



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
The First Sunday after Lent
March 13, 2022

The Notices

Sunday, March 13, 2022 – 9 AM

Remember to set your clocks forward this weekend

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

We are pleased to celebrate in-person/hybrid Holy Eucharist this Sunday and we give thanks to **Rev. Kathryn Major** for being our Celebrant, and to **Barbara Bowen** for being our Lector and Chalice Bearer. Many thanks to **Dianne McDowell** and the choir for leading us in song!

For the Second 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

March and 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](https://zoom.us/j/81101957241) 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

* All of our services will be recorded and posted on the St. Thomas' Facebook Page

St Thomas' Crop Walk Team is among the top in the whole country!

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!

<https://vid.us/6n066k>



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

- **Crop Walk** (Continued)

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!

- **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 ->[about us](#) ->[Vestry Minutes](#)). If you have questions, concerns, comments and/or suggestions leave a message for the Vestry at stchurch@cnyemail.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](#)

- **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 send them to stchurch@cnyemail.com.

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, Paul Jones, Janna Keser, Beth Komaromi & Family, Jeannie McCabe, Dianne McDowell, Liam Meyer, Anthony & Vincent Pacillo, Bill Pratt, Joni Resnick, Nancy Rivington, Noah and Steve Scarafile, June Schaupp, Candace Schult, Sheryl Scott, Mark Spearing, Keith Stage, Carol Strozyk, John Sykes, Debra Talbott, Ellie Weyter, Deb Willis, Ryan Wilson, Harriet Williams, Joan Winkler, David, Everett, Francie, Frank, Kayla, Lee Anne, Lauren, Marshall, Nick, Rebecca, Robin, Scot & Terry, Sue & Ben.

For the departed: Donnie, Dennis Rancourt, George Williams

Thanksgivings:

Birthdays – Geordi Geier, Jessica Rivington, Tom Schmitt

Wedding Anniversaries –

Baptism Anniversaries – Dee Keller, Nan Schmitt, Andrew Hengst

Readings and Hymns for the Second Sunday of Lent – March 13, 2022

OPENING HYMN - #401

"The God of Abraham Praise"

1 The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred Name
for ever blest.

2 He by himself hath sworn:
we on his oath depend;
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne,
to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face,
we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.

3 There dwells the Lord, our King,
the Lord, our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world and sin,
the Prince of Peace;
on Zion's sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and, glorious with his saints in light,
forever reigns.

The Collect

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Psalm

Psalm 27

- 1 **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? ***
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 **When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, ***
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 **And though war should rise up against me, ***
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
- 6 **To behold the fair beauty of the LORD ***
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 **Even now he lifts up my head ***
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 **Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; ***
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 **Hide not your face from me, ***
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 **Though my father and my mother forsake me, ***
the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 **Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, ***
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD *
in the land of the living!
- 18 **O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; * wait**
patiently for the LORD.

The New Testament

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox 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.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

COMMUNION HYMN - #337

"And now, O Father, Mindful of the Love"

1 And now, O Father, mindful of the love
that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
and having with us him that pleads above,
we here present, we here spread forth to thee
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

2 Look Father, look on his anointed face,
and only look on us as found in him;
look not on our misusings of thy grace,
our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:
for lo! between our sins and their reward
we set the passion of thy Son our Lord.

3 And then for those, our dearest and our best,
by this prevailing presence we appeal:
Oh fold them closer to thy mercy's breast!
Oh do thine utmost for their souls' true weal!
From tainting mischief keep them pure and clear,
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

4 And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,
most patient Savior, who canst love us still!
And by this food, so awesome and so sweet,
deliver us from every touch of ill:
in thine own service make us glad and free,
and grant us never more to part from thee.

CLOSING HYMN - #495 (vss. 1-3)"

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus"

1 Hail, thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior,
bearer of our sin and shame!
By thy merit we find favor:
life is given through thy Name.

2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins on thee were laid:
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven
through the virtue of thy blood:
opened is the gate of heaven,
reconciled are we with God.

3 Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee,
seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading:
there thou dost our place prepare;
ever for us interceding,
till in glory we appear.

Last Sunday's Sermon: Read aloud for March 6, 2022 (Lent 1). Written by Katerina Katsarka Whitley

What strikes the reader and listener of the lectionary this morning is the eternal echo of God's Word in Scripture. We hear it in the phrase "forty days and nights," a familiar set of numbers found both in the Hebrew Scriptures and here in the gospels; in the use of the phrase "not by bread alone;" and in the quotation of the marvelous Psalm 91, which offers a vision and a promise of angelic protection from temptation.

The realization that it was Jesus who used the words of Scripture as the greatest shield against temptation offers further confirmation of the power of the Word.

Luke tells a story that has been told by Matthew in a similar manner and by the laconic Mark in only two short verses. In all three instances, Jesus' fasting in the wilderness comes after the tender declaration by the Spirit of God to the newly baptized Jesus: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And immediately, the Tempter arrives.

We can pause for a few minutes to contemplate the drama of this story told here in the simplest metaphorical language. When and why did Jesus recount this experience to his disciples—for it could only have been reported by him who lived it—we don't know. We can imagine them all at twilight, gathered around their Teacher, confessing their own temptations, bewildered by them, and Jesus, in his mercy, telling them, "You are not alone." The enormity of the temptations he encountered after God affirmed him as his beloved Son cannot be described in our limited language. There is much symbolic reference to the disciples' own culture and traditions—the forty days, the wilderness, the quoting of Scripture, the pinnacle of the temple. Forty days stand for a long time, for a fast that lasts for quite a while as long as water is available. There are many who have experienced the kind of hunger that gnaws at one's flesh when one is truly famished—some because of illness, others because of the deprivations of war. It is an unrelenting hunger bringing with it a weakness that cannot be described unless experienced. And in this weakened state, there is nothing more tempting than the offer of food. Yet this offer by Satan comes with the temptation of the quick fix, of magic. This is not how God works. Bread is vital for our survival, but not bread alone. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy, but Luke does not complete the quote, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." Jesus uses the Word to silence the enemy. The needs of the body must be satisfied, but not at the expense of our souls. Only the Word who emanates from the Father eternally can offer us the strength to withstand the temptations that result from such needs.

In the second temptation, we hear a response that is probably never found among lesser human beings. The hunger for power and money, for control, and for the exploitation of others runs rampant in today's world. It was thus also during the Roman Empire. The devil's words are frightening. He claims all authority, "for it has been given over to me," he says, "and I give it to anyone I please." We pause to ask, "Who gave him such authority?" and to conclude: "So that's why the world is in such a mess." Whatever the meaning of this claim to authority, we hear a resounding No in the answer Jesus gives, again from Scripture. His devotion to God is unequivocal, his obedience total, his love single-minded. He cannot be tempted away from the worship of the One God.

The third temptation is the most intriguing because in this instance Satan himself quotes Scripture and does so most effectively. He chooses the words of the beautiful, comforting Psalm 91, as we know it:

*For he shall give his angels charge over you...
they shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

Again, here is a universal experience. Who among us has not stumbled against a stone, against temptation? Moreover, we are reminded once more that the Enemy also quotes Scripture, many times cleverly, to silence the Spirit. Look at how the Bible is used as a weapon against the children of Light in today's world. This is the most seductive power of the Enemy. We must always be alert to the misuse of the Word, to the exploitation of the good news for the purpose of hurting the least of these, our brothers and sisters. Jesus will not have it. He relies on Scripture as he responds with clarity, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Throughout history, human beings have tried to bargain with their Creator, to test the one who has given them life. We see it in all mythologies and even between the ancient Hebrews and their God. Jesus rejects such bargaining even when it uses

the words of Scripture. What did the disciples take away from this remarkable story? After the Ascension, we hear Peter use the words of Scripture repeatedly when he teaches, interprets, and preaches the Good News of Christ.

What should stay with us? We see how the Tempter arrives when we are at our height of spiritual awareness: maybe after preaching a fine sermon or after doing something good for someone else. Temptation arrives when we feel that we are so close to who we are called to be that we run the danger of pride and a fall. This is a most opportune time for the Tempter. Stones surround us; we are always prone to dash our foot against them. Who will bear us up? Most of us resort to prayer which comes in many forms. The most reliable and the strongest, as we see here, is to use the words given to us in Scripture. In The Episcopal Church, we have the additional treasure of the Book of Common Prayer. They come to us, these ancient words, echoing through the centuries, tried and blessed, because they have become part of us, of our subconscious, and our memory. This passage reminds us not to neglect to read, study, and memorize the words of the Bible because we never know when they will serve as our two-edged sword or as our only shield against the Enemy. We must be prepared.

Let us then recall and rest upon the Word and the Word will not fail us. As St. Paul reminds us:

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart.”

May it always be so. Amen.

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



DATE	WORSHIP LEADER/ CLERGY	LECTOR	LEM	USHER	ALTAR GUILD	FLOWER GUILD
March 2 Ash Wednesday	Deb Barker 7:00 AM	Wynn Egginton	N/A	N/A	Susan Beattie	N/A
	Rev. Nick Smith 12:00 PM (noon)	Wynn Egginton	Wynn Egginton			
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	Wynn Egginton 9 AM – MP II	Kristin Strohmeier	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