



Window: The Resurrection

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 † 10:30 AM

Welcome to worship in All Saints Hall, our parish hall. We are remodeling our Nave to Make Room for All and improve accessibility. We expect the work to be complete by Thanksgiving.

Restrooms and a water fountain are available in a hallway to your right as you face the fireplace. Additional restrooms are behind the parish hall, accessible via two right turns from the door near the office.

Children are welcome in worship. Care for young children is available in the nursery if needed. Older children are invited to children's chapel before the reading of the gospel. Children's chapel will meet in the outreach center. Should you need to step out at any time, a livestream of the service will be shown in the library, located directly behind the fireplace.

Welcome

Please stand as you are comfortable at the ringing of the bell

Hymn 379 God is love, let heaven adore him

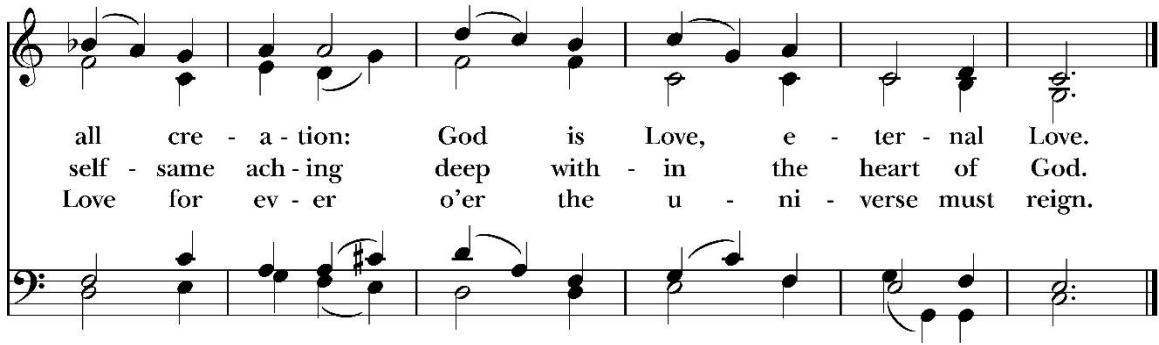
Abbot's Leigh

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so



all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. Held by A.R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991). Copyright © 1942 Renewal 1970, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity *unison*

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.

Gloria S-278

setting by William Matthias

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
 might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
 on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD’S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn. *

the saving deeds that he has done.

A reading from the First Letter of John

I John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

*Please stand as you are comfortable and remain standing through the gospel reading.
Children may follow the petite cross out to Children’s Chapel, to return at the Peace.*

Hymn 610 Lord, whose love through humble service

Blaenhafren

1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we

need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's
 bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we
 light, in its height and depth and great - ness, dawns up - on our
 go, to the child, the youth, the a - ged love in liv - ing

per - fect deed, we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship
 mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion
 quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens
 deeds to show; hope and health, good will and com - fort,

not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se - crat - ing
 healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring us to
 coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser - vants,

to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
 Spi - rit kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
 tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt. Copyright © 1961, Albert Bayly. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.
 Music: *Blaenhafren*, Welsh melody.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison, standing as you are comfortable*

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.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For victims of hunger, fear, war, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Rob, our bishop, Victor, our companion bishop, Grace, Roxane, and Darius, our priests, our vestry and church staff, for all bishops, clergy, and lay ministers; for all who are leading the process of *Making Room for All*;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for St. Thomas parishioners Faye, Jan & family, Steve, Alex, Sid, John, the Boyd family, the Decker family, the family and friends of Murray Craig, John, Bob, Neal, Laurie, Gene, Ellen, Steve, Cindy, Bernie, Josh, Rick, and Raymond; for our homebound members Ramón, Carol, Bill, Jan, and William; for friends of the parish Mary, Michael, Precious, Mary Louise & family, Steven & Buffy, Emma Duke, the family and friends of Molly Lane, the family and friends of Samantha Broom, John, Donna, Chris, John, Linda, the family and friends of Lexy McRae, Sam, and Jim; for those who care for them, and for others we name at this time . . . *Silence*. Hear us, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Give thanks for the birthdays of Steve, Martha, Ralph, Kingston, Kevin, Bill, Amaya, Allen, and Joann; for those celebrating anniversaries; and other blessings we name at this time. *Silence*. We will exalt you, O God our King; **and praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, especially Norma, Rolene, Mike, Marianne, Mitchi, Sam, Bill, Dixie, Bob, Judy, Murray, and Judy. *Silence*. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace *standing or seated as you are comfortable, we share signs of Christ's peace with one another*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

Offertory

Anthem Living in a Holy City

Stephen Hatfield (b. 1956)

Sung by Voices of the Valley

We come together to work so that face to face we can instruct our hands to build a house of grace,
for ev'ry one of us here is a dwelling place, and we're assembled for a holy city. Alleluia.

We come together to work so that hand in hand we raise our voices up to mark the place we stand.
And ev'ry step that you take is a promised land when you ware heading for a holy city. Alleluia.

We come together to work so that voice to voice we can command the world: Ev'ry one rejoice!
When the messenger dares you to make your choice, say you're preparing for a holy city. Alleluia.

I must be living in a holy city. Alleluia.

Stephen Hatfield

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B Please stand as you are comfortable*

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 our 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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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-128

setting by William Mathias

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.

Remain as you are, or kneel

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.

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,

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

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 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 *spoken in unison*

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Fraction Anthem S-165

setting by William Mathias



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy



on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy



on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

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.

All Christians are joyfully invited to share in communion. You do not have to be a member of St. Thomas or an Episcopalian in order to receive. Come forward down the center aisle when invited by the ushers. Go to the farthest end of the altar rail and stand or kneel. Hold out one hand to receive the bread and then dip the bread in the cup or drink from the cup. If you prefer not to share a common cup, hold out two hands to receive the bread and wine together. If you prefer not to receive either the bread or the cup, cross your arms across your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, let the server know. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, let the usher know.

Music during Communion

Please sit or kneel after receiving communion and during the postcommunion prayer.

Piano *When I survey the wondrous cross*

O Wally, Wally; arr. Dan Forrest

Modimo

Michael Barrett (b. ????)

Sung by Voices of the Valley

Hymn 439 *What wondrous love is this?*

St. Agnes

Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835. Music: *Wondrous Love*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; alt. acc. Carlton R. Young, (b. 1926).

Hymn 138 Lord, I want to be a Christian

from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, In my heart;—
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart, In my heart;—
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, In my heart;—
 4. I don't want to be like Ju - das In my heart, In my heart;—
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart, In my heart;—

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, _____
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart, _____
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, _____
 4. I don't want to be like Ju - das In my heart, _____
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart, _____

In my heart, _____ In my heart, _____
 In my heart, _____ In my heart, _____

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart. _____
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart. _____
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart. _____
 4. I don't want to be like Ju - das In my heart. _____
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart. _____

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Edward C. Deas. Copyright © Sunday School Publishing Board.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 529 In Christ there is no east or west

Sicilian Mariners

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.
3. In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North,
All Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Choral Orison *sung by the combined choirs*

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And, until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Music Notes

What a joy to welcome Voices of the Valley to our service today. There are so many connections...the original Columbus Boychoir was founded and housed here...Voices has been to Norwich Cathedral with us...Dr Folta is a valued member of our choir. Rick is the chairman of the board...Asha Hostetter, Tommy Meeks and Sam Olive-Allison are choir members. And we are glad to claim many friends and supporters among our membership. Their spring concert will be May 11 in Legacy Hall at RiverCenter at 7 pm. And they leave May 28 for their second international tour to Italy and sing Mass at the Vatican.

And special thanks to our own Luise May for playing one of Chopin's most famous works at the prelude.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Faye Melton, Jan & family, Steve Melton, Alex Gafford, Sid Regan, John Studstill, Jennifer Boyd and family, the Decker family, the family & friends of Murray Craig, John Partin, Bob Chitwood, Neal Fenter, Laurie Mahon, Gene Wells, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Cindy Godwin, Bernie Sutter, Josh Becker, Rick McKnight, Raymond Campbell

Homebound members: Ramón Capo, Carol Kennon, Bill Pauli, Jan Pittman, William South

Friends of the parish: Mary (*Roxane Gwyn*), Michael Langan (*Cindy Godwin*), Precious (*Patty Slembarski*), Mary Louise Grable & family (*Patty Slembarski*), Steven & Buffy Swinehart (*Travis Wade*), Emma Duke Bleke (*Ann Burr*), the family & friends of Molly Lane (*Cindy Godwin*), the family & friends of Samantha Broom (*Katie Buckley*), John Guy (*Ena Hunt*), Donna Becker (*Ashley Becker*), Chris Matthews (*Bonnie Ellis*), John Denny (*Ena Hunt*), Linda (*Florence Wakoko-Studstill*), the family & friends of Lexy McRae (*Riley Connery, Taylor St. John*), Sam Delgado (*Kym Futch*), Jim Holder (*Jenny Holder*)

Those with continuing concerns: Frank & Pam Feagle, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Soldiers and families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Steve Slater 4/28, Martha Carlsen 4/29, Ralph Wimberly 4/29, Kingston Olive-Allison 4/30, Kevin Kelly 5/1, Bill Pauli 5/2, Amaya Chapman 5/2, Allen Gordy 5/4, Joann Weeks 5/4

Those celebrating anniversaries:

Those who have died: Norma Jergens 7/27/23, Rolene Stewart 8/6/23, Mike Nichols 8/31/23, Marianne Baxter 9/9/23, Mitchi Wade 11/3/23, Sam Harmon 11/25/23, Bill Thomas 11/25/23, Dixie Harmon 12/23/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24, Judy Harding 1/22/24, Murray Craig 4/4/24, Judy Gunter 4/6/24

Announcements

For more information about the ministries of St. Thomas, pick up our latest *Seasons* newsletter or visit our website at www.StThomasColumbus.org.

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available in the parish hall.

Formation:

Shine Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Outreach Center. Children ages Pre-K – 3rd grade

Tween Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Youth Room. Children ages 4th grade-middle school

Adults: 9:30-10:15

In Search of Justice - April 21 & 28, May 5 & 12 in the library. Themes of justice, righteousness, and fairness abound throughout the scriptures. This study will explore the Justice of God revealed in the scriptures and what it means to live out God's justice in a world filled with so much injustice. Jerry Brown will facilitate these discussions.

Welcome Class - April 21 to May 12, in the Parlor.

Worship:

Children's Chapel: Children follow the petite cross to the Chapel before the Gospel reading and return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

Children's lectionary bulletins can be found in the busy bags located under the wooden table at the rear of All Saints' Hall.

Contemplative Healing Service: Tonight at 5pm in the Chapel. Silence, gentle chanting, scripture, candlelight, meditation, healing prayers with anointing, and the Holy Eucharist. Bring your most vulnerable self and be met with the gift of silence and healing.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays Eucharist: 5:30 to 6 in the Chapel. This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.

Wednesday programming schedule: *(Nursery available from 5:30-7:30; longer if needed by choir members.)*

5:30	Eucharist in the Chapel
5:30-6:15	Dinner served in the parish hall
6:20	Prayers around tables
6:30-7:30	Formation time for children, youth, and adults
6:45-8:30	St. Thomas Choir rehearsal in the Chapel

Wednesday Dinner: An entrée with two sides and a simple dessert. (Vegetarian and gluten free options available by request). Suggested cost: \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family, however, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. Reservations needed each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at a time. Reservation cards also available in the pews.

Menu – May 1: Breakfast for Dinner

News for this week

Welcome Classes: First Steps with St. Thomas - Sundays at 9:30, April 14 to May 12. These classes are for all guests and new members who would like to learn more about St. Thomas and for long-time members who would like a refresher.

Guiding Lights: Conversations about care for children past and present; Wednesday evenings April 10 to May 15, 6:30 to 7:30 in the Library. Join us for conversation about guiding young people. Each night we pick a theme and share experiences, wisdom, and questions around that theme. Parents of young children, parents of adult children, grandparents, teachers, neighbors - all are invited. All who love and care for children and teens have something to share.

Saints & Sinners: May 2 at 11:30 am in the parish hall. Gather with friends for mid-day Eucharist and potluck lunch. No reservations required - just show up for a lovely time together. The group will continue to meet in the Parish Hall during Construction.

St. Thomas Book Group: May 3 at 11 am in the library. This month's book is *The Seakeeper's Daughter* by Lisa Wingate. This is an informal group, everyone is welcome. Come and bring your friends. Call Martha Mullinax or Alice Barlow for further information.

Baby Shower and Blessing for Hannah & Brian Walker: May 5 in the parish hall following the 10:30 service. Hannah & Brian's baby GIRLS are due soon and we can't wait to meet them

and welcome them to St. Thomas. We will have notecards available for all to write blessings for these new parents. Gifts are not required but they are registered at Target and Amazon. Everyone is welcome for this time celebration.

Graduation Sunday: Join us May 12th for a blessing and celebration of all the high school, college, and graduate school graduates. If you are graduating, please send your name, school, and accomplishment to Taylor Mack by April 28th.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Women's Lectionary Bible Study: Thursdays from 10-11am in the St. Thomas Library and on Zoom. May 2 and 9. Study the lectionary readings for the following Sunday in this one-hour class taught by the Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard. All women are welcome; you don't have to be a member of St. Thomas or even of any church at all. A study sheet is sent to each participant a few days before class. Contact the church office to register.

Youth Workday: May 4, 9am-12:30pm. Calling all youth for a workday to fix up the courtyard and firepit on the morning of May 4th! This will be an opportunity to improve our outdoor space, get to know other members of the St. Thomas community, and show appreciation for the church. Lunch will be provided.

Lunch Bunch: Tuesday, May 14, 11:30am at Parker's Pantry. All women are invited to gather for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month. We will meet at Parker's Pantry at 11:30. After each person orders in the line, we will gather in the private dining room. At noon, there will be a brief prayer and devotion. This is a new gathering in addition to the Women's Group. Hope to see you there!

The Ten Commandments: An Interfaith Conversation with Rabbi Beth Schwartz and friends; Select Wednesdays in April and May; 6:30 to 7:30 at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church (4026 Macon Rd). Join Rabbi Beth Schwartz, the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, and friends in Luther Hall at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for dialogue with the Ten Commandments. The course will explore the Ten Commandments through the lenses of Judaism and Lutheran, Episcopal, and Presbyterian liturgical and catechetical traditions of interpreting and applying them. This is a continuation of a discussion that began at St. Matthew before Lent. May 8: "You Shall Not Commit Murder"

May Excursion: Voices of the Valley Concert - Saturday May 11 at 7:00 pm at RiverCenter. The Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus presents "A Servant's Heart," featuring many voices from St. Thomas. See Monday's newsletter for more information, and let Roxane know if you'll be attending so we can all sit together.

May YACT Social - Rafting! Saturday, May 18, 2024, 11:00 AM. Join Young Adults from St. Thomas for a rafting trip. Contact Taylor for more info! If rafting isn't for you consider joining the group for lunch at Banks Food Hall at 1:30.

Vacation Bible School: July 22 – 26. All children (rising preK-5th grade) are invited to participate in ReNew: The Green VBS. ReNew is about hope, opportunity, and service. Kids will have the chance to grow in faith as they play, learn, and sing all while serving their community and demonstrate that being green can be easy, faithful, and fun. Registration coming soon! Volunteers are needed to offer the best VBS to the children of our community! Youth (rising 6th-12th grade) are encouraged to volunteer as shepherds. Adults are needed to lead classes, help with

food preparation, and manage drop off/pick up. If you are interested in volunteering, please email taylor@stthomascolumnbus.org.

Camp Mikell Summer Camp for Children & Youth: Camp Mikell is the Camp and Conference Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Camp Mikell offers week-long summer camps for rising 3rd graders through recent high school graduates. Please visit campmikell.com/summer-camp/ for more information. In addition to scholarships and payment plans offered by Camp Mikell, St. Thomas is able to offer a scholarship for up to 1/3 of the camp cost to children and teens who are members of St. Thomas and who participate in St. Thomas children and youth programming at least once a month. Contact Taylor Mack for more information on scholarships. Some teens may be interested in earning extra money to cover the remaining costs of camp. If you would like to hire a youth to help with yard work, spring cleaning, babysitting, or other tasks please contact Taylor Mack to be connected.

Evening Prayer: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 5:45 or so on Zoom. We gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our LinkTree.

Prayer Group: The St. Thomas Prayer Group meets weekly to offer all kinds of prayers, including Prayers of the People shared on Sunday mornings. We also pray for those who have asked for prayers but wish them to be private. This list is confidential to the Prayer Group. Contact the church office to request prayers or to find out about being a part of the Prayer Group. The group meets in person in the Chapel at St. Thomas the first Monday of each month and online on other Mondays.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas including Wednesday night dinners! New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.



St. Thomas Staff

Director of Music & Organist: Rick McKnight; *Director of Parish Administration:* Patty Slembariski; *Director of Parish & Community Engagement:* Meg Olive-Allison; *Director of Youth & Young Adults:* Taylor Mack; *Interim Director of Children's Ministries:* Maddie Redden; *Kitchen Manager & Sexton:* Seth Burgamy; *Livestream technician:* Nick Williams; *Maintenance & cleaning:* Frances Woolfolk; *Nursery:* Riley Mullen, Evie Smith, Dorothy Uwanawich, Jenneken Varnum; *Sexton assistant:* Morgan Camp

St. Thomas Clergy

Associate Rector for Mission: Darius Sudayi; *Associate Rector for Pastoral Care:* Roxane Gwyn; *Rector:* Grace Burton-Edwards