



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE



*Christ  
is  
coming*

## Second Sunday of Advent December 04, 2022

Welcome to St. Thomas' Parish and to the season of Advent! 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. You are welcome to fully participate in every part of this service, including Holy Eucharist (aka the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, or Mass). Nursery Care with a lesson for the day is on the fourth floor. If you would like to learn more about St. Thomas' Parish, the Episcopal Church, or deepening your faith with us please fill out a welcome card and hand it to an usher or clergy person. We will continue to require mask wearing during public worship. Masks will remain optional for meetings, coffee hour and most serving opportunities. Our worship in the season of Advent engages us in expectation and hope for the coming of Christ.

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**Prelude**      **Now Come, Savior of the Nations**

**J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Celebrant:      The Lord be with you.

People:          **And also with you.**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #56 in Blue Hymnal**

**O Come, O Come Emanuel (verses 1-3,5)**

### **Advent Bidding Prayer**

Dear People of God:

In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by God's holy Child Jesus. Let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. We remember in our prayers those who are on our prayer list today.

Finally, let us remember before Christ his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. All of these prayers we offer to you, our loving God. **Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant:

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

### **Trisagion S102 from Blue Hymnal**

(Service music is found at the beginning of the hymnal)

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him,  
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector:           The Word of the Lord

People:           Thanks be to God

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (read by all)**

*Saint Helena Psalter*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son,  
2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice.  
3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.  
4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.  
6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.  
7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
18 Blest are you, O God of Israel; \*  
you alone do wondrous deeds!  
19 And blest is your glorious Name forever! \*  
May all the earth be filled with your glory.  
Amen.

## Second Reading

## Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name"; and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector:           The Word of the Lord

People:           **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn #75 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"** (v. 1-2 before, 3 after gospel)

## The Holy Gospel

## Matthew 3:1-12

*(The Gospel will be proclaimed in both Spanish & English)*

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

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

Por aquel tiempo se presentó Juan el Bautista en el desierto de Judea. En su proclamación decía: «¡Vuélvase a Dios, porque el reino de los cielos está cerca!»

Juan era aquel de quien Dios había dicho por medio del profeta Isaías:

«Una voz grita en el desierto: “Preparen el camino del Señor; ábranle un camino recto.”»

La ropa de Juan estaba hecha de pelo de camello, y se la sujetaba al cuerpo con un cinturón de cuero; su comida era langostas y miel del monte. La gente de Jerusalén y todos los de la región de Judea y de la región cercana al Jordán salían a oírle. Confesaban sus pecados y Juan los bautizaba en el río Jordán.

Pero cuando Juan vio que muchos fariseos y saduceos iban a que los bautizara, les dijo: «¡Raza de víboras! ¿Quién les ha dicho a ustedes que van a librarse del terrible castigo que se acerca? Pórtense de tal modo que se vea claramente que se han vuelto al Señor, y no presuman diciéndose a sí mismos: “Nosotros somos descendientes de Abraham”; porque les aseguro que incluso a estas piedras Dios puede convertirlas en descendientes de Abraham. El hacha ya está lista para cortar los árboles de raíz. Todo árbol que no da buen fruto se corta y se echa al fuego. Yo, en verdad, los bautizo con agua para invitarlos a que se vuelvan a Dios; pero el que viene después de mí los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo y con fuego. Él es más poderoso que yo, que ni siquiera merezco llevarle sus sandalias.

Trae su pala en la mano y limpiará el trigo y lo separará de la paja. Guardará su trigo en el granero, pero quemará la paja en un fuego que nunca se apagará.»

~~~~~

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. “

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon

Nicene Creed

**W**E BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of Christ be always with you. All: And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Birthday Prayer: (said by all)</i><br/>         Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up when they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> | <p><i>Anniversary Prayer: (said by all)</i><br/>         Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, for which your Son gave his life, and surround this couple with your love. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Offertory Music: Never weather-beaten sail      Thomas Campion (1567-1620)**

*Sung by the St. Thomas' Choir*

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,  
never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more,  
Than my weary spirit now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:  
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of heav'n's high Paradise,  
Old age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:  
Glory there the sun outshines; whose beams the Blessed only see:  
O come quickly, come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my soul to Thee!

*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' Giving Page.



**The Great Thanksgiving**    Enriching our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

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 our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,  
source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation.  
Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being:  
sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways.  
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;  
and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.  
Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.  
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels  
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,  
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus: LEVAS #255

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'of the Lord, of the Lord.', 'Ho - san - na in the high -', and 'est, ho - san - na in the high - est'. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a common time signature. The piano part features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
 To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
 and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
 you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
 that she might conceive and bear a son,  
 Jesus the holy child of God.  
 Living among us, Jesus loved us.  
 He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
 healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
 He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
 yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
 the sacrifice of his life,  
 and to be glorified by you

On the night before he died for us,  
 Jesus was at table with his friends.  
 He took bread, gave thanks to you,  
 broke it, and gave it to them, 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.  
Again, he gave thanks to you,  
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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.  
In the fullness of time bring us,  
with St. Thomas and all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared  
from the foundation of the world.  
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. **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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*All are welcome to receive holy communion here at St. Thomas' Parish. The bishop has given the diocese permission to share the bread and wine at communion again. She does not permit us to intinct, or dip, our wafers in the wine. An usher will invite the congregation to come forward row by row to receive. When you come forward, there are two stations to receive bread. Gluten free wafers are available. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this to the priest.*

### Communion Hymn

### Wait for the Lord

### Taizé

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

### Post

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

## 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 forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **Blessing**

Celebrant:

May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgment  
and flame to our longing that our hearts might be ready  
to be born again in love; and the blessing of God Almighty:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn Paperless:**

Open my heart

Composed by Ana Hernandez

## **Dismissal**

Celebrant: As we await our coming Savior, go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

**God's Son Comes to Bless Us**

**J.S. Bach**



The Advent greenery is given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of  
**Bill McDonald and Esther Insinga.**

# DECEMBER 2022

Join us

December 3-4 from 12-5 pm  
Global Holiday Market with One Journey

December 11 at 10:30 am  
Advent 3/Rose Sunday with prayers for Rev. Lisa Ahuja  
on her 15th ordination anniversary

December 14 from 6-8 pm  
Tacky Sweater Christmas Party with Caroling

December 18 at 10:30 am  
Advent Lessons and Carols Service

December 24 at 5 pm  
Christmas Eve service followed by Christmas Dinner

December 25 at 10:30 am  
Christmas Day service with carol singing

St. Thomas' Parish – 1517 18th St NW  
Washington, DC 20036



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

### Letter from the Rector

Welcome to our worship on this second Sunday of Advent! This weekend we have the special joy of welcoming One Journey back for their Refugee Holiday Market. This market celebrates refugee creativity and entrepreneurship. Following the service, I hope you'll join me in supporting the vendors with curiosity about their offerings and maybe a few purchases. We won't be offering food or coffee after the service this week because One Journey will have the coffee and bake sale, and an emerging Syrian chef will be offering hot meals for purchase.

As you read through these announcements which include several Advent and Christmas invitations, please consider who you might invite to join us as we prepare Christ room to enter in again this Christmas.

Advent blessings,

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja, Rector

### End of the Year Financial Plans

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

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

Our parish office will be closed the week after Christmas (December 26– December 30). Please do know that if you have a pledge or financial gift you would like included in your 2022 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, 2023. This helps us to follow healthy financial reporting practices.

### Pre-paying your 2023 Pledge

If you plan to pre-pay your 2023 pledge before December 31, 2022, please indicate this in the memo of your check or when paying online. This will appear on your end of year giving statement, and on Realm appear as a fulfilled 2023 pledge on your profile.

### Workplace Matched Charitable Giving

Does your employer match charitable giving? If so, please know that many employers are happy to match your charitable giving to St. Thomas' Parish. We are registered with Benevity, and happy to assist with paperwork necessary to receive charitable giving from your employer.

## Vestry Slate Announced

Save the date! The St. Thomas' Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023 following our 10:30 am service.

Never been to an annual meeting for a church? This year's meeting will include a celebration of the highlights from 2022, presentation of the 2023 budget, reports from the Wardens and Rector, written report from all our ministries, and the election of new vestry leaders.

Thank you to the Vestry Nominating Committee for their work of discernment on behalf of the parish. The following slate was adopted by our vestry at our November meeting.

### Wardens

1. Senior Warden- Reggie Greer
2. Junior Warden- Karen Garlick

### Vestry Members

3. Noel Miller (current vestry, continuing for optional 3rd year)\*
4. Brett Snyder (current vestry, continuing for optional 3rd year)\*

### Nominated for a new term

4. Amy Doolittle\*
5. Willis Tatterson\*
6. Elizabeth Terry\*

### Vestry Members moving into their second year of service

8. Jasper Knight Champion
9. Jennifer Mahle

\*Candidates up for election are bolded.

## New Vestry Candidate Bios



**Amy Doolittle** grew up near Dayton, Ohio, but has lived in D.C. for over 25 years. She moved here right after law school and works at the same law firm where she started her career. Amy and Tom moved to Dupont Circle in 2015 and joined St. Thomas' parish in 2020 right before the pandemic. Amy has appreciated being part of the Stewardship Committee for the past several years. In her free time, Amy enjoys running (although the miles are fewer and slower the older she gets) and taking care of two energetic coonhounds (Ophelia and Oberon).



**Willis Tatterson** grew up in the Episcopal church and has been an active member ever since. He and his partner, Matt Cohn, have attended St. Thomas' Parish since 2019 and they are active members with the refugee, ushering, and alter guild ministries. Willis found a renewed dedication in his spiritual journey during a recent pilgrimage in Israel, where he studied closely with Bishops, clergy, and parishioners from around the world. Willis says his own personal spiritual goal is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. He is excited to join the vestry and share his knowledge and business acumen to support St. Thomas' parish life, ministries, and financial health. He's thrilled about this new challenge and opportunity.



**Elizabeth Terry** is a DC native and works in higher ed communications. Raised Roman Catholic, she began attending Episcopal services in college and has been active in several churches since then. She first came to St. Thomas' in 2020 and has been very involved in the refugee and migrant welcome ministry over the past year. She's a novice gardener, an excellent cook, and a doting auntie to 7 nieces and nephews.

**GLOBAL HOLIDAY MARKET TODAY!**

**ONE JOURNEY**

GLOBAL  
*Holiday Market*

CELEBRATING REFUGEE CREATIVITY  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**December 3rd & 4th**  
**12pm - 5pm**

St. Thomas Church  
1517 18th St NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Jewelry, Handcrafts, Jams & Preserves, Baked Goods, Art,  
Coffee, Clothing, Accessories, Gifts & more!

[ONEJOURNEYFESTIVAL.ORG](http://ONEJOURNEYFESTIVAL.ORG)

The One Journey movement strives to create a world where refugees and other displaced people are welcomed, valued, and supported so they and their host communities can thrive together.

@1journeymovement @1journeymovement @1journeymovement One Journey Festival



# St. Thomas' Parish

December 4th, 2022 – December 11th, 2022

## Weekly Schedule

### **Sunday, December 4th**

9:30 am to 11:30 am Nursery and Christian Education/Kids Activities (4th floor)  
9:30 am to 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal (2nd floor Nave)  
10:30 am to 11:30 am – Holy Eucharist (2nd Floor Nave)  
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm One Journey Holiday Market (1st Floor, Garden)  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm – East Sea Sword School (4th Floor)

### **Monday, December 5th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)  
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm – AA Meeting (4th floor)

### **Tuesday, December 6th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)  
11:00 am to 12:00pm – Staff meeting (1st floor)

### **Wednesday, December 7th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)

### **Thursday, December 8th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)

### **Friday, December 9th** – Office Hours: 12am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)  
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm – Yoga with Asiya (4th floor)  
8:00 pm to 9:00 pm – NA Meeting (2nd floor)

### **Saturday, December 10th**

9:00 am to 12:00 pm Refugee Welcome  
9:30 am to 1:15 pm – GMCW GenOUT (Nave)

### **Sunday, December 11th**

9:30 am to 11:30 am Nursery and Christian Education/Kids Activities (4th floor)  
9:30 am to 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal (2nd floor Nave)  
10:30 am to 11:30 am – Holy Eucharist (2nd Floor Nave) Advent 3/Rose Sunday  
with prayers for Rev. Lisa Ahuja on her 15th ordination anniversary  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm – East Sea Sword School (4th Floor)



## STUDY WITH ST. THOMAS'

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### Children's Bible Story and Activity

Each week we have a story from holy scripture and activity on the fourth floor during our worship. All children are welcome to attend and will be brought back to worship at the time of the peace. Ushers and greeters are happy to show you the way to the fourth floor.

## TAKE ACTION WITH ST. THOMAS'

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### Welcoming Refugees at St. Thomas' on Saturdays

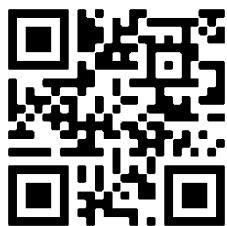
Since May, our parish has served as a welcome site for hundreds of asylum-seekers bused to DC from the southern border. Bus arrivals have been more sporadic in recent weeks, and we now are holding Saturday "mini respites" - shorter timeslots (8 am until about noon) where we welcome newcomers who have arrived in recent days. We have openings scheduled into early January. You can sign up for a volunteer slot here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n77sx2y>, or e-mail Carol Coonrod ([cscoonrod@gmail.com](mailto:cscoonrod@gmail.com)) and/or Elizabeth Terry ([elizterry@gmail.com](mailto:elizterry@gmail.com)) if you'd like to be on a standby list to be called in as needed.

### Christmas Celebration with Refugees

We are working with Mutual Aid and other respite partners to plan a Christmas celebration with the refugees who have arrived in the last 5 months. Plans are still developing as to where and when this will take place, but we have begun collecting gifts to distribute - go to <https://amzn.to/3XKd12X> or scan the QR code to purchase items from the registry or make a dedicated financial contribution through Realm <https://onrealm.org/stthomasdc/-/form/give/now> by selecting the fund Refugee Support. If you want more info on how you can help or volunteer, contact Carol or Elizabeth (email addresses above) or [carriellenc@gmail.com](mailto:carriellenc@gmail.com) and we will keep you updated as things come together.

Please keep all migrants and refugees around the world in your prayers.

Amazon Migrant Respite Xmas 2022



Realm dedicated financial contribution



## A Note on Masking in Worship

Dear Friends,

The vestry, wardens, and I have continued to give careful thought to our parish policy around masking. As you know, we have required masking during public worship in our sanctuary since the church reopened following COVID shutdowns. We have also required masking during the Saturday refugee welcome activities. In other areas of the church, masks have been optional. Following careful discussion, we have decided to continue this policy through the winter.

Our parish is blessed to encompass a wide range of people and to welcome many more as visitors. Throughout the pandemic, we have based our approach to masking during worship on the ideal of loving and caring for all our neighbors, including those who may be vulnerable to diseases or otherwise at a greater risk for COVID and its potential long-term effects. We also recognize that the colder winter months typically bring more risk of infection from flu and other viruses and that our country is seeing a surge of children and older individuals infected with and being hospitalized for RSV, as well as flu and COVID. These factors make it prudent for our masking policy to remain in place.

We are committed to providing a safe environment for everyone to engage in worship. We have known since early in the pandemic that communal singing is one of the highest-risk activities in terms of COVID transmission. This remains true. Our enjoyment of singing together as a community is another reason to wear masks during worship.

In our baptismal covenant, we commit to continuing in worship and the breaking of bread. Since we want to ensure that our worship is accessible to as wide a group as possible, we have elected to maintain our policy of wearing masks during worship. Masks will remain optional for meetings, coffee hour, and most serving opportunities.

The vestry, wardens, and I will continue to have thoughtful conversations about our policy and will revisit the policy at the end of the winter. We want to express our heartfelt thanks for your support and willingness to follow the masking guidelines to date. We are proud and honored to be part of such a caring, conscientious parish. Thank you for your continued care for the community and diligence in wearing masks during worship.

If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the vestry.

God bless you,

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja, Rector

## OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sharing your announcements in the Sunday bulletin and Phoenix

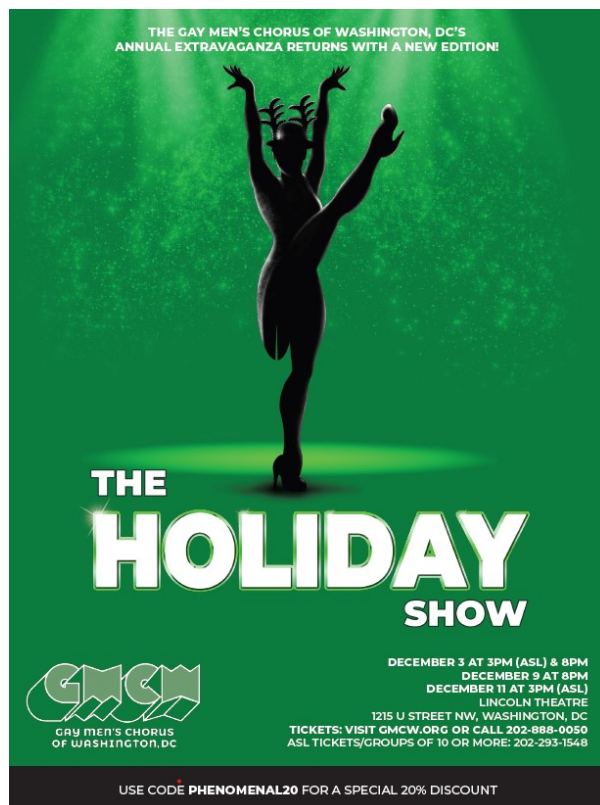
Please send all announcements to [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org) on or before the Sunday prior to distribution. We aim to send announcements out three weeks prior to the event or service opportunity in order for sufficient time to plan.

### Tacky Christmas Sweater Party with Caroling on Wednesday, December 14 from 6-8 pm.

Join us for a fun night of Christmas caroling, conversation, and food on Wednesday, December 14. You are invited to wear your tackiest Christmas outfit and bring something festive to share for dinner. The party will be in the Commons on the first floor of our church, and caroling will be in the garden.

### Come See the Soweto Gospel Choir!

The world-famous Soweto Gospel Choir is coming to Strathmore on December 6 at 8pm. Multiple people from St. Thomas are interested in attending the performance so we can go together. Tickets run from \$34 to \$68. Buy your tickets online [here](#) or contact Benjamin Bynum if you've bought tickets and want to coordinate for meeting up before the show. If you're willing to contribute to buying tickets for others who cannot afford a full ticket, that's great, too! Benjamin's email is [b.bynum@gmail.com](mailto:b.bynum@gmail.com) and phone is (502) 868-0612.



## Celebrating Our December Birthdays

Fiadh Kennedy (December 7)  
Ryan Winfield (December 8)  
Stephen Schembs (December 13)  
Chris Norman (December 14)  
Benny Young (December 14)  
Al Llanos (December 15)  
Noel Miller (December 16)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at  
[administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org)

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## Parish Prayer List

Lynette Alexander  
Alan Allison  
Shaune Bazner  
John Bisco  
Peggyann Cohen  
Liz Dahlen  
Craig Evertt  
June Gangler  
Karin Garcia's fiance  
Carol Goldman

Pam Greer  
Jan Harrison  
Betsy Hollingsworth  
James Insinga  
Judy Johnson  
Mike Knapp  
Dave Kucharski  
Hugo Llanos  
Cecilia Manibusan

Joe Rivas  
Bishop Gene Robinson  
Jane Saari  
Eric Scharf  
The Sommer Family  
Chris Spangler  
Chester Thompson  
A loved one starting recovery

You may submit a name for the list by sending an e-mail to: [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org)



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

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*"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."*

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## Vestry

Gregory Zitterkob, Senior Warden  
Karen Garlick, Junior Warden  
Clay Dursthoff, Treasurer  
Jocko Fajardo, Secretary  
Knight Champion, Brian Crane, Reggie Greer, Jennifer Mahle,  
Noel Miller, Brett Snyder, John Trumbo

## Staff

|                                                 |                                                                      |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja                    | Rector                                                               | lahuja@stthomasdc.org<br>cell: 202-361-2018<br>@BishopGRobinson |
| The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson<br>Michael Lodico | Bishop in Residence<br>Director of Music<br>and Community Engagement | mlodico@stthomasdc.org                                          |
| Maria Teresa Baustista-Berrios                  | Seminarian                                                           |                                                                 |
| Fabian Berrios                                  | Sexton and Nursery                                                   |                                                                 |
| Diana Diaz                                      | Nursery Attendant                                                    |                                                                 |
| Brynn Farlow                                    | Music Program Assistant                                              | bfarlow@stthomasdc.org                                          |
| Hamida Gawhari                                  | Administrative Assistant                                             |                                                                 |
| Araceli Ma                                      | Temporary Admin                                                      | ama@stthomasdc.org                                              |
| Jafar Lesani                                    | Sexton                                                               |                                                                 |
| Candace McLamore                                | Sexton                                                               |                                                                 |
| Tyrone Moore                                    | Sexton                                                               |                                                                 |

## St. Thomas' Parish

1517 18th Street NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 808-3326

www.stthomasdc.org ✉ [info@stthomasdc.org](mailto:info@stthomasdc.org)

