

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road † Berea, OH 44017



Advent III



December 15, 2024

10:00 AM

Lessons and Carols

The Rt. Reverend Anne Jolly, Bishop

Officiating Today: Kira Seaton – Minister of Music

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Parish Office Phone: (440) 234-5241

Email: church@stthomaschurch-berea.org

Prayer Requests: prayerlist@stthomaschurch-berea.org

Kira Seaton, Minister of Music: scuola.musica@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Telfer, Deacon: TelferBJT@hotmail.com



Advent III Lessons & Carols December 15, 2024

All music can be found in the Red Hymnal, or on the laminated sheet in the pew racks

PRELUDE Third Prelude on “From God on High” (Pavlechko/McClure)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

TRANSITION PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS

Senior Warden

All: Almighty God, look graciously on all of us here at St. Thomas during this time of transition. Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church. We ask your direction and guidance for all the individuals that will step up to be part of the search committee here, so that they will choose the right spiritual leader for this parish. We pray we receive an upright and faithful priest, who will care for your people, and equip us for our ministries. Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

All music is in the Red Hymnal, or on the laminated sheets in the pew racks

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: “From God on High”

(music found in the pew in front of you)

ADVENT I CANDLE LIGHTING:

Reader: People of God: return! You are called to be God’s own.

From the mountains, announce the good news!

God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. You are God’s children.

All: Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Hymn 56 *veni, veni Emmanuel*
(verses 1 and 2, only)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant: Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go even to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against Him, until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and justice on the earth; for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless; the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God, his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in Jesus, we are One for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**All: 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.**

Officiant: The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joy of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Genesis 3:1-15*

Sue Griffith

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

of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

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

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Hymn 56 *veni, veni Emmanuel*
(verse 4)

SECOND LESSON: *Isaiah 11: 1-9*

Linda Kinsey

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

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

All: Thanks be to God

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old" (723 WLP) *Samanthra*

THIRD LESSON: *Isaiah 40: 1-11*

Mike Strama

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

'Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN: "Prepare The Way, O Zion" Hymn 65

Bereden väg för Herran

FOURTH LESSON: *Isaiah 64:1-9a*

Carl Scheu

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

All: Thanks be to God

CAROL SOLO: “I Wonder as I Wander” arr. Mark Schweizer

FIFTH LESSON: *Zephaniah 3:14-18* Scott Hartman

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN: “Sleepers, Wake” Hymn 61 *Wachet auf*

SIXTH LESSON: *Isaiah 7:10-15* Joseph Allotta

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat

curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

All: Thanks be to God

CAROL ANTHEM: "What Child is This?" Malcolm Archer

SEVENTH LESSON: *Micah 5:2-4* Gwendolyn Jenkins

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

ALL: Thanks be to God

HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymn 79 *St. Louis*
(Verses. 1-3)

EIGHTH LESSON: *St. Luke 1:26-38* Julie Kalbrunner

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your

word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

All: Thanks be to God

OFFERTORY: "Sing of Mary, Pure and Holy" arr. Seaton

Pleading Savior

*Sing of Mary meek and lowly, Virgin-mother pure and mild,
Sing of God's own Son most holy, Who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother, Takes our nature by his birth.*

*Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son; Glory be to God the Spirit;
Glory to the Three in One.*

*From the heart of blessed Mary, from all saints the song ascends,
And the Church the strain re-echoes unto earth's remotest ends.*

PRAYER

Officiant: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Officiant: O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Officiant: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;

People: **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Officiant: Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

People: **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Officiant: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

People: **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Officiant: We wait for thy loving-kindness, O Lord.

People: **In the midst of thy temple.**

BLESSING

Officiant: Christ, the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *Hymn 76*
(Vs. 1, 2 and 5)

Winchester

POSTLUDE Postlude on “*Winchester*”

SERVING THIS SUNDAY:

Officiant: *Kira Seaton*

Altar: *Anita Cooper*

Musicians: *The Choir, Sue Griffith, and Kira Seaton*

Flowers: *Linda KinseyLay*

Readers: *Sue Griffith, Linda Kinsey, Mike Strama, Carl Scheu, Scott Hartman,
 Joseph Allotta, Gwendolyn Jenkins, and Julie Kalbrunner*

Advent Wreath Lighting: *The Hancock/Lisi Clan*

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 12/15	10:00am – LESSONS AND CAROLS (Not Morning Prayer!) Choir before and after service
MONDAY 12/16	Alcoholics Anonymous - Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
WED. 12/18	Vestry Meeting 7pm – Harkess Hall
THURS. 12/19	AA/Bluebook: Harkess Hall, (7-9pm) St. Thomas Choir Rehearsal – Chapel, (7:30-9:00pm)
SUNDAY 12/22	10:00am – Advent IV Holy Eucharist w Rev Jim Kulma Choir before service – 9:15am
TUESDAY 12/24	9:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE Holy Eucharistic with Reverend Jim Kulma and the St. Thomas Choir
WEDNESDAY 12/25	10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE with Deacon Barbara Telfer

IN THE NEWS

THERE'S STILL TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS - ORDER FORMS are included in the bulletin and are also available on the table outside the door of the Chapel. These beautiful, traditional holiday flowers are given to honor or memorialize loved ones and will adorn sanctuary and altar during the Christmas season. Each plant costs \$25. Order forms with payment are due in the church office **TODAY**, December 15th.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2025

The St. Thomas Pledge Drive for 2025 is underway. Please stop at the table outside the door of Ogilvy Chapel to pick up your 2025 Pledge envelope. This is a good time to make sure all pledges made for the 2024 campaign have been fulfilled. St. Thomas Church thanks you.

A CALL FOR ANNUAL REPORTS: If you are involved in ministries of the church, Annual reports for Year 2024 are due to the office by January 13th, 2025. This will give us just enough time to assemble the Corporate Report by the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025. Please submit your report by e-mail to Sue Griffith at [**bssngrif@yahoo.com**](mailto:bssngrif@yahoo.com), or to Kira Seaton at [**scuola.musica@sbcglobal.net**](mailto:scuola.musica@sbcglobal.net). We, along with your wonderful office help, will formulate and copy our larger document for recording the year's ministries. If you would like a copy of your previous report, leave an e-mail for Sue or Kira.

AS WE TRANSITION into the next phase of life at St. Thomas, Senior Warden Sue Griffith is always available for consultation, to listen to concerns or ideas, and to be a conduit for information between the congregation and those serving you. She can be reached by calling **216-978-4899** or e-mailing at [**bssngrif@yahoo.com**](mailto:bssngrif@yahoo.com).

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY READERS NEEDED: If you are interested in joining the lay reader ministry, please contact Carl Scheu at (440) 292-7189 or send an email to [**thrud62@yahoo.com**](mailto:thrud62@yahoo.com).

THE RED DOOR CAFÉ is open for business! This is St. Thomas' outreach to the Baldwin Wallace campus community. Pour-over coffee, tea, and conversation are served up on **Tuesdays from 10 AM to Noon**, engaging with BW students and passer-by spreading love, hope, and an invitation to St. Thomas. And as always, taking prayer requests.

THE BREAD BAKERS are looking for bakers to join their team of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Zambounis at 440-336-1682.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in the church office to help maintain presence during the week, maintain sick list, and assist with parish bulletin. Contact Senior Warden Sue Griffith by calling **216-978-4899** or e-mailing at [**bssngrif@yahoo.com**](mailto:bssngrif@yahoo.com). If you are interested.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Caregivers: George D'Arras, Nancy Braford, and Tom Griffith,

Missionary Service: Michelle Wood

Military Service: David Brabson, Ryan Dawson, Robby Hartman, Annmarie Miller, Eli Modesitt, John Toolis, Blake Schwartz, Jimmy Loder, Caleb Jones, and Maria Estrada.

Sick and Suffering: Shelly Campbell, Gary Carlsen, Heather Flowers, Kevin Flowers, Winnie Dortch, Brenna, Dan Skjei, Phyllis Hall, Tammy Pletcher, Bev Smith, Carol Flowers, Spencer Griffith, Evelyn & Churchill Ward, Alma Stoica, John Willis, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Nellie Cooper, Clint Anderson, Alison Griffith, Jay Murillo, Thor Kerbusch, Tim Cooper, and Polly Burns.

Recovering: John Staub, Dennis Braford, Jane Macintosh, Gerald Gown, Carole Strama.

Pray for those worldwide suffering from devastating fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, famine, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, extreme heat or lack of clean water, and pray for the victims of gun violence everywhere. Special prayers for victims of Helene and Milton.

Pray for peace in the Middle East, and Ukraine: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

PLEASE REVIEW the Prayer List above, and let us know if status for anyone has changed, so we can better serve our community in prayer. Check the names on the list and give us an update, so we can direct our intentions and prayers. Thank you in advance for your support and assistance with this important ministry.

Prayer list requests can be sent via email to prayerlist@stthomaschurch-berea.org.

Every month, a new set of members or friends of our church family will be selected as card recipients; it is amazing how receiving a card in the mail can brighten someone's day!

Card Recipients for December:

Clint Anderson, 38 Sycamore Drive, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138-2918
Beverly and Janney Smith 8516C Gunpowder Road, Florence, KY 41402