



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



Last Sunday after the Epiphany - The Transfiguration February 14, 2021

Opening Hymn 129 "Christ Upon the Mountain Peak"

1 Christ up - on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came. God pro - claim - ing
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and pro - phets

glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
li - jah speak - ing. All the pro - phets and the Law
in its thun - der Je - sus as his Son by name!
fade be - fore him; first and last and on - ly One,

with the saints and an - gels praise him. Al - le - lu - ia!
 shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Na - tions cry a - loud in won - der! Al - le - lu - ia!
 let cre - a - tion now a - dore him! Al - le - lu - ia!

Opening Acclamation

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

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Glory to God - LEVAS 243

Glo - ry,
 Glo - ry,
 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, — Glo - ry,
 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. —

Verses:

1 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

2 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

3 Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

Refrain

4 You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

5 You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

6 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

7 You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Refrain

Amen.

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Psalm 50: 1-6

(read by all)

1 The God of gods has spoken; *

God has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *

God is revealed in glory.

- 3 O God, you will come and will not keep silence; *
before you there is a consuming flame,
and round about you a raging storm.
- 4 You call the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of your people.
- 5 “Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice.”
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of your cause, *
for you alone are judge.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 9: 2-9

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Mariann and Chilton, bishops of the Diocese of Washington; for Lisa and Gene, clergy of our parish; for this online worship gathering; and for all ministers and people. We pray especially for our parish as we raise up and equip new leaders for our Vestry and thank outgoing leaders for their dedication and care.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the brokenness and division in our world, especially in our nation. We pray for guidance to examine and repent of our own individual and collective participation in institutional racism. We pray for Joe, our President, Kamala, our Vice President, and all who have been elected to lead in our government.

Pray for justice and peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, remembering especially the multitude of those who have died of COVID-19 around the world. We also pray for those who have died alone or separated from family. We pray comfort for those who grieve.

Pray for those who have died, and those who grieve.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those on our parish prayer list.

Silence

I invite you to share your prayers of petition or thanksgiving, in silence, aloud, or written in the chat or comment box.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

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.*



Commissioning of New Wardens and Vestry Members:

(The newly elected and appointed leaders gather at the front of the altar.)

Celebrant: I call upon and present our newly elected Senior Warden, Gregory Zitterkob to present the rest of the Vestry.

Senior warden: On behalf of the congregation of St. Thomas' Parish, I present:
Karen Garlick for Junior Warden
Jason Crighton, Reggie Greer, Noel Miller, Jane Saari, Brett Snyder, John Trumbo as Vestry Members.

Celebrant: Have these leaders been elected by the congregation in accordance with the bylaws of our congregation?

Senior warden: They have.

Celebrant: *(to the new leaders)* Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed?

Leaders: I do.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

Leaders: I do.

Celebrant: *(to the congregation)* Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

Congregation: **We will.**

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation I commission you for this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Baby Blessing

Celebrant:

Dear Friends: The birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the Christian community. I bid you, therefore, to join *Ashley and Tyler* in giving thanks to Almighty God, for the gift of *Naomi*, to be their child, *Abigail*, for a new sister.

Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon this family. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.



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 LEVAS 196 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

1. What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine,
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way,
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

1. Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; What a bless - ed - ness,
 2. Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; O how bright the path
 3. Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; I have bless - ed peace

1. what a peace is mine, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 2. grows from day to day, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 3. with my Lord so near, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Blessing

Celebrant: Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people. And the blessing of the Triune God, Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit rest upon you this day and remain with you forever.

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 Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 14, 2021

A NOTE FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear St. Thomas' Parish,

Next Wednesday, February 17, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent is a contemplative time inviting us to turn toward Christ. We do this through examination, study, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines that draw us nearer to God. As we approach this holy season, we are invited to consider taking on a new practice or participating in a study or activity to draw nearer to Christ. Here are some options here at our parish:



Lent at St. Thomas' Parish

Ash Wednesday:

Our worship service for Ash Wednesday will be available on Facebook and the website starting at 9:00 am, and if you'd like to gather with a group to worship via Zoom, please join us at 6:30 pm. I invite you to stop by the church this Sunday from 12:30-2:30 pm or on Ash Wednesday to pick up Holy Communion and Ashes. We will have a table set up outside, and due to COVID precautions, I will not be placing ashes on your foreheads. Instead, we invite you to take the ashes and place them on your forehead during the service.

The Stations of the Cross:

Our set of the Stations of the Cross will be placed in our office windows facing Church St. alongside prayer and meditations. You are invited to walk the stations of the cross during the season of Lent. They will be placed in our windows on Ash Wednesday.

The Way of Love in Lent:

Our Sunday morning study February 21 – March 14 will focus on the Episcopal Church's curriculum which offers seven practices for a Jesus Centered Life. Our scripture for the Sunday services will include one designated lesson for each practice From Ash

Wednesday-Easter. John Trumbo has written our Prayers of the People to include these practices for the Way of Love.

Lenten Madness:

Forward Movement offers a fun and educational activity each Lent called Lenten Madness. Lenten Madness uses a bracket system like March Madness (basketball) to showcase different saints of the Church.

“The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the round of the Saintly Sixteen, eight make it to the round of the Elite Eight, four make it to the Faithful Four, two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.” Get your bracket and learn more at: www.lentmadness.org

Here is a link to a promo video: <https://youtu.be/mDwexvPoOvQ>

God bless you,
Lisa+

Hearing From Those We've Hurt Bishop Mariann



I would like to apologize for the hurt caused in inviting Max Lucado to preach at Washington National Cathedral, and for not heeding the appeals that came to Dean Hollerith and me prior to Sunday, February 7 asking us to reconsider. I didn't take the time to truly listen to your concerns. In a desire to welcome a wide variety of Christian voices to the Cathedral pulpit and on the assumption that Max Lucado no longer believed the painful things he said in 2004, I made you feel at risk and unwelcome in your spiritual home. I am sorry.

In the days since, I have heard from those who were not only wounded by things Max Lucado has said and taught, but equally wounded by the decision to welcome him into the Cathedral's pulpit. I didn't realize how deep those wounds were and how unsafe the world can feel. I should have known better.

More than apology, we seek to make amends. As a beginning, we invite all who wish to speak of their experiences in the church as LGBTQ+ persons and their allies to join Dean Hollerith and me for a listening session on Sunday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. EST. [Register for the discussion](#)

I share, with permission, excerpts from some of the people who wrote to me this week. Their voices are the ones we did not listen to, and theirs the pain endured by our actions. I am listening now, and so is Dean Hollerith.

*** As a gay man of faith who grew up in the south, my parents were heavily influenced by Mr. Lucado's words of hate. It took years for me to work with them to overcome rhetoric such as from Mr. Lucado and for them to find the Grace to accept that I am not only a gay man, but a gay Christian. This was a painful process for us both, and while certainly Mr. Lucado is not solely responsible for the unfortunate homophobia that exists within many denominations of Christianity, he has certainly had a harmful impact on the LGBTQ+ rights movement within Christian circles and has actively contributed to a culture of hatred and exclusion within Christianity. ***

*** As the mother of a transgender child, I am sad and confused about the choice to invite him. . . Sadly my child does not feel that we have "won." As a transfeminine person, gay marriage is no real victory as they worry if they will even make it past 30 living in the identity that they do. Every*

*day is a battle to be in the world - a world that fears people like my child and very often extinguishes them. ***

*** In truth, I still had to force myself to listen to Lucado's message. Though he had some insightful things to say, having lived in the South for 59 years, I could feel the underlying condemnation that Lucado and his followers have cast upon the LGBT people, but also anyone who does not buy into their dogma. Because of this type of message, I am estranged from my family because after 50 years I finally tired of my mother and sister's condemnation of me for my lifestyle. The irony of it all is that I have spent my entire life in service to G-d and the church. ***

*** This morning in my quiet time, I was pondering why the events of this past weekend were so upsetting and why I am still so shaken. I know analogies don't always land but my stunning and brilliant wife suggested this one: You're at a family dinner and the man who abused you is there. He has never confessed or tried to heal things. Your mother knows of the abuse, invites him anyway, and suggests (again) that it's important for you not to bring up the abuse and to be polite because he is family. This is not the first time she has invited those who hurt members of the family in this way. And each time those who have borne the brunt of the abuse are expected to be silent -- and even expected to eagerly learn from them. And this time it's not just a regular dinner, it's a special Sunday dinner. He's given the place of honor at the head of the table and expected to ask God's blessing. ***

*** My husband and I were saddened by the invitation extended to Max Lucado to preach from the Canterbury pulpit. It leaves us feeling shaken and unsure. The decision to invite Bishop Gene Robinson to preside on Sunday felt like a strange appeasement. . . Marriage equality is not the only issue for the LGBTQ community and our families. Trans people are murdered every day on our streets and young people who identify as LGBTQ end their own lives in terrifying numbers. We are left feeling hurt and disregarded. The Cathedral ploughed right ahead to provide a platform to Rev. Lucado, even though it must have been apparent the hurt this was causing. As a gay couple in our 50's, we have always been aware that our society often feels it can debate our right to happiness, or even whether we can be full participants in the church. ***

*** Certainly you must know the deep harm caused by the conversion therapies Max Lucado supports, and that conversion therapies have been rejected as "dangerous and discredited" by the American Psychiatric Association. You must know the alarming suicide rates among LGBTQ teens who have been subjected to the unholy torture of conversion therapy. If you have never had the experience of pastoring a family through the suicide of their teen, I do not wish that on you. If you have, you understand what it means that 40% of LGBTQ teens say they have seriously considered suicide. To hear you say we must "find common ground" and step out of our "echo chambers" made me weep. ***

*** Living in San Antonio for 15 years, we got the full experience of evangelical Christianity and the types of people who fund Rev. Lucado's church, which wasn't far from our first home there. I've been denied hospital chaplain positions, had to hide my spouse's identity when I worked as a private school chaplain, been yelled at by parents as I protected our LGBTQIA students' right to have a special interest group as part of our overall club structure, etc. Had my elderly parents not needed me, I would still be living in the UK where I had more civil rights than I do in my home state in a country whose uniform I wore proudly for 22 years, albeit in the closet. No, we don't know how this ends. ***

*** Part of my ministry in the world is as a church finder for wounded seekers who want to return to a safe Christian community. Some are gay people recovering from being kicked out of their churches or from years of hearing that they are less than from pastors like Max Lucado. Some are women recovering from harsh fundamentalist traditions. Max Lucado is a person who has no doubt inflicted this kind of harm on LGBTQ+ Christians and likely, women, as well. I am also writing as the mother of a transgender queer child who has grown up in the Episcopal Church, worshiped in person and online at the National Cathedral, and who has found loving acceptance in her home church. To see the Cathedral celebrating this preacher is hurtful. ***

*** If you are not hearing and seeing the LGBTQIA+ Episcopalians and allies who are saying, "I'm not sure I'm safe, I'm not sure I belong, I'm not sure I can trust the leadership of this denomination, I'm not sure I should keep sharing my gifts in this institution...", then perhaps you need to do some prayerful looking and listening. I have been seeing words like that everywhere I look, over the past few days. . . And it doesn't help at all to tell people, "This is just the National Cathedral, it doesn't say anything about our parish/diocese." What people see and hear is that Episcopal church leaders claim to have their backs, but do things that hurt them, and then don't listen when they speak up. That tarnishes all of us. It damages our witness and ministry churchwide. ***

*** If the invited preacher were a known white supremacist would the Cathedral make the same accommodations for him? Isn't racial equality an undebatable subject? Wouldn't the harm to people of color be immediately spotted given history and the church's history? I would say it is comparable for LGBT people, the cost. ***

*** Inviting Mr Lucado to preach at your pulpit was irresponsible. He does not share our view of Christ's Love. He puts people in the category of "other." He represents a tradition of white men in power who diminish women, gays, black and brown people, and anyone who resists their power. . . He represents a throughline to those who have used God's name to demean me -- because I am adopted from an unwed mother, because I am a survivor of sexual assault, because I am gay. With one action, you turned what I have valued as a safe space every Sunday since the start of the pandemic to one which -- at least for one Sunday -- was unsafe. ***

*** I would be remiss not to call this out -- "THIS IS US!". . . These actions are not one-offs, and involve all marginalized groups. These actions are a manifestation of the ugliness that's in "us" within the Episcopal Church -- TEC and across dioceses, including EDOW. I implore you to openly acknowledge this reality in the Episcopal Church -- the work of striving for justice and peace is as important inside the Episcopal Church as it is in the world outside of our corporate body. ***

Reading your words has broken my heart, and I will carry them going forward. Thanks to all who have written or posted about your thoughts, feelings, and lived experiences. Your courage in speaking out should not have been necessary. Again, I am sorry for the pain we inflicted.

Once more, I invite all who wish to speak of their experiences in the church as LGBTQ+ persons and their allies to join Dean Hollerith and me on Sunday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. EST. [Register for the discussion](#)

In addition, I invite you to read a message from Dean Hollerith.

May God order our steps going forward.

Bishop Mariann



• **February 10, 2021**

Dear friends,

In my 31 years of ordained ministry, I have had the honor of walking with people through the range of human emotions: joy at the birth of a child, the excitement of a new marriage, the painful sting of death, the tragedy of a failed relationship.

As a priest, it is easy to sojourn with people through the good times. The painful times — those are much harder. They are harder still when, however well-intentioned, you have done something to contribute to that pain.

This past Sunday, I invited the Rev. Max Lucado to preach at Washington National Cathedral. He and I disagree on many things, but I invited him because I believed him to be a man of deep faith. Moreover, I hoped his



presence would be a step toward building new bridges to the evangelical community. What I did not know was that he also had written and said some horrific things about LGBTQ people. However, that is no excuse.

Later, when people pointed out those writings to me, when they tried to tell me they were hurting because of this invitation, I didn't listen. In my straight privilege I failed to see and fully understand the pain he has caused. I failed to appreciate the depth of injury his words have had on many in the LGBTQ community. I failed to see the pain I was continuing. I was wrong and I am sorry.

In my attempt to build new relationships with others, I didn't see how my actions were damaging already cherished relationships with those who have been hurt by words and teachings of religious leaders like Reverend Lucado. And for that I apologize.

Was it a mistake to invite Max Lucado to preach at the Cathedral? Seeing all too clearly now the pain that it caused and the trauma it resurrected for so many, I know that it was. I made a mistake and I am sorry.

In my first sermon at the Cathedral in 2016, I preached on Isaiah's call to be repairers of the breach. That mandate has been the guiding principle of my tenure as dean and remains so.

I am committed to that work, but I regret the pain, hurt and disappointment I have caused during this misguided attempt to do that work. It is important that we seek reconciliation and relationship with those with whom we disagree, but not at the expense of the sacred dignity and worth of our LGBTQ friends and families.

Bishop Budde and I have heard from so many people who were hurt by our decisions; we are still listening. We invite you to join us for an online [public discussion](#) on Sunday Feb. 21 at 7 pm ET as we seek to move together to become the people God calls us to be. I hope to see you there.

With every blessing,

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean, Washington National Cathedral

Here is our Zoom online schedule for this coming week.

- Sunday, February 14:** **LAST 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 Coffee Hour
12:30-2:30 pm Holy Communion and Ashes Distribution
- Monday, February 15:**
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
- Tuesday, February 16:** **MARDI GRAS**
6:30-8:00 pm **Fat Tuesday Fun – Zoom Mardi Gras Party**
- Wednesday, February 17:** **ASH WEDNESDAY**
9:00 am Worship Service uploaded to Facebook and the Website
9:00 am-1:00 pm Ashes and Holy Communion – outside of the church
4:00-6:00 pm Ashes and Holy Communion – outside of the church
- Thursday, February 18:**
5:45-6:30 pm Spanish Conversation with AI
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
- Friday, February 19:**
6:30-7:30 pm Yoga and Prayer (different Zoom link -please see announcement below with details)
- Sunday, February 21:** **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
9:30 am Way of Love Study
10:30 am Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)
11:15 am Coffee Hour

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'

Holy Communion and Ashes Distribution on Sunday, February 14

From 12:30-2:30 TODAY, February 14, you are invited to stop by the church to receive Holy Communion which will be pre-packaged. If you are unable to come to the church to receive pre-packaged ashes on Ash Wednesday, please pick them up at this time instead. 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 holy communion or ashes delivered at lahuja@stthomasdc.org.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17 is Ash Wednesday. We will have a station outside of our church to receive holy communion and ashes from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Our worship for Ash Wednesday will be a pre-recorded video uploaded onto Facebook by 9:00 am. You will be invited to impose these blessed ashes on your forehead during the service.

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.



Fat Tuesday Fun – Mardi Gras Zoom Party

The Stewardship and Ministry Committee invites you to a Mardi Gras Party on Zoom from 6:30-8:00 pm on Tuesday, February 16. Dress up if you'd like! Bring something delicious to eat!

Study with St. Thomas'

#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.



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 February Birthdays

Dave Kucharski (February 9)
Bettina Hager (February 11)
Jean Holman (February 13)
Mamta Ravindran (February 27)

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

Parish Prayer List

Matthew Briggs
Peggyann Cohen
Jerry Donahoe
Zakaria el fatihi

Jan Harrison
Mark Herzog
Kristin Jones
Mike Knapp

Dave Kucharski
Linda Long-Jarosik
Bishop Gene Robinson
Chester Thompson

For the repose of the soul of:

Mary Lou Commiso

DaSha Montgomery

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

Gregory Zitterkob, Senior Warden
Karen Garlick, Junior Warden
Jennie Allison, Treasurer
Brian Crane, Jason Crighton, Reggie Greer, Noel Miller,
Jane Saari, Brett Snyder, John Trumbo

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	
Tyrone Moore	Sexton	

St. Thomas' Parish

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www.stthomasdc.org ✉ info@stthomasdc.org

