

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
New Member Recognition
Black History Month and America250
February 1, 2026
10:00 AM**

Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Assisting: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans

Homilist: The Rev. Joseph Watkins

Vergers: Eugene Golson

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Chancel Choir

Guest Soloist: Shango Jamal-Lewis

Order of Service

A Meditation Prayer

Verger Eugene Golson

The Prelude

Soloist-Shango Jamal-Lewis

The Opening Hymn- "Stand By Me"

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #200

1) When the storms of life are raging,
Stand by me, stand by me;
When the storms of life are raging,
Stand by me, stand by me;
When the world is tossing me
Like a ship upon the sea;
Thou who rulest wind and water,
Stand by me, stand by me.

2) In the midst of tribulations,
Stand by me, stand by me;
In the midst of tribulations,
Stand by me, stand by me;
When the hosts of hell assail,
And my strength begins to fail,
Thou who never lost a battle,
Stand by me, stand by me.

3) In the midst of faults and failures,
Stand by me, stand by me;
In the midst of faults and failures,
Stand by me, stand by me;
When I do the best I can,
And my friends misunderstand,
Thou who knowest all about me,
Stand by me, stand by me.

4) In the midst of persecution,
Stand by me, stand by me;
In the midst of persecution,
Stand by me, stand by me;
When my foes in battle array
Under take to stop my way,
Thou who saved Paul and Silas,
Stand by me, stand by me.

5) When I'm growing old and feeble,
Stand by me, stand by me;
When I'm growing old and feeble,
Stand by me, stand by me;
When my life becomes a burden,
And I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou "Lily of the Valley"
Stand by me, Stand by me.

A Word of Welcome

The Celebrant

The Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. **AMEN**

The Collect for Purity

The Celebrant: 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**

The Hymn of Praise – "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

LEVAS # 1

1) Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

2) Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over away that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3) God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,

**May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.**

The Proclamation of the Word

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

The First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Deborah Camp-Frye

A reading from the Book of Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

Sharon Harper

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Kim Phillips

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn - "No, Not One"

LEVAS #90 (vv. 1-3)

1) There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!

None else could heal all our soul's diseases, No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done;

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one.

2) No friend like Him is so high and holy, No, not one! No, not one!

And yet no friend is so meek and lowly, No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done;

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!

3) There's not an hour that He is not near us, No, not one! No, not one!

No night so dark but His love can cheer us, No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done;

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Fr. Evans

The Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my

account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Reader: The Gospel of our Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- "No, Not One"

LEVAS # 90 (vv. 4-5)

4) Did ever saint find this Friend forsake Him? No, not one! No, not one!

Or sinner find that He would not take him? No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done;

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!

5) Was e'er a gift like the savior given? No, not one! No, not one!

Will he refuse us a home in heaven? No, not one! No, not one.

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!

The Homily

The Reverend Joseph Watkins

The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Prayers of the People – Form IV BCP 388

Edward Geiger

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Daniel, our Bishop, Martini our Rector, Daren our associate to the Rector, Gerald and Wil our Associate Priests, Karen and Eugene our Vergers, Paul our Associate Minister, and for all bishops and other ministers.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless us as we celebrate America250 and the many contributions of Black people in the growth of our nation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For those incarcerated: Guide them Lord in all they do with your Grace and Love and grant them your continual help. In all their problems, your guidance; in all their dangers, your protection; and in all their sorrows, your peace. And we remember and pray for those who may have been affected by their actions.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For those who may be experiencing loneliness or sadness following the death of a loved one, grant them your presence and comfort.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, help us.

God of Grace save us.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thomas, Absalom, and all of the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To thee, Lord our God.

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

The Confession

BCP 360

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The Celebrant and The People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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 Absolution

The Celebrant

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. AMEN

The Peace

The Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Sentence and Offering

**Offer your gift now via text: Text “AECST” to 73256
or use the QR Code found on page 1**

The Offertory Musical Selection

St. Thomas Chancel Choir

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

The People: We lift them to the Lord.

The Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: It is right to give him 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. (*Celebrant adds a short Proper Preface*)

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:

The Sanctus (Sung)

The Celebrant and the People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Memorial Acclamation (Sung)

The Celebrant and People:

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

The Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 forever. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray.

The Celebrant and People:

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

The Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

The People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Agnus Dei (Sung)

The Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

Let us pray: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **AMEN**

The 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.

The Distribution of Communion

(All baptized persons who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to receive the Holy Sacrament. If you only wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest.)

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Celebrant and 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

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Celebrant: In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

The People: We who are many are one body, and we all share on bread and one cup.

The Announcements

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

Recognition of 2025 New Members

Fr. Shaw

The Closing Hymn - "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

LEVAS # 226

**1) Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on. [Refrain]**

Refrain: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

**2) I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on. [Refrain]**

**3) He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before His judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]**

**4) In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make us holy, let us die to make men free,
while God is marching on. [Refrain]**

The Dismissal

The Postlude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The End of Mass: This is a reminder that the Mass (service) ends following the closing hymn and dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the service before its conclusion. This request is being made to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

**We give thanks and welcome individuals who joined our church family during
2025. Please greet the New Members of our Parish Family!**

Nicole Bennett-Denson	Ingris Nembhard
Dane Bowrin	Isaac Nembhard
Dominic Bowrin	Jacob Nembhard
Vanessa Bowrin	Robert Newton Davenport
Jessica Brunt	Doris Ohliger
Melisse Brunt	Chinwe Onyekere
Christopher Burks	Nzogi Onyekere
Kayla Byrd	Kareem Ragin
Reginald Carter	Cynthia Ray
Diane Culmer	Samantha Richardson-Ingram
Chris Davis	Samaya Ingram
Daine Decoursey	Zachariah Ingram
Melissa Gray	Zavier Ingram
Elyse Harris	Fatima Sultan
Synethia Hill	Maddox Sultan Robinson
Evelyn Johns	Toddrick Ricks
Michelle Mack	Christin Veney
Dr. Stephen Mack	Hamaas Veney
Velma Morris-Nembhard	Lorenzo Whitacker