ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH est. 1791

The Last Sunday of Epiphany February: Black History Month

Holy Eucharist: Rite II 13 February 2021, 6pm 14 February 2021, 8am, 10.30am



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The contents of this bulletin may be found by scanning the QR Code to the left with your smart phone.

If you picked up this bulletin, please take it home with you.

During this season of coronavirus infections, please demonstrate your love for your friends and neighbors by:

- 1. Wearing a mask (covering both mouth and nose)
- 2. Remaining six feet apart from anyone you don't live with
- 3. Refraining from touching, hugging and shaking hands even during the Peace
- 4. Singing is only permitted outdoors, six feet apart, wearing masks
- 5. Service bulletins you have touched must be taken home
- 6. After the service everyone must disperse with no lingering
- 7. No sharing of common objects such as pens, paper, etc.

Welcome to St. Thomas'!

We are pleased you have come to worship with us today! St. Thomas' welcomes all regardless of age, abilities, physical or mental health, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, income, education, political affiliation or faith commitment. The things which bind us are greater than the things that separate us, and the love of God is greater than all our divisions.

Children are welcome at all services. Childcare is not available during this season of Corona virus precautions.

We extend a special welcome to **Rowan students**! We are here to support you in your journey during this season of life.

We understand the **Holy Eucharist**, also known as Communion, as participation in the Body of Christ. As such, it flows from the vows we have made in baptism. It is a weekly reminder and recommitment to continue in regular worship, to repent from evil, to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in everyone, and to respect the dignity of every human being. All who seek Christ – of every age and tradition – are invited to share in Holy Communion. Instructions are provided in this bulletin at the appropriate place in the service.

The **offering plate** will not be passed during this season; it has been set out on a table for your convenience. Or you may give by clicking the "Donate" button at www.stthomasglassboro.org. Thank you for your support of the ministry of St. Thomas'!

Bathrooms are located in the Parish Hall.



The Holy Eucharist Rite II (BCP 355) We Gather in God's Name

Greeting

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**People:** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Hymn of Praise

Presider: 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.**

Hymnal S-280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation

Presider:The Lord be with you.People:And also with you.Presider:Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

The people are seated. **The First Lesson**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Reader: A reading from the book of second Kings.

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader: People:	The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Fruille.	1 HAHKS DE 10 (TOU.

1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; * he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, * God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; * before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above * to witness the judgment of his people.

5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, * those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; * for God himself is judge.

The Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Reader: A reading from Paul's second epistle to the church in Corinth.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader:	The Word of the Lord.	
People:	Thanks be to God.	

The people stand as able.

The Holy GospelMark 9:2-9Deacon:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.People:Glory to you, Lord Christ.

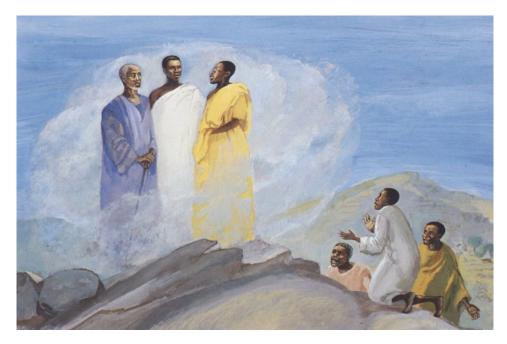
Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Deacon:The Gospel of the Lord.People:Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated. **The Homily** Silence follows the homily.

The Rev. Todd Foster



JESUS MAFA. Transfiguration, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/actimagelink.pl?RC=48307 [retrieved February 9, 2021]. Original source: http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr CC-A-NC-SA-3.0 The people stand as able. The Nicene Creed 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.

The Prayers of the People

Today the response to the prompt, "let us pray" is, **"Lord, have mercy."** The final verse and response, as we "offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ," is **"To you, O Lord.**"

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel or stand as able. Silence may be kept. Minister and People:

People: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.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The people stand as able.

Passing the Peace is primarily a liturgical practice, not a social one. While the threat of Covid-19 is prominent, the peace will be brief. Please do not move around or make contact (shaking hands, hugs) with others. Instead you are invited to look to the person on either side of you and wish them peace with a bow or a wave.

The Peace

Presider:The peace of the Lord be always with you.People:And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The people are seated.
The Announcements

Blessed Assurance

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Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915) Music: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908)

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We Offer Ourselves To God

The altar is prepared in silence. Then the people stand as able. **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Praver A**

he Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A				
Presider:	The Lord be with you.			
People:	And also with you.			
Presider:	Lift up your hearts.			
People:	We lift them to the Lord.			
Presider:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.			
People:	It is right to give God thanks and praise.			

The Presider continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

A Proper Preface may be used here.

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:

Sanctus

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.

The Presider continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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."

Presider: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People:	Christ has died.		
	Christ is risen.		
	Christ will come again.		

The Presider continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Presider: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: AMEN.

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

People: 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

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We Receive the Gift of God

Receiving Communion during Covid:

Please remain where you are, standing or seated in prayer. After the presider has received the Sacrament in both kinds, donned a mask, and carefully sanitized hands, the presider will bring the sacrament to each person in turn.

If you wish to receive communion physically:

- 1. Hold out your cupped hands to receive the bread. The presider will drop the host into your hands without making contact.
- 2. Wait until the presider has moved away to remove your mask, consume the host, and replace your mask.
- 3. Communion will be offered in one kind only (just the bread). This is still full communion.

If you do not wish to receive communion physically:

- 1. Cross your arms over your chest. The presider will offer you a blessing instead, again without touching.
- 2. You are invited to utter the Prayer for Spiritual Communion while *communion is being distributed.*

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

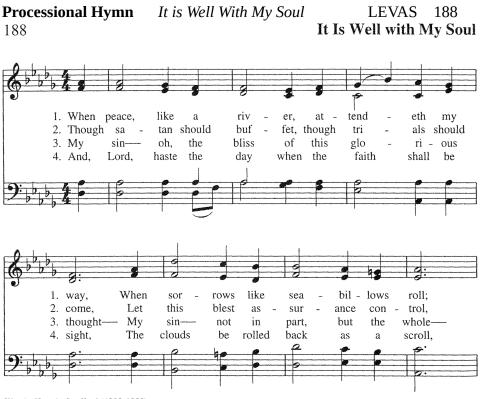
(from The Prayer Book for the Armed Services)

The Post-communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

People: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.

The Blessing



Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888) Music: Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)



Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888) Music: Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**People:** Thanks be to God.

In order to minimize the possibility of infecting others, please exit the campus immediately.

Retired General Lloyd DJ. Austin Shatters Racial Barrier to become Defense Secretary

Retired four-star Army general Lloyd J. Austin III became the first African American defense secretary about nine days before the celebration of Black History Month to shatter a racial barrier for the nation.

"It's an honor and a privilege to serve as our country's 28th Secretary of Defense, and I'm especially proud to be the first African American to hold the position," Austin said after his U.S. Senate confirmation.

The confirmation vote was 93 to 2, giving the incoming Pentagon



chief a near-unanimous bipartisan congressional mandate to oversee the department with a \$750 billion budget and 2.9 million service members and civilians around the world.

The 67-year-old Austin served 41 years in the military before retiring in 2016. He has been serving on the boards of Nucor, Tenet Healthcare and the defense contractor Raytheon.

Austin's confirmation capped a career in which the Thomasville, Ga., native and U.S. Military Academy graduate notched a number of firsts, becoming the first African American to command an infantry division in combat and the first African American to lead U.S. Central Command, the unit of the U.S. military responsible for operations in the Middle East.

In 1989, an African American first ascended to the uniformed military's top post when Colin L. Powell became the 12th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It would take more than 31 additional years for an African American to be chosen as the Pentagon's top civilian leader, a lag that Austin described as troublesome.

"It's hard to believe, but it's true," Austin said. "There is kind of a sad commentary here, and that is, it shouldn't have taken us this long to get here. There should have been someone that preceded me."

While Austin's arrival in the Pentagon's top civilian post breaks down a racial barrier, African Americans remain underrepresented in the highestlevel officer positions in the armed forces. Austin has said that he hopes to set conditions so other Black officers can be put in the leadership roles he held during his military career, and that he wants to ensure that while he may be the first Black defense secretary, he will not be the last.

Austin previously served as the 12th commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM) from 2013 to 2016. He was the 33rd vice chief of staff of the Army from January 2012 to March 2013, and the last commanding general of United States Forces – Iraq Operation New Dawn, which ended in December 2011. In 2013, Austin was appointed as the first black commander of CENTCOM by President Barack Obama.

Austin graduated in 1975 from the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) where he was commander of G-1 (G Company, 1st Regiment). He later earned a master's degree in counselor education from Auburn University in 1986, and another master's in business management from Webster University in 1989. He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

Born on August 8, 1953, in Mobile, Alabama and raised in Thomasville, Georgia, by a devout Catholic mother, Austin still practices the faith. He and his wife, Charlene Denise Banner Austin, have been married for more than 40 years. Charlene has worked as a non-profit administrator and served the board of the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University.

Article submitted by The Rev. Dr. John Hanson.

During Black History Month we honor persons of color who have made significant contributions in the work of overcoming our country's heritage of racial discrimination.

Announcements

Ash Wednesday is this week: 17 February. We will have an outdoor service at noon at the Lychgate and an indoor service at 7pm in the Parish Hall and on Zoom. There will be no Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and the imposition of ashes will not take place either; instead we will notice the masks we wear when meeting in person are powerful reminders of our mortality.

One month from today, on Laetare Sunday, 14 March, at 10.30am, **Bishop Stokes will make a visitation** to St. Thomas' for our outdoor service. This is a time for Confirmations, Receptions, Reaffirmation, or even Baptisms. Please contact Fr. Todd right away if you are interested in taking part in any of these rites.

Lenten Worship and Formation Opportunities:

- Fast: Ash Wednesday, 17 March
- Wednesday, 17 March, Noon: Ash Wednesday (outdoors)
- Wednesday, 17 March, 7pm : Ash Wednesday (Parish Hall, Zoom)
- Mondays, 4pm: Centering Prayer (Zoom)
- Wednesdays, 5.30pm: Holy Eucharist (Lychgate)
- Wednesdays, 7pm: Lenten Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Zoom)
- Fridays, 7pm: Stations of the Cross (Zoom)
- By Appointment: **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** (Zoom/Telephone)

We continue to offer **two outdoor Eucharists per week**: Sunday at 10.30am and Wednesday at 5.30pm. These meet in rain or shine: please consider your clothing, your health, and the weather before joining us outdoors for 30 or 60 minutes. If the weather makes an outdoor service impossible at 10.30am, we may choose to move it into the Parish Hall and broadcast it on Zoom. We also offer **two indoor Eucharists per week** with very limited seating. Please reserve your seat on the church website.

The state of New Jersey has open a "pre-registration portal" for residents to sign up to receive **vaccination against Covid-19**. Sign up at https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/

This Week at St. Thomas'				
Monday	2/15	4.00pm 7.00pm	Centering Prayer (Zoom) Book Group (Zoom)	
Tuesday	2/16	Noon 6.30pm 7.00pm		
Wednesday	2/17	Noon 7.00pm	Ash Wednesday (Lychgate) Ash Wednesday (Parish Hall/Zoom)	
Thursday	2/18	7.30pm	Vestry Meeting (Zoom)	
Friday	2/19	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross (Zoom)	
Saturday	2/20	6.00pm	Holy Eucharist (Nave)	
Sunday	2/21	8.00am 9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Eucharist (Parish Hall, Zoom) Sunday School (Zoom) Holy Eucharist (live, outdoors) Youth Group (Online)	

Lectionary readings for next week: *Genesis* 9:8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15, Psalm 25:1-9

Please continue in your daily prayers for: *Dennis, Marge, Joann, Sandy, Andrea, Bob, Jimmie, John, Lou, Marie, Marla, Helen, April, Sarah, Dean, Chris, Jack, Nancy, Bruce, Sheila, Les, Patty, Chuck, Valerie*

Parish Leadership

Vestry: Jim Gibbs, Carl Kinsley, Sarah Ternay, Jo-Ann Toldt, Barbara Cadogan, Stacey Noll, Wayne Rowbotham

Eric Cephas, Senior Warden seniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org	Joe Rizzuto, Junior Warden juniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org
The Rev. Todd Foster, Rector fathertodd@stthomasglassboro.org	The Rev. Dr. John Hanson, Deacon deaconjohn@stthomasglassboro.org

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