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200

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.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023

SUNG EUCHARIST – 9 a.m.
Sung by The Noble Singers

The Ordinary of the Mass

Missa Emmanuel

Maks Adach
(b. 1993)

The People stand for the entry of the Ministers.

Introit

Rachel Aarons

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin birth,
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of All.

St. Ambrose; tr. John Mason Neale

Hymn

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

“All hail,” said he, “thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
“my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name.”
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, #265 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924).
Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by
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The Penitential Order

Celebrant

Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Celebrant welcomes the people and introduces the celebration. Then, 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.**

Kyrie eleison

Org. CHOIR
 Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have
 mer - cy Lord, have mer - cy. *f* CONGREGATION
 Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have
 mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *mp* CHOIR
 Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have
 mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, *mf* CONGREGATION
 Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have
 mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, *Org. 3*
 mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
 Lord, have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, *f* ALL *mf*
 Lord, have
 mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy. *mp* 5

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says

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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

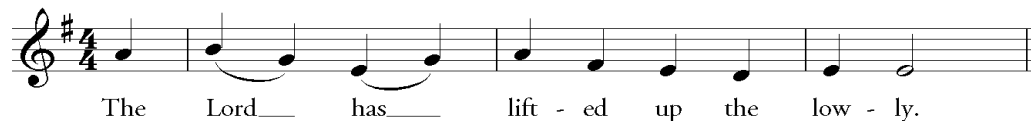
Lector

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the refrain and all repeat.



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blest;
 The Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 He has mercy on those who fear him
 in every generation. *Refrain*

He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
 and has lifted up the lowly;
 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
 the promise he made to our fathers,
 to Abraham and to his children forever. *Refrain*

Gospel Acclamation

Advent Alleluia

Stephen Pishner

The People stand. The Cantor sings the Alleluia and all repeat.



Cantor

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

The People repeat the Alleluia

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

People

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

At the end

People

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

The Homily

Mo. Turner

The People stand for the Nicene Creed and the Prayers.

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Celebrant Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

People **Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.**

Celebrant Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

People **O Lord God of hosts.**

The candle is lit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People (Special Form)

The Leader says

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

"Maranatha" is an Aramaic word used in the scriptures which means "come."

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for ...

Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you,
that with [N and] all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

People **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 Peace

The Celebrant says

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

The Greetings

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn

PERSONET 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!

On this day earth shall ring. #92 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929).
Music: *Personet hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582.



Please scan this QR code if you wish to give online from your mobile device or text **Give** to 855-938-2085.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, St. Thomas our Patron, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

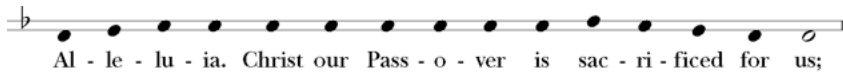
Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

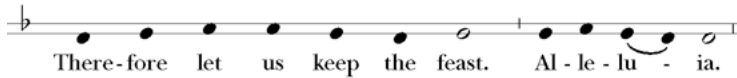
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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



People



Agnus Dei

Choir/Cantor
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Congregation
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Congregation
Lamb of God, you take a - way 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.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.

The Sacrament is distributed at the Crossing. Intinction (dipping the host in the chalice) is not permitted.

You are welcome to receive in one kind only. Gluten free hosts are available - please ask the priest.

Communion Anthem

Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor
Arr. John Ferguson

Cold are the people, winter of life
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping
Flowers that will echo the sunrise
Fire of hope is our only warmth
Weary, it's flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night
On wind you enfold us You speak of the light
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly
Rumours of a dawn so embracing

Breathless love awaits darkened souls
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely
Rising in the warmth of your son's love
Star unknowing of night and day
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace.

After Communion, silence is kept. The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People stand.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Celebrant says

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Go Tell It on the Mountain, #99 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Living Room after the service.



The flowers today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of the following:

Margaret Crane Hurlbut

WORSHIP THIS WEEK

* indicates livestreamed.

Today

11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist*

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sermon by Fr. Gioia

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
featuring works of French, M. Martin, Latona,
Wilcox, Moore, Rutter, and Chilcott

5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass of Christmas

*This said service is held at the High Altar directly following
the 4 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

10 p.m. Christmas Music for Organ and Brass*

*This prelude to Midnight Mass is played by Associate
Organist Nicolas Haigh and Associate for Musical Studies
and Assistant Organist Maks Adach, with trumpets and
timpani*

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

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Sermon by The Right Reverend Matthew Heyd,
Bishop Coadjutor of New York

CHRISTMAS DAY

11 a.m. Procession and Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity *

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Sermon by The Rector

Tuesday - Saturday

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers and Holy Eucharist*

Saturday

**11-11:45 a.m. Confessions, Spiritual Advice, Ministry
of Healing in the Resurrection Chapel**

Confessor: Fr. Schultz

Next Sunday: December 31,

The First Sunday after Christmas

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9 a.m. Said Mass

11 a.m. Festal Eucharist*

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir
Sermon by Fr. Gioia

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PILGRIMS' COURSE 2024



Want to know more about the Christian Faith? Want to be baptized or confirmed? Want to become a member of Saint Thomas Church? The Pilgrims' Course explores the Christian Faith as the Episcopal Church has received it, and as Saint Thomas expresses it through its mission to worship, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the Anglican Tradition and our unique choral heritage. Classes are open to all and, each year, a number of parishioners attend to refresh their faith and support those who are new to the faith or to our community. The first class will commence on Wednesday, January 17. A simple hot meal is available at 6:30pm, and the class runs from 7-8pm. Classes are hybrid, so if you cannot be present in-person, you can join us on-line. To register please email: pilgrims@saintthomaschurch.org

PARISH NOTICES

Saint Thomas Church Tours are available on Sundays after the 11am service. It is a great way to experience and learn about the church. If you are interested, please meet the Tour Guide on the south side of the Narthex near the "Tour Guide - Meet Here" sign. *Note: there is no tour today or next Sunday, December 31.*

Our Parish **Bookstore and Gift Shop** is temporarily closed as it is being relocated to part of the Narthex nearest the Chantry Chapel. If you have any questions, please reach out to giftshop@saintthomaschurch.org.

The Saint Thomas Theological Education Program, rooted in Scripture, tradition, and spirituality, is for those who seek a deeper understanding of faith, worship and prayer. Lecturers are The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence, and internationally renowned guest speakers committed to making theology accessible to non-specialists. Classes are held Sundays at 10am on the 5th Floor of the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org. *(Please note the class will not meet Sundays Dec 24 or 31; we will resume January 7.)*

Children and Family Ministries: Sunday School will be on Christmas Break December 24 and 31, but will resume with an Epiphany Family Feast on Sunday, January 7 at 10am in the Parish House. The Nursery continues to be available for the sole use of babies and toddlers with their parents/caregivers, from 9am-1pm on Sundays in the Parish House, 3rd floor. To receive our Children and Families weekly newsletter, or to register your interest in any events for the coming term please contact childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org.

Weekly Bible Study on Fridays at 1pm. Fr. Schultz leads a series of sessions that will serve as a deep dive into the Gospel of John. Join us as we continue our exploration of the Book of Signs (John 1:18 through chapter 12). For more information, please contact Fr. Schultz at mschultz@saintthomaschurch.org. *(Please note that the weekly Bible Study is on hiatus until January 12.)*

Saint Thomas Choir School exists to nurture and educate the boy choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Talented students in grades 3-8 come from all over the country to sing, study, play, perform, and live together. If you know a boy who loves to sing, encourage his family to contact Nora Thomson: nthomson@choirschool.org. Also: Save the Date for our **Chorister for a Day** event, for boys 7-11 years old, on Sunday, February 25. For more information, email admissions@choirschool.org.

The Noble Singers, our children's parish choir for singers ages 5-14, under the Direction of Mrs. Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell, has resumed weekly rehearsals and singing at the 9am Mass. We welcome new singers at any time. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music! For info, contact rkellerman@saintthomaschurch.org.

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 Dr. Luigi Gioia
Theologian in Residence

STAFF

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*
Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*
Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*
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*
David Bryan, *Head Verger*

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

Christopher Seeley, *Head of School*
202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019
Telephone: 212-247-3311
www.ChoirSchool.org
admissions@choirschool.org

HONORARY CLERGY

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*
The Right Reverend Andrew R. St. John, DD, *Bishop in Residence*
The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend Gina Gore, *Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend Canon Anne Mallonee, *Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend Stephen Morris, *Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, *Honorary Assistant*

THE LAY MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

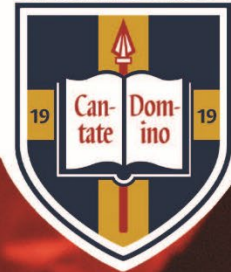
Lloyd G. Stanford, *Warden*
Karen Duncan
Christopher M. Haley, *Clerk*
Darren Littlejohn
Winnie Kung

Gregory Zaffiro, *Warden*
Samyel Lee
John G. Oghia
Benita Potters
Inge Reist
Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org.

A Small School in a Great City

SAINT THOMAS
CHOIR SCHOOL



Saint Thomas Choir School educates the treble choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. The boys are nurtured and educated in grades three through eight and live together in the heart of Manhattan at the only boarding choir school in the U.S.

Life at the Choir School extends far beyond the choir stalls and classroom—boys enjoy animated conversations at the dinner table with resident faculty, quiet stories read before bed, outings to shows, and Central Park as their backyard. These formative experiences inspire many graduates to recall their time at the Choir School as the “privilege of a lifetime.”

The Choir School invites you to visit and learn more about this distinctive educational opportunity. Tuition is modest and generous scholarships are available.

choirschool.org

Call to take
the next step

Nora Thomson
Director of Outreach
& Enrollment
212-247-3311





COME SING WITH US!

Treble Voice Singers Ages 8-14
Training Choir for Ages 5-8
Free RSCM Choral Program
No Audition Necessary

Further Information:



Now
Accepting
New
Choristers!

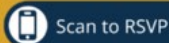
www.saintthomaschurch.org
Saint Thomas Church
Fifth Avenue New York, NY



OPEN HOUSE

*for parents, music educators,
and school professionals*

Tuesday, January 9
6:00-7:30pm
Saint Thomas Choir School
202 West 58th Street, NYC



Join us to learn more about our unique boarding school
for boys in grades 3-8 with a passion for music.

