THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ISLE OF HOPE
NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Welcome All. Grow Together. Serve with Love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

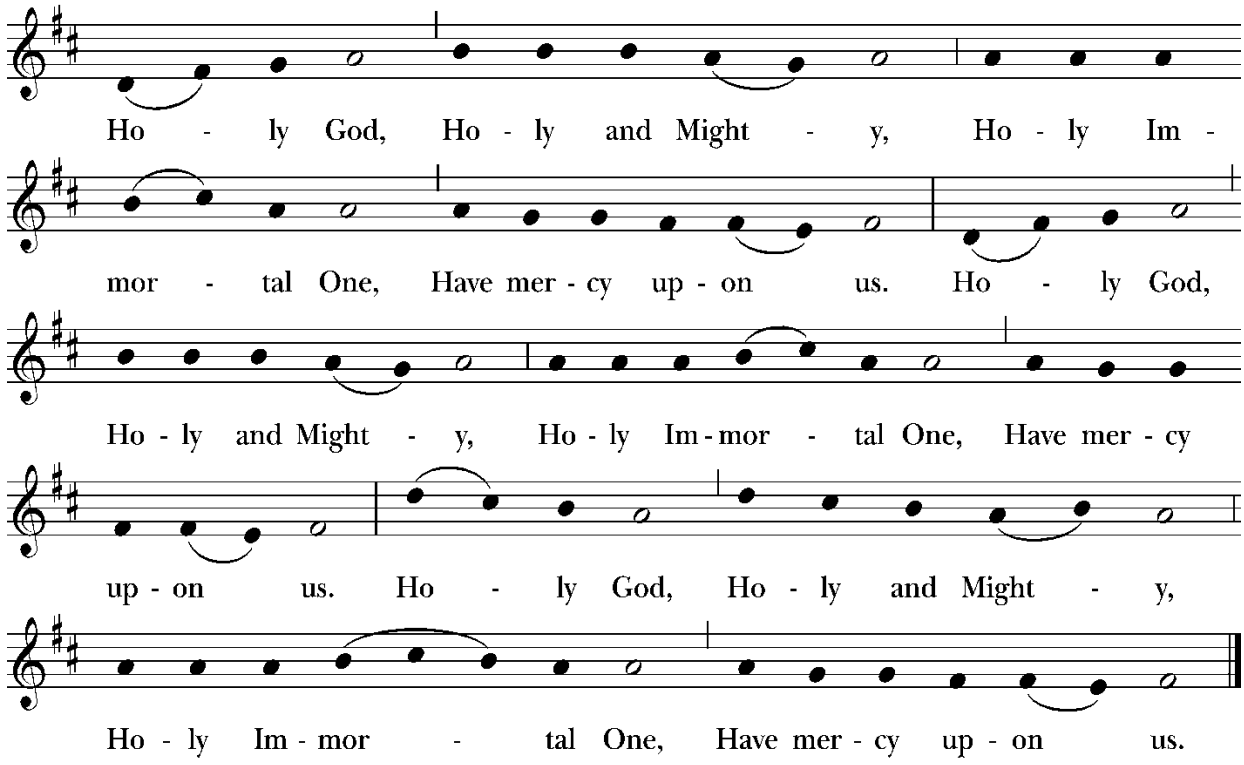
PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Michael Ryan
STEC Handbell Choir

THE OPENING HYMN *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending* Hymnal #57

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

TRISAGION S-100



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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY BCP 236

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you**.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 *(read responsively by half verse)* BCP 702

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Corinthians

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us* Hymnal #61

THE GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Litanist In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy,

People **receive our prayer.**

Litanist Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy,

People **receive our prayer.**

Litanist Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy,

People **receive our prayer.**

Litanist Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. We pray for those we name aloud or silently within our hearts *(brief silence)*. God, in your mercy,

People **receive our prayer.**

Litanist Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,

People **receive our prayer.**

Litanist You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy,

People **receive our prayer.**

Litanist We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

People **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

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.**

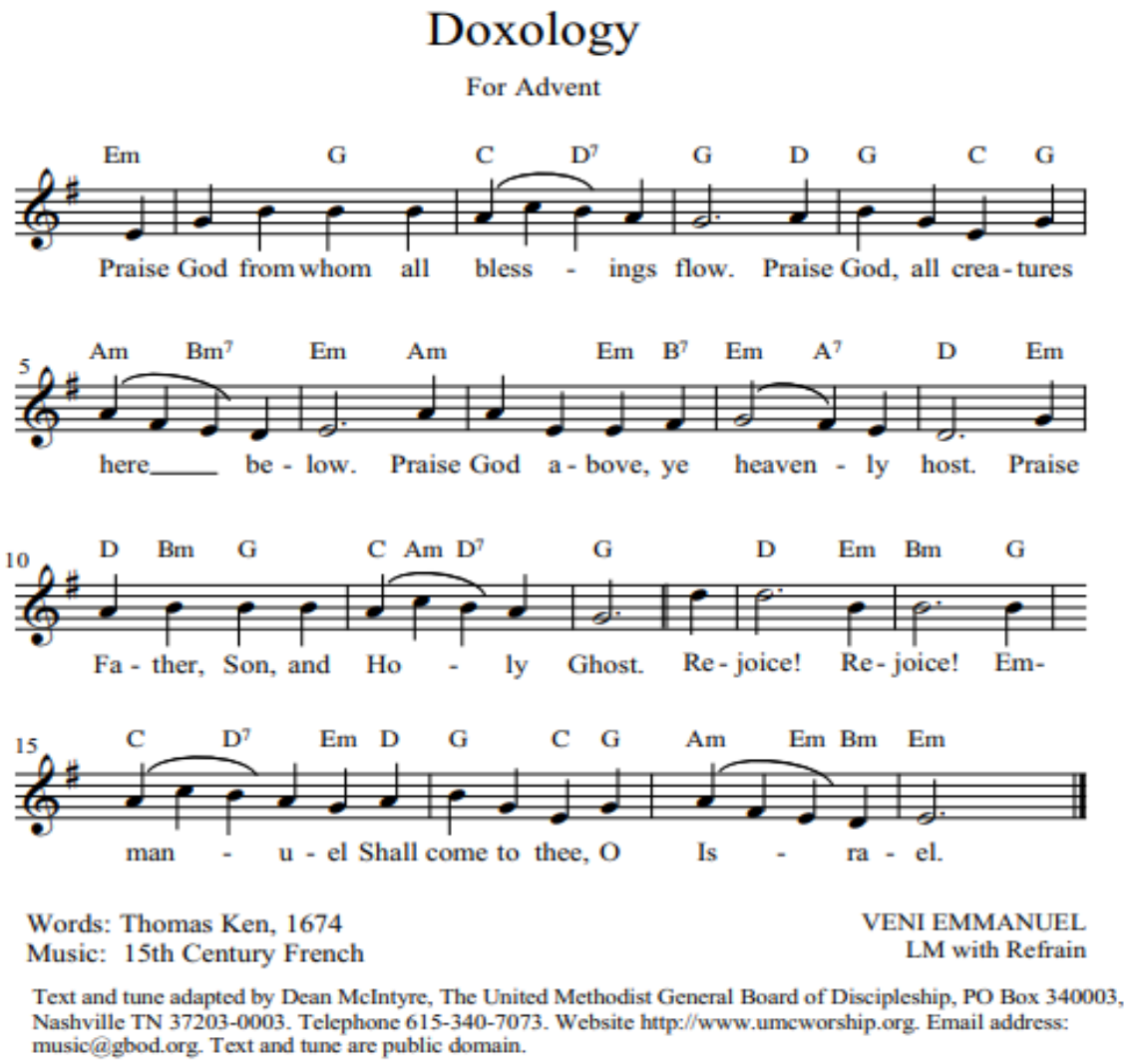
THE PEACE

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

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Advent Supplication: *Creator of the Stars of Night* Hal H. Hopson

DOXOLOGY



8:00 am – Eucharistic Prayer II – BCP 340

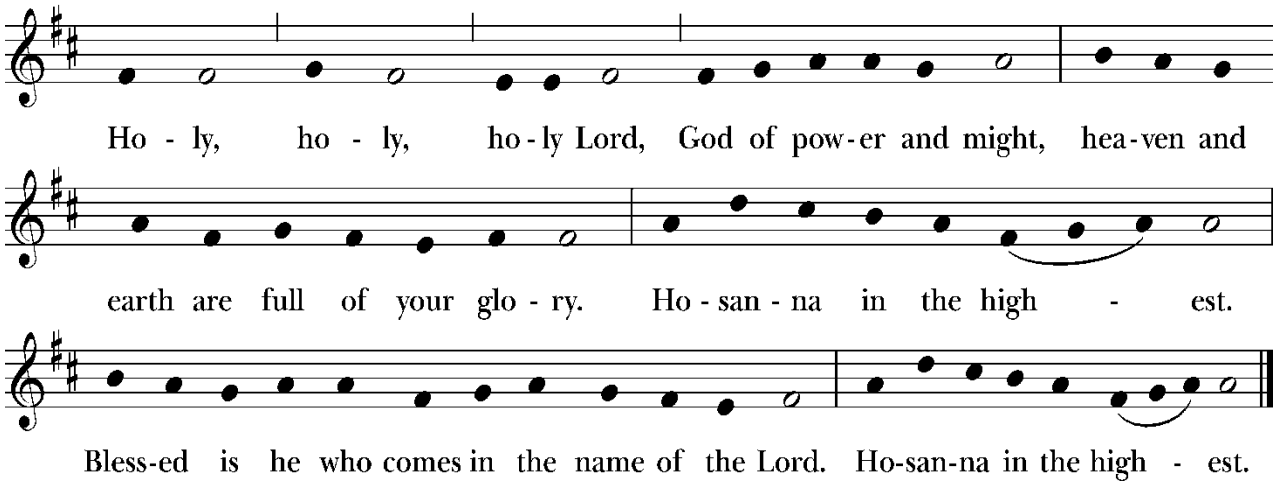
10:00 am – Eucharistic Prayer B – BCP 367

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.**
Celebrant 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name,

SANCTUS S-124



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The people stand or kneel.

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.**

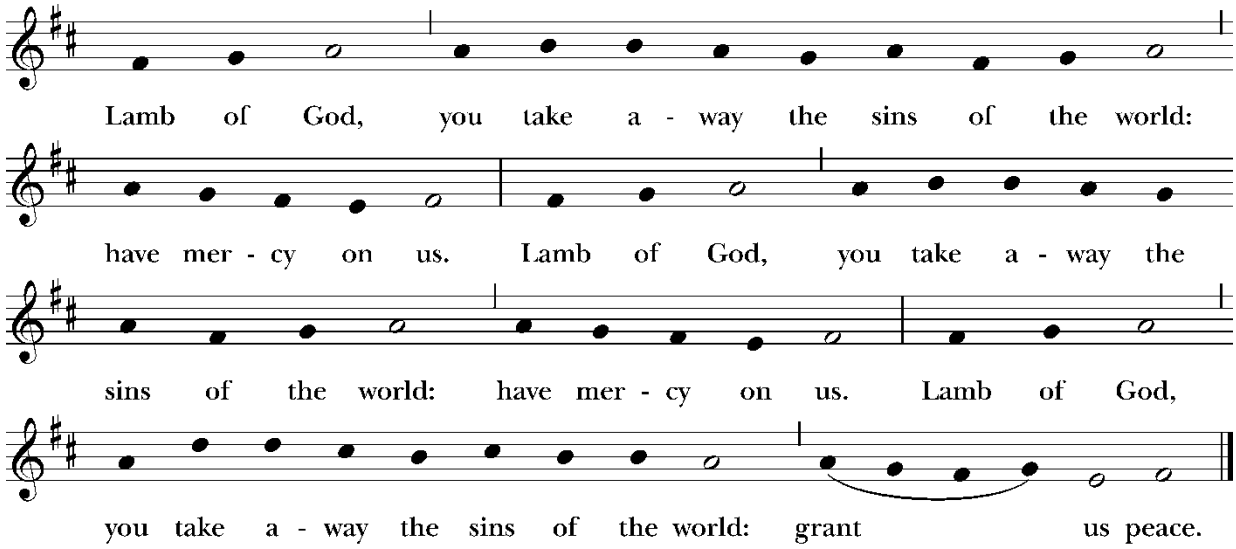
THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 363

Celebrant 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD S-161



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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.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION *O Divine Redeemer!* Charles Gounod
Emma Reardon, soprano

Come, thou long-expected Jesus Hymnal #66

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.**

THE CLOSING HYMN	*The King shall come when morning dawns*	Hymnal #73
CHORAL RESPONSE	*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*	Choir

THE DISMISSAL BCP 366

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

THE POSTLUDE	*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645*	J.S. Bach

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Christmas Flowers 2026

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 20th 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: _____

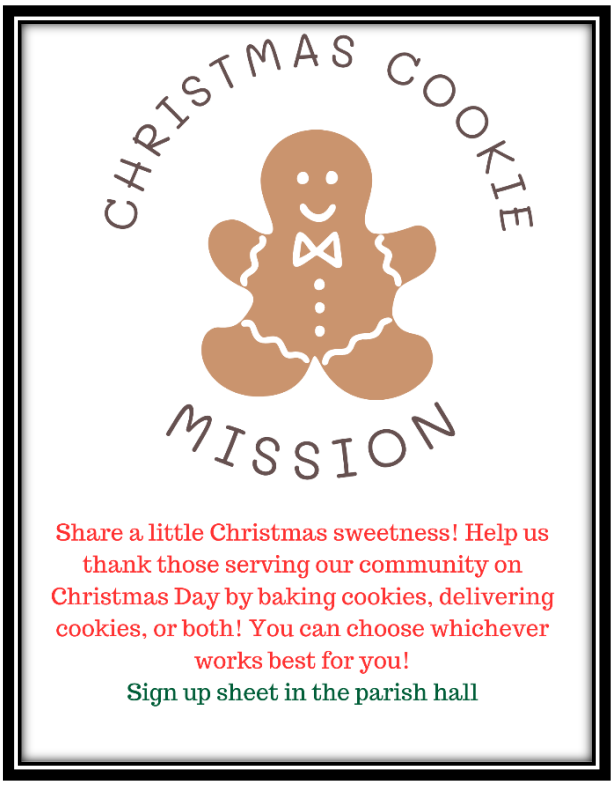
SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: (8:00 am) Howard Bacon
(10:00 am) Jennifer Calver and Scott Tanner
Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Bob Lupacchino
Acolytes: Crucifer: Piper Brooks; *Book Bearer:* Marin Brooks; *Children's Cross:* Gabe Ochsner
Lectors: (8:00 am) Howard Bacon (10:00 am) Alton Aimar
Ushers: Kurt Hammesfahr and Joe Roberts
Vestry on Duty: Robert Hughes
Altar Guild: Stacie Bacon, Tracy Edgar, Mary Haley, Salli White
Hospitality: Karen Otto
Worship Tech: Blake Haynes
Nursery: Barbara Arnott and Eva Aguilar
Children's Chapel: Karen Otto and Meghan Hartley
Cantors: Emma Reardon and Kaleb Reavis

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS'

Sunday, November 29	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
	9:00 am	Sunday School – Proverbs, Library
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Church
	10:00 am	Children's Chapel, CE Building
	11:00 am	Advent Wreaths, Parish Hall
	2:00 pm	Beer & Hymns Rehearsal, CE Building
	5:30 pm	AA, CE Building
Monday, November 30	10:00 am	Plarning, CE Building
Tuesday, December 1	1:00 pm	Funeral for Nancy Evans Relyea
	5:30 pm	Organ Committee Meeting, CE Building
Wednesday, December 2	9:00 am	Staff Meeting, Library
	11:30 am	Healing Service, Chapel
	5:00 pm	Wymberley Garden Club, CE Building
	5:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Wednesday Night Supper/Feast of St. Nick, Parish Hall
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 3	11:00 am	Women's Bible Study, Library
	6:30 pm	Choir Cantata Rehearsal
Friday, December 4	All Day	Filming, Chapel, Church & CE Building
	4:00 pm	Vestry Christmas Party, Barrow's





Advent Wreath-Making – Today!

Celebrate the beginning of Advent with a special family activity! Join us in the Parish Hall on today after the 10:00 a.m. service to create your very own Advent wreath. Bring the whole family and enjoy this meaningful tradition as we prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Christmas.

Commitment Sunday - Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their pledge cards for 2027! Your pledges are essential in helping us plan responsibly for the coming year. They not only support the many ministries that make St. Thomas' such a special place, but also provide for the day-to-day expenses of maintaining our buildings, supporting our staff, and keeping our church running. Every pledge, regardless of size, makes a difference and helps us continue the work God has called us to do.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card but intend to pledge, please mail it or bring it to church next Sunday. If it's easier, you may also call in your pledge to our bookkeeper, Mallory, at (912) 355-3110. Thank you for your generosity and continued commitment to the life and ministry of St. Thomas'!

Memorial Brick Sale

Honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or create a lasting tribute with a personalized memorial brick at St. Thomas. These engraved bricks provide a meaningful and lasting way to commemorate someone special while becoming a permanent part of our church community. Bricks are $100 each. Order forms are available in the Parish Hall. We invite you to take part in this special opportunity to leave a lasting legacy at St. Thomas!

The Feast of St. Nick

Our Wednesday Night Supper is special in December. We will celebrate **The Feast of St. Nick** on December 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Children will enjoy festive activities and crafts, followed by a service and a special visit from St. Nick himself! Children under 5 are free, adults are $8.00, and the family maximum is $25.00. Come enjoy this special holiday tradition with your St. Thomas' family.

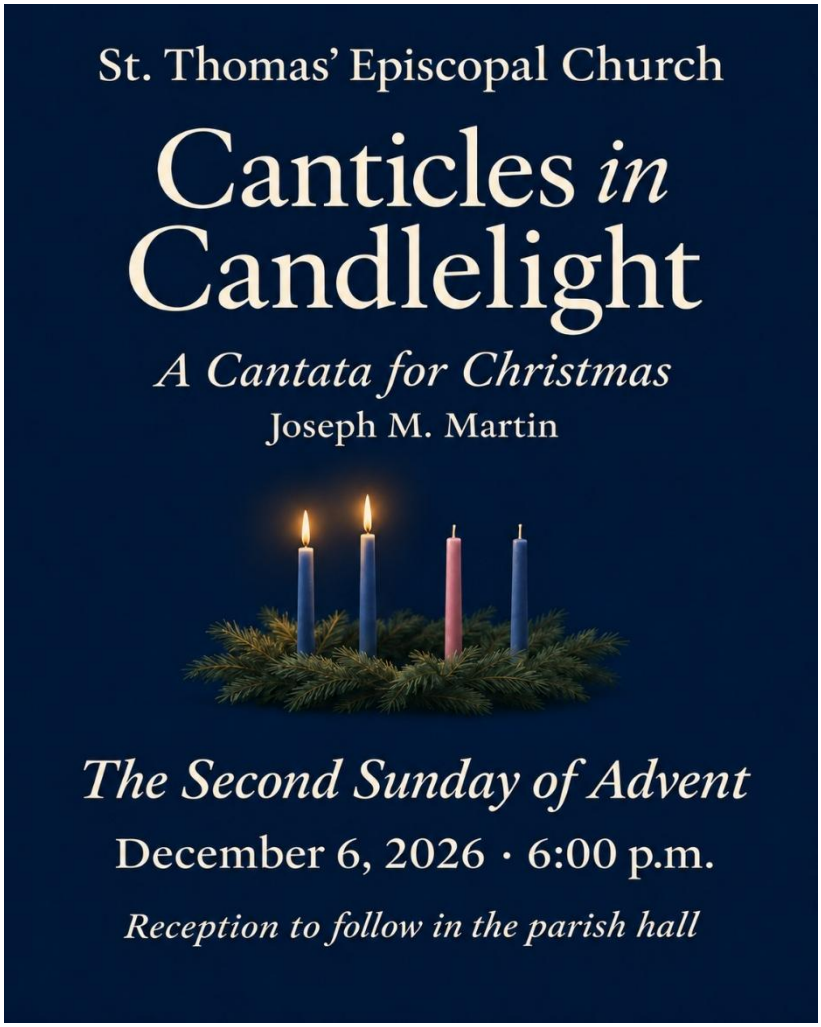
Food and Wine Donations for the Christmas Tour of Homes

Help St. Thomas welcome guests for the Christmas Tour of Homes by donating from the list below, a bottle of wine, or giving a monetary donation for items needed for the event. Text or call Boo McCullough (912-657-5091) or Lizann Roberts (912-507-2035) to let them know what you'd like to bring. Thank you for sharing your holiday hospitality!

Items Needed:

Pork tenderloin (one double pack - NOT marinated), Smoked salmon platter,
Frozen meatballs (one 2-lb. bag), Roast turkey breast - cooked and sliced, Shrimp or crab dip

Cheese straws, Finger sandwiches (by the dozen), Vegetable tray with dip, Roasted pecans,
Brie rounds, Fruit tray, Assorted homemade cookies (by the dozen), Red or White wine (1.5 liter bottles)



Caroling At Social by Thrive

Would you like to participate in bringing good cheer to the residents of Social by Thrive on Middleground Road?

If so, join Tripp and the choir on

Tuesday, 12/15/2026
from 10:00–11:30 am.



Our first stop will be in assisted living, then independent living, and then memory care.

Festive dress is suggested!

Questions? Call or text
Joanna Ellis
912-308-3975

Blue Christmas Service

Join us for a quiet service of comfort, remembrance, and hope for those who find the Christmas season difficult.

Wednesday, December 16th @ 6pm in St. Thomas' Chapel

Refreshments and gentle gathering to follow service

2 St. Thomas Avenue Savannah, GA 31406

Christmas Eve Services

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

2 St. Thomas Avenue Savannah, GA 31406

3:00 p.m. Family Service - Pop-Up Nativity
5:00 p.m. Traditional Service – Nursery provided



stthomasioh.org

We're so glad you're here to worship with us. Restrooms are in the Parish Hall and the Christian Education (CE) Building.

Children's faith formation is offered during the 10:00 am service for infants through 5th grade. In the Nursery (ages 0–4), children sing, hear Bible stories, enjoy crafts, play, and have a snack. If you use the nursery, we invite you to bring your child back into the church to receive Communion or a blessing.

During the school year, children are invited to participate in Children's Chapel during the first part of the service. They will process out behind the cross to the CE Building and return to the church at the Peace. Parents and caregivers are always welcome to accompany their child to either the nursery or Children's Chapel. If you have any questions, an usher will be happy to help.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians—of any age or denomination—are welcome to receive Holy Communion. At St. Thomas', we share the common cup. You may either consume the bread and sip from the chalice or hold your bread and dip (intinct) when the chalice comes to you. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

If you'd like to learn more about our worship or traditions, please feel free to speak with The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr.

We'd love to stay connected—please fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and return it to a member of the clergy or an usher so we can greet you more personally in the days ahead.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Staff

The Rt. Rev. Frank Sullivan Logue, Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr, Rector
Tripp Hardee, Minister of Music
Greg Washabaugh, Sexton
Clay Hostetter, Sexton
Mallory Abshire, Parish Administrator and Bookkeeper

The Vestry

Charlie Barrow, Senior Warden
Lizann Roberts and Stewart Marshall, Co-Junior Warden
Mitch Green, Treasurer
Jane Gilchrist, Clerk

Charlie Barrow	Jennifer Calver	Marie Centgraf
Tracy Edgar	Betty Henderson	Robert Hughes
Bob Lupacchino	Stewart Marshall	Amy Minis
Lizann Roberts	Claudia Welch	Benjamin Watson

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.