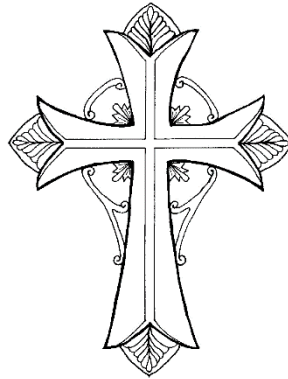


# ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1846



## The Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021

**Welcome to all** who worship here this morning, and a special welcome to our guests. We invite you to fill out a visitor card (located in the back of the pews) and drop it in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please ask an usher.

**Worship at St. Thomas is intergenerational**, and families are welcomed to worship together.

**Communion Instructions.** Holy Eucharist is for all baptized people. Communion is received at the altar. Please wait until the aisle is clear before proceeding so as to avoid congestion at the altar and pick up a small plastic cup beside the steps if you wish to receive wine. Those who wish to receive a blessing alone should cross their arms across their chest. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please make your preference known to the server.

**The St. Thomas “Life of Christ”** icon collection is a unique feature of our worship space. If you would like to learn more about these or schedule a tour for your small group, please call the church office. You may also ask an usher for a brochure.

### **The Head of Our Church is Jesus Christ.**

**Saint Thomas Church** was founded in 1846 and is part of the  
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia of the Episcopal Church in the United States.

**The Right Rev. Mark Bourlakas**, Bishop of the Diocese

**The Very Rev. Boyd Evans**, Rector

**Schéry Collins**, Choirmaster & Organist

**Dave Collins, Kelly Moore**, Cantors

124 East Main Street

Abingdon, Virginia 24210

276-628-3606

<http://stthomasabingdon.dioswva.org>

email: [saintthomas@bvu.net](mailto:saintthomas@bvu.net)

## Holy Eucharist Rite 2

*An asterisk (\*) indicates standing; a cross (+) indicates kneeling or standing, as able. The hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, located in the pew racks. The liturgy may be found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP).*

Prelude

Comfort Ye My People

George Boehm

**\*ProceSSIONal Hymn 76**

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

### The Word of God

*\*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

BCP p 355

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

*Presider* Almighty God, to you...through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Trisagion** S102 (*Found toward front of Hymnal*)

**\*The Collect of the Day**

See Scripture Insert

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray. Merciful God . . .

**People** Amen.

**The First Lesson** Baruch 5:1-9, BCP 92

*(The response at the end of each lesson is “Thanks be to God.”)*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;

for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,  
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree  
have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,  
in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

**The Song of Zechariah**    *Benedictus Dominus Deus, Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
    holy and righteous in his sight  
    all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
  
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**        *Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*\*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to . . .  
**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.** (*Tune in back of hymnal cover.*)

**The Gospel Reading** Luke 3:1-6

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** (*Tune in back of hymnal cover.*)

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** (*Tune in back of hymnal cover.*)

Sermon

The Rev Boyd Evans

(*A time of silent reflection follows the sermon.*)

**\*Hymn 67**

“Comfort, comfort ye my people”

*Psalm 42*

**The Nicene Creed**

**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.**

**Prayers of the People**

Form I, BCP 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “**Lord, hear our prayer.**”

We pray today for the Bishop’s Visitation to St. Mark’s Fincastle, the people of Grace Lexington, and their rector The Rev. Willis Logan. The Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop. The Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, Giver of Light, keep us awake and watchful through the night, prepare the way as we await your coming to us in grace and truth. Bless the work of ministry in our church, community, and the world. Give wisdom to those who lead and unction to those who serve. Grant us unity; enable us to bring hope and the light of Christ to those who dwell in darkness.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who hold positions of authority in government at home and abroad. May they walk in the light of truth and govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Heal our nation. Teach us, open our hearts. Refine and purify us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, fill our hearts with tenderness and compassion; keep us awake and watchful to the needs of others: the broken and needy, the homeless, the poor, those sick in mind or body, those who grieve, and all those who care for them. Give rest to the weary. Help those who wake or watch or weep. Be present to those we now name aloud or in our hearts (*pause as the people add their petitions*). **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the beauty and bounty of our world. Wake us from complacency and strengthen our commitment to care for your creation, honoring you and serving others in so doing. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we do not know the day or the hour that you shall come with great power, revealing the glory of the Lord. Keep us always awake and watchful so we may welcome you with joy. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## +Confession of Sin

BCP p 360

*Presider* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(*Silence is kept*)

**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 Peace** (*Standing as we greet one another in the name of the Lord.*)

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

Offertory Anthem

*An Advent Alleluia*

*Douglas Wagner*

based on *Hyfrydol* and Pachelbel Kanon in D.

### The Great Thanksgiving

#### Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p 367

*Presider* 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.

*Presider* It is right and a good and joyful thing . . .

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:

### Sanctus S129

BCP p 367

*Presider* We give thanks to you, O God . . .  
. . . according to his command, O Father:

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

*Presider* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving . . .  
. . . all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

**All** 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.

BCP p 364

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Presider** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

### *Prayer for Spiritual Communion*

**All** My Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. Knowing that you are already there, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.  
(*St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787*)

*(All are invited to receive communion; those who have been baptized are invited to receive bread and wine. We are bringing the bread and wine out to the pews at this time. Those who wish to receive a blessing alone should cross their arms across their chest. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please make your preference known to the server.)*

### **Hymn 336**

“Come with us, O blessed Jesus”

*Werde munter*

**\*Presider** Let us pray.

BCP p 365

**People** 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

#### **\*Recessional Hymn 75**

“There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

*Ascension*

### The Dismissal

#### Postlude

*Lift Up Your Heads*

Jan Bender



### **Lay Worship Assistants**

#### *Today*

#### *Next Week*

First Lector

Dick Austin

Dick Austin, Fran Wall,  
TJ Bond, Beth Smith

Second Lector

Beth Smith

Alison Bundy, Matt Bundy,  
Mel Schwartzstein,  
Susan Patrick, Mary Tackney

Intercessor

Mel Schwartzstein

Ed Morgan

Intercession Composer

Daryl Ann Beeghley

Ed Morgan

Crucifer

Buzz Butler

Buzz Butler

Server

Mary Tackney

Alison Bundy

Videographer

Jack Bundy

Jack Bundy

## Announcements

**Wednesday Bible Study** Dec. 1, 10:30 am, will be continuing in the 10th chapter of Matthew. We have been reading of the healings of Jesus, and the conversation has been lively. There's always a seat available for YOU!

**Sunday Brunch.** You are invited to brunch on Sunday December 12th hosted by Iris Caldwell and Susan Patrick in the Parish Hall following our service of Advent Lessons and Carols. The menu will feature Country Grits and Sausage, Baked French Toast, Fruit bowls, cinnamon rolls, and coffee cake. This would be a wonderful time to invite a friend or neighbor to join you at St. Thomas.

**Sunday Forum** Advent program begins today! For three Sundays we will explore "Advent: The Once & Future Coming of Jesus Christ." This will be a panel presentation inspired by the 2018 book by Fleming Rutledge. The sessions will be led by the popular St Thomas teachers, "Three Lutherans and a Priest". Every aspect of Advent will be considered, from its history, to its meaning, to its art and its hymnody. You'll learn more than just what those four candles symbolize! Rhonda Kindig, Ed Morgan, Sara Combs, and Fr Boyd comprise the panel.

**Special Coffee Hour.** The special coffee hour hosted by Jack Barrow and his son Jack will be held after church on December 19th this year.

**Got stamps?** Danny Thompson, chaplain at the Abingdon Regional Jail has requested stamps for inmates to mail Christmas cards to their families. You may drop the stamps in the basket in the Parish Hall.

**St. Nicholas Day Appeal.** As we enter into Advent, one of the holiest seasons of the Christian year, our diocese's annual **St. Nicholas Day Appeal** is one significant way that we can adjust our focus to the mission that the Son of God ushers into our world. Donations made will be given to **RIP Medical Debt** for their Appalachian campaign. This 501(c)(3) organization buys large bundles of medical debt that are relieved with no tax consequences to donors or recipients.

**2022 Stewardship Campaign.** Thank you so much to all who have already turned in their pledge card! If you have not had a chance to fill out yours, extra cards are located at the back of the nave. The vestry will be finalizing the budget based on returned cards soon. Thanks to all for your generous support.

**Due to the resurgence of Covid variants** in our area, we are strongly encouraging parishioners to wear masks throughout the service and to practice social distancing once again. Thank you for your understanding and concern for the safety and wellbeing of others.

**Communion Instructions.** Holy Eucharist is for all baptized people. Communion is received at the altar. Please wait until the aisle is mostly clear before proceeding so as not to bunch up at the altar. At this time, plastic cups are offered beside the steps for those who wish to receive wine. Those who wish to receive a blessing alone should cross their arms across their chest.

