



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
The Third Sunday after Lent  
March 20, 2022

## The Notices

# Sunday, March 20, 2022 – 9 AM

Good morning, All! Welcome to St. Thomas'!

We are pleased to celebrate in-person/hybrid Morning Prayer this Sunday and we give thanks to **Jake Abell** for being our Worship Leader, and to **Kristin Strohmeier** for being our Lector. Many thanks to **Dianne McDowell** and choir for leading us in song!

For the Third Sunday of Lent, our Zoom login is: <https://zoom.us/j/268122441>  
Meeting ID: 268 122 441 Password: 947451  
Or call in: 1 (646) 558 - 8656

### April: Upcoming Services

- Sunday, April 3 – Holy Eucharist with Rev. Jackie Schmitt
- Holy Week:
  - Palm Sunday, April 10 – Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent
  - Maundy Thursday & Good Friday – Rev. Gerard Beritela
  - Easter Sunday, April 17 – Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe
- Sunday services in March and April not indicated above are planned to be Morning Prayer led by one of St. Thomas' Worship Leaders

### Our schedule for the upcoming week is:

- **Monday:** 5:00 pm – Friendship Inn
- **Wednesday** 9:00 am – Morning Prayer on Zoom ([meeting ID 811 0195 7241](#) passcode 402008)
- **Wednesday** 6:00 pm – Vigil for All Those in Need of prayers (use the Sunday Zoom link)
- **Sunday** 9:00 am – Morning Prayer in-person and on Zoom

### Here's what you need to know about the goings-on around St. T.'s:

- **Ukraine:** Please consider a special Lenten donation to the **Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)** as we pray for an end to violence in Ukraine. ERD is partnering with ecumenical agencies in Europe to provide immediate and long-term humanitarian responses to the refugee crisis through their local partners in Romania, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. A donation box will be at the back of the church this Sunday. If you wish to write a check, make it out to **"St. Thomas' Episcopal Church"** and write **"Ukraine"** in the memo field. Donations should be received at the church office **by March 25th**. Money raised will be combined with funds from the Outreach Commission and matched by the local diocese.

- **Crop Walk:** Erin Luchenbill, Community Engagement Manager for Church World Service congratulates the St Thomas' Crop Walk Team, Emily Hutton-Hughes, and Father Brooks! We made the national Cream of the CROP Top 100 Teams for most funds raised in 2021! Congratulations on being #8 in the whole country for funds raised!!!! Ending hunger is possible in our lifetime. You are helping to make it happen. The funds you raised will help people in neighborhoods in your community and in places around the world to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity. Thank you! <https://vid.us/6n066k>

- **Father Brooks:** Insurance restrictions prohibit Father Brooks from performing any type of church business while on leave. To ensure we follow this requirement, please don't send any type of email to Brooks. Should you wish to send along thoughts and well wishes, we recommend that you send cards or notes through the postal mail.

- **The Outreach Commission:** Please consider donating to the local Food Cupboard either directly to them or leaving your donation at the back of the church for pickup by the Outreach Commission. The Hamilton Food Cupboard is greatly in need of the following items this month: laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels, and baking supplies. The latter might include box mixes, flour, sugar, Crisco oil, baking powder/soda etc.

- **Strategic Planning Process Put on Hold:** At its February meeting, the Vestry decided to temporarily pause the strategic planning process within the Parish. This decision was reached after consultation with the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and its Diocesan consultant, Cannon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent.

After a highly successful parish-wide retreat in November ("Forum for the Future"), work was about to commence with various Commissions in conjunction with the SPC. During January and the beginning of February, extensive contact with Commission chairs revealed the following two major concerns:

**1)** Of the 8 Commissions that would have undertaken a lengthy review of goals and prioritization over the next 3 – 6 months before developing a proposal for inclusion in the final plan, it was determined that four of these bodies did not have a current chair and a fifth was in a start-up mode with only two members.

**2)** In part due to the Rector's medical leave, the mindset of the Commissions' leadership is currently more keenly directed to the short-term operation of the Parish rather than long-term planning.

The SPC itself felt that to continue the process now would not yield the results that we envision for St. Thomas'. Rather, during this interim period, our committee and the Vestry would like to devote our energies to reinvigorating the Commission structure by encouraging increased participation by parishioners and identifying committed people to become chairs.

We fully anticipate resuming the strategic planning process soon when the Parish is better positioned to move forward. John Orr, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

- **Other Vestry Info:** If you're curious about what the Vestry has been up to, please look at the vestry minutes ([stthomashamilton.org](http://stthomashamilton.org) ->about us ->Vestry Minutes). If you have questions, concerns, comments and/or suggestions leave a message for the Vestry at [stchurch@cnymail.com](mailto:stchurch@cnymail.com) or 315-824-1745.

- **FEMA Relief for COVID Funerals** - FEMA offers assistance to cover the cost of funerals for individuals who died from COVID-19. If this would be helpful for you or someone you know, please take a look at the informational website: [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/covid-19-funeral-assistance)

- **The Church Property** on Hill Road is available for anyone from St. Thomas' to go out and enjoy a little bit of nature. There isn't an address, currently, so the best way I can explain it is that our property is across the street from 5638 Hill Road. There is a small turn-in, dirt and grass road between two small, red reflectors. The turn-in splits in a Y almost immediately. Stay to the Right, and you are on the church property. There are roughly 20 acres up there for your entertainment, escape, spiritual renewal, or just about whatever you need.

**If anyone has additions or removals for the Prayer List**, please email Emily Hutton-Hughes, [ehutton@colgate.edu](mailto:ehutton@colgate.edu). Provide the full name, indicate whether to include the last name, and a brief description of the situation (kept private).

### **Congregation Prayers**

**Your prayers are asked for: John Brown, Fr. Brooks Cato, Lara Cato, Pam Cristiano, Teddy Engle, Joan Fales, Jerry & Roseann Fitzgerald, Emma Forbes, Kate Foss, Danny & Anne Foust, Maureen Fox, Mary Frances, Daniel Ghent, Miles Goodrich, Marlene Houck, Danielle Jones, Nori Jones, Janna Keser, Beth Komaromi & Family, Jeannie McCabe, Dianne McDowell, Liam Meyer, John & Rose Novak, Pam Novak, Sophia, Dylan & Isabel Lopez, Anthony & Vincent Pacillo, Bill Pratt, Joni Resnick, Nancy Rivington, Noah & Steve Scarafile, June Schaupp, Candace Schult, Sheryl Scott, Mark Spearing, Keith Stage, Carol Strozyk, John Sykes, Debra Talbott, Ellie Weyter, Deb Willis, Ryan Wilson, Mike Wehnau, Harriet Williams, Joan Winkler, David, Frank, Kayla, Lee Anne, Lauren, Marshall, Nick, Rebecca, Robin, Scot & Terry, Sue & Ben.**

**For the departed:** George Williams, Francie Wyland, Tucker Hull

### **Thanksgivings:**

**Birthdays** – Jill Helm, Dee Keller, Maureen Ghent, Wanda Warren Berry

**Wedding Anniversaries** –

**Baptism Anniversaries** – Allen Schult, Deborah Radford, Kathleen Catania, Ellie Weyter

### **Readings and Hymns for the Third Sunday of Lent – March 20, 2022**

OPENING HYMN - #152 (verses 1-4)

"Kind Maker of the World"

1 Kind Maker of the World, O Hear the fervent prayer, with many a tear  
Poured forth by all the penitent who keep this Holy fast of Lent.

2 Each heart is manifest to thee; thou knowest our infirmity;  
now we repent and seek thy face; grant unto us thy pardoning grace.

3 Spare us, O Lord, who now confess our sins and all our wickedness,  
and, for the glory of thy name, our weakened souls to health reclaim.

4 Give us the discipline that springs from abstinence in outward things  
with inward fasting, so that we in heart and soul may dwell with thee.

### **Psalms 63:1-8**

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

### **Exodus 3:1-15**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

### **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

## **The Gospel - Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

## **The Collect of The Day**

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

### **CLOSING - #344 (all verses)**

#### **"Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"**

1 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, thy love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace:  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for thy Gospel's joyful sound:  
may the fruits of thy salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound:  
ever faithful, ever faithful  
to thy truth may we be found;

3 so that when thy love shall call us,  
Savior, from the world away,  
fear of death shall not appall us,  
glad thy summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with thee in endless day.

Episcopal Relief & Development: [Ukraine](https://www.episcopalrelief.org/).  
<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>



We are having a special collection for Ukraine refugees. See the parish notes above. Donations received in the box at the back of the Church on Sunday or in the Church Office by March 25 will be combined with our Outreach Commission's donations and matched by the Diocese.

## Lenten Reflection

But it's important to remember that the word 'Lent' itself comes from the old English word for 'spring'. It's not about feeling gloomy for forty days; it's not about making yourself miserable for forty days; it's not even about giving things up for forty days. Lent is springtime. It's preparing for that great climax of springtime which is Easter – new life bursting through death. And as we prepare ourselves for Easter during these days, by prayer and by self-denial, what motivates us and what fills the horizon is not self-denial as an end in itself but trying to sweep and clean the room of our own minds and hearts so that the new life really may have room to come in and take over and transform us at Easter.

--from Archbishop of Canterbury  
Rowan Williams' 2009 Lenten Reflections

## A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby  
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



**Last Sunday's Sermon:** *Loving Like a Mother Hen*, Sermon Read Aloud on Lent 2 (March 13, 2022)

Written By Rev. Danae M. Ashley

One moonlit night a Fox was prowling about a farmer's chicken coop, and saw a Hen roosting high up beyond his reach. "Good news, good news!" he cried.

"Why, what is that?" said the Hen.

"King Lion has declared a universal truce. No beast may hurt a bird henceforth, but all shall dwell together in brotherly friendship."

"Why, that is good news," said the Hen; "and there I see someone coming, with whom we can share the good tidings." And so saying she craned her neck forward and looked far off.

"What is it you see?" said the Fox.

"It is only my master's Dog that is coming towards us. What, going so soon?" she continued, as the Fox began to turn away. "Will you not stop and congratulate the Dog on the reign of universal peace?"

"I would gladly do so," said the Fox, "but I fear he may not have heard of King Lion's decree."

What do you think is the moral of Aesop's fable? The answer: Cunning often outwits itself.

There are parallels between this fable and our Gospel story today. Herod is the Fox, Jesus is Hen, perhaps John the Baptist is the Dog, and King Lion is God, of course. Although the Fox lied to the Hen about King Lion's decree of universal peace, we know a different story from God. The truth is that the kingdom of God is at hand and it is present in deep and surprising ways.

How often do we use the term "mother hen" when we refer to a person who is especially nurturing to and protective of those they love? What an interesting metaphor Jesus uses in the Gospel reading – God trying to gather God's children together just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. A hen is probably not the first thing that comes to mind when we think of a protective animal. We would sooner imagine a lion or a fierce bird of prey, something with fangs or talons. Yet, the lowly chicken is the image that Jesus chooses to demonstrate this relationship between God and us. God, the mother hen, calls us to the safety of the nest, underneath those downy wings, behind the heart that beats beneath her vulnerable breast. There is power in this image. Power tied to Abram's covenant with God. Power tied with strength in vulnerability and with relationship.

Today, fear is our fuel: fear of those who are different, fear of death, fear of our own shortcomings, and fear that the things we value will be taken away from us. In response, we write contracts: contracts for services, contracts for jobs, prenuptial contracts, and, as wonderful and helpful as wills can be, they too, are contracts to make sure the people and things we value will be cared about in the way we want them to be when we are gone. Contracts are about legal protection within relationships. This is where they differ from a covenant, especially a covenant with God.

When Abram creates the covenant with God in our reading today, he is executing an ancient practice. A covenant, ratified in blood, is all encompassing. If you were to make a covenant with your best friend today, it would mean that everything that belonged to them also belonged to you and vice versa. If your best friend happened to have a mansion and a heap of creditors hounding them, guess what? You've got that, too. A contract would protect you from the bad, but a covenant guarantees that you are in relationship and if one goes down, you both go. On the flip side, that also means if one succeeds, so does the other.

God has established covenants with a variety of people and under a variety of circumstances: with Noah, the rainbow promising that God would never again destroy the earth with a flood; With Abram, through animal sacrifice, and later, as Abraham, through circumcision; With Mary, through the blood that came with birthing Jesus, and Jesus himself, who sets his face to Jerusalem so that his blood can become another tie that binds us.

Jesus knew his identity as a prophet and the Son of God. He tells the Pharisees, "Go and tell that fox [Herod] for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'" Jesus knows the stakes of being what he is and yet, he follows God's call to him. He sees the role of God as one of a mother hen gathering her brood under her protective wings, safe from the ravages of the foxes of life. In Luke's time, that meant not just Jerusalem or Israel, but the Gentiles as well. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees that Jesus encounters, we are often not willing to be gathered in with people that are not like us, instead taking our chances elsewhere. We think we are truly free, but instead are even more at risk and vulnerable to the sly seductions of the foxes among us.

If you are familiar with what happens when a fox gets into a hen house then you know that most times the mother hen herds her chicks under her wings for protection and bares her breast so that the fox must kill her first before it can get to her chicks. It is the only defense she has. Later, there will be a flutter of feathers and motherless chicks running around but at least they are alive, though their mother may be dead. They are given the chance to live. This is the image that Jesus chose to bring to us: our covenant with God means that everything of God's is also ours, even Jesus, God's own son.

The season of Lent is a time of repentance and a time to consider what it means to be in covenant with a vulnerable God. We learn that faith grows through use. The more we encounter our vulnerable God, the more we understand the strength of our own vulnerability. We must choose to live this type of faith each day. When we received the cross of ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday, it reminded us exactly how vulnerable and human we are in this world. We are called to something more than living for ourselves and satisfying our contracts. Our God is not the belly, as it says in Philippians. We are called to be the chicks that lead the way to our mother hen: our God.

In our baptism, we are marked by the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit as Christ's own forever. We are charged with an imperative call to love like that mother hen who opens her wings wide and exposes her heart to the foxes of the world in the hope that our loved ones may live in the light of our vulnerability. Called to love like someone who is in covenant with God. A fierce and trusting love that encompasses all that which God possesses. When we live this way, we will know the reign of universal peace described in this Franciscan blessing:

"May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace. May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. May the peace of God and the God of peace be with you for evermore." Amen.

*[The Rev. Danée Ashley, an Episcopal priest, is from Spokane, Washington. She holds an M.Div. degree from Candler School of Theology (Emory University) and has served several parishes. She also works in the area of marriage and family therapy and runs workshops in spiritual direction.]*



DATE	WORSHIP LEADER/ CLERGY	LECTOR	LEM	USHER	ALTAR GUILD	FLOWER GUILD
March 2 Ash Wednesday	Deb Barker 7:00 AM  Rev. Nick Smith 12:00 PM (noon)	Wynn Egginton  Wynn Egginton	N/A  Wynn Egginton	N/A	Susan Beattie	N/A
March 6	Jake Abell 9 AM – MP II	Linda Jenks	N/A	Ed Page	Emily Hutton- Hughes	Diane Rich
March 13	Rev. Kathryn Major 9 AM - HE II	Barb Bowen	Barb Bowen	Ed Page	Susan Beattie	Jana Laxa
March 20	Jake Abell 9 AM – MP II	Kristin Strohmeyer	N/A	Ed Page	Jane Welsh	Jana Laxa
March 27	Heidi Riley 9 AM – MP II	Lynn Staley	N/A	Ed Page	Jane Welsh	Jana Laxa