



The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 18, 2026

10:00 a.m.

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 visitor card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

Entrance Hymn 391

Before the Lord's eternal throne

Winchester News

1 Be - fore the Lord's e - ter - nal throne, ye
2 His sov - ereign Power with - out our aid formed
3 We are his peo - ple, we his care, our
4 We'll crowd thy gates with thank - ful songs, high
5 Wide as the world is thy com - mand, vast

1 na - tions, bow with sa - cred joy; know that the Lord is
2 us of clay and gave us breath; and when like wan - dering
3 souls, and all our mor - tal frame; what last - ing hon - ors
4 as the heavens our voic - es raise; and earth, with her ten
5 as e - ter - ni - ty thy love; firm as a rock thy

1 God a - lone; he can cre - ate, and he des - troy.
2 sheep we strayed, he saved us from the power of death.
3 shall we rear, al - might - y Ma - ker, to thy Name?
4 thou - sand tongues, shall fill thy courts with sound - ing praise.
5 truth must stand, when roll - ing years shall cease to move.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People

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

Celebrant

Almighty God,...

People

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.

Chapel participants come forward as the following is sung

S 278

Gloria in excelsis

William Mathias

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
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 Celebrant says to the congregation

Will you pray for these young people and chaplains as they hear and receive God's Word?

People

We will.

The Celebrant then says to the chapel participants

Will you pray for us as we hear and receive God's Word?

Chapel Participants

We will.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah [45:1-7]

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him-- and the gates shall not be closed:
I will go before you and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

Psalm 96:1-9 *Cantate Domino*

- 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.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians [1:1-10]

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

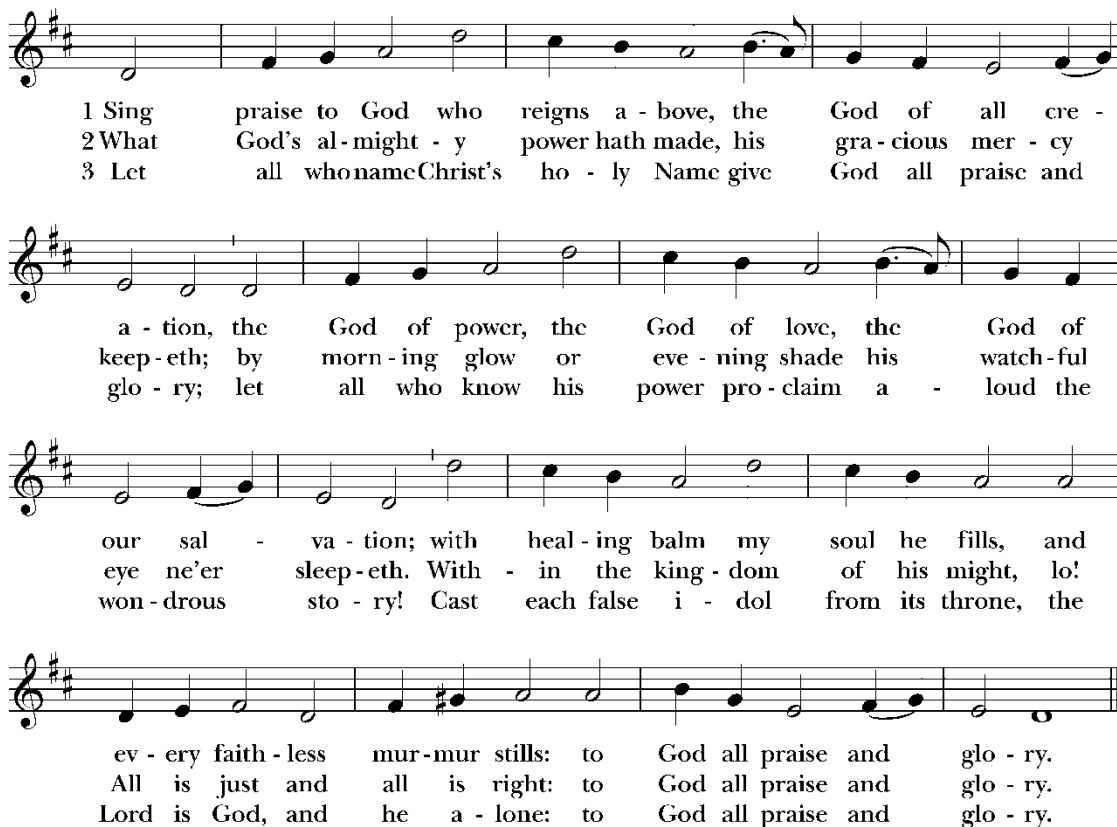
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand and sing

Sequence Hymn 408

Sing praise to God who reigns above

Mit Freuden zart



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2 What God's al - might - y power hath made, his gra - cious mer - cy
 3 Let all whome Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
 keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his watch - ful
 glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the

our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
 eye ne'er sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of his might, lo!
 won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [22:15-22]

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

After a period of silence, 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.**

Commissioning of Tower Restoration Committee and Capital Gifts Committee

The congregation being seated, the Presider stands in full view of the people. The candidates stand facing the celebrant. The Presider says

Friends in Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. As representatives of this congregation, Leamon, Dwayne, Mike, Benjy, Sam, Phil, and Jim have been called to the ministry of our Tower Restoration Committee and Bill, Anne, Rosalee, Doc, Lucy, Elizabeth, Becca, Susan, Sarah, and Fr. Tom have been called to the ministry of our Capital Gifts Committee.

People **Praise be to God, who has called you to this service.**

Presider Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Look with favor upon those whom you have called, O God, and grant that they may be so filled with your Holy Spirit that they may minister in their chosen task with joy and steadfast devotion; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Presider In the Name of God, we recognize you, as members of the Tower Restoration Committee and the Capital Funds Committee and give you this rock as a token of your ministry. As the Apostle Peter says: “Like living stones let

yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” *1 Peter 2:5*

The Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Deacon or other leader

Ever-present and loving God,
we give you thanks for all who have gone before us, those who built up this church and community, all who dedicated themselves to you in this holy place.

We pray for all who have been baptized and confirmed here all who have been married and found support from here, all who have been buried from here, and all who have found new hope.

We give thanks for all who have ministered in this church, all who have shared in its mission and outreach, and in its maintenance.

We pray for our present clergy and the staff and workers of this church.

Lord, you have called your people.

Make us worthy of our calling.

We pray for the relationship between our church and the wider community,
that we may serve where we are able, that we may relieve poverty and suffering.

We pray for Christians involved in government, in politics, in all matters that influence our lives.

May we help to keep society caring and sensitive.

Lord, you have called your people.

Make us worthy of our calling.

We give thanks for those who taught us the faith.

We pray for the teachers of this church, its Bible classes, confirmation classes, Sunday school, and all who are prepared for marriage and baptism.

We pray for house visitors and those who care for the housebound and infirm.

Lord, bless our congregation, our homes, our friends and our loved ones.

Lord, you have called your people.

Make us worthy of our calling.

We remember all who cannot come to church because of illness or circumstance;

we pray for all who share in a house communion, or a house group.

We pray for all who are lonely and unvisited.

We ask you to bless and support all who are in weakness or distress;

we remember friends and loved ones who are ill, especially...

Lord, you have called your people.

Make us worthy of our calling.

We give thanks for all who once worshipped here and are at one with the saints in glory,

all who have found faith here and are now in the fullness of your kingdom.

We pray for loved ones departed from us...

Lord, you have called your people.

Make us worthy of our calling.

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

All stand. Prayers for Anniversaries, Birthdays, Travel, etc. may be offered.

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 Anthem

The Servant Song

Richard Gillard

Jeff Conrad, Bass and Cat Lyons, Soprano

Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website (www.stthomascamden.org)

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Celebrant and People

S 124

Sanctus

David Hurd

Musical notation for the Sanctus, featuring three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become

subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

The Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

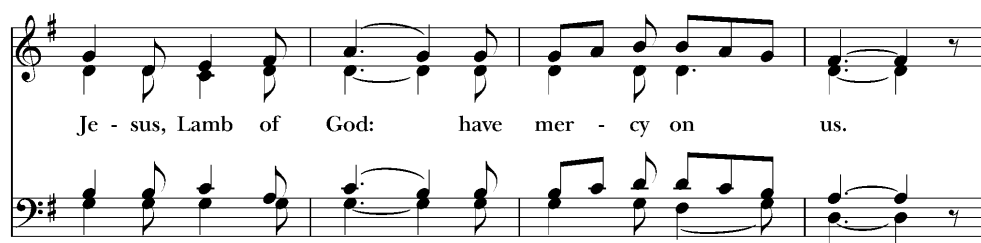
Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread S 164



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

This is God's table, all are welcome. You may receive at the altar or at the Communion station by the chancel steps. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the minister. Communion can be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.

The following hymn is sung during the administration of Communion.

Hymn 683

O for a closer walk with God

Beatitudo

1 O for a clos - er walk with God, a calm and heaven - ly frame,
 2 Where is the bless - ed - ness I knew when first I saw the Lord?
 3 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, sweet mes - sen - ger of rest;
 4 The dear - est i - dol I have known, what - e'er that i - dol be,
 5 So shall my walk be close with God, calm and se - rene my frame;

1 a light to shine up - on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
 2 Where is the soul - re - fresh - ing view of Je - sus and his word?
 3 I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
 4 help me to tear it from thy throne, and wor - ship on - ly thee.
 5 so pur - cr light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing

Announcements

Dismissal Hymn 718

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand

National Hymn

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay
thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

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Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs

Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder

Organist: Scott Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Carolyn Watson

Reader 1: Avery Reed

Reader 2 :Craig Watson

Prayers of the People: Bill Freeman

Ushers: Cheryl Reif

People in our Prayers

Healing: Grayce Sivigny, Linda Sink, Joan M., Victor Gould, Tiffany, Ronald Dunbar, Sr., Carmel, Kathy Wolfe, Rebecca Vogt, Sally Ann Williamson, Ronald Dunbar, Michelle Gabrielsen, Kim Murphy, Gordon, Karen Nolan, Paul H, Kate Pinson, Tim C, Jan & Bill, Jan L, Jeff, Sandra Covington, Br Richard Biernacki, Donald Verdery, Charles Lewis, Timothy Jackson, Catherine, Gay Schueler, Ezra, Gwen Prosser, Lochlin, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Donovan Bailey, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Percy, Joan Grey, Jan Schaefer, Jason, Jeanie, Brian, Corey and his mom Heidi, Fr Tom Pike, Evie Bridges, Vicki Boetsch, Janice Boetsch, Margery, Stephanie

October Birthdays: Rosalee Glass (1); Luceille Young (4); Lucy Lowry (6); Rebecca Vogt (7); Bill Conrad (14); Phyllis Barry (17); Stephen Thomas (17); BC Lowry (18); Nancy Wright (25); Kathleen Buchanan (27); Doc Wallace (27); Sam Cotton (31)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Bartholomew's, Yarmouth, For our Liturgical Commission, For the wardens and vestries and committees of our parishes.

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, October 18

11:15 p.m. Christian Formation (*Conference Room*)

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

Monday, October 19

4:00 p.m. Liturgy & Music Planning (*Zoom*)

Tuesday, October 20

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*Music Room*)

Wednesday, October 21

9:30 a.m. Healing Prayer and Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom (*Contact Br. Donovan Bowley for link*)

Saturday, October 24

9:00 a.m. Capital Campaign Committee (*Conference Room*)

The Twenty-Second Sunday of October 25

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (*Refreshments follow in the Parish Hall*)

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

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

Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Announcements

- Prepackaged side dishes are the food request for **Camden Area Christian Food Pantry** for the month of October. Donations may be left inside the Wood Street entrance to the church.
- **Nursery** for those 3 and under beginning at 9:45 a.m. Leader: Marjorie Vizethann.
- **Godly Play** orientation for parents with children ages 3-11 on Sundays. It's a Montessori-based curriculum with a gentle way to invite wonder and make meaning with core bible stories and will run nine weeks through November 20. Leaders: Anna Ford, Alexandra Stewart, and Avery Reed.
- **Agape or Foyer Groups** meet between now and January 2027. There is no agenda other than getting to know one another on a deeper level by sharing a meal and conversation outside of our regular church gatherings.
- **Liturgical Ministries:** Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers. Let us know if you are interested in any of these ministries, there is always room for more. admin@stthomascamdenme.org.
- The children, who had decorated the Christmas boxes, brought them into the 10 o'clock service last week where some of them were distributed. The rest of them are in the Sun Room. These boxes are for putting in

change which will go towards the **Christmas stocking project**. We will collect the boxes on the first Sunday of Advent November 29th. Please stop by and pick one up!

- Interested in helping plan for **Advent and Christmas celebrations? Liturgy Planning** will meet with Fr. Briggs via Zoom on Monday, October 19 at 4 p.m. Email interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org for article to read in preparation for the meeting and a Zoom link.
- We will return to “**Winter Worship Schedule**” with a combined service at 9:30 a.m. beginning Sunday, November 8.

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Carrie Rossiter, Parish Administrator
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Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector
interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org
(860) 384-9193

Scott Dyer, Director of Music Ministry
musicminister@stthomascamdenme.org

The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Deacon
deacon@stthomascamdenme.org
(207) 322-7816

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

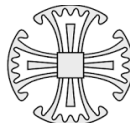
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*

Haunani Wallace, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



Our Transition Vision Statement

"We will be a healthy and thriving multigenerational church whose rich liturgical tradition inspires us to live out God's love in our actions and decisions to better meet the needs of our community."

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

33 Chestnut Street P.O. Box 631 Camden, ME 04843

www.stthomascamdenme.org