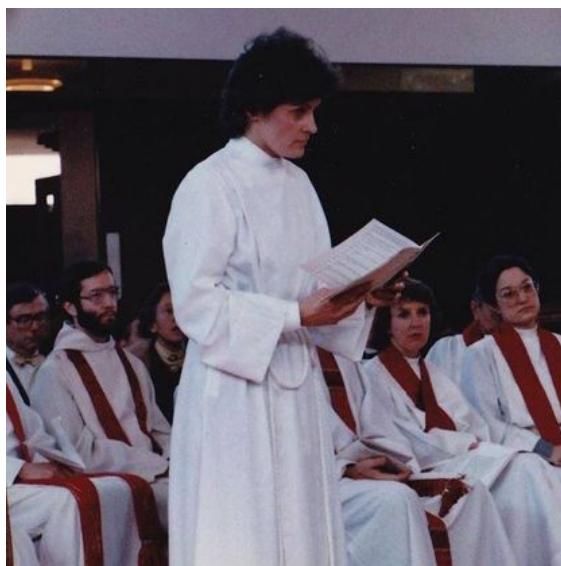


Zoom Best Practices

To make the service run more smoothly and to cut down on distortion and dissonance caused by the response of multiple voices, please leave your computer mic or phone on mute at all times with the exception of the Peace, the Intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer. We will assign and / or ask for volunteers to represent the congregation as one voice for the remainder of the responsorial portions of the service. However, while muted, please do say the words that are written for your response. Even in the muted state, this remains an interactive service.



Order of Service

Second Sunday in Lent

Year B

A LITURGY OF LEAVE-TAKING IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR MUTUAL MINISTRY

Prelude

A Change is Gonna Come

Sam Cooke

Hymn 466

Eternal light, shine in my heart

Jacob

1 E - ter - nal light, shine in my heart; e - ter - nal
2 E - ter - nal life, raise me from death; e - ter - nal
3 un - til by your most cost - ly grace, in - vit - ed
hope, lift up my eyes; e - ter - nal power, be
bright - ness, help me see; e - ter - nal Spi - rit,
by your ho - ly word, at last I come be -
my sup - port; e - ter - nal wis - dom, make me wise.
give me breath; e - ter - nal Sa - vior come to me:
fore your face to know you, my e - ter - nal God.

Officiant: Blessed be God: Source of All Being, the Incarnate Word, and Life-Giving Spirit.
People: **And blessed be God's kin-dom, now and forever. Amen.**

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

Collect

God of dispossession, you rebuke our refusal to give up our idols, separate and safe: send us with Jesus on the way of the cross, that we might lose our love of death and take the risk of life; through Jesus Christ, the new covenant. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe

in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

Third Reading Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Sermon The Rev. Carol D. Gadsden

Returning the Gifts for Ministry

After the sermon Carol stands before the congregation and says,



Carol: At the beginning of my ministry, you gave me many things in trust and a charge as to how to use them. Now, I leave these and other things with you, the ministers of St. Thomas, Mamaroneck, its congregation and lay leaders. I am returning the items to those who so lovingly entrusted me with them over six years ago.

To the Bible Study group: You gave me a bible. Continue to study God’s word and the teachings of our Lord so you are strengthened to help usher in the kin-dom.

To our young ones, our tweens, and our teens: You gave me a stole and the Book of Common Prayer. Continue to remind your clergy he or she is to be a pastor and priest to all ages, and that this stole is a living reminder of that sacred bond.

To Shelley and Altar Guild: You gave me bread and wine. Continue to share these worship resources that belong to this church and ensure that the prayers of God’s people and, along with the ministry of clergy, the sacraments of the church continue in this place. **Amen.**

To Matthew and the Choir: You gave me a hymnal. Continue to use the hymnal, LEVAS, Wonder, Love & Praise, and any other vehicle by which you bring song to ensure that the praise of God and glorious music continues in this place. **Amen.**

To our healers, Ira and Irene: You gave me an oil stock. Continue to use this oil for anointing and ensure that this remains a place of care, healing and reconciliation. **Amen.**

To our Senior Warden, Eleanor: You gave me the keys to the buildings. Receive these keys and ensure that the doors of this place remain open to all people. **Amen.**

To the Vestry: Receive these Canons and the Diocesan Handbook and ensure that this congregation continues to be governed in accordance with them and in communion with our Bishop. **Amen.**

To the Outreach Committee: You gave me a cup and a blanket as a symbol of our ministry to the hungry and homeless. I give you back the experience of Appalachia, the retirement of medical debt of nearly \$10,000,000, and the Street Shop, in addition to the other Outreach initiatives. Continue to fight for the marginalized.

To my partner in ministry, Tami: Continue to use this water for the baptismal font and ensure that this remains a place where people are loved and brought into the family of God through baptism. **Amen.**

Let all these be signs of the ministry that is yours and the Bishop's in this place. Amen.

The service continues with the Prayers of the People

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all, and provider of grace to all who toil together in the hope of meaningful living: continue your saving work through your Spirit in our midst.

People: **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

Grant that our lives, and Carol's in retirement, may continue to be instruments for serving the common good, with time for leisure, for new growth and service.

People: **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

Grant Carol, as she leaves the accomplishments and trials of this congregation, a sense of gratitude for those who have shared this journey, both at St. Thomas's, in this community, the Church, and the world.

People: **Give grace to your servant, O Lord.**

Give her thankfulness for all who have supported her life's journey, especially Linda, Hilary, Courtney, and Jim, as well as for all those who have shared in her spiritual journey, that she may continually use insights from her path to help others know and serve God.

People: **Give grace to your servant, O Lord.**

Grant her wisdom and understanding in the ordering of retirement life, that she may be blessed with a positive, hopeful perspective, so that future years may be valued and productive, in service to you.

People: **Give grace to your servant, O Lord.**

Give forgiveness to us and to Carol for all things done and left undone in our common life.

People: **Give grace to your people, O Lord.**

Grant to the people of St. Thomas Episcopal Church the vision to continue on God's journey, to fulfill the mission of St. Thomas, that all people might know God and love each other through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Give grace to your people, O Lord.**

Grant to this congregational family the awareness of those who have gone before us, a thankfulness for their abiding faith, and a willingness to ever seek the kingdom of God, both in this place and beyond its walls.

People: **Give grace to your people, O Lord.**

To you, O Lord, be the power and glory, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

Welcome, Announcements, Black History Month biography, Blessings

Anthem

Serve Somebody

Bob Dylan

You may be an ambassador to England or France
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
Indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody
You might be a rock 'n' roll addict prancing on the stage
You might have drugs at your command, women in a cage
You may be a business man or some high-degree thief
They may call you doctor or they may call you chief
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes you are
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody
You may be a state trooper, you might be a young Turk
You may be the head of some big TV network

You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame
You may be living in another country under another name
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes you are
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody
You may be a construction worker working on a home
You may be living in a mansion or you might live in a dome
You might own guns and you might even own tanks
You might be somebody's landlord, you might even own banks
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody
You may be a preacher with your spiritual pride
You may be a city councilman taking bribes on the side
You may be workin' in a barbershop, you may know how to cut hair
You may be somebody's mistress, may be somebody's heir
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody
Might like to wear cotton, might like to wear silk
Might like to drink whiskey, might like to drink milk
You might like to eat caviar, you might like to eat bread
You may be sleeping on the floor, sleeping in a king-sized bed
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
Indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody
You may call me Terry, you may call me Timmy
You may call me Bobby, you may call me Zimmy
You may call me R.J., you may call me Ray
You may call me anything but no matter what you say
Still, you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody

A Prayer for the Time in Which We are Living

Gracious and merciful God: We are weary, but we see possibility and have increased hope for a respite from our COVID fatigue. Help us to hold steady in our hearts and minds so we may do what is required to meet each day with strength and wisdom. Cause us to remain vigilant and patient, especially when we are tempted to relax protocols and resume life as we knew it prior to the pandemic. Keep us grounded in your peace. Help us to be your hands and heart in all situations, at all times. Continue to surround those who fear with your calming presence. Embrace

those who are ill with your healing power. Envelop those who are dying in your loving arms and lead them to eternal life. For you are our guide and our grounding, this day and always. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all. **Amen.**

A Franciscan Benediction, modified

After the blessing the priest sits on a chair placed in view of the congregation and says:

On the 15th day of September, 2014, I started my ministry with St. Thomas Episcopal Church as your rector. I have, with God's help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities.

After prayer and careful consideration, it now seems to me that I should leave this charge, and I publicly state that my tenure as Rector of St. Thomas, Mamaroneck, ends this day.

On behalf of the Bishop, the Senior Warden says:

Do you, the people of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?

People: **We do.**

Hymn 522

*Glorious things of thee are spoken**Austria*

Descant

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
 2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion how - ering, see the cloud and
 4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

deem - er's blood! Whom their souls re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
 deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
 daugh - -ters and all fear of want re - move.
 cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

'Tis his love his peo - ple raise o - ver
 on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to

self to reign and as priests, his
 sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
 reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn

sol - emn prais - es each an of - fering brings.
 round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**