

Saint Thomas' Episcopal Parish



Nativity by He Qi

December 24, 2008
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
10:00 p.m.

WHEREVER YOU MAY BE ON YOUR FAITH JOURNEY,
THERE IS ROOM AT GOD'S TABLE FOR YOU.

The Gathering Rite

Organ Prelude *Noël sur les flûtes* *Louis-Claude Daquin*

Solo *But Who May Abide The Day of His Coming* *George Frideric Handel*

But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire.

David Langan, bass

✘ *Sung by all*

Hymn 105 *God rest you merry, gentlemen*

Solo *Les Cloches* *Claude-Achille Debussy*

The leaves on the green boughs delicately are opening. The bells chime lightly in the fair sky. Rhythmic and fervent as an old carol, this distant call reminds me of white flowers placed upon the altar. These bells speak of happy years, and in the great wood seem to refresh the leaves that are fading into times gone by.

Bailey Whiteman, mezzo-soprano

✘ *Sung by all*

Hymn 112 *In the bleak midwinter*

Solo *The First Mercy* *Peter Warlock*

Ox and ass at Bethlehem, On a night, ye know of them. We were only creatures small, Hid by shadows on the wall. We were swallow, moth and mouse; the child was born in our house, And the bright eyes of us three Peeped at his nativity. Hands of peace upon that place Hushed our beings for a space - Quiet feet and folded wing, Nor a sound of anything. With a moving star we crept Closer where the Baby slept; Men who guarded where he lay Moved to frighten us away. But the Babe, awakened, laid Love on things that were afraid; With so sweet a gesture He Called us to His company.

Diane Atherton, soprano

✘ *Sung by all*

Hymn 81 *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

✘ *A period of silence will follow as candles are being lit.*

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

✠ *A bell rings, all stand.*

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

People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen*

Entrance Hymn

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal 96

Collect of the Day

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.

✠ *All are seated*

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7

Psalm 96:1-4,11-12



1

Sing to God a new / song; *
sing to God, all the whole / earth.

2

Sing and bless God's holy / Name; *
proclaim the good news of salvation from day to / day.

3

Declare God's glory among the / nations *
God's wonders among all / peoples.

4

For God is great and greatly to be / praised; *
more to be feared than all / gods.

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 there-/in.

12

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before God, who will / come, *
who will come to judge the / earth.

Second Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

✘ *All stand*

✘ *A Cantor sings the Alleluia, all respond. The Cantor sings a verse, all sing alleluia.*

Alleluia / Verse



The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose

Prayers of the People

Form IV

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The Peace

✘ *All are seated*

Announcements

The Holy Communion

*St. Thomas' invites all to share in the gifts of bread and wine from God's Holy Table.
If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine but would like a blessing, please come forward
and cross your arms with your hands on your shoulders and a priest will provide a blessing.*

Offertory Anthem

Here is the little door

Herbert Howells

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more but enter with out gift: Our gift of finest gold, Gold that was never bought nor sold; Myrrh to be strewn about His Bed; Incense in clouds about His Head; All for the Child that stirs not in His sleep, But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep. Bend low about His Bed, for each He has a gift: see how His eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword (Defend with it Thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red, myrrh for the honoured happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet, touched by such tiny hands and Oh such tiny feet.

✠ *All stand*

Presentation Hymn

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

Hymnal 94

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 God thanks and praise.

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, ever present God, source of life abundant.

People Why do we give God thanks and praise?

Celebrant From before time God made ready the creation. God's Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

People Then why do we sometimes feel so lonely?

Celebrant God, you made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away.

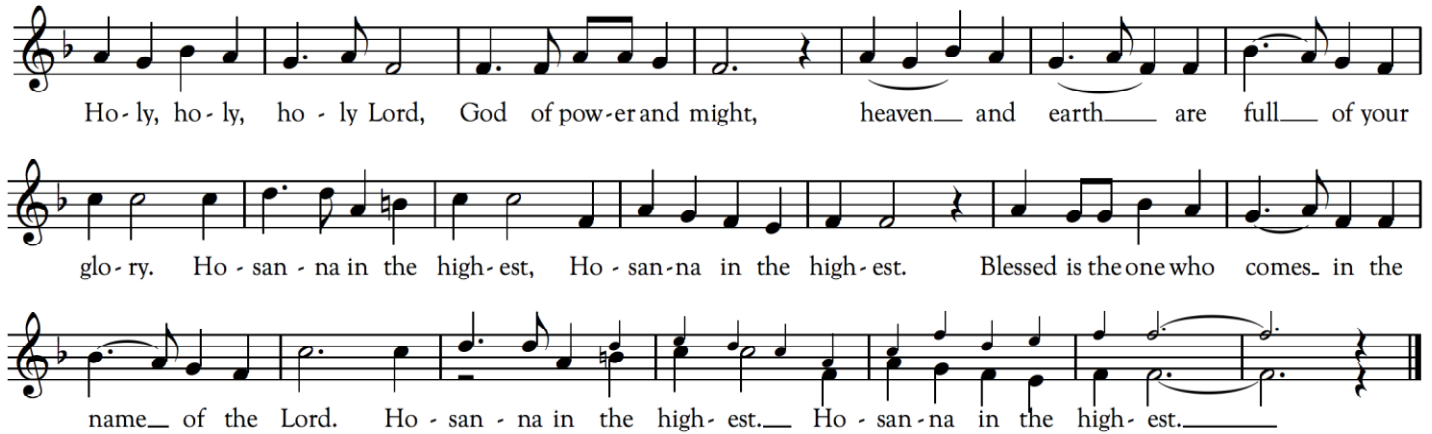
People Is there any hope?

Celebrant A voice rings out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord," and our hearts are filled with hope. Time and again you call us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day, we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that reigns through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

✠ *Sung by all*

Sanctus and Benedictus

Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heaven___ and earth___ are full___ of your
glo- ry. Ho - san - na in the high- est, Ho - san- na in the high- est. Blessed is the one who comes_ in the
name_ of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high- est. Ho - san- na in the high- est.

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. As a sign of new hope and expectation, and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

People *Is it tonight we celebrate Jesus?*

Celebrant Tonight and every night. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with the lonely and broken hearted, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the whole world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay hands upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

People *Why do we eat this bread?*

Celebrant On that holy night, so long ago, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his friends and said, "Take, eat: this holy food is given for you. Eat this meal whenever you gather in friendship to remember me."

People *Why do we drink this wine?*

Celebrant As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink this all of you. This holy drink is given for you and for all creation. Drink this whenever you gather to remember me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

Celebrant We now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they become for us today the holy food and drink that Jesus gave his friends so long ago. We ask that we who share this bread and wine may be filled with your Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

We pray that this holy food and drink will be for us your sign of hope, and bring us into everlasting fellowship with each other and bring peace to the world. With Isaiah and Mary and Joseph and all your saints, past, present and yet to come, may we praise your Name for ever and ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we give you honor, glory and praise, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

☩ *Sung by all*

Fraction Anthem

Alleluia. Christ our Passover

Plainsong, Tone VII

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pas - so - ver is sa - cri - ficed for us.

There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

☩ *Communion will be served from two stations at either side of the altar. Please approach the ministers to receive.*

Communion Anthem *Dans les ombres de la nuit (2008)*

Timothy Hagy

In the shadows of night and without a sound, Jesus shines for us, born with only one desire: to give us life again. Let us pray to this new Child in the cradle so that when we leave our tombs, we will go with the angels to sing His praises in the heavens. (Text from an Old French Carol)

Diane Atherton, soprano; Bailey Whiteman, mezzo-soprano

Communion Hymn *Silent night, holy night*

Hymnal 111

✘ *All stand*

Post Communion Prayer

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Blessing

Recessional Hymn *Hark! The herald angels sing*

Hymnal 87

Dismissal

✘ *All are seated*

Postlude

Improvisation

Worship Leaders Tonight

Celebrant: The Rev. John F. Dwyer

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose

Readers & Altar Assistants: Gregory Mackmin, Christopher
Armstrong

Prayers: Randy Marks

Greeter: Dan Costello

Ushers: Tim Elig, Jeff Kibler

Altar Guild: Jeff Kibler

Please refer to the Special Flower Insert for the Christmas Memorials and Honorariums.



ST. THOMAS' PARISH
DUPONT CIRCLE ✦ WASHINGTON, DC

We're a **community of Christians on a spiritual journey**. Our worship and *life together* provides a pathway towards a deeper understanding of the risen and transforming Christ. Through joyful singing, engaging preaching, prayer and silence, we come together to share in **one bread, one body**.

A place to find and be found by God.

The People of St. Thomas'

Vestry

John Carter, Senior Warden; *Barbara Hays*, Junior Warden
Michael Bell, *Dan Costello*, *Tim Elig*, *Camille Blake Fall*, *Mary Hager*, *Dennis Hobb*,
Brad Latham, *Michael Mattmiller*, *Kristin Queen Shaffer*

St. Thomas' Parish ✦ 1772 Church Street NW ✦ Washington, DC 20036
www.stthomasdc.org

<p>Parish Office Hours 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. M-F</p> <p>Ms. Nicole Garner, Bookkeeper Ms. Evelyn McMillan, Coffee Steward Mr. Esteban Mares, Sexton Ms. Cindy Pettigrew, Parish Executive Secretary Mr. Timothy Hagy, Music Director</p> <p>The Rev. John F. Dwyer, Assistant Rector The Rev. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose, Rector</p> <p>The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane Bishop of Washington</p>	<p>202-332-0607</p> <p>nicole@garnergore.com evelyn.mcmillan@earthlink.net maresbravo@aol.com info@stthomasdc.org timhagy@comcast.net or musician@stthomasdc.org jdwyer@stthomasdc.org rector@stthomasdc.org</p> <p>jchane@edow.org</p>
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