



Window: The Baptism of Jesus

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for Epiphany 6
February 16, 2025 † 8:30 AM

THE ENTRANCE

Welcome

Please stand as comfortable at the ringing of the bell.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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 *unison*

BCP 355

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.

Song of Praise: The Third Song of Isaiah

BCP 87

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 216

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Please be seated for the reading of the scriptures.

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1 *Read responsively by half-verse*

BCP 585

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not/ wither; *
everything they do shall/ prosper.

- 4 It is not so with the/ wicked; *
 they are like chaff which the wind blows a-/way.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement/ comes, *
 nor the sinner in the council of the/ righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the/ righteous *
 but the way of the wicked in/ doomed.

A Reading from the First Letter to the Church at Corinth

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel *standing as comfortable*

Luke 5: 1-11

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

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

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets." "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed *unison*

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.

Prayers of the People *kneeling or seated*

Let us worship the Savior with joy as we offer our prayers, saying hear our prayer.

At the birth of Jesus, Magi traveled from distant lands. We pray for the welfare of the world, for peace in places of conflict, and for the renewal of the Earth.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

At his baptism, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. We pray for the Church, anointed with that same Spirit, that we may practice repentance, proclaim the gospel, and walk in love.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

After his baptism, Jesus gathered a community of disciples. We pray for the health, safety, and wellbeing of this community as we navigate the challenges before us.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

In his preaching, Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God has come near. We pray for our Nation and for our leaders, that we may end division, enact justice, and respect the dignity of every human being.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

In his ministry, Jesus healed the sick and comforted the distressed. We pray for all who are sick, anxious, or troubled, especially St. Thomas parishioners Alice, the Poole & Carpenter families, the Covington & Whitaker families, the Pauli family, the Lewis family, Carlene, Marie, Charlene & Randy, Arthur, Bernie, Elissa, Charlotte, and Cindy, our homebound members John, Ramón & Maria, Carol, and William, and friends of the parish Joe, JoAnn, the family and friends of Justin Rieger, Mr. Shivley, the family of David Johnson, Linda, and for all who care for them.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus comforted those who grieved and raised the dead to life. We pray for all who grieve and for those who have died, especially Murray, Judy, John, Rick, and Bill.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The disciples rejoiced to see Jesus transfigured before them. We rejoice in the many blessings of this life, especially your presence with us.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, and help us shine with the light of Christ through the power of the Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas is grateful for your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906, donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>), or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**.

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Remain standing as comfortable, or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember Christ's death

We proclaim Christ's resurrection

We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 364

**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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ,

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

All Christians are joyfully invited to share in communion. You do not have to be a member of St. Thomas or an Episcopalian in order to receive. Come forward down the center aisle when invited by the ushers. Go to the farthest end of the altar rail and stand or kneel. Hold out one hand to receive the bread and then dip the bread in the cup or drink from the cup. If you prefer not to share a common cup, hold out two hands to receive the bread and wine together. If you prefer not to receive either the bread or the cup, cross your arms across your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, let the server know. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, let the usher know.

Sit or kneel as comfortable, keeping aware that some may be kneeling behind you.

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Holy eternal Majesty, Holy incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you for evermore.
Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Alice Barlow, The Poole & Carpenter families, Covington & Whitaker families, Pauli family, Lewis family, Carlene Pawlowicz, Marie Massey, Charlene & Randy Moore, Arthur Frost, Bernie Sutter, Elissa Wagner, Charlotte Mills, Cindy Godwin

Homebound members: John Studstill, Ramón & Maria Capo, Carol Kennon, William South

Friends of the parish: Joe Moore (*Ena Hunt*), JoAnn Vasquez (*Maryann Rahn*), Family & Friends of Justin Rieger (*Karen Corthell*), Mr. Shivley (*Kelly McFalls*), Family of David Johnson (*Ann Johnston*), Linda Wilson (*Florence Wakoko*), Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Those with continuing concerns: Gene Wells, Frank & Pam Feagle, Ralph Wimberly, Jessica McComb, April Jacobs, Debbie & Max Anderson, Korie MacDougall, Nicole Ceccato, Neal Fenter, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Bernie Sutter, Raymond Campbell, Art France

Soldiers & families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members & friends who are deployed:
Dan Wilcox, Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Kpalee Hance 2/16, Robert Capo 2/17, Kathleen Mullins 2/17, Cliff Ruehl 2/17, Esther Thomas 2/17, Makayla Young 2/17, Mandy Flynn 2/18, Ed Smith 2/18, Paxton Dunn 2/18, Elijah Isijola 2/18, Martha Lockhart 2/19, Chaz Wagner 2/19, Jeffery Oakman 2/19, Kwesi Joseph Akyempong 2/20, Jim Rutland 2/21, Paul Dahlgren 2/21, Ed Gay 2/22, Ama Wehrhahn 2/22

Those who have died: Murray Craig 4/4/24, Judy Gunter 4/6/24, John Partin 11/22/24, Rick McKnight 7/30/24, Bill Pauli 1/28/25

Announcements

For more information about the ministries of St. Thomas, pick up our latest *Seasons* newsletter or visit our website at www.StThomasColumbus.org.

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available in the parish hall.

Formation for all ages: 9:30-10:15am

Children PreK - 4th grade meet in the Children's Center

Tween and Teens meet in the Youth Room.

Adults: TheoEd Talks and Welcome Classes

TheoEd Talks in the Library, similar to TEDtalks, TheoEd Talks invite faith leaders to share the talk of their lives.

February 16 - Cole Arthur Riley: The Silence of God

February 23 - Bishop Wright will lead a forum and discussion at 9:30 in the parish hall.

St. Thomas Welcome Classes in All Saints Hall

February 16 - Welcome to Ministry and Life Together: How to get involved in learning and service

Wednesdays

Winter Schedule

5:30 to 6 - Eucharist in the Chapel

5:30 to 6:15 - Dinner served on the buffet.

6:00 - Playground open for children who have finished dinner.

6:30 to 7:30 - Formation time for everyone. Children in the Children's Center. Youth in the Youth Room or outside. Adults in the library, plus other spaces when Journey Groups begin.

6:30 to 8:15 - Choir rehearsal in the Nave

Wednesday Night Menus – Baked Potato Bar this week!

Wednesday Dinner is served buffet style. Donations are welcome but not required. To help offset costs, you may donate cash or with a credit card on site or pay ahead of time on the website. Reservations are helpful to help us plan, but feel free to show up whenever you are available. All menus will have gluten free and vegan options. Let us know you're coming at StThomasColumbus.org/wednesday-dinner/

Journey Groups Resumed. It's not too late to join! Scan the QR code to sign up or contact the church office. Details below.

News for this Week

Children, Youth and Adult Formation Discussions

Adults are invited to meet with Rev. Grace on February 16 to talk about adult formation.

Evensong and Dedication of the Rick McKnight Organ Console and Chambers

Sunday, February 16 at 4:30 pm, Organ music starts at 4:00 pm

Our dear friend Rick McKnight designed the updates to the St. Thomas Organ and played a major role in the entire Making Room for All project. It is fitting to dedicate the new digital organ chambers and remodeled console in his memory. Join us for an Evensong led by the St. Thomas Choir featuring music by several special guests and a piece for brass quintet, percussion and organ commissioned for the occasion. Nursery care provided. **Reception to follow. Please bring finger foods for the reception.**

As part of the Evensong – and the naming of the Rick McKnight organ and console -- FABArts is sponsoring the creation of a mural in the youth/children's area by the Outreach Center. FABArts is the company that Rick founded to bring arts-integrated education to students. FABArtist Sietske Johnson is creating the mural - with the help of all the St. Thomas family. Sietske has done many of these murals for schools through FABArts but obviously, this one is going to be a little different: full of bright colors, musical notes and staves, and will contain the phrase "They shall laugh and sing."

"They shall laugh and sing" has several iterations in Bible verses, perhaps most notably, Psalm 65. The phrase was on a sign on the door of the music school at Norwich Cathedral when the St. Thomas Columbus Choir did a residency there in 2018. Everyone loved it so much that it became a sort of 'mantra' for the choir. And it will be featured prominently in the mural.

The mural started out as a small project for St. Thomas children to do during the Evensong, but it's become much larger, involving the entire family of St. Thomas. Sietske does these murals by doing the prep work, and then people get to come and add a splash of color or fill in one of the musical notes or some part that says, "I helped make the mural."

Shayla Holloway, Children and Families Ministry, and Taylor Mack, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will be working with children, youth, families, and young adults for them to have their time in helping make the mural. And we want this to be truly an opportunity for ALL St. Thomas folks, friends, and family to 'make their mark' on the mural – kids, youth, and adults!

There will be three opportunities to participate and it only takes a few minutes. Sietske will be coordinating the painting at the following times:

Sunday, Feb 16 Evensong 3:45pm - 6:45 pm (you can come early or come during the reception.)

Wednesday, Feb 19 Wednesday night supper 6:15pm - 9pm (staying late so choir members can go after choir)

Sunday Feb 23 Services with Bishop Wright - 9am - 2pm

Sietske will have smocks and aprons to protect clothing but unless you're a really messy adult, you won't need anything. This will be a welcoming, bright addition to the children and youth's area and a project to remind us all to "Laugh and Sing" in this holy place.

Journey Groups

Strength for the Journey: A Guide to Spiritual Practice by Renee Miller **AND** *Manna & Mercy*

Strength for the Journey explores twenty spiritual disciplines that can be part of our daily lives. Groups will explore how spiritual practices shape us, examine different types of practices, and consider how to incorporate spiritual practices into our lives. A few used copies of the book are in the church office for \$7, or you may purchase a copy online. You may also participate in a group without reading the book. **Groups will explore Strength for the Journey on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm, Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm, and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm.** The Sunday afternoon group will have a Zoom option as well.

In addition, the *Manna & Mercy* Journey Group will continue to meet on Wednesday nights to discuss the second half of the book, focused on the ministry of Jesus and the early church.

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation

When Bishop Wright is with us to dedicate our remodeled nave, he will also offer Rites of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. Confirmation marks a mature, public commitment to our baptismal vows. If you have never been confirmed, we invite you to do so. Reception is for those who were confirmed in another Christian tradition and now desire to live out their baptismal life within the Episcopal Church. Reaffirmation is for those who are already part of the Episcopal Church (St. Thomas or elsewhere) and now desire to reaffirm their commitment to Christ in the presence of the bishop. If you plan to be Confirmed or Received or to Reaffirm your faith on February 23, please complete the form by February 17. Scan the QR code for the form or look for a link in enews.

YACT (Young Adults Connecting Together) February Social

February 20, 6 pm, My Boulange

Join young adults at St. Thomas for sweet treats. Contact Taylor Mack for more details.

The Dedication of the Remodeled Nave With Confirmation and Reception into the Episcopal Church

Sunday, February 23 at 10:30 am

Bishop Wright will be present this morning to dedicate to God the work we have done. He will speak with the congregation in All Saints Hall at 9:30 and then celebrate the 10:30 service with us. Confirmation and Reception into the Episcopal Church will be part of this service. St. Thomas Welcome Classes serve as preparation of adults for confirmation. Several youth have also chosen to be confirmed. This will be a glorious day!

Men's Group Fellowship Gathering

Tuesday, February 25th at 5:30pm, Trevioli Italian Kitchen At The Rapids (1329 Front Ave Suite A)

Contact Paul Hostetter for more information.

Women's Group

February 27, 6 pm at Trevioli (7466 Blackmon Rd)

Gather with women from St. Thomas for fellowship and a meal. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. Next gathering is February 27. Sign up online to let us know you're coming!

St. Thomas Yard Sale

March 1

Bring your gently used goods and donate them to the St. Thomas Yard Sale!!

We are looking for these types of items: Furniture, Household items: dishes, utensils, mugs, linens, Books, Artwork, Working appliances and tools, Gently used toys, Sports equipment, Games, Holiday items, Clothing: Less than 3 years old and on hangers We will be collecting on: Sunday 2/23 4-6pm, Monday 2/24 & Tuesday 2/25 9 - 4pm, Wednesday 2/26 9 - 6pm. 2025 profits from the yard sale will support Boxwood Soccer Club. Contact Linda Prince or Susan Wirt for more information or scan the QR code for volunteer signups.

St. Thomas Book Group

March 7, 11 am

An informal group, everyone is welcome. Come and bring your friends. Contact Linnea Grosse for further information. March book - *The Confidante* by Christopher Gorham

Women's Lectionary Bible Study *Thursdays, 10 to 11 am*

All women are invited to join Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard in the library or by Zoom from 10 to 11 am on Thursdays to study the lectionary readings for the coming week. A handout for the week's study is emailed to each participant. Contact the church office to be added to the mailing list.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas. New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.



Vestry Members

David Brandenburgh (Sr. Warden), Garrett Vance, Brian Walker, Norm Easterbrook (Jr. Warden), Jessica Ezzell, Sue O'Dell Andrew Meeks, Mollie Smith, Katie Underwood

St. Thomas Staff

Administrative Assistant: Karen Corthell; *Director of Children and Family Ministries:* Shayla Holloway; *Director of Music:* Debbie Anderson; *Director of Parish Administration:* Patty Slembariski; *Director of Parish & Community Engagement:* Meg Olive-Allison; *Director of Youth & Young Adults:* Taylor Mack; *Organist:* Robin Ericksen; *Kitchen Manager & Sexton:* Seth Burgamy; *Livestream Technician:* Nick Williams; *Maintenance & Cleaning:* Frances Woolfolk; *Nursery:* Riley Mullen, Evie Smith, Dorothy Uwanawich, Jenneken Varnum; *Sexton Assistant:* Morgan Camp

St. Thomas Clergy

Rector: Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards; *Associate Rector for Mission:* Rev. Darius Sudayi