



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Isle of Hope
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

Holy Eucharist: Rite I
8:00 AM

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

<i>Celebrant</i>	Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	BCP 323
<i>People</i>	And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.	
<i>Celebrant</i>	Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,	
<i>People</i>	Have mercy upon us.	
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.	
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.	
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray. Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.	
The Lessons <i>The people sit</i>		
	The First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20	Bulletin 2
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	The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18	Bulletin 4
	The Homily	
	The Renewal of Baptismal Vows	Bulletin 11
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	Announcements, Blessings for Birthdays and Anniversaries	
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<i>Celebrant</i>	All things come of thee, O Lord.	
<i>People</i>	And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.	
	The Great Thanksgiving	BCP 340
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HOLY BAPTISM AND HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

PRELUDE *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* Handbell Choir

OPENING HYMN *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* Hymnal #76

All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to follow the small cross out of the church into the chapel for children's chapel. Adults or older siblings are welcome to accompany them. They will return to the church at the Peace.

OPENING ACCLAMATION BCP 299

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY BCP 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *The people sit*

The First Lesson

A Reading from Zephaniah. Zephaniah 3:14-20
Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah *read in unison*

BCP 86

**Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the letter to the Philippians.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

Hymnal #296

The Gospel

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Luke 3:7-18

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Very Rev. Melanie Lemburg

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents I present James Francis McLaurin to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Celebrant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

Celebrant Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

James, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

James, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OFFERTORY

Beyond the Moon and Stars

Don Schutte

DOXOLOGY (v 3) (10:00 am)

Hymnal #380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant and People (11:30)

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

The 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, 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.

FRACTION

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.

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, we 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, for we all share the one bread and the one cup. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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.**

EXIT HYMN

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

Hymnal #68

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

11:30 AM

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Bulletin 2

THE PSALM: The First Song of Isaiah

Bulletin 3

THE GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

Bulletin 4

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

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

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water
and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal
life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

ADVENT PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Litanist God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

People **God of the prophets, hear us and help us!**

Litanist God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence into the world. Give
the world a freedom song and help us to speak peace throughout the earth.

People **God of the angels, hear us and help us!**

Litanist God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to be pregnant with hope and to
bring forth life for a barren world.

People **God of our mothers, hear us and help us!**

Litanist God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to
follow them.

People **God of our fathers, hear us and help us!**

Litanist God of the shepherds give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness, alone
and afraid, a light from heaven proclaiming peace.

People **God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!**

Litanist God of the magi, give your church gifts, and the will to leave home to find you among
the poor.

People **God of the magi, hear us and help us!**

Litanist God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and
to protect the powerless.

People **God of the victim, hear us and help us!**

Litanist God our Sovereign, you are always coming into the world. Come to us now, soon, and
forever, and let us receive you as the Child of holiness and the Wind of change, through
whom, this day, we pray. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

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.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Bulletin 7

THE LORD’S PRAYER AND FRACTION

Bulletin 9

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Bulletin 10

THE BLESSING

Bulletin 10

THE DISMISSAL

Bulletin 10

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers (10:00 am) Joe Roberts and Andrew Lyons

(11:30 am) Bill Franklin

Vestry on Duty: (10:00 am) Susan Hailey

(11:30 am) Mary Blaney

Lectors: (8:00 am) Dave White (10:00 am) Kevin Fleming

(11:30 am) Bill Franklin

L.E.M.: (8:00 am) Dave White

(10:00 am) Jane Gilchrist and Tracy Edgar

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Dave White

Acolytes: Gabriella Gonzales and Lela White

Cantor: Carolyn Cohen

Flower Guild: Annie Quaile

Children’s Chapel: Ingrid Skousgard

Altar Guild: Cathy Joyce and Ingrid Skousgard

Hospitality: Joanne Leaf and Karen Otto

Tech: Luke Varner

Nursery: Dianne Jones and Eva Aguilar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, December 16	9:00 am Volunteers needed at I AM Food Pantry 10:00 am Planning in the Parish Hall 2:00 pm Women Sharing Wisdom in the St. Thomas' Room 6:30 pm Music Ministry Christmas Party at Tripp Hardee's
Tuesday, December 17	9:00 am Staff Meeting in the Library
Wednesday, December 18	11:30 am Healing Service in the Chapel 4:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting in the Library 6:00 pm Blue Christmas in the Chapel with refreshments to follow in the St. Thomas' Room. 7:00 pm Handbell and Choir Rehearsal

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and attended the Isle of Hope Christmas Tour of Homes last Sunday. It was a huge success and wouldn't have been possible without you!

I AM Food Pantry at the Episcopal Center (3101 Waters Avenue)

Volunteers are needed on Monday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m. to help unload donated food for their Christmas distribution.

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 have any questions, contact Betty Henderson or email her at Beatrice_henderson28@comcast.net.

Volunteers Needed

Lay Eucharistic Visitors - St. Thomas needs more Lay Eucharistic Visitors, who after the service take communion (with a brief, available liturgy) to a person not able to get to church. (We place the list in the vesting room of persons who could be visited.) Please let David White know if you are interested in being part of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors ministry.

Hospitality Teams - If you have participated in Sunday morning fellowship and enjoyed some pastry or coffee, you know how important this ministry is and how much people enjoy it. If you would like to help, please contact Amy Jo. Thank you so much for sharing your time with others on Sunday morning! In 2025, hospitality will not be served during summer months.

As you travel throughout the year, remember that it is easy and safe to give through our website: <https://www.stthomasioh.org/give> or on Venmo @StThomasEpiscopalChurch.



WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS

If you are new or with us for the first time, thank you for joining us at worship. We hope you will join us again. Restrooms are available in our parish hall and Christian Education buildings. Nursery care is available in our Christian Education building for children ages 0-4. Please, see an usher to assist you in locating the nursery if that is the preferred option for your family. Children are always welcome to stay in the church at St. Thomas as they are full members of the body of Christ. If you do choose to utilize our nursery, we hope you will bring your children back into church to receive communion or a blessing. We also have a Children's Chapel for the first part of the service (the Liturgy of the Word). Children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to follow the little cross in the opening procession where they will exit to go to our chapel. Adults are welcome to accompany them if that would be helpful. The children will return to the church from Children's Chapel at the Peace.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to be fed at God's table. When it is your turn, hold your hands out open in front of you to receive the bread. When the cup of wine comes to you, help guide it to your mouth to take a sip, dip the top of the wafer into the cup, or signify that you want to abstain from drinking by crossing your arms over your chest. If you would like to learn more about the customs of our tradition, please, contact The Rev. Melanie Lemburg.

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



Blue Christmas

Join us for a different type of service:
of comfort, of loss, of hope

Wednesday, December 18th @ 6pm in
St. Thomas Chapel

Refreshments and gentle Gathering to follow service

2 St. Thomas Avenue Savannah, GA 31406

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2024

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 22nd to be included in our Christmas Eve Bulletin! (Please, print clearly)**

I/We would like _____ plant(s)

Given by: _____

In Thanksgiving for:

and/or

In Memory of:

Christmas Eve Services

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

2 St. Thomas Avenue Savannah, GA 31406

3:00 p.m. Family Service - Walk To Bethlehem

5:00 p.m. Traditional Service with Sung Holy Eucharist
and Children's Chapel -- Nursery provided

stthomasioh.org