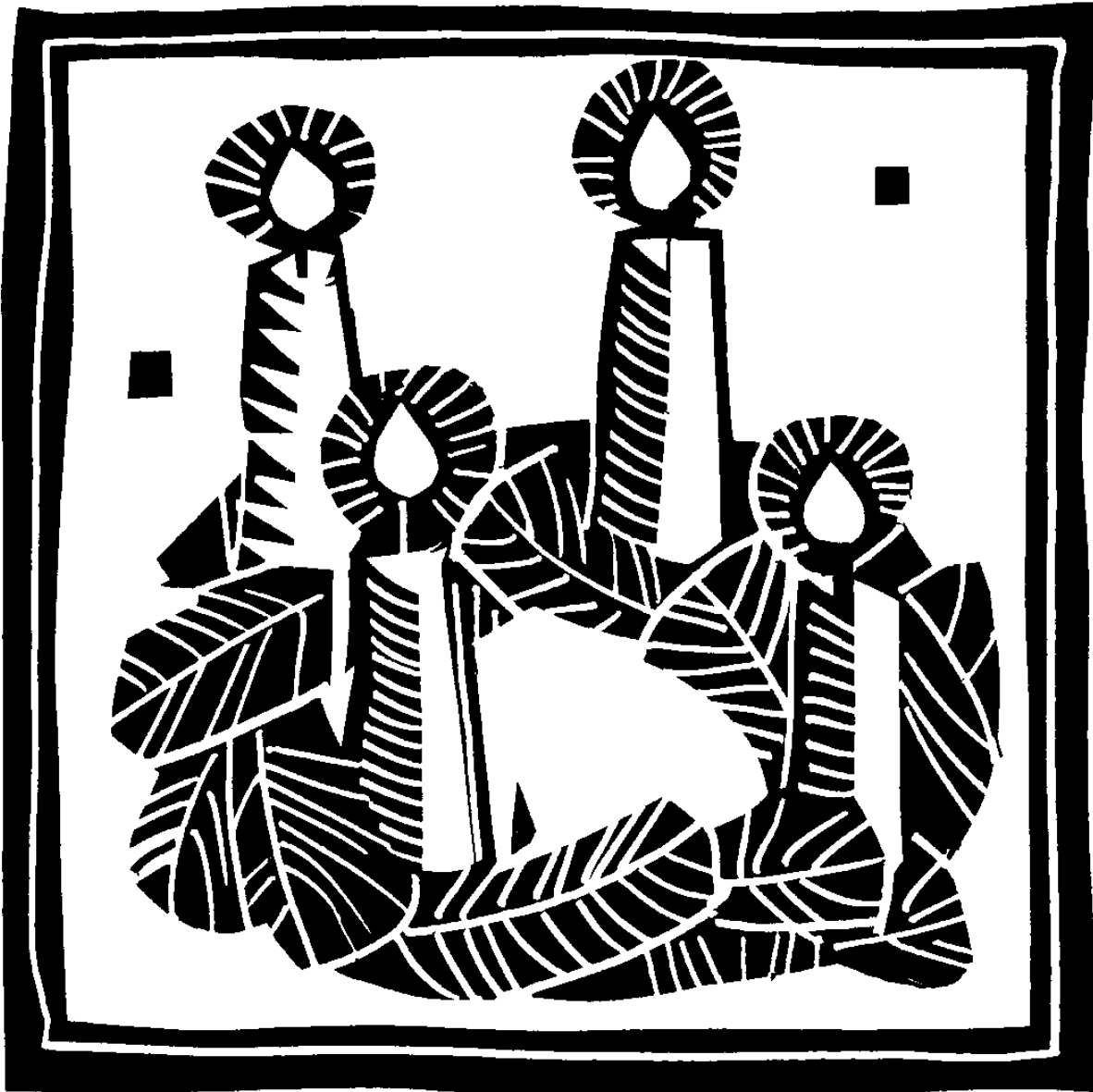


The Second Sunday of Advent



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Isle of Hope
December 7, 2025**

*We are a welcoming community of faith and love that serves one another
and seeks to draw others to God through our ministries.*

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS

Thank you for joining us at worship. Restrooms are available in our parish hall and in the Christian Education building.

Children's faith formation is available during the 10:00 am service for children 0 years old to 5th grade. In the Nursery, those from 0-4 years old learn songs, hear Bible stories, do crafts, as well as play and have snack time. If you do choose to utilize our nursery, we hope you will bring your children back into church to receive communion or a blessing. During the school year we have "Children's Chapel" for the first part of the service. Children can process behind the cross where they will exit to go the CE Building. The children will return to the church from Children's Chapel at the Peace. For both the nursery and Children's Chapel, adults are welcome to accompany their child if that would be helpful. Please see an usher if you have any questions. In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to be fed at God's table. We use the "common cup" at St. Thomas. You can choose to eat your bread and sip from the chalice when it comes to you or you may hold on to your bread and dip it into the chalice when it comes to you. If you do not wish to receive wine, you may cross your arms over your chest. If you would like to come forward for a blessing, come to the railing and cross your arms over your chest to receive God's blessing. If you would like to learn more about the customs of our tradition, please contact The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr.

Please, fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and give to one of the clergy or the ushers so that we may greet you more formally in the days to come.

The Rt. Rev. Frank Sullivan Logue, Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr, Priest in Charge of
Parish Life, Worship, and Pastoral Care
Dionne Greenlee, Parish Administrator
Tripp Hardee, Minister of Music
Greg Washabaugh, Sexton
Dianne Jones, Nursery Supervisor
Mallory Abshire, Bookkeeper

The Vestry

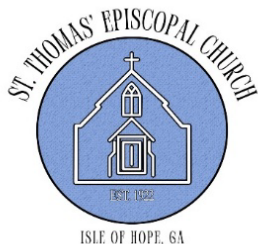
Chris Conner, Senior Warden
Lizann Roberts & David Castleberry, Co-Junior Wardens
Mitch Green, Treasurer Jane Gilchrist, Clerk

Joseph Bernard	Jennifer Calver	David Castleberry
Chris Conner	Marie Centgraf	Betty Henderson
Mary Haley	Robert Hughes	Andrew Lyons
Amy Minis	Lizann Roberts	Claudia Welch

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
2 St. Thomas Avenue, Savannah, GA 31406
Telephone: (912) 355-3110 www.stthomasioh.org



If you would like to give electronically towards our offering today or if you are traveling during the year, there are two easy and safe options: through our website at www.stthomasioh.org/give or through Venmo @StThomasEpiscopalChurch.



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE ONE

8:00 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy Spirit.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 159

Celebrant Let us pray. Merciful God, who didst send thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Bulletin 5

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Bulletin 6

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Bulletin 7

THE HOMILY

THE NICENE CREED

Bulletin 7

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bulletin 8

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

BCP 331

THE PEACE

BCP 332

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP 340

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 336

THE FRACTION AND PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

BCP 337

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

THE BLESSING

Bulletin 13

THE DISMISSAL

Bulletin 14

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Savior of the nations come

arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Handbell Choir

THE OPENING HYMN

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal #65

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

KYRIE

S-96

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 211

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. 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, 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 for ever. Amen
Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A Reading from Isaiah.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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.
 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

A Reading from Romans.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

We 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Litanist In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Litanist With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Litanist With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Litanist With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the mission of all those organizations working in disaster relief. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Litanist With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease especially (*brief silence*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Litanist With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Litanist With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith especially (*brief silence*). Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Litanist Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Song of Mary

Rachmaninoff
arr. Faye Lopez & Patricia Mock

THE DOXOLOGY (10:00 am)



Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

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

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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

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

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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

S-164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

HYMNS AT COMMUNION *Comfort, comfort ye my people*
 Ava Maria

Hymnal #67
Franz Schubert
Emma Reardon, soprano

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those unable to take communion today may pray this prayer

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Celebrant In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body as we all share the one bread and the one cup. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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

THE BLESSING

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



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to

1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
 2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
 3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
 4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
 5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is

1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944).

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Celebrant
People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

People, look East

arr. Kristina Langlois

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Vestry on Duty: (10:00 am) Andrew Lyons (11:30 am) Amy Minis
Lectors: (8:00 am) Dave White (10:00 am) Jane Gilchrist
Lay Eucharistic Minister: (8:00 am) Dave White
(10:00 am) Tracy Edgar and Rick Lantz
Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Rick Lantz
Ushers: (10:00 am) David Castleberry and Dick Young *Usher:* (11:30 am) Bill Franklin
Hospitality: Joanne Leaf and Karen Otto
Altar Guild: Jane Gilchrist, Lizann Roberts, Marie Centgraf, Judy Holland and Elizabeth Varner
Nursery: Dianne Jones and Barbara Arnott *Worship Tech:* Tino Aguilar
Children's Chapel: Karen Conner and Jennifer Steinhauser
Acolytes: Crucifer: Eva Aguilar, Book: Vivian Bernard, Children's Cross: CeCe Bernard
Cantors: Elijah Green, Emma Reardon and Larry Roberson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 7	4:00 pm	Vestry Meeting & Christmas Party
	5:30 pm	AA Meeting in the CE Building
Monday, December 8	9:00 am	Garden Club of Savannah in the Parish Hall
	10:00 am	Planning in the CE Building
	2:00 pm	Open Play Mahjong with Martie Gay in the Parish Hall (Register at: IOH Mahjong FB page)
Tuesday, December 9	11:30 am	Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, December 3	7:30 am	Unseen Guest
	11:30 am	Healing Service
	2:00 pm	Communion at River's Edge
	5:30 pm	Hand Bell Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal

2 Opportunities for December Outreach

Angels Among Us

Please select an "angel" from the Christmas tree in the parish hall and purchase a suggested gift for one of the adults living at Senior Citizens, Inc. Please put all presents in a gift bag (no wrapped presents, please) and return no later than December 15. Be an ANGEL! Thank you!

Christmas Cookie Mission 2025

Again, this year we are reaching out to the community by delivering home-baked cookies or goodies to those who are working on Christmas Day, i.e. hospitals, pharmacies, gas stations, etc. If you like to bake and want to deliver some Christmas joy, sign up for a location on the sign-up sheet in the parish hall. Grab a treat box (2 boxes for hospitals) and a card to take home with you. Deliver the cookies or goodies at any time on Christmas Day. If you are a baker but can't deliver OR if you don't bake but want to deliver, we have opportunities for you too! If you have any questions, contact Betty Henderson or email her at Beatrice_henderson28@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2025

It's time to order flowers and greenery to decorate the church altar for Christmas. A contribution of **\$20.00** per plant is suggested. Please enclose your check (marked "Christmas flowers" on the memo line) along with this slip and mail it to the church office: 2 St. Thomas Ave, 31406. You can also fill out the flower request online. (Link will be in our Monday email.) * **Requests must be received no later than Sunday, December 21st to be included in our Christmas Eve Bulletin! (Please, print clearly)**

I/We would like _____ plant(s)

Given by: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

or

In Memory of: _____

