



# SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

in the  
CITY OF NEW YORK



The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.  
Our mission is to worship, love and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ  
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.

*Please switch off all cellular telephones. Unauthorized recordings and the  
taking of photographs during worship at Saint Thomas Church are prohibited.  
To contact us, email [welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org).*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

SUNG EUCHARIST – 9 a.m.  
Cantor: Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell

*The People stand as the Ministers go to the altar.*

Hymn

PERSONENT HODIE

*Introduction*

1. On this day earth shall ring  
2. His the doom, ours the mirth;  
3. God's bright star, o'er his head,  
4. On this day an - gels sing;

with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,

born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

*Refrain*

Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,

Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## The Penitential Order

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say a sentence of scripture. The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The People remain standing. Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

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

*Cantor or Choir*      *All*      *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

*All*      *Cantor or Choir*      *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant sings*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept. The Celebrant says the Collect.*

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.**

*The People sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 80:1-7

*The Cantor sings the refrain and all repeat.*



Let your face shine, O God, that we may be saved.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon  
the cherubim, shine forth  
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. *Refrain*

Stir up your might, and come to save us!  
Restore us, O God; let your face shine,  
that we may be saved.  
O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be  
angry with your people's prayers?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure. *Refrain*

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved. *Refrain*

### Gospel Acclamation

Advent Alleluia

*Stephen Pishner*

*The People stand. The Cantor sings the refrain and all repeat.*



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

*Cantor* I am the servant of the Lord. May his will for me be done.

*All repeat the Alleluia.*

### The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

*The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Saint Luke.

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

*At the end*

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

**The Homily**

The Rector

**The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

**The Prayers of the People**

*The People remain standing. This response is used after each petition*

*People* Maranatha:  
**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

*After the prayers, silence is kept, then the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people, who trust in your love.  
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**The Peace**

*The Celebrant says*

*People* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

**The Greetings**

*The People sit*

Light one candle for hope,  
One bright candle for hope.  
He brings hope to everyone, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for joy,  
One bright candle for joy.  
He brings joy to everyone, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for peace,  
One bright candle for peace.  
Every nation will find salvation  
in Bethlehem's baby boy.

Light one candle for love,  
One bright candle for love.  
He brings love to everyone, He comes, He comes.

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

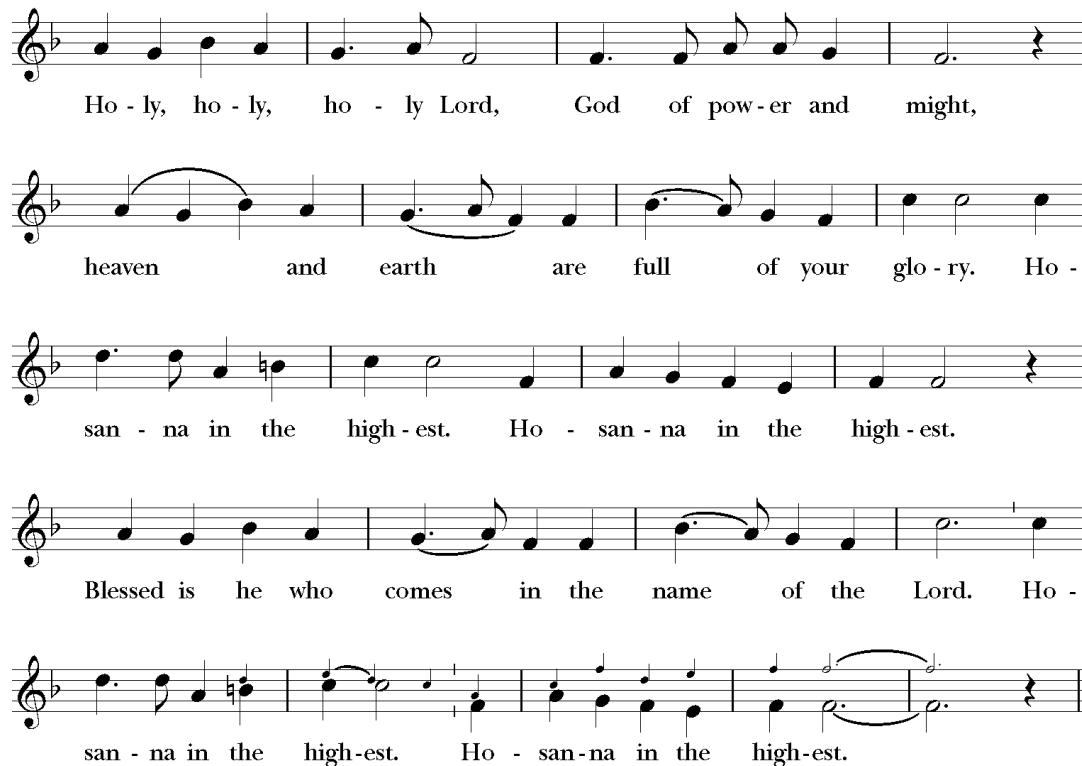
*People*

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant says the Preface, ending*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Cantor and People*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The People kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer concludes*

...now and for ever.

*People* **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then is said*

*People* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant and People*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

## The Invitation to Communion

*The Celebrant says*

Behold the Lamb of God.  
Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*People* **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*The Celebrant and people receive Holy Communion*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

*After Communion, the Celebrant invites the People to stand as they sing the refrain together.*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God,  
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
 of the most precious Body and Blood  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
 that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
 And now, Father, send us out  
 to do the work you have given us to do,  
 to love and serve you  
 as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
 To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.



## The Blessing & The Dismissal

*The Celebrant blesses the People and then dismisses them with these words*

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PARISH NOTICES

**Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials** are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25 per name. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. The deadline is **Sunday, December 19.**

**Adult Education.** At 10 a.m. today, the **Reverend Dr. Julie Faith Parker**, our guest teacher, concludes her three-session sequence entitled **“Three Women and a Little Baby: Advent and Luke 1-2.”** This session is “Anna and the Power of Vision”, and explores, as Dr. Parker writes: *“the Old Testament and ahead to the life of Jesus through the lens of prophecy. Who are the women prophets in the Hebrew Bible? How do their experiences lead to Anna’s prophetic witness? Anna is an octogenarian. Come and discover what she teaches us about visionary contributions to the life of the Christ child, born of wisdom.”* You are welcome to join us in person on the Fifth Floor of the Parish House or on Zoom using the link provided in our E-News. There will be no class on December 26 or January 2. It will resume January 9.

**Children and Families’ Gatherings.** Each Sunday begins with a **Sung Mass at 9 a.m.**, which is especially suitable for children. Afterwards, **Sunday School** is offered for children ages 4 to 11 on the third floor of the Parish House until 10:45 a.m. **Nursery care** is available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration for all 2021-22 Children and Family events and programs is essential. You may access the registration form [Here](#). For any queries regarding the above or to receive our weekly newsletter please contact: [ChildrenandFamilies@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:ChildrenandFamilies@SaintThomasChurch.org). A quiet Children’s area in the Chantry Chapel is also available for parents with their children during the 11 a.m. Mass.

**The Noble Singers.** Our new children’s parish choir for singers ages 5-12, under the Direction of Mrs. Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell, is now underway. Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays at 4-4:45 p.m. and/or Saturdays from 10-10:45 a.m. It’s not too late to join us. Registration is currently available online. This FREE music program features the acclaimed RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Voice for Life curriculum in which choristers will gain different colored ribbons by working towards different assessed levels of music and vocal instruction. Our first official appearance as a choir will be at the Crèche Service on Tuesday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m. Beginning in January 2022, we will start singing weekly at the 9 a.m. service. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music. For more information, contact [RKellerman@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:RKellerman@SaintThomasChurch.org).

**Annual Crèche Service** on Tuesday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m. Please join us as we mark the approach of Christmas with drama, readings and music led by children for children, culminating in the blessing of our very own Saint Thomas Crèche. This service is especially suited for the young and young at heart, and all visitors are welcome to join the service dressed as their favorite Nativity character. Family members far and wide are also welcome to take part in this year’s celebration via the livestream. Music will be led for the first time by our new Children’s Choir, *The Noble Singers*, and by our Grade 8 Choristers. We look forward to seeing you!

**Friday Bible Study** continues at 1:30 p.m. over Zoom, and runs for about an hour. For more information, please contact Fr. Bennett at [RBennett@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:RBennett@SaintThomasChurch.org).

**Christmastide Candles in Memory of Loved Ones.** During Christmastide, the time between Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, we will light an eight-day candle for your loved one(s), and place it before the Crèche of Saint Thomas Church. Each candle will be affixed with the name you submit. The suggested donation for each eight-day candle is \$25. We also offer a one-day candle, which can be lit at any time during Christmastide, and the names will be added to the prayer list of that day. A candle will be lit at Our Lady of Fifth Avenue. The suggested donation for each one-day candle is \$5.

Welcome the Christmas Season into your home with **on-demand** performances featuring **The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys**. Whether you are re-living these concerts or watching them for the first time, our December livestream concert presentations are available for a limited time only. Don't miss the magic of Christmas at Saint Thomas Church. On-demand tickets are available [on our website](#). Support Concerts at Saint Thomas by becoming a Friend of Music. To make your donation with our team, email [Concerts@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:Concerts@SaintThomasChurch.org) or call 212-664-9360.

## SERVICES THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### The Church is open for Private Prayer and Visits

**Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

*Proof of vaccination, face masks, hand sanitization and health screening are required for entry.*

### Shrine Prayers (Intercessions)

**Monday – Saturday at 12 p.m.** *Live audio stream and then on-demand.*

**Please send your requests for prayers** *via the website* [click here](#) *or emailed to:* [prayer@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:prayer@saintthomaschurch.org)

### The Daily Eucharist

**Monday – Saturday at 12:05 p.m.** *Live audio stream and then on-demand.*

**Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Chantry Chapel.**

## CHORAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

*All choral services are video livestreamed, and, thereafter, available on-demand*

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

**5:30 p.m. The Blessing of the Crèche**

*sung by the Noble Singers*

### ✠ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

**4 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

*sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys*

*Music of Dirksen, Robinson, Ledger, Edwards, M. Martin, Hancock, Pott and Preston*

*(followed by a short, Said, Vigil Mass in the Chantry Chapel)*

**10 p.m. (Doors open at 9:30 p.m.)**

**Christmas Music for Strings**

**10:30 p.m. The Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity  
(Midnight Mass)**

*sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys with Strings*

*Music of Mozart, Hancock, Dirksen and Preston*

*Sermon by The Rector*

### ✠ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

**9 a.m. Said Eucharist**

*Sermon by Mo. Turner*

**11 a.m. The Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity**

*sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys*

*Music of Filsell, Dirksen, Bairston, and Ledger*

*Sermon by Fr. Moretz*

# CHORAL SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

*All choral services are video livestreamed, and, thereafter, available on-demand*

✠ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**

## **9 a.m. Sung Eucharist**

*Cantor: Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell*

Sermon by The Rector

## **11 a.m. Festal Eucharist**

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sermon by The Rector

### **ASSISTING CLERGY**

The Reverend Matthew Moretz, *Vicar  
and Chief Operating Officer*

The Reverend Alison J. Turner,  
*Associate for Children & Family Ministry  
and School Chaplain*

The Reverend Mark Schultz,  
*Associate for Pastoral Care*

The Reverend Prisca Lee-Pae,  
*Associate for Pan-Asian Ministry*

The Reverend Ryan Bennett, *Assistant Priest*

### **STAFF**

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*

Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*

Aaron W. Koch, *Head Verger*

Bruce Smith, *Chief Advancement Officer*

Adam MacDonald, *Director of Development*

Blake Martin, *Director of Communications  
and Digital Production*

Lizette Hernandez, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*

### **SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL**

Christopher Seeley, *Head of School*

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[www.ChoirSchool.org](http://www.ChoirSchool.org)

[admissions@choirschool.org](mailto:admissions@choirschool.org)

### **HONORARY CLERGY**

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*

The Right Reverend Andrew St. John, *Bishop in Residence*

The Reverend Dr. Patrick S. Cheng, *Theologian in Residence*

The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Gina Gore, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend William A. Norgren, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, *Honorary Assistant*

The Rev. Canon Prof. J. Robert Wright, *Honorary Assistant*

### **THE VESTRY**

The Rector, *Chair*

Kazie Metzger Harvey, *Warden*

Karen Duncan

Christopher M. Haley, *Clerk*

Darren Littlejohn

Edith Morrill

Lloyd Stanford, *Warden*

Stephen Gauster-Filek

Winnie Kung

Brett Moore

Inge Reist

Gregory Zaffiro, *Assistant Treasurer*

Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: [Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org).