



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of the Reverend Lisa Saunders Ahuja as the Ninth Rector of St. Thomas' Parish

Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 10:30 am

Prelude Music

Trumpet Tune in C

David N. Johnson

Words of Welcome – The Rev. Lisa Ahuja

Opening Hymn LEVAS 12

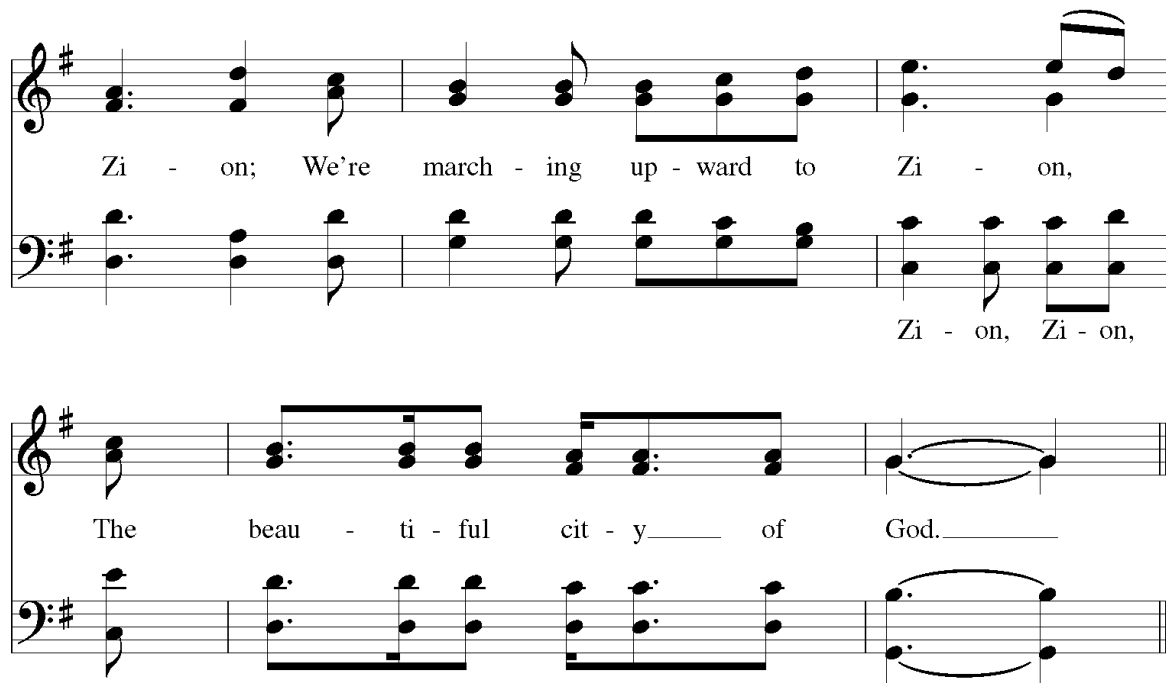
"We're Marching to Zion"

1. Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known; Join
2. Let those re-fuse to sing Who nev-er knew our God; But
3. The hill of Zi-on yields A thou-sand sa-cred sweets Be-
4. Then let our songs a-bound, And ev-'ry tear be dry; We're

1. in a song with sweet ac-cord, Join in a song with sweet ac-
2. chil-dren of the heav'n-ly King, But chil-dren of the heav'n-ly
3. fore we reach the heav'n-ly fields, Be-fore we reach the heav'n-ly
4. march-ing through Im-man-uel's ground, We're march-ing thro' Im-man-uel's

1. cord, And thus sur-round the throne, And thus sur-round the throne.
2. King, May speak their joys a-broad, May speak their joys a-broad.
3. fields, Or walk the gold-en streets, Or walk the gold-en streets.
4. ground, To fair-er worlds on high, To fair-er worlds on high.

We're march-ing to Zi-on, Beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful
We're march-ing on to Zi-on,



Gathering of the Community *(Led by Bishop Mariann Budde)*

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

People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Bishop: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **One God, Creator of all.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by the One through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Institution

(The bishop gives the welcome; states the purpose of the service; reminds people of the authority invested in them in baptism, and then says:)

Grace to you and peace, good people and friends of St. Thomas' Parish. We gather today in a spirit of joy and gratitude, as we celebrate a new season of your life in Christ and ministry in His name. To stand with you and offer servant leadership among you, you have called a new rector, and as we officially welcome her to her role, I remind you that your role as baptized followers of Jesus is at

the heart of this community's life and witness. This is a celebration and moment of dedication and renewal for all of you.

People of St. Thomas' Parish, you have reflected on your ministry and discerned your choice for a new Rector.

Wardens:

We have chosen and called Lisa Saunders Ahuja to be our Rector, and she has accepted.

Bishop:

I commend your choice and affirm this call.

(The bishop reads the letter of institution.)

Lisa Saunders Ahuja, Presbyter of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow-Presbyters as a pastor, priest, and teacher, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

Now, in accordance with the Canons, you have been selected to serve God as Rector of St. Thomas' Parish, in the Diocese of Washington.

This letter is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.

Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Given under my hand and seal, in the city of Washington, on the twenty sixth day of January 2021, and in the tenth year of my consecration.

Mariann Edgar Budde

Bishop of Washington

Are you, the people of St. Thomas' Parish, ready to continue in your ministry, with Lisa as your priest?

People: **We are.**

The Word of God

Representatives of the Lectors present a Bible and say:

Lisa, with the words of Holy Scripture, we proclaim and hear God's living Word. Join us in the ministry of telling the Good News to the World.

Lisa:

Amen. Let us hear again the Good News of salvation.

First Lesson

Numbers 11: 16-17, 24-25a

So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied.

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

Psalm 146

- 1 Alleluia! Praise God, O my soul! *
 I will praise God as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- 2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
 for there is no help in them.
- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
 and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, *
 whose hope is in their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
 whose promise abides for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed *
 and food to those who hunger.
- 7 God sets the prisoners free
 and opens the eyes of the blind; *
 God lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 God loves the righteous
 and cares for the stranger; *
 God sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9 God shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia!

Epistle

Ephesians 4: 7, 11-16

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

The Holy Gospel

John 15: 9-16

Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

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

Yo los amo a ustedes como el Padre me ama a mí; permanezcan, pues, en el amor que les tengo. Si obedecen mis mandamientos, permanecerán en mi amor, así como yo obedezco los mandamientos de mi Padre y permanezco en su amor.

Les hablo así para que se alegren conmigo y su alegría sea completa. Mi mandamiento es este: Que se amen unos a otros como yo los he amado a ustedes. El amor más grande que uno puede tener es dar su vida por sus amigos. Ustedes son mis amigos, si hacen lo que yo les mando. Ya no los llamo

siervos, porque el siervo no sabe lo que hace su amo. Los llamo mis amigos, porque les he dado a conocer todo lo que mi Padre me ha dicho. Ustedes no me escogieron a mí, sino que yo los he escogido a ustedes y les he encargado que vayan y den mucho fruto, y que ese fruto permanezca. Así el Padre les dará todo lo que le pidan en mi nombre.

The Sermon

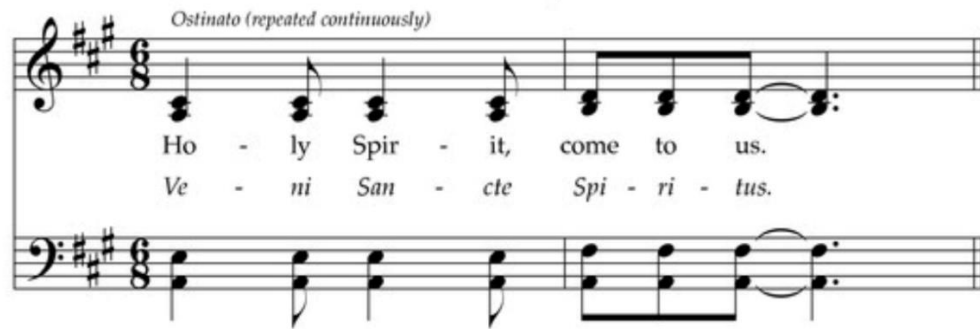
Bishop V. Gene Robinson

✠ Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon

Anthem by Choir

“Veni Sancte Spiritus”

Taizé



Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Bishop:

Lisa; people of St. Thomas' Parish: in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

People:

We will, with God's help.

Bishop:

The water of baptism signifies our eternal covenant with God. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in Christ's resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to Christ, we bring into Christ's fellowship those who come in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lisa:

Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

Lisa:

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, who has given us birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life; through the grace of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Prayers

A prayer book is presented by Intercessors from the congregation.

Lisa, receive this book and be among us as a woman of prayer.

People:

Amen.

Lisa:

In the Spirit of God, who searches the heart and knows our deepest needs, let us continually pray for the Church, the world, and all who yearn for Christ's healing.

A Litany for the Mission of the Church

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,
Have mercy on us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,
Have mercy on us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,
Savior, deliver us.

From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,
Savior, deliver us.

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,
Savior, deliver us.

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,
Savior, deliver us.

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places.

Hear us, O Christ.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

Hear us, O Christ.

Concluding Collect

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Amen.

Presentation of Gifts

Symbolic gifts from members of the community will be shared with the new Rector, inviting her to participate in the ministry of the parish.

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.*



The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:

It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ
and knit us into one body.
Through your Spirit you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift
our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues:

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another,
and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets
to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,
and dwelling among us,
he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:
"Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

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

The Celebrant continues:

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with St. Thomas and all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.

All:
Amen.

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

(The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.)

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

(The Celebrant says the following.)

The Gifts of God for the People of God.



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.

Post Communion Prayer

✠ All pray together

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Closing

Bishop: We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church.
Lisa, I commend to your love and care the people of St. Thomas' Parish. My siblings in Christ, I commend to your love and care your new Rector, colleague, and friend, Lisa.

Blessing

The Bishop blesses the people, after which the people respond)

People: Amen

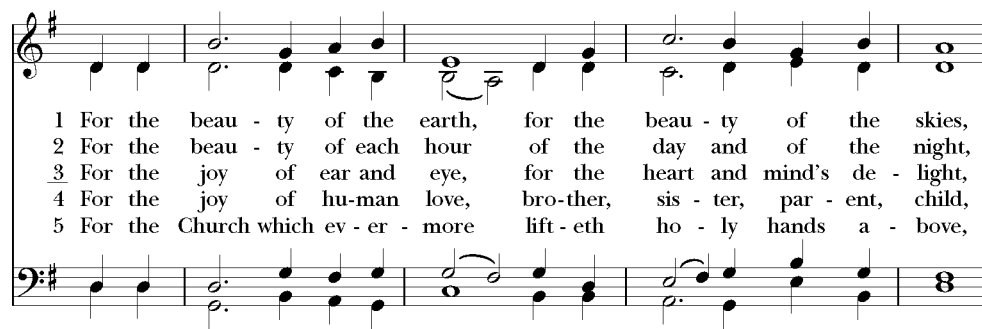
Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

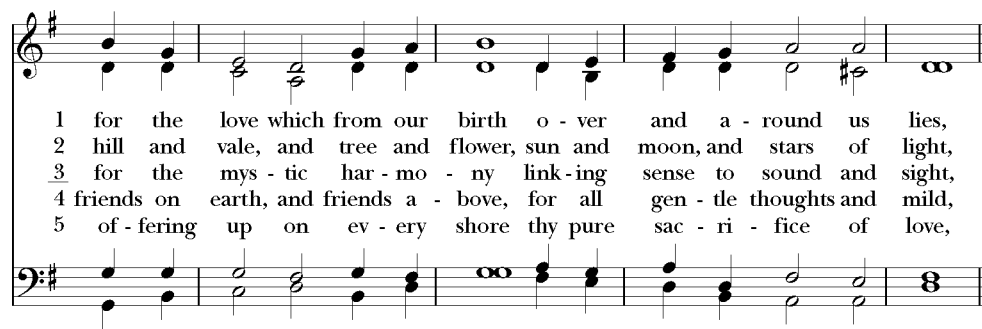
People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 416

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

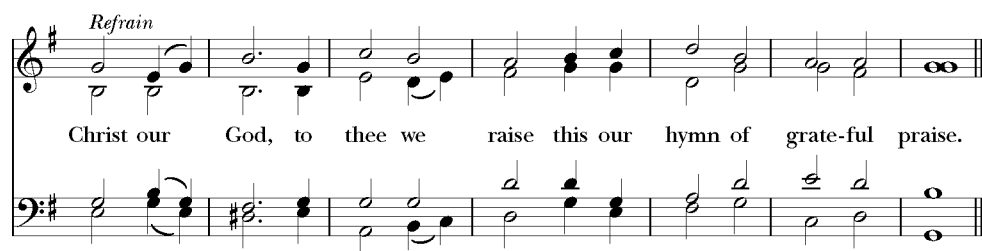


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,



1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

Refrain



Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine
 to the world so freely given,
 faith and hope and love divine,
 peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

Our hymns today are reprinted under One License # A-734785.

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ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

Announcements for Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 31, 2021

A NOTE FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear St. Thomas' Parish,

The short prayer that follows our litany at our Celebration of New Ministry comes from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians,

*Glory to God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

*Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church,
and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.*



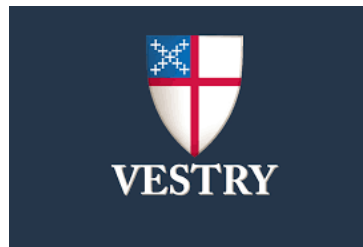
Because everything for our Celebration of New Ministry has been prerecorded, it feels like a wonderful week of creative celebrating! I give thanks for the opportunity to serve as your Rector. Salil and I are grateful for your warm welcome to our parish community. I am grateful for the ways God has been present with us in the last year. I look forward to our mutual ministry in the years to come!

Following our celebration today, you are invited to stop by the church anytime between 12:30-2:30 pm to pick up Holy Communion from our service and a rose or two from our gorgeous flower arrangements. Please note: this will take place outdoors, and bathrooms will be unavailable.

God bless you,
Lisa+

2020 Giving Statement

Thank you for your generous financial contributions in 2020. 2020 Giving Statements, which include financial gifts made to the operating and capital campaign were sent out on Wednesday through Realm. Please do be in touch with Nolan in the parish office with any questions at administrator@stthomasdc.org.



Annual Meeting- Save the Date – Sunday, February 7

The St. Thomas' Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 following our 10:30 am service on Zoom. Never been to an annual meeting for a church? This year's meeting will include a celebration of the highlights from 2020, a presentation of the 2021 budget, reports from the Wardens and Rector, a written report from all of our ministries, election of new Vestry leaders, and the presentation of bylaw amendments for parish approval.

Thank you to the Vestry Nominating Committee for their work sharing the ministry of Vestry with members of our parish.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish 2021 Vestry Slate

Wardens

1. Senior Warden – Gregory Zitterkob*

Gregory has been an active member of St. Thomas' Parish since 2007. In addition to serving on the vestry, he is a Lay Eucharistic Minister and member of the Outreach Committee. Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, he moved to DC from New Orleans where he attended law school. He is an attorney in private practice and lives in Logan Circle with his boyfriend, Ryan, who is also a parishioner.



2. Junior Warden – Karen Garlick*

Karen is a long-time resident of Washington, attending college and graduate school in the city and then, staying for a career in the city's museum, library, and archives community. Her journey to St. Thomas did not begin with the intentional "church shopping" that brings many to a new place of worship, but rather with the spontaneous (and surprising) decision to walk into a 5:00 Sunday service 7 years ago, after decades of passing by the church on her way from "here to there." It felt like home from the start, and she soon experienced that *welcoming embrace* that marks St. Thomas as an inclusive, vibrant, and nourishing faith community. She was received into the Episcopal Church in 2016, is a member of the choir, has served on the Vestry and Inclusion Committee, and co-chaired the last music director search team.



Vestry Members

3. Jason Crighton (current vestry, continuing for optional 3rd year)*

Jason has been a member of St. Thomas' Parish since 2015, where he serves as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. He is a Lay Alternate Deputy to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, representing the Diocese of Washington. Previous experience includes business development for a bespoke industrial thermoplastic design firm, logistical support for the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and campaign consulting. A son and grandson of British immigrants to Canada and the United States, Jason was baptized into the Church of England. In 2019, he was confirmed into the Episcopal Church by St Thomas' Parish Bishop-in-Residence Gene Robinson at Washington National Cathedral. Jason received degrees in Communications & Sociology and studied British Politics at the London School of Economics. His free time includes community organizing and calligraphy.



4. Jane Saari (current vestry, continuing for optional 3rd year)*

Jane moved to Washington from New York City in 1990 to volunteer for one year at a residence for homeless women dealing with substance abuse. When the year was up, she decided to remain in Washington and worked at a law firm until her retirement. Baptized and confirmed a Lutheran, Jane was received into the Episcopal Church in 2016. She has been attending St. Thomas' since 2013. She has served as a greeter and is a member of the Vestry and a reader. She initiated St. Thomas' Annual Tacky Christmas Sweater Party.

Jane is an avid reader and knitter who has donated countless scarves and baby hats to various charities. She also does yarnbombing in the neighborhood.



Nominated for a new term

5. Reggie Greer*

Reggie served as the LGBTQ+Engagement Director for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' 2020 campaign - where he worked to include every LGBTQ+ voice in their winning coalition. After several years working in engagement-related roles, Reggie joined the Biden-Harris campaign after serving as Constituent Engagement Director at LGBTQ Victory Institute where he supported LGBTQ+ elected and appointed leaders around the country.



Prior to joining Victory, Reggie served as Deputy Director of Public Engagement at the United States Department of Transportation where he developed strategies for effective communication and engagement with thousands of transportation stakeholders across every mode on key White House and Departmental priorities. Appointed by President Barack Obama and Secretary Anthony Foxx in May 2014, Reggie served as the Department's liaison to the White House Business Council, engaging business leaders across the country on a wide range of transportation-related initiatives, programs, and issues. Reggie began his tenure at the Department as a special assistant to Secretary Foxx. And, in 2016, Reggie was appointed to serve on Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's LGBTQ Advisory Committee. In 2009, Reggie received his Bachelor of Arts in Government and History from Georgetown University, having concentrated his studies in education and social policy.

6. Noel Miller*

Noel is a lifelong Episcopalian, having been raised in the Episcopal church in her hometown of Portland, Oregon. She has been a member of St. Thomas' Parish for over 10 years, having found a kind and loving family in the Parish community. Noel has served as a reader, a Godly Play teacher, and on the Children's Ministry Team. She is the mother of 2 year old Fiadh Kennedy, who was baptized in the Parish on Pentecost in 2019. Noel and her family live in Virginia and look forward to a non-COVID future when they can return to their usual Sunday trips into DC as a family.



7. Brett Snyder*

Brett Snyder was raised in Reading, Pennsylvania, and moved to Washington, D.C. after college. Brett is an attorney who practices energy law and is married to Jason Forman. He has been a member of St. Thomas' since 2003 and was received into the Episcopal Church in 2010. He was a member of the Building Committee for the entirety of the planning and construction of our new building.



8. John Trumbo*

John grew up and was baptized as a Southern Baptist. As a young adult, he became an active member of the Metropolitan Community Church. He was then confirmed as an Episcopalian at St. James' Parish Capitol Hill by the late Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon in 2002 where he served as Lector before attending St. Thomas' Parish in 2004. John has served on St. Thomas' Pastoral Care, Communications, and Discernment Committees, as well as Lector, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Healing Minister, and Taize Homilist. He has volunteered with outreach ministries at Christ House and the Transitional Housing Corp. From 2011 - 2013, John represented St. Thomas' in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Professionally, John is a writer with a master's degree in nonfiction. He currently creates and curates patient-friendly web content on clinical conditions for a national healthcare association and enjoys writing Prayers of the People for the Parish.



9. Brian Crane (remains on the Vestry for his second year of service)

Brian started attending St. Thomas' early in the ministry of Jim Holmes. He served one term on the vestry as the secretary late in Jim Holmes' ministry, during which time we oversaw the dramatic redesign of the garden. Over the years he has taught Sunday school, chaired the pastoral care committee, been active with adult education, and served on several discernment committees. Last year he started singing with the choir. Brian looks forward to the opportunity to serve my parish community on the vestry again as we continue exploring ministry



** **Bolded** are candidates who will be voted on*

Documents will be sent out in a special packet of information through our Phoenix email list, but if you require a hard copy, we'd be happy to mail them to you. We will have an information session about the bylaw amendments this Sunday. Please email Nolan (administrator@stthomasdc.org) if you'd like a copy mailed to you.



ANNUAL MEETING



Here is our Zoom online schedule for this coming week.

Sunday, January 31: **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY AND
 INSTALLATION OF REV. LISA AHUJA AS RECTOR
 9:30 am **Identifying and Sharing Your Spiritual Gifts**
 10:30 am Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)
 11:15 am Coffee Hour on Zoom
 12:30 -2:30 pm Holy Communion distribution at St. Thomas Parish (outside)

Monday, February 1:
 6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Tuesday, February 2:
 6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Wednesday, February 3:
 6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship with Taize Chant

Thursday, February 4:
 5:45-6:30 pm Spanish Conversation with AI
 6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Friday, February 5:
 6:30-7:30 pm Yoga and Prayer (different Zoom link -please see announcement below with details)

Sunday, February 7: **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 9:30 am **Identifying and Sharing Your Spiritual Gifts**
 10:30 am Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)
 11:15 am Annual Meeting

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'

Communion Distribution after Celebration of New Ministry and Installation

From 12:30-2:30 TODAY, you are invited to stop by the church to receive Holy Communion which will be pre-packaged. This will also be a nice opportunity to wave at one another from a distance and celebrate this joyous occasion. This will all take place outdoors. If you are unable to make it to the church, we have volunteers who are happy to make a delivery. Please email Rev. Lisa if you'd like communion delivered at lahuja@stthomasdc.org.

Gifts for the Celebration of New Ministry

We will be starting a Little Library which is filled with books by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) authors. Please consider offering a book (new or used) by a BIPOC author or contributing funds for our Little Library. This is a great place to share forward books from our own anti-racism studies in the past year.

It is also a custom in the Church to take an offering for the Rector's Discretionary Fund at a Celebration of New Ministry. This money is to be used to support needs in the community. Examples of how these funds have been used by Rev. Lisa in the last year: diapers and formula purchases, assistance in paying for an education certificate necessary for employment, rental assistance, food for families in need. You'll hear the bishop make an appeal to give generously for this fund at our service.

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.

#Epiphany2021



Identify and Share your Spiritual Gifts.

Join us at 9:30!

**Sun 1/31: Episcopal tradition
about the gifts of the Spirit**

**Sun 2/7: How can I discern my gifts
of the Spirit?**

**Sun 2/14: How can I share my gifts
with my community?**

Identifying and Sharing your Spiritual Gifts-

Join members of the Stewardship and Ministry Committee for a three-week class January 31-February 14th in Identifying and Sharing your Spiritual Gifts. We will meet from 9:30-10:15 am on our Zoom Code for study, worship, and fellowship.



Sacred Ground

Please join us as St. Thomas' Parish undertakes the Episcopal Church's anti-racism course, **Sacred Ground**.

This powerful course is a 10-week series (with two breaks for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week) using documentaries and readings to discuss racism and faith in our nation. The Rector and Vestry urge all members of our community to participate in this important and vital dialogue on racism.

Jessie Brewster and Jason Forman will be co-facilitating the series.

The series will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm on the Worship Zoom link and will end by 8:30 pm. The dates of the session will be February 3, 10, & 24; March 3, 10, 17, & 24; and April 7, 14, & 21.

We have had a robust series of formation events during the pandemic. Sacred Ground will be the focus of our formation events starting February 3rd, through Lent, and ending in the Easter season.

We'll be reading chapters each week in two books: **Waking Up White**, and **Finding Myself in the Story of Race** by Debby Irving and **Jesus and the Disinherited** by Howard Thurman

Both of these books often sell out (which is a blessing). I would urge you to order now from your local bookstore, bookshop.org, <https://www.politics-prose.com/>, or www.amazon.com. Please contact the church office if you need financial assistance buying the books.

There will also be one assigned documentary each week and other short readings. For more information, see <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>

Please sign up for Sacred Ground using this link: <https://forms.gle/LVTP5WfCaFDKyyUa8>



Yoga and Prayer Looks to the Light: Finding Sacred Ground in Fractured Times

In Partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, Evening Prayer on Fridays will be streamed from our building.

New Class Schedule January 8 to February 12

Join us in the Epiphany season for a return to the light. We will gather **Fridays at 6:30 pm (via Zoom)** to center ourselves with simple yoga and prayer.

Within a framework drawn from the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*, we explore ancient 'Wisdom' writings and contemporary poetry that resonate in today's world. Yoga sequences take us more deeply into a weekly theme tied to current events and Epiphany season miracles. Come as often as you like. Only one sign-up needed for all six weeks. You can begin any week and drop-ins and newcomers welcome.

About the Instructor:

The Rev. Diana V. Gustafson has led innovative yoga and prayer at a number of churches in the Diocese of Washington. She is a Registered Yoga Teacher (500 -hour certificate) who trained at several studios in the Washington area. She received her M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary and most recently served as a Curate at All Souls Episcopal Church. This event is hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and St. Thomas' on Dupont Circle.

A Zoom link will be emailed in advance of the start of each class.

[Sign up here now!](#)

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>.



Diapers Needed--- Size 6

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have listened to the needs of our local community and tried to respond faithfully. We've donated lots of diapers, wipes, formula, and more to young, low-income families from Central America served by The United Planning Organization (UPO) in Columbia Heights.

St. Thomas' Member Al, serves as a social worker at (UPO), and shares that **there is a current need for diapers in size 6**. Al lives near St. Thomas' Parish on Beekman Place, NW. Call or email him for address or drop off 202-604-3084 or allanosdc@gmail.com

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)
Naomi Ashworth (January 9)
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)
John Coonrod (January 31)

***If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at
administrator@stthomasdc.org.***

Parish Prayer List

Naomi Ashworth
Matthew Briggs
Peggyann Cohen
Jerry Donahoe

John Fallon
Jan Harrison
Mark Herzog
Kristin Jones

Mike Knapp
Dave Kucharski
Linda Long-Jarosik
Bishop Gene Robinson

For the repose of the soul of:

Charlotte Anderson

Mary Lou Commiso

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	mlodico@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

1517 18th Street NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 808-3326
www.stthomasdc.org ✉ info@stthomasdc.org

