice. “For Christians,” the UN peace negotiator Hiskias Assifa once said, “hopelessness is not an option.” Neither is wishful thinking, but the unwavering determination to seek the good wherever possible. We are called to hope.

As the new year beckons, I find hope in the countless men and women whose acts of love are holding up the world. I find hope in those who never seem too busy to offer help. I find hope in the brilliance of the human mind that can solve complex problems. I find hope in the resilience of the human spirit that rises, time and again, from the ashes of grief.

My prayer for 2021 is that we continue to look for the light, and then to take steps from wherever we stand to address the most important things. As I pray for our political leaders, I can’t stop thinking of something a marriage therapist once told me. He said that when couples first face the chasm between them, it feels hopeless. But as they each take steps from their side to address it, not only does their perception of one another change, but so does their experience of the chasm between them. It’s still there, but their ability to navigate it improves. May it be so for our leaders, and all of us.

Before making your New Year’s resolutions, you might write down all that gives you hope. If your list, like mine, is filled with people, that’s a hopeful sign in itself. What if it were said of us in 2021 that never had so many resolved to work together and create a better world from the pain we endured?

Bishop Mariann Budde

¹ “The COVID-19 Manhattan Project,” by Ed Yong in *The Atlantic*, January/February 2021, p.48

² Carey Nieuwhof, [5 Reasons You Should Lower Your Expectations in 2021](#), November 19, 2020.

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!

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! 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.

Here is our Zoom online schedule for this coming week.

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

Monday, January 4:
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Tuesday, January 5:
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Wednesday, January 6:
6:30-7:15 pm **Epiphany Celebration of the Holy Eucharist**

Thursday, January 7:
5:45-6:30 pm Spanish Conversation with Al
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Sunday, January 10 **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
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 with St. Thomas'

**Save the Date: Celebration of New Ministry and Installation
of the Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja as Rector**

*The Wardens, Vestry, and Members of
St. Thomas' Parish
Washington, DC*

*Request Your Prayers and Presence at
the Celebration of New Ministry
and Installation of
the Reverend Lisa Saunders Ahuja
as the Rector of St. Thomas' Parish*

*Sunday, January 31, 2020
10:30 in the morning on Zoom and Facebook.
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde,
Presiding*

Chair Dedications from the Chair*ity Fundraiser

Back in 2018 many people made a financial contribution to the chairs for our sanctuary. We cannot wait to sit in that space once again! You may remember that in 2019 we started collecting dedications for these chairs, statements that chairs are in thanksgiving or memory of someone special to you. We do not have a dedication for all of the donations and want to ensure your dedication is included.

Please either email: administrator@stthomasdc.org with your dedication or fill in the Google form with your dedication: <https://forms.gle/ntRGEoBzop1KGJy46>

If you cannot remember how many chairs you donated, or you are new and would like to contribute to the capital expenses of these chairs in honor of someone special to you, please do write to Nolan at administrator@stthomasdc.org. There are plenty more to be dedicated, and the cost of each was \$299. We aim to collect all of this information by January 30, 2021.

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 January Birthdays

Stacey George (January 1)
Felecia Williams (January 1)
Joe Bishop-Henchman (January 4)
Samantha Fallon (January 5)
Bob McDonald (January 16)
Gregory Zitterkob (January 22)
Tyler Ashworth (January 23)
David Insinga (January 23)
Rev. Linda Kaufman (January 23)
Chris Hartenau (January 27)

*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	Renee Pilone
Anne Marie Bohler	Mark Herzog	Sue Ray
Matthew Briggs	Kristin Jones	Bishop Gene Robinson
Peggyann Cohen	Mike Knapp	Billy Shepherd
Jerry Donahoe	Dave Kucharski	

*For the repose of the soul of:
Donna Norman*

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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