

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE



August 1st, 2021

**The Tenth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

Our Mission Statement

*Helping Hands - Healing Hearts  
Welcome All*

Our Vision Statement

*To be an engaging, passionate, spiritually healthy  
community, open to all God's people*

THE  
DODD  
BIBLER



## The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas

July 29, 2021

**I will, with God's help!**

My Dear Doubters of Great Faith,

I cannot imagine that there are five more important words contained anywhere in our beloved Book of Common Prayer than these five, "I will, with God's help," our response to the five life-changing, identity-altering questions of the baptismal covenant. For it is, after all, the baptismal covenant, that shapes and guides how we live out our Christian faith, responding to the broken and hurting world in which we find ourselves. I am beginning to realize that there is very little, if any, of this that I can do without God's help!

I have to be honest that this week's update from the CDC regarding the on-going, continuing state of the COVID-19 pandemic has me in a bit of a funk. I really had hoped we had turned a corner, that more of this crisis was in the rear-view mirror, that life might be returning to something resembling normal. It felt almost safe to "breathe" again. In short, it felt so incredibly wonderful to exhale, and to begin to dream some of the dreams that I was dreaming for myself and for us, a lifetime ago, in February of 2020.

And then to receive word from the CDC that masks are again advised for all people, vaccinated as well as unvaccinated, in all indoor spaces, just seems like such a step back. It feels unfair, especially for those of us who have "done the right thing," and gotten our vaccinations, and worn our masks, and taken all the advised precautions. Why are we paying the price for all those who refuse to do what is right, because it is their "right," not to do what is right, and consider the health and well-being of others?

"Will I seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself," seems to come into direct conflict with striving for justice and peace among all people. If ever I needed God's help to fulfill my vows (and I'm thinking you might as well), now is the time!

Are we expected to be spiritual "super-heroes" in the midst of pandemic? Are we always going to get it right? Or is it ok to say, "I will (face this, doing what I can do) with God's help?"

Last week I announced that we would be returning to the chalice this Sunday, August 1, for anyone who would like to partake of the common cup. In light of the latest updates from the CDC, I no longer feel this is prudent. Additionally, I **STRONGLY SUGGEST** that those who choose to attend the in-person worship service adhere to

the CDC guideline that ALL people should now mask indoors (vaccinated as well as unvaccinated). While I feel that many (if not all) of our parishioners are vaccinated, we have no way of knowing if visitors are or are not vaccinated, and we simply cannot and should not risk the lives of others.

I realize that this may be upsetting to many, who, like myself, were feeling that great exhale of normalcy. What do we do with all these feelings of frustration, and continual, ongoing grief for the loss that we mourn?

We must keep looking at life through the lens of our baptismal covenant. The very first petition (“Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?”) tells us where we find the sustenance to do this – in our community of St. Thomas the Apostle! In worship, in this community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers with those we love, we will find the strength to endure even this.

Folks, now is the time to be in Church, with your community. I cannot make this any plainer. Whether you worship on Zoom or in person, your presence, each one of our presence is the bringing together of the Holy Spirit that will give us the strength and the courage to get through this nightmare. We cannot do this alone. You need to be in Church, with your Church family, week in and week out. This is not about parochial report numbers or budgets. This is about surviving a pandemic together.

I cannot do this “Christ-thing” without God, and I cannot do this “Christ-thing” without you.

I will, with your help!  
Fr. Christopher+

## An Opportunity to Service Your Church



As we return to our Sanctuary, and resume a more familiar worship service, an opportunity exists to take a more active role in our services. I am the Interim Acolyte Guild Head. The Acolyte Guild provides the Crucifer, and 2 Torches to each of our in person services, and for special services, when needed. It is an all volunteer group. At this point, each Acolyte will ideally serve no more than 2 Sundays each month. If you have a desire to become an Acolyte, or would like to know more about serving as an Acolyte, please feel free to contact me at [davidaheess@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidaheess@sbcglobal.net).

# A new way to see church!



We are now live-streaming our 10:30 AM service on Facebook Live. You do **NOT** need a Facebook account to watch the service. Simply click on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheDoubter/live/>

You will then have 3 options, log in to your Facebook account, create an account, or click on the livestream that you want to watch. If you do not have a FB account, simply click on the livestream that you want to watch, and it will open.

We will go live approximately 5 minutes prior to the start of the service. We hope that you will worship with us in person. However, we are offering this as we continue to move forward in a post COVID-19 world.



Dear Doubters of Great Faith,

We need additional people to assist with the Audio Visual equipment and livestreaming of the 10:30 service. This involves being at the church by 10 AM on the Sunday scheduled, getting the system turned on, distribution of microphones, and getting the livestream ready to go. Once we go live, you need to be at the monitor in the back of the church throughout the service in the event that there would be an issue. If this is something that you think you might be interested in, please contact Fred Ellis for more details. Fred may be reached at 214-704-3923 or [fellis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fellis@sbcglobal.net).



Celebrating 136 years of Prayer, Service and Evangelism

All women members of the church can look into this LIFETIME COMMITMENT to this important service to the Parish and our Rector by going to the website - <http://www.doknational.org> - prayerfully consider joining. They may call and leave word on Nan Alexander's voicemail and I will be happy to be of help to anyone interested. This is not a guild but a commitment.

# St. Thomas the Apostle in Person Service

DATE: Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**NOTE: The ZOOM service remains at 9:00 a.m.**

IN-PERSON LOCATION: The Nave

**During the months that the property was closed down due to COVID-19, the HVAC system throughout the entire property has been outfitted with advanced equipment for our safety. St. Thomas has installed air scrubbers on all of its HVAC units.**

**These air scrubber systems are many times more powerful than normal HVAC filtration systems at eliminating airborne pathogens. HVAC systems can capture dirt and dust from the air through their regular air filter inserts. Meanwhile, the scrubbers using UV light can get rid of much more minute living organisms such as bacteria and viruses, which further improves the air quality.**

Parking is available in both the South and North Lots.

**Unvaccinated people are expected to wear a mask.**

**Vaccinated people are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.**

Temperatures will be taken prior to entering the Nave. Individuals with temperatures of 100 degrees or higher will not be allowed to enter.

**In case of the unanticipated need for contact tracing, attendees will need to sign a register in the Narthex before going into the Nave.**

**The entire service will be in a printed bulletin.**

Music accompaniment will be provided by the organ.

**There will be congregational singing.**

During the exchange of the Peace, please be sensitive to those around you during this time. If you sense that someone might not be comfortable with hugging or even touching, respect that person's space.

# Parish Schedule

## Week of August 1st

<b>01 Sunday</b>	<b>The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
9:00 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Zoom
10:30 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
11:30 am	Coffee and Social time/ PH
<b>02 Monday</b>	<b>Office closed</b>
<b>03 Tuesday</b>	
<b>04 Wednesday</b>	
7:00 pm	CoDA/NR
<b>05 Thursday</b>	
<b>06 Friday</b>	
<b>07 Saturday</b>	
8:00 am	Step Up/SR
9:00 am	Work Day/CG
	<b>**Serving Altar Guild Members**</b> Available Members
Key Code:	SR - South Room; NR - North Room; CG - Community Garden; PH - Parish Hall; CR - Office Conference Room; K - Kitchen; N - Nave; IG - Interior Garden



Consecrated Hosts are available at the church office for those participating virtually in Sunday services. Please email or call the office ([pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) or 214-352-0410, ext. 104)

## PRAYER LIST

Do you know someone who is in need of our prayers? Please email [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) to add them to our Prayer List. Names will be kept on for the current month unless notified otherwise and those names are in *italics*.

**Healing in the Lives of:** Ben Gloria Ann Patricia Melba  
Ginger Annie Sandy JR Merjen Jack Harold  
Kelly David Rusty Tim George John Rodney Ronny  
Linda Wynne

**God's Grace for:** Children of Belize Gary Don Tammy James

**Guidance:** Gwen

**In Prison:** Allen Orlando Steven Aaron Brandon Hank  
GR Stephanie Frank

**Serving in the Armed Forces:** Alex Aaron Connor Joyce  
Collin Tyler Jesse

**Seeking Employment:** Bryan Maurice Brook Robin Vicki  
Trey Gabby Gabriel Gail Oliver

**Rest of the Soul:** Mildred Joyce George

**In the Diocese:** *Retired Clergy of the Diocese*  
*Nonparochial Clergy of the Diocese*  
*Licensed Clergy in the Diocese*  
*Aspirants, Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders*

# Liturgical Assignments & Lectionary

**Sunday, August 1, 2021**

**Counters:** A. Besterman & M. Followill

**LEMs:** Sub-Dcn: F. Ellis 2nd LEM: N/A Ext: Dan Calhoun

**Lectors:** 9:00 am Zoom Service

1st & Psalm: R. Woodward 2nd: R. Woodward

POP: Allen Junek

10:30 In-Person Service

1st: L. Pearson 2nd: M. Legacy

POP: Allen Junek

**Ushers & Greeters:** F. Balderas & A. Besterman

**Acolytes:** Crucifer: M. Legacy; Torches: J. Brown & J. Knight

**Sound:** Fred Ellis

## First Reading

Exodus 16:2 -4, 9 - 15

## Psalm

78: 23 - 29

## Second Reading

Ephesians 4: 1 - 16

## Gospel

John 6: 24 - 35

Click on or paste the following link to see the daily Lectionary selections:  
[www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)



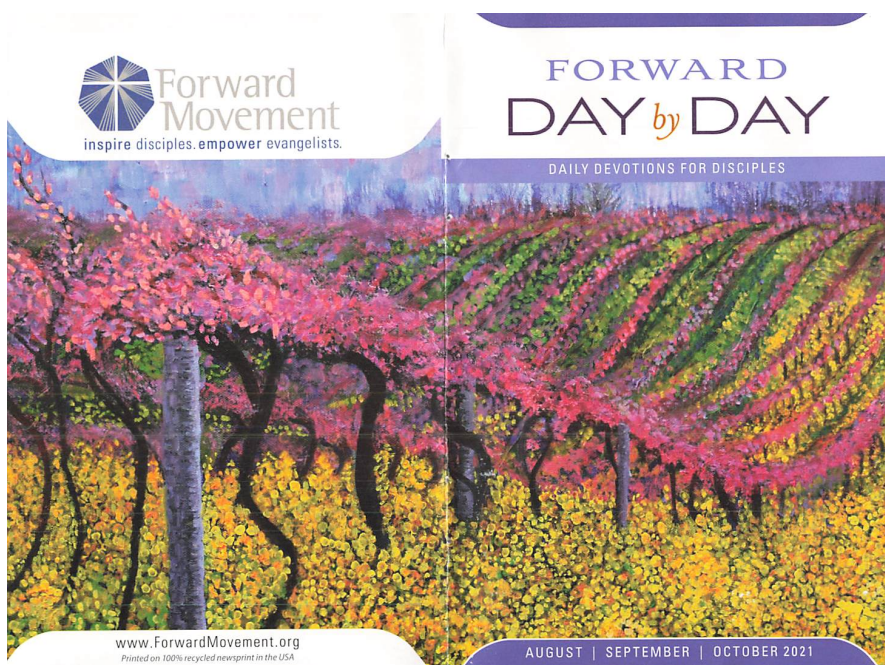
We now have a weekly service in the Nave on Sundays at 10:30 followed by a social gathering in the Parish Hall. We need folks to step up and take on some responsibility for making it happen. If you can help with:

- Coming a little early and help with setting up the service;
- Providing a snack; or
- Staying a little longer and helping put items away

please let Pam know at [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) Together we can put social in the Social Time.



As we gather again in person for worship, if you would like to sponsor the **Altar Flowers**, **Mary Candle** or **Sacrament Lamp**, please contact [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org).



***Forward Day by Day***  
for Aug/Sept/Oct  
is now available in the  
Narthex, the church office  
and on the newsstand  
outside the South room.

## Sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**Stephen Waller**

**Sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 11, Year B – 7/25/21**

2 Samuel 11: 1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

David! All of us know many stories of David...

We encounter him for the first time when he is busy with the sheep while Samuel is checking out his several brothers to figure out which one God wants him to anoint. When everyone else failed to meet God's standard, Jesse, their father said, "the youngest is out taking care of the sheep." So, young David was summoned...and there in the presence of his siblings (think of the trouble this would cause among siblings), Samuel pours holy oil on the lad, anointing him. We are told that he was ruddy and beautiful...young, ruddy and beautiful...is that what God looks for when selecting a leader?

Not long afterwards, David learns that the armies of Israel are being challenged by some Philistines...one of them, Goliath, has challenged any one of Saul's soldiers to a one on one. Apparently no one rose to the occasion....until young David shows up and tells the King that he would fight Goliath. After some back and forth, he is allowed to suit up in the King's armor to go after the enemy. Alas, the armor was too heavy and cumbersome so he shed it and armed only with his trusty sling shot David slays Goliath and cuts off his head with the big guys own sword. Needless to say, Saul, is impressed and sends word to Jesse, David's Dad, that he would be keeping David with him.

King Saul had depressive moods, deeply depressive moods and David was able to soothe the kings bad temper by playing his lyre. Not a bad fellow to have around if you are the moody sort. Those of us who have such moods ourselves could all be so lucky....less expensive than antidepressant meds or shrinks.

Sometime during all of this living with the King and his family, David apparently found the time compose our Psalms....The Psalms of David, we call them. This guy is a keeper! And that is exactly what Jonathan, Saul's son, apparently thought: They became very...very good friends. Just read their stories in The Bible to see how close they were. Their love passed that of women...and they pledged loyalty to each other forever. I own an icon of David and Jonathan given me by a former member of this parish, Vincent Feehan. Who knows the full story of their affection, just know that it was powerful enough for Jonathan to bind himself to David in life and death.

## Sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Speaking of death: as things got unpleasant with King Saul and David...unpleasant enough for spears to be thrown at David...he took off for safer dining tables. And then it happened... what every soldier wants to happen, the King, while seeking David to Off him enters a cave one day to do his business. Inside the cave, hiding for his life from this depressive King, David did not take the opportunity and kill the King...Saul was, after all the Lord's anointed and David passed up this golden chance to kill him.

Later, David shows the King a portion of his cloak which he had cut off his cloak while he was doing his business as proof for the King to know that he passed up on the chance to slay because David did not think Regicide a good idea.

Eventually, King Saul and his son, Jonathan, die in battle. David is devastated and has the women sing a lamentation about the two men, the father and son. What a guy.

He steps up to assume the office for which that holy oil had been poured upon his head. He becomes King.

One of the ideas the new King had was to recover the Ark of God and bring it to Jerusalem. It had been in several places of safe keeping, but the new King wanted it in his City of David. He and a crowd of people get the Ark of God and begin a procession with it...singing and dancing as they processed. Perhaps David was ecstatic because his dancing before the Ark was so enthusiastic that his wife, Saul's daughter Michel, took offense....she probably thought kings ought not show such raucous joy. Scripture tells us that she hated him because of that wild dancing before the Ark of God.

David intended to build a House worthy of The Ark, but God let him know that he had been fine living in tents all those years and would gladly wait until David's successor would come along and build that House of God.

Still David had been living a charmed life if anyone has ever lived such a life.

And then we come to today's Old Testament Lesson. There is a war with the Ammonites. David has stayed home and not gone out with the army...a big mistake.

Following his nap one day on the roof of his house, he spies a beautiful woman bathing. Having nothing better to do and little sense, he sends for her. Bathsheba stopped over and they spent some time getting to know each other very well indeed. She goes home and promptly sends a message back to the King that she was pregnant! Not a problem he thought. He would summon Uriah, her husband from the battle to come and spend some quality time with his wife...Turns out that Uriah the Hittite had a higher moral standard than his King. He would not "go into his home" and sleep with his wife...even

## Sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

though David had plied him with wine and suggested he might want to check out Bathsheba. So far, the only contemporary folk David has offended will the Me -Too folk. However, things get worse, much worse, and fast.

Realizing that Uriah the Hittite was either too stubborn or dumb to see his wife, no matter what the King suggested or tried to make happen, The King decided that the way to handle this “problem” was to send Uriah back to the battle bearing a letter to his commander that said: “put this man in the front of the battle and then draw back.” Bingo, problem solved. Uriah the Hittite falls in battle.

What contemporary group does this Kingly behavior offend? Essentially, he murdered Uriah...

So, my good friends at St. Thomas the Apostle, what of this David? But, more my good friends, what of our God?

What does David’s life and story tell us about the God who made him King? What does this story tell us about the nature of God and what God thinks of those created?

The only conclusion this priest can come up with is this: God uses us to do his will, even though we are often mighty flawed people. God does not use perfect people. God uses people....people like you and me to do the work God wants done...people like David...people like absolutely every one of us.

Thank God that God does not wait for us to be perfect. Remember that the next time you notice the imperfection of another member of the Body of Christ. If God can use them for His purpose, who are we to call anyone unworthy.

All of us serve only by God’s Grace, not by our merits or our talents, or our skill or our beauty or gender.

AMEN!



Happy August Birthday!



2nd Wynne Voorhees



3rd Bryan Long



10th Fernando Baldaras



11th Mike Gsell



12th Don Walther



28th Brent Glass



30th Nancy LeGros

**Parish Office hours are 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM**

**Tuesdays through Fridays**

**214-352-0410**

**Emergency contact: Rev 'd Christopher Blake Thomas 214-352-0410 ext 6**

*(Please leave message with name, call back number, and brief explanation of urgency. Fr. Christopher will receive an urgent message to call back as soon as possible.)*

**The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop**

**The Right Rev. G. Wayne Smith, Bishop of Oversight (Missouri Diocese)**

**The Right Rev. George R. Sumner, Bishop of Dallas**

**The Right Rev. Michael Smith, Assistant Bishop of Dallas**

The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas, Rector

[christopher@thedoubter.org](mailto:christopher@thedoubter.org)

The Rev. Stephen J. Waller, Rector Emeritus

[doubttertom@thedoubter.org](mailto:doubttertom@thedoubter.org)

Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle, Theologian-in-Residence

[steve@thedoubter.org](mailto:steve@thedoubter.org)

Mr. Allen M. Junek, Seminarian-in-Residence

[allen@thedoubter.org](mailto:allen@thedoubter.org)

Mr Lee Corbin, Organist-Choirmaster

[music@thedoubter.org](mailto:music@thedoubter.org)

Mr. David Aston, Assistant Organist

Ms. Pam Liles, Parish Administrator

[pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org)

Ms. Paula McCormack, Controller

[paula@thedoubter.org](mailto:paula@thedoubter.org)

**The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle**

6525 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX 75209 - 214 352-0410

[www.thedoubter.org](http://www.thedoubter.org)

[www.facebook.com/thedoubter](https://www.facebook.com/thedoubter)

## **The 2021 Vestry**

**Joe DeuPree**

**Senior Warden**

Kathy Carson

Lisa Pearson

Rusty Rippamonti

Chancellor

David Hess

Ruth Woodward

Randy Hering

Randy Hering

Treasurer

**Michael Legacy**

**Junior Warden**

Andrew Besterman

Murray Followill

Paul McCright

Clerk