

**“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 Advent.**

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..

Faithfully,

***Martini Shaw***<sup>+</sup>

(The Very Rev. Canon) Martini Shaw,  
17<sup>th</sup> Rector and  
Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

**Advent Wreath Ceremony**  
**The First Sunday in Advent**



**The Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

**Leader:** Our God comes to live among us! Let us prepare His way with gladness.  
**ALL:** *Help us, O God, to live joyfully!*

**Reading:** Luke 21: 5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am He?’, and ‘The time is near?’ Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.”

**Leader:** We light this first candle as a sign of our desire to welcome Jesus into a community constituted by love and a commitment to justice. Help us to cooperate with You , our God, to create it.  
(One candle will be lit this week. Pause for a moment of silence. )

**Leader:** *Let us pray*

**All:** *Loving god, we are in awe of the Gift You wish to send us, Jesus Your Son. Open our hearts and minds that we may create together a community of love to welcome Him. As we prepare for His coming, we especially ask that You help us envision and make peace in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our world. Amen.*

*Let us go in peace to love and serve our God.  
Let us strive for peace with each and every other.  
Let us be at peace within our selves.  
Amen.*

**Sunday Spearhead**  
**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**Youth / Young Adult Sunday**

**November 27, 2022**  
**10:00 am**

**Celebrant and Homilist:** The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

**Assisting:** The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

**Seminarians in Residence:** Kathryn Brossa & David King

**Music Ministry:** St. Thomas Music Ministry

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**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**The Organ Prelude**

St. Thomas Music Ministry

**The Opening Hymn - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

1982 Hymnal #66

1.) Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2.) Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3.) Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4.) By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**A Word of Welcome**

The Rector

**Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**The Penitential Salutation:**

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

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

**The Decalogue**

BCP 350

**Celebrant:** Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**People:** Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.  
**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.  
**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.  
**Amen. Lord have mercy**

You shall not steal.  
**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.  
**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

### **The Confession**

BCP 360

**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.

**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

**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 Kyrie elesion**

BCP 356

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

## **The Proclamation of The Word**

### **The Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

Triniti Miller

**A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 122**

Avery Jones

I was glad when they said to me, \*

**"Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

Now our feet are standing \*

**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city \*

**that is at unity with itself;**

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, \*

**the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones of judgment, \*

**the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*

**"May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls \*

**and quietness within your towers.**

For my brethren and companions' sake, \*

**I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*

**I will seek to do you good."**

**The Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

Christopher McNeil

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans**

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Gradual Hymn - "Great is thy Faithfulness"**

LEVAS. #189 (Vss. 1-2)

1.) Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be. [**Refrain**]

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2.) Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [**Refrain**]

**The Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Homily Hymn - "Great is thy Faithfulness"**

LEVAS. #189 (Vs. 3)

3.) Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [**Refrain**]

**Thanksgiving Testimonies**

**The Nicene Creed**

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**

## **The Prayers of the People**

Erica Hill-Yates

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

We pray for a Holy season of Advent. Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

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.**

Guide the people of this land, and all of 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.**

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 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**

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. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For those who for whatever reason are unable to worship with us in the breaking of the bread, the source of our faith;  
**That they be sustained by our Lord's promise to be with us for all eternity.**

Prince of Peace help us.  
**God of Grace save us.**

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thomas, Absalom, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God; **To thee, Lord our God.**  
(Silence is observed)

## **The Concluding Collect**

The Celebrant

### **The Peace**

**Celebrant** The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People** And also with you.

### **The Holy Eucharist**

**Offertory Sentence and Offering**  
**Offertory Musical Selection**

St. Thomas Music Ministry

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

**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 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.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

#### **Celebrant and 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:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**



### **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 for ever. **AMEN.**

### **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 for ever. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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 Breaking of the Bread**

**Celebrant:** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

### **The Agnus Dei**

**Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

**People:** Have mercy upon us.

**Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

**People:** Have mercy upon us.

**Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

**People:** Grant us thy peace.

Let us pray:

**Celebrant and People:** 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.

(All baptized persons are invited to receive communion. If you have not been baptized, please still come to the altar to receive a blessing. For those not baptized, please indicate by crossing your arms on your chest.)

### **Post- Communion Prayer**

**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.**

### **The Announcements**

#### **Youth Announcements**

Juanita Miller

### **Recognition of Guests and Visitors**

#### **The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel**

### **The Blessing**

#### **The Closing Hymn- "Soon and Very Soon" (Christ is Coming instead of Hallelujah)**

1.) Soon and very soon we're goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we're goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we're goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming  
we're goin' to see the King!

2.) No more cryin' there we're goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we're goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we're goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming  
we're goin' to see the King!

3.) No more dyin' there we're goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we're goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we're goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming  
we're goin' to see the King!

4.) Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming  
we're are goin' to see the King!

### **The Dismissal**

#### **The Postlude**

The St. Thomas Music Ministry