



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
 The Order of Worship for
 The First Sunday after the Epiphany
 The Baptism of our Lord
 January 10, 2021 † 10:30 AM

Window: The Baptism of Jesus

Prelude Improvisation on 'The Lone Wild Bird'

Welcome

Hymn 121 Christ when for us you were baptized

Caithness

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 Music: *Caithness*, melody from *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

BCP 355

The Collect for Purity *together*

BCP 355

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.

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

BCP 356

The Collect of the Day

BCP 214

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him a Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Genesis: Genesis 1:1-5

RCL 225

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Psalm 29

BCP 620

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 19:1-7

RCL 226

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they

were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them

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

Hymn 513 Like the murmur of the dove's song

Bridegroom

1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the

chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and

wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -

might: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
sign: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
pare: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

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The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:4-11

RCL 226

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon

Invitation to Renewal of Baptismal Vows

BCP 292

We will gather by conference call after the 8 am service and by Zoom after the 10:30 service to renew our baptismal promises together. If you are not able to join us, please share in the renewal with others in your household. Those who live alone are invited to contact one of the clergy and share in these promises over the phone.

Prayers of the People

Let us worship the Savior with joy as we offer our prayers.

At the birth of Jesus, Magi travelled from distant lands. We pray for the welfare of the world, for peace in places of conflict, and for the renewal of the Earth. *God of glory, hear our prayer.*

At his baptism, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. We pray for the Church, anointed with that same Spirit, that we may practice repentance, proclaim the gospel, and walk in love. *God of glory, hear our prayer.*

After his baptism, Jesus gathered a community of disciples. We pray for the health, safety, and wellbeing of this community as we navigate the challenges before us. *God of glory, hear our prayer.*

In his preaching, Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God has come near. We pray for our Nation and for our leaders, that we may end division, enact justice, and respect the dignity of every human being. *God of glory, hear our prayer.*

In his ministry, Jesus healed the sick and comforted the distressed. We pray for all who are sick, anxious, or troubled and for all who care for them. *God of glory, hear our prayer.*

The disciples rejoiced to see Jesus transfigured before them. We rejoice in the many blessings of this life, especially your presence with us. *God of glory, hear our prayer.*

Receive our prayers, and help us shine with the light of Christ through power of the Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

The Offering

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 39106,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumnbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

Solo

Debbie Anderson, *soprano*

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heav'n was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came down from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Music: Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)

Words: Luke 3:21-22

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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.

Concluding Collect

BCP 254

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Organ “How brightly shines the Morningstar”

Philipp Nicolai

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Reggie Brushwood, the Davidson family, Rocio Ramirez & the Perez children, Kevin Waldrup, Dorothy Jones, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ena Hunt & Steve Stewart, William South, Mike Edmondson, Libba Russell, Charlotte DuPriest, Bernie Sutter, Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Maeve Morrill, Norma & Lowell Jergens, Joe Mills, Jack Tice, Gerald Boyd, Esther Thomas, Darius Slusher

Homebound members: Marianne Baxter, Carolyn Billings, Murray Craig, Charlotte DuPriest, Judy Harding, Jan Pittman, Bill Thomas.

Those working in healthcare: Maddie Hanley, Stephen Van Roper (*Charlie & Betty Roper*), Rob Hosey (*Mary Jane Thomas*), Mona Thomas (*Mary Jane Thomas*), Maggie Krawczyk (*Carlene Pawlowicz*), Alex Erickson, Lizzie Venable-Lyashevskiy, Hayley Walker, Nora Ngo, Henry Ngo, Elizabeth McCann Rickerson, Hannah Davenport, Maryann Rahm, Laura Perkins, Michael Dempsey, Monica Fortson, Tom Fortson, April Jacobs, Deborah Scribner, Ellen Richter (*Marianne Richter*), Andrea Fletcher (*Jennifer Fletcher*), James Fletcher (*Jennifer Fletcher*), LeighEllen Johnson (*Meg Olive-Allison*), Mary Jane Burton (*Grace Burton-Edwards*), Michael Chamberlain (*Patty Chamberlain*), Jordan (*Patty Chamberlain*), Colette Daniel (*Mike Edmondson*), Laura Stoltz, Doug Venable (*Lisa Herring*)

Friends of the parish: the Wamer family, Carolyn Billings, Clara Slembariski (*Patty Slembariski*)

Those with continuing concerns: Bill Pauli, Mandy Ochoa, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Chuck Bentfeld, Carlene Pawlowicz, Sandra Wood, Gene Wells, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Lexy McRae

(Jennifer Fletcher), Mark Jones *(Tanya Edwards-Jones)*, Greg & Bonnie Feagle *(Pam Feagle)*, Mike & Jill Venable *(Marquette McKnight)*, Angela Tulloh *(Louise Tulloh)*, Andrew Meyers *(Carole Hill)*, Alex Watford *(Martha Robert)*

Those celebrating birthdays: Sandra Montgomery 1/10, Wayne Joiner 1/11, Deborah Scribner 1/11, Maeve Morrill 1/12, Seyi Isijola 1/14, Steve Hodges 1/14, Jackson Landreau 1/14, Ryan Starkweather 1/14, Whitten Bryans 1/15, Darla Farrow 1/15, Christine Hansen 1/16, Melissa Lockhart 1/16

Those celebrating anniversaries: David & Barbara Brandenburgh 1/14

Those who have died: Marge Henly 5/28/20, Connie McEwen 8/21/20, Jack Blalock 8/31/20, Harvey Hisaw 11/5/20

Announcements

Sundays in Epiphany: Naming the Darkness – and coping with it: Insights from world religions. The primordial metaphors of ‘darkness’ and ‘light’, so prominent in Christianity, are no less present and prominent in other world religions. But what do they mean by those terms? How might their experiences of ‘darkness’ and ‘light’ help us Christians explore the depths of our own symbolism during this Epiphany season, as we celebrate how the Light of Christ has “shined upon” us?

Each Sunday during Epiphany (1/10-2/14, 9:30am) join Denny Clark on Zoom to bring our own encounters with ‘darkness’ and ‘light’ into interaction with the perspective(s) of a different world religion on these themes. Each session will be recorded and made available to those who happen to miss a class or cannot be present for the ‘live’ conversation.

In preparation for session 1 (1/10), you are invited to jot down a list of words or phrases that ‘name’/identify a half-dozen or so ways you (and/or those you know) have experienced ‘darkness’ during this past year. This initial session will both introduce the series and consider how Daoism’s use of the yin/yang symbol (see below) might insightfully interact with our encounters with ‘darkness’.

Additional sessions: 1/17: Hinduism; 1/24: Judaism; 1/31: Buddhism; 2/7: Islam; 2/14: Christianity.

Prayers of the People: Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Some have mentioned that they miss hearing other voices as we pray together. For this Season after the Epiphany, join us for Zoom Coffee Hour following the 10:30 service to pray the Prayers of the People together, including our prayer list from the bulletin. We will visit at bit at the start of the time together and conclude with prayer together.

Blessing of Homes in Epiphany: Because the Magi visited Jesus at his house, the church developed a custom of Blessing Homes at Epiphany. We shared a liturgy on January 6 for you to pray on your own at home. Rev. Grace and Father Edward are also willing to visit your home in this season to share a blessing with you outdoors at your front door. Contact grace@stthomascolumnbus.org or edward@stthomascolumnbus.org to arrange a time.

The Dream Lives - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Event: January 18 at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Columbus Consolidated Government, this virtual event will include a “Fireside Chat” with former Ambassador Andrew Young as well as entertainment provided by local artists. St. Thomas members took part in the procession that was recorded for this event. The event will be streamed on the Columbus Consolidated Government Access Channel, YouTube (bitly.com/CCG-TV), and on the Mayor’s Facebook page ([@MayorSkipHenderson](https://www.facebook.com/MayorSkipHenderson)). In addition, citizens can also attend a drive-in screening of the event in the Columbus Civic Center parking lot at 6:30 PM on January 18th.

Annual Meeting Finance Update: January 24 at 11:15 a.m. Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31 via zoom. To prepare for that meeting, those who would like to take a deeper look at church finances are invited to gather on zoom on January 24 at 11:15. Sign up on Eventbrite so that we can send you a link to the meeting and materials for discussion. If you need help registering, email Meg@stthomas columbus.org or call the church office.

Annual Meeting: January 31 at 11:15 a.m. Join us to review the year that is past and look ahead.

Candlemas Procession: January 31 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. We often bless candles at the Feast of the Presentation on February 2, when we remember the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. As Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, we invite you to bring a candle to St. Thomas. We will bless these candles in worship on January 31, which happens to be the day of our Annual Meeting. Place your candle on the altar by the doors of the nave, and pray the prayer for St. Thomas that will be printed there, to help us prepare for our Annual Meeting.