



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
1108 Providence Road, Towson, MD  
(410) 821-5489  
[www.stthomastowson.org](http://www.stthomastowson.org)

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, November 12, 2017

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Opening Hymn: God of our fathers

#718

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

People: *Glory to God forever and ever.*

*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.*

## Gloria, gloria (first three lines)

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## The Lessons:

### Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will

serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 78:1-7**

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, \*  
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; \*  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, \*  
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Hymn: I want Jesus to walk with me**

*The Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 25:1-13**

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

*After the Gospel, the celebrant says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Sermon**

**Dr. Mike Zellhoffer**

**The Nicene Creed**

**pg. 358**

**Prayers of the People**

**Confession of Sin**

**pg. 360**

**The Peace**

**The Blessing of Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**

**pg. 830**

**The Offertory: Today**

**Doxology**

**The Great Thanksgiving Prayer**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**The Communion of the People**

(St. Thomas' extends the invitation to all baptized members of any Christian Church to receive the consecrated bread and wine. )

**Communion Hymn: I will follow (contemporary)**

**God bless our native land**

**#716**

**Closing Prayer and Blessing**

**Closing Hymn: Eternal Father strong to save**

**#608**

**Dismissal:**

Priest: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

~~~ CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of November 13th ~~~

**Monday, November 13th:** 7pm- Theology on Tap (Ravens Inn), 7pm- NA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**Tuesday, November 14th:** 6:30pm- EfM (Room 7)

**Wednesday, November 15th:** 7pm- Johns Hopkins Parkinson's (Fellowship Hall)

**Thursday, November 16th:** 7:30pm- Choir Practice

**Friday, November 17th:** 7pm- AA Meeting

**Saturday, November 18th:** 8am- Work Day, 9am- Fruit Sale (Fellowship Hall), 10am- Christian Stitchin' (Room 7)

**Sunday, November 19th:** 9:15- Sunday School (Room 5), 9:30am- Worship Service, 10:30am- Confirmation Class (Room 6), 10:30am- Lay Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall), 11:30am- City Light Worship (Sanctuary)

**To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God bless you and thank you for our freedom.**



## ~~~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~~~

**Altar Guild:** For the month of November, the wine and wafers are given in Thanksgiving for the St. Thomas' Family by John and Jeanne Windsor. The Branch Candles are given in memory of Roger Ramos by Nancy Yeatman. The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of Dorothy Woodring by Nan Woodring. The Eucharist Candles are given in memory of Virginia Williams by John Williams. The altar arrangements are given in celebration of Virginia Williams' birthday by John Williams, in memory of Hank Betz by his family, and in honor of all veterans by Jan Bahner. Please contact Diane Flayhart, [410-426-4618](tel:410-426-4618) or [dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com), or the church office, [410-821-5489](tel:410-821-5489), if you are interested in reserving a dedication. The cost of each dedication is \$25. Thank you.

**Today is Commitment Sunday.** Please write your pledge during the service, and then join us for a catered brunch afterward. This will be a wonderful service with guest preacher Mike Zellhofer, former pastor and Executive Director of Third Wall Productions. Mike is an accomplished preacher. Let us rejoice in God's bounty given to St. Thomas'.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service – Wednesday, November 22 at 7:30.** If you would like to come, but don't drive at night, please call Jill in the office and we will get a ride for you. Jill is available from 12:30 – 4:30 Monday – Friday at the office number, 410-821-5489 or via email at [stthomastowson@gmail.com](mailto:stthomastowson@gmail.com)

**ACTC THANKSGIVING BAGS:** It's that time of year when we share our abundance with those in need for Thanksgiving. Please pick up a flyer in the Narthex listing foods for a Thanksgiving Bag for ACTC. There is also a list of grocery stores where you can pick up **all** the items in re-usable grocery bags for \$24 or less per bag, depending on what's on sale that week. For those that would like someone else to do the shopping for you or to purchase turkeys, please place your monetary donation in the designated can in the Narthex. Checks should be made payable to St. Thomas' Church. All donations must be at church by Sunday, November 12th. Questions? Contact Diane Flayhart, [410-426-4618](tel:410-426-4618), or [dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com). Thank you for your generous support for those in our community.

**Fruit Sales:** The first fruit order pick-up day for this season is Saturday, November 18th from 9 to 11 a.m. Order forms can be found in the Narthex, or online at [www.stthomastowson.org](http://www.stthomastowson.org). Starting in December the order forms will be mailed to all subscribers as they have in the past years.

**Raffles, Raffles...** we are collecting donations for the Christmas Bazaar Raffles. Gift Cards are always one of the top items. If you go to a restaurant or store frequently they may donate a gift card or item to the Bazaar if you ask. Any questions contact Stacey Howatt [410-913-7398](tel:410-913-7398). Thank you for any donation you can make to the Raffles!

**Theology on Tap** meets Monday evenings at the Raven Inn (8636 Loch Raven Blvd, Towson, MD 21286) at 7:00 pm. Over brew and beverages we will look at an incident or reading or other topic through the lens of theology: how does God intersect with this? Where do we see God at work? What might our actions be? It will be fun, relaxing, and hopefully a place where people can bring friends to join us.

**JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY:** Music Ministry is looking for anyone who is willing to share their time and talent and serve musically at services. There is no commitment, come, bring your voices, instruments and even a friend and see if you have been missing God's voice calling for you to serve. Rehearsals are in the church on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00. Come and make music and even some new friends.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us for Sunday School in a classroom downstairs at 9:15am, with the fun beginning at 9:30am. We welcome children ages pre-k and up to join us for lessons and fun during the first half of worship. The children will join the service during the peace. We would love to have your family participate. Please email Tracey Daniels ([tracey3579@gmail.com](mailto:tracey3579@gmail.com)) or Nicole Zollickoffer ([nicky1101@gmail.com](mailto:nicky1101@gmail.com)) and let us know if you would like to help, or are interested in bringing your children.

### **Visions of Sugar Plums:**

Starting time is 9:30 am

Friday – November 24 – We will be making the butter cream candies and folding boxes for the Bazaar.

Saturday – November 25 - We will be dipping buttercreams until finished. We will return at 3 pm to weigh and box the candy.

Everyone is welcome and lots of hands make the work go faster. No experience is necessary. All assistance is appreciated.

The Christmas Bazaar will be here before you know it on Saturday, December 2nd and we are collecting gently used items that can be sold at our nearly new table to benefit St Thomas'. Dishes, glasses, pottery, collectibles, books, small tools, jewelry or whatever you might have. (Please no clothes or furniture). Please bring these items to Church and place in the closet by the bathroom. Please mark for "Nearly New". Take a look around your house for items that you just do not need anymore and bring it in! Remember one man's junk is another man's treasure! If you are unsure of what items are accepted contact me at [410 825 2663](tel:4108252663) (home number in the evenings) or email me at [ldoles.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:ldoles.stthomas@gmail.com).

Many thanks!

**CHRISTIAN STITCHIN (NOVEMBER 18):** It looks like fall is finally in full swing, and Christian Stitchin' is getting ready for winter! We're once again making scarves for Meals on Wheels clients. We are in need of knitters and crocheters. If you knit or crochet, please consider making a scarf (5-6" by approximately 60") and donating it to our Meals on Wheels project. If you aspired to be a knitter or crocheter and find yourself with unused yarn that needs a home, please consider donating your extra yarn. If would like to be a yarn-worker, please join us on **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> in Room 7 at 10:00am**. If you are working on scarves at home, please note that completed scarves are due to church before Thanksgiving. Yarn donations are always gleefully accepted! For more information, feel free to contact Beth Crosby at [bcrosby.saintthomas@gmail.com](mailto:bcrosby.saintthomas@gmail.com).

**A WONDERFUL LIFE: THE MUSICAL:** Third Wall Productions presents A Wonderful Life, The Musical here at St. Thomas' on **DECEMBER: 08, 09, 15 & 16 at 8:00 PM, and DECEMBER 10 & 17 at 4:00 PM.** The story of George Bailey and his wonderful life in Bedford Falls remains a timeless fable of dreams, disillusionment and the power of love. An uplifting chronicle of the extraordinary lives of ordinary folk, A WONDERFUL LIFE exhilarates the mind and heart as it celebrates the innate goodness in us all. Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for students with ID and children 12 and under, and available online at [www.thirdwall.org](http://www.thirdwall.org) or at the door. Partial proceeds will be donated to St. Thomas' Church.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR (DECEMBER 2):**The first Saturday in December is always St. Thomas' popular Christmas Village Bazaar. Live greens, Christmas crafts, the Nearly New Shoppe, a yummy lunch and an amazing bake sale are only a few of the attractions put together by the happy elves of St. Thomas' – not to mention the dozens of vendors and crafters from the community. **If you're interested in becoming a vendor at the Christmas Bazaar, contact the church office at [stthomastowson@gmail.com](mailto:stthomastowson@gmail.com) (mailto:stthomastowson@gmail.com) or 410-821-5489 for more information.**

**Prayers for Healing are requested for those who are ill or in any need:** Alyssa Formwalt, John Wyatt, Michael B., Joshua Birch, Keith, David Harper, Dan Licht, Leigh, Pete, Dowell S., Mary, Jan Jr., Bill D., Rick D., Nan F, and David J.

**And for those who are homebound:** Theresa Welsch, Ronnie Livengood, Mary Shorter, Nan Fitzgerald, Charles and Susan Harryman, Carrie Hemberger, Susan Herring, Matti and Lillian Kassir, Ellen Monahan, Eleanor Ripperger, and Connie Waxter.

**We encourage you to reach out our homebound parishioners.** Schedule a call, plan a visit or send a card. Let them know that they are in our prayers. Contact information can be found in your directory or by contacting the church office at 410-821-5489 or [stthomastowson@gmail.com](mailto:stthomastowson@gmail.com)

**Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 12:30-4:30pm.**

**[stthomastowson@gmail.com](mailto:stthomastowson@gmail.com) | 410-821-5489**

**Rev. Loree Penner, Rector**  
**443-377-9048**

**Jan Bahner, Sr. Warden**  
**443-564-9464**

**Vern Adams, Jr. Warden**  
**443-257-6013**