



Eric Peters 2002

**December 24, 2022 5:00 PM and 10:30 PM
St. Thomas Episcopal Church**

A Christmas Concert

Beginning at 10:05 P.M.

Coventry Carol
Noël Nouvelet

setting by Peter Crisafulli
P. Crisafulli

Marlene Brown, flute and piccolo

Wexford Carol (Irish Traditional)

Daniel Kelley/M. Payne

Robert Woosley, trumpet; Laura Britton, horn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Bob Burroughs

St. Thomas Handbell Choir

What Child is This? (Greensleeves)

Traditional

Laura Britton, horn

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. Mark Hayes

Katherine Sharp Heim, soprano

Gesu Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

Robert Woosley, trumpet

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Dana Clark, mezzo-soprano

Artwork on the front cover by Bliss Crews.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE TWO

PRELUDE

(5:00 PM only) Noel Nouvelet

arr. Edwin McLean

HYMN IN PROCESSION

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 83

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 96

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Please be seated

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96

Anglican Chant

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

THE SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Joy to the World

Hymn 100

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a

child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

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

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us. In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Son of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

God of love, grant our prayer.

In this holy night you came to us in a child, cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

God of love, grant our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

God of love, grant our prayer.

In this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation. Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

God of love, grant our prayer.

In this holy night Christians throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness.

God of love, grant our prayer.

In this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

God of love, grant our prayer.

In this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfill in your love all who have gone before us in the faith. May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

God of love, grant our prayer.

Celebrant: O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this night, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of the child whose birth we celebrate this night, Jesus of Nazareth. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the ministers and people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

(5:00) Ding Dong, Merrily on High

Arr. Valerie Shields

Treble Choir

(10:30) On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing

Arr. David Willcocks

OFFERTORY HYMN

Now yield we thanks and praise

Hymn 108

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

SANCTUS

Hymn S-125

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

BCP 368

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the

Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.*

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

**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 breaks the consecrated bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymn S-155

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

During communion greeters will hand out candles as people leave the altar.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 79

What Child is This?

Hymn 115

Away in a Manger

Hymn 101

It Came Upon the midnight clear

Hymn 89

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.

CHORAL MEDITATION

(10:30) The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

During the Meditation the acolytes will light candles for the congregation.

John 1:1-18 *(the congregation is asked to kneel for John's Gospel and Silent Night)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

HYMN

Silent Night

Hymn 111

THE BLESSING

HYMN IN PROCESSION

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 87

DISMISSAL

Please extinguish your candles and put them in the baskets on your way out of church.

POSTLUDE

A Christmas Postlude

Charles Callahan

After the 5:00 PM service, everyone is invited to the Parish Hall for a Happy Birthday Jesus celebration. Christmas ornaments for the children will be available.






















After the 10:30 PM service, please join us in the Narthex for hot chocolate to celebrate Christmas.


The Worship Team


Celebrant	The Rev. Ranie Neislar, Associate Priest
Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe, Interim Rector
Deacon	The Rev. Jeannie Randall
Choir Director	Kathy Heim
Organist	Melanie Payne
5:00 P.M.	
Eucharistic Minister	Renee' Redfield
Acolytes	Abby Randall, Mario Dippolito, Fisher Dippolito, Gayle Dodson
Lector	Sally Barnett
Ushers	Bryan Dodson, Rene' Dippolito
Greeters	Donna Palumbo, Susan Pearson
10:30 P.M.	
Eucharistic Minister	Alexander Steel
Acolytes	Brady Jones, Grayson Brewer
Lectors	Susan Smith, Beth Cantrell
Ushers	Suzy & Bob Thurber, Preston McGill, Bill Davenport
Greeters	Linda & John Hanson, Laurie Fowler
Vestry on Duty	Ted Evans, Bob Harwell
Altar Guild	Nancy Ward, Kay Strobel, Tut Clements, Laurie Fowler
Flower Guild	Flower Guild Members





In Celebration of the Nativity and to the Glory of God the Christmas Flowers are given by the following individuals and families:

-  In thanksgiving for our families and friends by John and Jeanne Crown.
-  In thanksgiving for all God's blessings by Sally Barnett.
-  In memory of Richard Branick given by Kathy and Karen Branick.
-  In memory of Evelyn Ann Crowley by Peggy Fambrough.
-  In loving memory of Richard Strobel by Kay Strobel.
-  In memory of Beth and Joe Massey and Martha and Jack Stucker by Elise and Mark Stucker.
-  To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for my family by Evie Wilson.
-  In memory of Bob Evans by Marilyn Evans.
-  In memory of The Rev. Robert and Margaret Bolton by Dorothy Bolton.
-  In loving memory of Mom, Pop, Tom, Ron and Andrea by Gary Griffith.
-  In memory of loved ones by Nancy Hasbrouck.
-  In blessed memory of Elliotte and Mary Nell Payne by Melanie Payne.
-  In thanksgiving for our families by Nell and David Fisher.
-  In memory of Evelyn and Leon Fitzgerald and Sarah and Howard Dodson by Gayle and Brian Dodson.
-  In thanksgiving for our St. Thomas family by Cynthia and Gregg Geis.
-  In memory of Tom McAlister by Janet McAlister.
-  In memory of Wayne Jones and Angel Virginia Moore by Elysa Jones.
-  In memory of our parents and son, David by Julia and Jack Mayo.
-  In loving memory of Nellie, Alfred, Nell and Frank by Shirley Kittle.
-  In memory of our parents Joe and Anne DeFranco and Don and Gloria Clark by Donna and Dan Clark.
-  In thanksgiving for his life and in memory of Donald R. Hauler by Barbara Hauler and their children.


 In honor and memory of the Steel and Rhett families by Frances and Alexander Steel.

 In memory of Darryl and Jean by Jemalee Adams.


 In celebration of our wedding anniversary by Vera and Bud Allen.

 In loving thanksgiving for Robert by Susan Waddle.

 In thanksgiving for the choirs of St. Thomas by Kathy and Paul Heim.

 In honor of my wonderful children and their families Morgan, Christian, and Chet by Mary Elizabeth Marr.

 In memory of Neal and Donna Bengtson and Harold and Margaret Eskew by Jill and Doug Eskew.

 In memory of Dennis Macala by Kathie Clayton Macala and Randall Macala.

 In thanksgiving by Monica Benton.

 In memory of Gerald Drisfe by Diane House.

 In memory of Pam Bayliss by Barbara and Kevin Beebe.

Please join us...

Sunday, December 25, 10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, January 1, 10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Staff of St. Thomas

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe, Interim Rector

vmonroe@stthomashuntsville.org

The Rev. Ranie Neislar, Associate Priest

associate@stthomashuntsville.org

The Rev. Jeannie Randall, Deacon

lrann228@gmail.com

Kathy Heim, Choir Director

music@stthomashuntsville.org

Melanie Payne, Organist

payneme67@gmail.com

Laura Beth Bestor, Children's Coordinator

children@stthomashuntsville.org

The Rev. Jeannie Randall, Youth Coordinator

youth@stthomashuntsville.org

Irene Smith, Bookkeeper

finance@stthomashuntsville.org

Dorothy Bolton, Parish Administrator

stthomas@stthomashuntsville.org

2022 Vestry Members

George Harriman, Senior Warden Ted Evans, Junior Warden

Cynthia Geis, Bob Harwell, Suzanne Mohler, Jenna Pirani

Mike Bestor, Linda Lou Hardison, Elysa Jones, Scott Moore

John Hanson, Donna Palumbo

Kathie Clayton, Vestry Clerk Bob Thurber, Parish Treasurer

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Contact Information

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