



St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
The Order of Worship for  
The First Sunday after the Epiphany  
The Baptism of our Lord  
January 10, 2021 † 8:00 AM

*Window: The Baptism of Jesus*

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**Welcome**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. BCP 323  
*People* *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

**The Collect for Purity** *together* BCP 323

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

*Celebrant* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, BCP 356  
*People* *Have mercy upon us.*

**The Gloria** *together* BCP 324

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Collect of the Day** BCP 163

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy 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 thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, 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.*

### 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 be to thee, O Lord.*

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 be to thee, O 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

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Rob our Bishop and Michael our Presiding Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, the President, and Joe, the President-elect, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially St. Thomas parishioners – Reggie, the Davidson family, Rocio & the Perez children, Kevin, Dorothy, Carlene, Ena & Steve, William, Mike, Libba, Charlotte, Bernie, Ralph, Henry, Maeve, Norma & Lowell, Joe, Jack, Gerald, Esther, and Darius; our homebound members - Marianne, Carolyn, Murray, Charlotte, Judy, Jan, and Bill; and friends of St. Thomas – the Wamer family, Carolyn, and Clara

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Marge, Connie, Jack, and Harvey, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. 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**

## The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

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 203

Almighty God, who by our baptism into the death and resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ dost 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 the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee 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.

### 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-Lyashvskiy, 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 a 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](mailto:grace@stthomascolumnbus.org) or [edward@stthomascolumnbus.org](mailto: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](https://bitly.com/CCG-TV)), and on the Mayor’s Facebook page (@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@stthomascolumnbus.org](mailto:Meg@stthomascolumnbus.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.