

# The First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 29, 2024



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**

Camden, Maine

## 9:30 a.m. – Service of Lessons, Carols, & Eucharist

*Children are always welcome in the church.  
Please be sure your cell phone is inaudible.*

### Prelude

### Opening Hymn 91

*Ermuntre dich*

### A Bidding Prayer *Traditional*

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this town of Camden.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us: Our Father . . .

*Presider and People* 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.

*Presider* The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

### A Reading from the Book of Genesis [3:1-15]

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with

her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

**Hymn 82 vv. 1,2**                      Of the Father's love begotten                      *Divinum mysterium*

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah [40:1-11]**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Hymn 81 vv. 1,2**                      Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming                      *Es ist ein Ros*

## A Reading from the Gospel of Luke [1:26-58]

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*All stand and sing*

**Hymn 438**

Tell out, my soul

*Woodlands*

## A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke [2:1-20]

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.

**Hymn 110** The snow lay on the ground *Venite adoremus*

## A Reading from the Gospel According to John [1:1-18]

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.

*All stand and sing*

<b>Hymn 107</b>	Good Christian Friends, rejoice	<i>In dulci jubilo</i>	
<b>The Peace</b>			page 332
<b>Offertory Hymn 115</b>	What child is this		<i>Greensleeves</i>
<b>The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I</b>			page 333
<b><i>Sanctus</i> Hymn S114</b>			Healey Willan
<b>The Breaking of the Bread</b>			page 337
<b><i>Agnus Dei</i> Hymn S158</b>			Healey Willan
<b>Prayer of Humble Access</b>			page 337
<b>The Communion</b>	<i>This is God's table, all are welcome.</i>		
	<i>Gluten-free wafers are available; ask the priest when you come to the altar rail.</i>		
	<i>You may request that Communion be brought to your pew by notifying an usher.</i>		
<b>Postcommunion Prayer</b>			page 339
<b>Blessing</b>			
<b>Hymn 100</b>	Joy to the world!	<i>Antioch</i>	
<b>The Dismissal</b>			
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>In dulci jubilo</i>	J. S. Bach	



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**Welcome visitors and newcomers;** we are glad you are here! If you would like more information about the community of St. Thomas, please speak to a greeter or a member of the clergy. To receive information by email, please fill out a blue card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

## ***Liturgical Ministers***

Ushers: Isa Babb and Jan Lyle  
Readers: Pat Ayers, Sandy Lyle, Gwen Prosser, Haunani Wallace  
Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Frankel and Doc Wallace  
Organist: Clarissa Brown  
Deacon: The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass  
Celebrant: The Rev. Paul Briggs

## **People in our Prayers**

**Healing:** Andrew Moran, Carlos, Donovan, Carolyn Moore, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Lynne, Anna and her child Brody, Warren and Ginny Terrell, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Matthew Jackson, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Ken, Joseph, Kelli McGuire, Tony, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Greg McDermott, Ezra, Chris Strazzulla, Fr. Tom Pike, Jan Dolcater, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Leah, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Budge Walen, Chris, Sandy, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Virginia, Pam Kaler, Margery, Nick, Stephanie, Kyle R.

**For the Repose of the Soul:** Tiffany Andrews

**December Birthdays:** Carolyn Moore (4), Melinda Wildes (18), Susan Foltz (20), Patricia Ayers (22), Gwen Prosser (22), Christopher Glass (27), Millie Crocker (28), Bobby Purkey (31)

**Diocese Cycle of Prayer:** St. Augustine's, Dover-Foxcroft, For the work of the Maine Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN), For Bishop Thomas Brown

## ***This Week at St. Thomas'***

### **First Sunday After Christmas Day, December 29**

9:30 a.m. Lessons, Carols, and Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

### **Second Sunday After Christmas Day, January 5**

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

5:00 p.m. Epiphany Party (*Parish Hall*)

**A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.**

***Upcoming Events:***

January 26, 2025:  
Annual Parish Meeting Following the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist

**Church Staff and Parish Officers**

**Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator**

[admin@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:admin@stthomascamdenme.org)

Office: 207-236-3680

**The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector**

[interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org)

(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*

Clarissa Brown, *Organist & Choir Director*

Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*

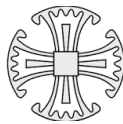
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*

*Online Donation Options: Scan the QR Code below or click the Donate Button on our website ([www.stthomascamden.org](http://www.stthomascamden.org))*



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**[www.stthomascamdenme.org](http://www.stthomascamdenme.org)**