ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Third Sunday After Epiphany

Holy Eucharist

January 26, 2025
2201 Dexter St., Denver, CO
saintthomasdenver.org

Welcoming Statement

At St. Thomas Episcopal Church, we affirm God's love for all of God's people. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, and whatever your age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background or social or economic circumstance or political affiliations, you are welcome here. We share a love of God and each other, a sense of meaning and belonging, a yearning to learn and grow in faith, and a desire to serve others. We are a vibrant, thriving community with opportunities for people of all ages for spiritual growth, fellowship, and making a transformative difference in our community. As an Episcopal Church, we are a worshipping community that is both rich with ancient tradition and relevant to life in the 21st century. We are glad you are here!

Learn More About St. Thomas

If you would like to learn more about St. Thomas, we invite you to visit our website (www.saintthomasdenver.org), subscribe to our weekly newsletter (link is on website), or schedule a conversation with our priest by emailing her at terri@saintthomasdenver.org.

Inclusive Language:

At St. Thomas, we support and encourage the use of inclusive language. Towards that end we often choose more contemporary prayers and hymns for our worship service. However, we recognize that many parishioners also appreciate and love our traditional prayers and hymns that employ more patriarchal language. When such prayers or hymns are included in our worship, we encourage you to substitute the word or pronoun that most resonates with you when you pray or sing.

Preaching and Presiding this Week: The Rev. Terri Hobart

Music Leaders
Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell
Brandon Bennett

Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez

Seminarian: Cate Colburn-Smith

Contact Us:

Office	office@sainthomasdenver.org
Angela Pleasants, Senior Warden	srwarden@saintthomasdenver.org
Karmen Carter, Senior Warden	srwarden@saintthomasdenver.org
Brian Casey, Treasurer	treasury@saintthomasdenver.org
Samantha Church, Children's Program	samantha@saintthomasdenver.org
The Rev. Terri Hobart	terri@saintthomasdenver.org

Opening Hymn *Lift High the Cross* Hymnal 1982 #473

Please stand in body or spirit.



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Opening Acclamation

Presider Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. *1 John 4:7,8*

Blessed are you, our beloved God.

People **In you is glory and love forever.**

Hymn of Praise *Glory to God* LEVAS #243




Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. 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,
Unison
7. You a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the
glo-ry of the Fa - ther. Glo-ry, Glo-ry, hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we
praise your Ho - ly name, Glo-ry, Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we
Women
Praise your Ho - ly name.
Men
Praise your Ho - ly name.
A - - - men.

The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Give us grace, O God, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Nehemiah Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The Response

After the Reading:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

The heavens declare your glory, O God, *
and the firmament shows your handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

**Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

Your law, O God, is perfect and revives the soul; *
your testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**Your statutes are just and rejoice the heart; *
your commandment is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of you is clean and endures for ever; *
your judgments are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can discern unwitting sins? *
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, *
O God, my strength and my redeemer.**

A Reading from First Corinthians 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The Response

After the Reading:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *Celtic Alleluia*

Please stand.

Verses 1-2 before gospel ; Verse 3 after gospel



1. *Speak, Lord, your servant is list'ning. Speak your words of wisdom, for the words you speak are everlasting life.*

2. *The Word of the Lord lasts forever. What is the word that is living? It is brought to us through God's Son: Jesus Christ.*

3. *Now he is living, the Christ. Out of the tomb he is risen; he has conquered death, opened heaven to all believers.*

The Gospel Luke 4:14-21

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

After the Gospel:

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Dismissal Of Children for Godly Play Story

Sung after final gradual verse as children leave the church.

Go on your way in joy, my friends!
Go on your way in joy, my friends!
Go on your way in joy, my friends!
Let your left foot say 'Glory!'
and your right say, 'Amen!

Homily

Please sit.

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand in body or spirit.

We believe in the God of Life,
who creates and loves people,
who acts in history
and who promises never to leave us alone.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who is our brother,
who wants not to be idolized but to be followed.

We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit;
without her we are nothing;
filled with her we are able to become creative,
lively, and free.

We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ,
a community where we find companions and
courage for the struggles of life,
where we grow in our understanding of the faith,
through worship, prayer, nurture, and service.

We believe that God has a use for us in this time and
place, that though we walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, we are called to be
instruments of God's peace.

We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying
the good of the earth;

We believe that people can change, and God keeps
pulling us to life and to a new world of joy
and peace. ~ *Women's Uncommon Prayers*

The Prayers of The People

Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.
During the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader Let us worship the Saviour with joy and make our prayer to our God .The Magi came from the east to worship your Son: God of Love, grant to people everywhere the spirit of adoration …Lord of glory,

People **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
God of Love, accept the offering of our hearts and minds …
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our God and of his Christ:
God of Love, grant an abundance of peace to your world …
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:
God of Love, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,
and all who suffer …
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family
at Nazareth: God of Love, protect in your love our neighbours,
our families and this community of which we are a part …
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

God of Love, we rejoice in our fellowship
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph
and all the faithful departed,

In your unfailing love for us and for all people,
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Collect

God of love, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Confession

Please kneel as you are able.

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

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of Christ. Please remain at your seat and greet the people adjacent to you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

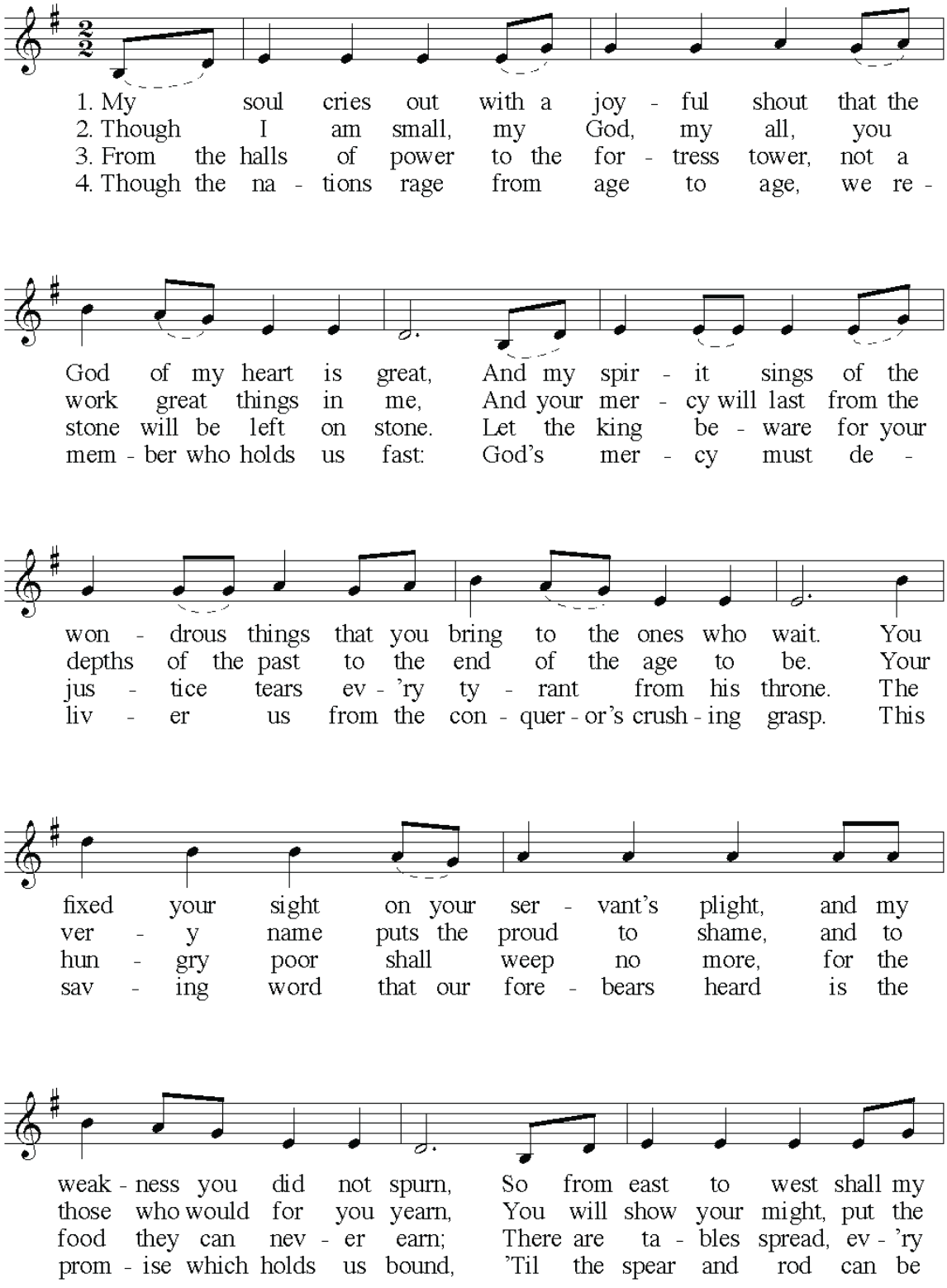
During this hymn the offering is collected. We invite you to generously support the ministries of St. Thomas. If you give electronically, please place a giving card from the pew in the offering plate in lieu of your gift. Scan to donate:

venmo
@StThomasDenver

Credit Card

Offertory Anthem *Canticle of the Turning*

Verses





Text: Luke 1:46–58; Rory Cooney, b.1952
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952
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Presentation Hymn *Doxology* Hymn #380 v3

Please stand as you are able.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly
ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord, of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high -
est, ho - san - na in the high - est

The people stand or kneel in body or spirit.
Presider (continues)

O God, you are holy and gracious: 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, our Rock and our Foundation. Jesus 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, Jesus 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, Jesus 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.

The Presider continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Most Holy God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Reign. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Most Blessed One, now and forever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

All 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

Fraction Hymn *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* WLP #784



The Invitation to The Table

The Communion of the People

All who love God and seek Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. To receive the bread, please place one hand over the other. If you choose not to receive communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicating your desire by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten free communion wafers and chalice are available. Simply, indicate your desire to the clergy. If you need to have communion brought to you, please alert an usher and the clergy will come to you. ***Please note: For reason of sanitation, we do not allow intinction.***

Communion Hymn *I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord* Hymnal 1982 #304



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Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel.

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.**

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Blessings

Welcoming Visitors

Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Final Blessing
Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *Lead With Love* By Melanie DeMore

You gotta put one foot in front of the other
And lead with love
Put one foot in front of the other
And lead with love

Verses (call & response)

Don't give up hope
You're not alone
Don't you give up
Keep movin on

Lift up your eyes
Don't you despair
Look up ahead
The path is there

I know you're scared
And I'm scared too
But here I am
Right next to you

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of the risen Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

COMMUNICATION COVENANT

1. If we have a concern or issue that involves someone, we will discuss it with that person privately.

2. If someone has a concern or issue with another person and comes to us, we will send them to that person.

3. If someone is reluctant to speak to the person with whom they have a concern, we will offer to accompany him or her to see that person.

4. We will not interpret what others say or mean. (We will ask them if we are unclear of their intentions.)

5. If something is confidential, we will not share it with anyone. Exception: If you are aware that a) someone is going to physically harm someone else; b) someone is going to harm herself/himself; c) a child has been physically or sexually abused, please consult with the clergy.

6. We will not read or react to unsigned letters or notes.

7. We will not act on anonymous complaints brought by others.

8. We will not manipulate; We will not be manipulated. We will not let others try to manipulate others through us.

9. When in doubt, we will just say what is on our minds. The only dumb questions are the ones that are not asked.

10. When in disagreement, we will say it. We cannot resolve issues that are left unspoken. We cannot work together without mutual understanding and trust.

11. Our relationships with each other are the most important asset in our community. So, if we have a concern, we will pray and then, if led, speak up.

ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LEAD WITH LOVE

OUR WHY: To Lead With Love

We lead with love by:

- Being an inclusive, welcoming space for all.
- Seeking the holy in ourselves, each other, and the world
- Making a difference in our community

CORE VALUES

- ATTEND TO OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES
  Through prayer, spiritual practices and formation, we weave our relationship with the Holy into the fabric of our daily lives. Prayer and discernment guide ministries and worship. (Foundational)
- CHOOSE LOVE
  We act from love not fear; build bridges not walls. (Foundational)
- CREATE AND SUSTAIN COMMUNITY
  We gather and care for each other. We cultivate deep relationships. We will prioritize our relationships with each other over the differences that separate us. (Foundational)
- WELCOME ALL
  All means all and all are welcome. We promote an inclusive culture by 1) fostering the skills to shift our cultural perspectives and appropriately adapt our behavior to bridge cultural differences; 2) cultivating the self-awareness and empathy needed to value difference in working toward equity. (Missional)
- HONOR DIVERSITY
  All are welcome. Our leadership, worship, music and ministry initiatives will reflect our diversity. (Missional)
- PROMOTE THE DIGNITY OF ALL
  Through formation, lobbying and other initiatives we prayerfully engage in social justice activities that promote and protect the dignity of all people. (Missional)
- CARE FOR CREATION
  We value our interdependence with creation and recognize our role as stewards. We incorporate practices that protect, sustain, and nourish our fragile earth and her inhabitants.
- ENGAGE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
  We open our hearts and doors to our individual and church neighbors, strive to understand their needs and support them.
  (Missional)
- NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION
  We offer, support and staff worship and formation opportunities for families and children. (Missional)
- CULTIVATE BEAUTY
  We tend to the beauty of our space, worship and music that evokes a sacred sense of awe, stillness and joy. (Missional)

THANK YOU!

None of this would be possible without your financial support.
www.saintthomasdenver.org

Believe OUTLOUD