

The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle



The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

Our Mission Statement

Helping Hands – Healing Hearts

Welcome All

Opening Voluntaries

Chorale Prelude on *Quem Pastores (While Their Flocks the Shepherds Tended)* by Healey Willan

Contemplation on *Divinium mysterium (Of the Father's Love Begotten)* by Kenneth Lowenberg

Variations sur "In dulci jubilo" by Denis Bédard

The Liturgy of the Word

Entrance Hymn

O come, all ye faithful (H 86)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy glorious and undivided
 Trinity.

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

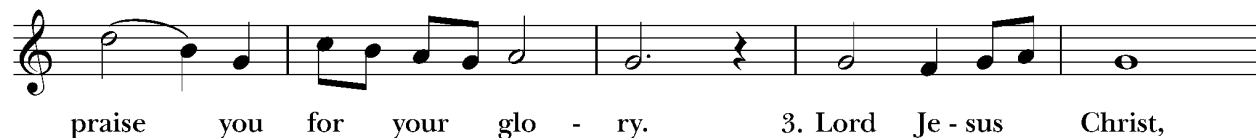
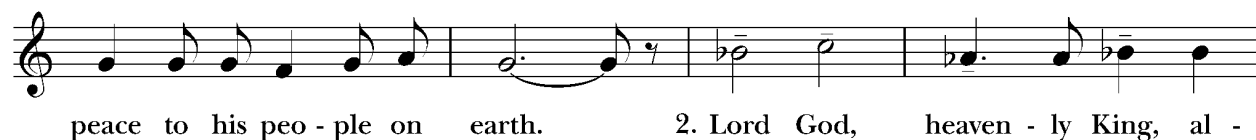
Collect for Purity

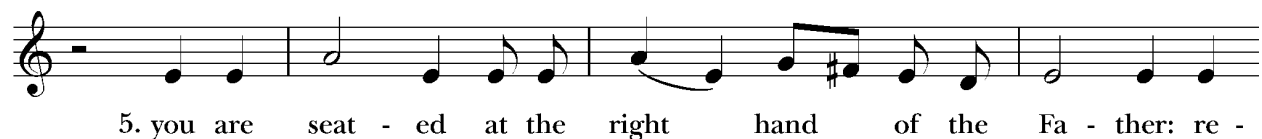
The People standing, Celebrant says

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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

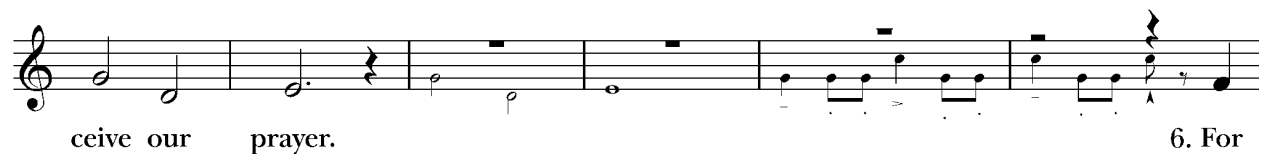
The Gloria

S 278 Glory to God (Canticle 20) (Mathias)

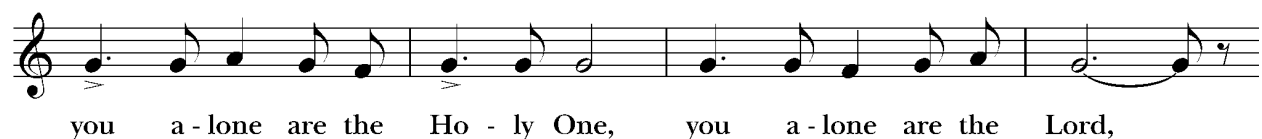




5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



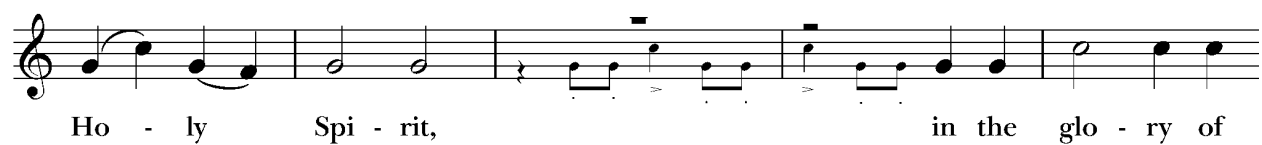
ceive our prayer. 6. For



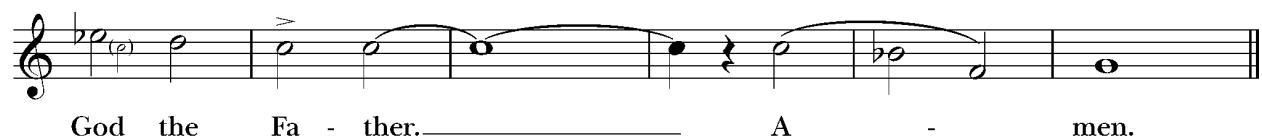
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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,*

The Lessons

The people sit.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 96



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 be-fore 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.

(repeat last half of chant)

13. He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand.

Sequence Hymn

Angels we have heard on high (Gloria) (H 96)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas

Silence may be kept.

The Creed

All stand.

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

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, “Glorious Lord, *grant us your peace.*”

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts.
Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph
over the power of evil.

(Silence)

V: Glorious Lord,

R: *Grant us your peace.*

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor
the lowly.

Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your
truth and find their salvation.

(Silence)

V: Glorious Lord,

R: *Grant us your peace.*

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

(Silence)

V: Glorious Lord,

R: *Grant us your peace.*

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself.

May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

(Silence)

V: Glorious Lord,

R: *Grant us your peace.*

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely.

(Silence)

V: Glorious Lord,

R: *Grant us your peace.*

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

(Silence)

V: Glorious Lord,

R: *Grant us your peace.*

(The congregation is invited to add their petitions)

Silence may be kept.

The Peace

All stand.

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Carol

O little town of Bethlehem (Forest Green) (H 78)

Unison or harmony

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

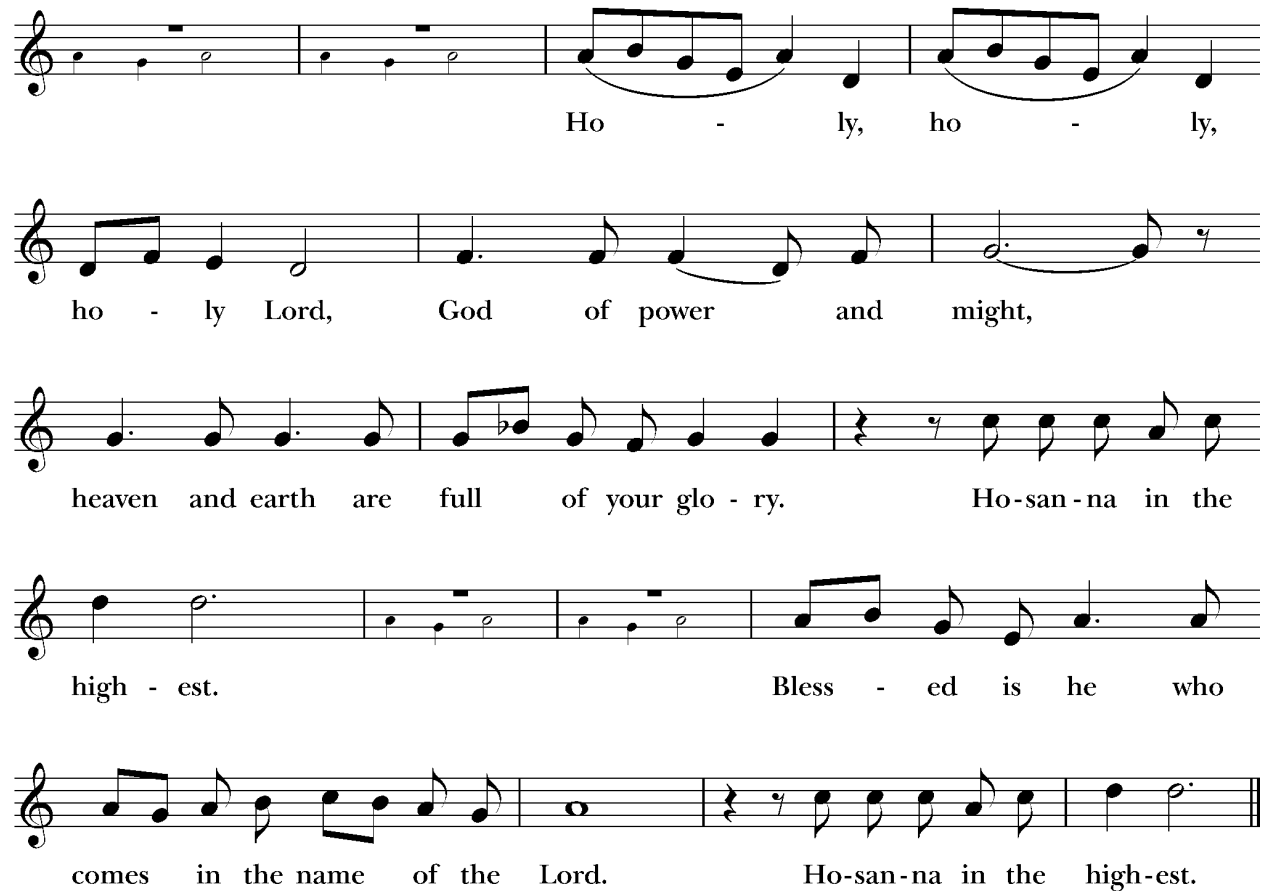
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Sanctus

S 128 Holy, holy, holy (Mathias) (BCP p. 362)



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant

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 Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

WLP 865 Christ our Passover (Cavuoti) (Mass of St. Columbia)

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

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

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a treble line with chords and moving lines. The second system continues the vocal line with 'there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.' and the piano accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Healing Prayers are available at the rear of the Nave.

Communion Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed (Cradle Song) (H 101)



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
*3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Postcommunion Prayer

All standing.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

An acolyte will bring light to you. Please share a light with others.

Kneeling Carol

Silent night, holy night (H 111)

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make your heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Carol at the Procession

Hark! The herald angels sing (H 87)

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

In dulci jubio by Denis Bédard

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Bedard: ©Éditions Cheldar 1993

O come all ye faithful. Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others.

Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Public domain. *The Gloria.* Music: William Mathias (1934-1992) Psalm tone: Music: Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945).

Angels we have heard on high. Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

O little town of Bethlem. Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Sanctus. Music: William Mathias (1934-1992)

Fraction Anthem: Music: Thaddeus P. Cavuoti (b. 1955) from *Mass of St. Columbia*

Away in a manger. Words: Traditional carol Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Silent Night. Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910). Public domain.

Hark! the herald. Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915). Public domain.

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Christmas Flower Offering

In memory of:	In memory of:
Margie Allen	Evelyn Mullen
Emma Aston	Joseph Mullen
Ewing Aston	Craig Pearson
Bob Baird	Bradley Prann
Brown Family	Mary Virginia Prann
Rebecca Chance	Eloise Reed
Lestra Corey	Rose Marie Reeves
Betty DeuPree	Tracey Reeves
J. M. DeuPree	Nancy Reddick
Julius DeuPree	Rhonda Ryan
Leo DeuPree	Jeff Braxton Steen
Melba Dyer	Barbara Turner
Robert H. Elsea	Roger Turner
Chet Flake	Scott Turner
Melba Jo Followill	Helen VanBuskirk
Geraldine Gattis Garrison	Roger VanBuskirk
Fred Whittington Hagaman	Pat Vaughn
Kathleen Whittington Hagaman	Garrett Lawrence White
Wallace Hess	Charles Williams
Zelta Hess	Bumpy
Betsy Katz	David
Bud Knight	Donna
Knight Family	France
Bill Lackey	Katy
John Lambert	Mark
Lucy Lambert	Peter
Roxie Gattis Meurer	Sara
Scott Meurer	Sybil
Gerald C. Montague	Sylvia
	Tony
In Thanksgiving for:	In Honor of:
St. Thomas Family	My Family
Fernanda	St. Thomas
Uli	

Parish Office hours are 8:00 am through 2:00 pm

Tuesdays through Fridays

214-352-0410

Emergency contact: The Rev. 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**

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Mr. Allen M. Junek, Seminarian-in-Residence	allen@thedoubter.org
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The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle

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