



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



First Sunday after Christmas – December 26, 2021

Welcome to St. Thomas' Parish and to our online Christmas worship! Your presence amongst us overflows our joy. Together, we all tell the Good News of God's love in Christ. Sing and pray with us as you are comfortable.

Prelude

Movement I from Violin Sonata No. 4 G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
Peter Mellinger, violin with Karen Garlick, piano

Opening Hymn 100

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

Opening Acclamation

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

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Song of Praise 96

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Psalm 147

Saint Helena Psalter

(read by all)

- 1 Alleluia! How good it is to sing praises to you, O God; *
how pleasant it is to honor you with praise!
- 2 For you rebuild Jerusalem *
and gather the exiles of Israel.
- 3 You heal the brokenhearted *
and bind up their wounds.
- 4 You count the number of the stars *
and call them all by their names.
- 5 Great are you and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to your wisdom.
- 6 You lift up the lowly, *
but cast the wicked to the ground.
- 7 We sing to you, Most High, with thanksgiving; *
we make music to you upon the harp,
- 8 For you cover the heavens with clouds *
and prepare rain for the earth;
- 9 You make grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve humankind.
- 10 You provide food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 You are not impressed by the might of a horse; *
you have no pleasure in human strength;
- 12 But you have pleasure in those who fear you, *
in those who await your gracious favor.
- 13 Worship God, O Jerusalem; *
praise your Sovereign, O Zion;
- 14 For the Holy One has strengthened the bars of your gates *
and has blessed your children within you.
- 15 Peace has been established on your borders; *
you are satisfied with the finest wheat.
- 16 You send out your command to the earth, *
and your word runs very swiftly.
- 17 You give snow like wool *
and scatter hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 You scatter your hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against your cold?
- 19 You send forth your word and melt them; *
you blow with your wind and the waters flow.
- 20 You declare your word to Jacob, *
your statutes and your judgments to Israel.
- 21 You have not done so to any other nation; *
to them you have not revealed your judgments. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

John 1: 1-18

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon: 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

Intercessor: Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ Child; Draw us, your Church, and all your people to you – that we might be the Church, and the people you call us to be.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence; fill us with your Spirit and a desire for justice and peace on earth. Renew our lives.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' light, and kings to the brightness of his rising; draw our nation, our President, our Congress, our mayor, and all in authority, to Christ's brightness.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; bring to us your peace, and bring an end to terror and strife in our world.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; help us to be present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As the holy family gathered together in Bethlehem; bless all families, especially the families of our parish. We remember tonight families who ache to be together.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal; give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine on them.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant:

O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this season, and of your Son's incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: May the peace of Christ rule our world and heal our hearts.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

✠*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

Offertory

Jessie Eddie and Karen Garlick, sopranos

There is No Rose

Melchior Vulpius (1580-1615)

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The ushers will collect a financial offering during the Offertory. If you'd prefer to give electronically to our operating funds, please text STTHOMASDC (\$) to 73256 or follow the QR Code.



When you scan this QR Code with your phone's camera, it will take you directly to St. Thomas' website's Giving Page.

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.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

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.

Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

People: Amen

Closing Hymn 109 "The First Nowell"

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in Peace! Proclaim the Word made Flesh!

People: Thanks be to God.

Our hymns today are reprinted under One License # A-734785. Spoken liturgy reprinted from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Public domain.



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

Announcements for December 26, 2021



*I will light candles this Christmas.
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all of my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.*

~ Howard Thurman



End of the Year Financial Plans

A big thank you to our community for faithfully fulfilling pledges, and for communicating when it has been difficult to fulfill your pledge. This has helped us to be good stewards of all of the gifts shared with us this year, and to plan well.

End of the year pledges, capital pledges, Christmas offerings, and financial gifts

Our parish office will be closed the week after Christmas (December 27– December 31). Please do know that if you have a pledge or financial gift you would like to include in your 2021 taxes, we need to receive it electronically by December 31, or by check no later than January 10. Please ensure your check is dated prior to December 31 if you are sending it in the mail or dropping it off by January 10, 2022. This helps us to follow healthy financial reporting practices.

Pre-paying your 2022 Pledge

If you plan to pre-pay your 2022 pledge before December 31, 2021, please indicate this in the memo of your check or when paying online. This will appear on your end of year giving statement, but on Realm also appear as a fulfilled 2022 pledge on your profile.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ka Lam at administrator@stthomasdc.org or Clay Dursthoff at treasurer@stthomasdc.org with questions about your pledge and/or financial giving.

Here is our Parish Schedule for this coming week.

Sunday, December 26:	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
10:30 am	Worship on Zoom and streamed to Facebook
11:15 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Sorting of Clothing and Toy Donations for the Refugees

The parish office will be closed from December 27 through 31

Wednesday, December 29:	
4:00 - 6:00 pm	Sorting of Clothing and Toy Donations for the Refugees
6:30 - 7:00 pm	Evening Worship on Zoom (with Evening Prayer)

Sunday, January 2:	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
10:30 am	Worship on Zoom and streamed to Facebook
11:15 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Sorting of Clothing and Toy Donations for the Refugees

Zoom Code for worship and parish meetings and Wednesday evening worship:

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)



By the Grace of God and the people consenting
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop of Washington
will ordain
to the Sacred Order of Deacons
in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church
Catherine Manhardt
David Frederick Potter

on Thursday, January 13, 2022
The Feast of Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, 367

7:00 p.m.
at the
Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW,
Washington, District of Columbia

Your prayers and presence are requested.
Clergy: Red Stoles
Clergy planning to process please [rsvp](#)
by January 5, 2022.

A link to watch the liturgy will be posted.
www.edow.org

Scan this QR link to see all of our announcements online.



Take Action with St. Thomas'

Responding to Grief and Joy (and everything in between!) in our Community:

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.

Working with Our Upstairs Neighbors at Capital Clubhouse

Here are three different ways you can volunteer, just one time or more often:

- Are you an IT expert? You can help their keep their computer equipment functioning well.
- Do you like to cook? Work with others to cook food for their monthly Employment Dinners that are held monthly right here at the church.
- Are you good at organizing? They need one or two volunteers to help them organize their space.



For more information, contact Deacon Linda by email: lmahler@stthomasdc.org or by phone: 202-384-9643.



Donate Warm Winter Socks to Our Neighbors in Need

Bring new warm winter socks, sizes 6-12, to St. Thomas'. Parishioner Al Llanos will see that they get distributed to people who need them most in the cold weather.



Volunteer Opportunity at Christ House

St. Thomas' Parish supports Christ House by providing one meal a month for the shelter. The parish provides the food and kitchen crew of four. After serving we eat dinner with the residents. It is a rewarding experience and a great opportunity to fellowship with other parishioners. We are currently putting together a list of those who would be interested in volunteering for one evening. We will have the sign-up list at the registration table at church, or you can talk either Gregory Mackmin or Linda Hollingsworth, or you can email lhollingsworth.hvh@gmail.com. To learn more about Christ House and the medically vulnerable people they serve, visit their website at: <https://christhouse.org/>

Clothing and Toy Collection for Afghan Refugees:

Drop Off Donations at church on Sundays from 12:00-2:00 pm or on Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 pm.

We are accepting the following items:

- New or gently used winter clothing (clean, wearable, and undamaged if used)
- Modest clothing for women (long skirts and dresses, tops with long or ¾ sleeves)
- Socks and shoes (especially infant and toddler shoes)
- Scarves, winter hats, and gloves
- New undergarments
- New toys for children 12 and under in original packaging and unwrapped that don't require English language skills, including dolls, stuffed animals, puzzles, cars and trucks
- NO play guns or other weapons



We are also in need of clean cardboard boxes and people to sort! Please be in touch with David Swanson at dswansondc@gmail.com.

Study with St. Thomas'

"The Path Ahead"- Senior Ministry at St. Thomas'

Deacon Linda Mahler will offer a series that "reframes aging for people of faith" Anyone of any age can participate. "The Path Ahead" is a curriculum on the spirituality of aging developed by Seabury Resources for Aging and the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. The in-person class will be offered on six consecutive Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM from 01/19/2022 through 02/23/2022. For more information or to participate, email Linda M. at: lmahler@stthomasdc.org

"Sacred Ground"- Racial Healing, Reconciliation, and Justice

Take part in Sacred Ground, a 10-week course designed by the Episcopal Church to help build beloved community. Participants are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The powerful curriculum of documentary films and readings focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. The group will meet on Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM beginning on January 18, 2022. To learn more or to sign up, please email Dan Costello at: dancostello3@gmail.com or Linda Hollingsworth at: Hollingsworth.hvh@gmail.com

Celebrating Our December Birthdays

Ryan Winfield (December 8)
Stephen Schembs (December 13)
Chris Norman (December 14)
Benny Young (December 14)
Al Llanos (December 15)

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

Parish Prayer List

John Bisco
Peggyann Cohen
Kevin Costigan
Craig Evertt
Carol Goldman
Pam Greer
Susan Hannan
Jan Harrison

Betsy Hollingsworth
James & Esther Insinga
Kristin Jones
Mike Knapp
Dave Kucharski
Hugo Llanos
Rich Manhardt
Jane Saari

Harvey Shapiro
Joan Shapiro
Mary Jane Smith
Harvey Snyder
Chris Spangler
George Tatterson
Chester Thompson

For the repose of the soul of:
Bill McDonald

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
Clay Dursthoff, Treasurer
Jenn Mahle, Secretary
Brian Crane, Reggie Greer, Jennifer Mahle,
Noel Miller, 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	lmahler@stthomasdc.org
Deacon Linda Mahler	Deacon	mlodico@stthomasdc.org
Michael Lodico	Director of Music	administrator@stthomasdc.org
Ka Lam	Administrator	
Tyrone Moore	Sexton	
Brittany Thomas	Sexton	
Fabian Berrios	Sexton	
Diana Diaz	Nursery Attendant	
Kristine Kwamena-Poh	Nursery Attendant	
Herschel Wade	Seminarian	

St. Thomas' Parish

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