

“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this **the First Sunday of Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Name & the Circumcision of Our Lord.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived.

While I am away on holiday this Sunday, I look forward to seeing and greeting you next Sunday.

Faithfully,

Martini Shaw⁺

**(The Very Rev. Canon) Martini Shaw,
17th Rector and
Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery**

**The First Sunday of Christmas and
the Feast of the Holy Name & Circumcision of Our Lord**

**Morning Prayer
January 1, 2023
10:00 am**

Officiant: Kathryn Brossa, Seminarian in Residence

Music: Dr. Jay Fluellen and Dr. Rollo Dilworth

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ORDER OF SERVICE

The Musical Prelude

Dr. Fleullen and Dr. Dillworth

The Opening Salutation:

Please stand, as able

Officiant: Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and their God.

Revelation 21:3

The Confession of Sin

Please kneel or remain standing, as able

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: 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.

Officiant: 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 Invitatory and Psalter

Please stand, as able

Officiant: + Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!

Officiant: Alleluia! To us a child is born:

People: Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

The Jubilate - said in unison

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;*
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;*
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;*

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

**For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;*
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Psalm 8 - read responsively by half verse

Please be seated.

1. O Lord our Governor,*
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
2. Out of the mouths of infants and children*
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
3. You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,*
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
4. When I consider your heavens , the work of your fingers,*
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
5. What is man that you should be mindful of him?*,
the son of man that you should seek him out?
6. You have made him but little lower than the angels;*,
you adorn him with glory and honor;
7. You give him mastery over the works of your hands;*,
you put all things under his feet:
8. All sheep and oxen,*
even the wild beasts of the field,
9. The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,*
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
10. O Lord our Governor,*
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A Musical Selection

Dr. Fluellen and Dr. Dilworth

The Lessons

First Lesson: Numbers 6:22-27

A Reading from the Book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16 - The Song of Zechariah - *said in unison*

Please stand, as able

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;*

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,*

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies,*

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers*

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,*

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation*

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God*

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy spirit:*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

Please be seated.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 7 - We Praise Thee - said in unison

Please stand , as able

**We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.
All the earth worships thee, the Father everlasting.
To you all Angles cry aloud,
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.
To you Cherubim and Seraphim continually cry;
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise you.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise you.
The noble army of martyrs praise you.
The holy Church throughout all the world acknowledges you,
the Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.**

**You are the King of glory, O Christ.
You are the everlasting Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with your saints,
in glory everlasting.**

Third Lesson: Luke 2:15-21

Please stand.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Apostle's Creed - said in unison

Please stand as able.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ , his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Please remain standing or kneel, as able

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer - said in unison

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages (B) - said responsively

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance:

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy.

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collects

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, I the glory everlasting.

People: **AMEN.**

Almighty God, who made your blessed Son to be circumcised, and obedient to the law for our sake; Grant is the true circumcision of the Spirit; that, our hearts, and all our members, being mortified from all worldly and carnal lusts, we may in all things obey your blessed will; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgivings - silently or aloud

The General Thanksgiving - said in unison

Officiant: Let us pray

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: + May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

The Announcements

Kelvin Johnson

The Musical Postlude

Dr. Fluellen and Dr. Dilworth