## ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH est. 1791

The Fourth Sunday of Lent Confirmation Scott Carr, Don Davis, Jonathan Wilson 14 March 2021, 10.30am

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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.

Bathrooms are located in the Parish Hall.

## 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.



## Confirmation (BCP 413) We Gather in God's Name

The people stand as able.

## Greeting

People:	His mercy endures for ever.
Presider:	Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

Presider:	There is one Body and one Spirit;
People:	There is one hope in God's call to us;
Presider:	One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People:	One God and Father of all.

The people stand as able.

## Salutation

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

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider:* Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

## We Hear God's Word

The people are seated.

The First LessonNumbers 21:4-9Reader:A reading from the book of Numbers.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

## Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Confitemini Domino

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \* and his mercy endures for ever.

# 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim \* that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; \* from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

# 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \* they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food \* and drew near to death's door.

# **19** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, \* and he delivered them from their distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them \* and saved them from the grave.

# 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy \* and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \* and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

## The Second Lesson Ephesians 2:1-10

*Reader:* A reading from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

The people stand as able.

The Holy GospelJohn 3:14-21Deacon:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.People:Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

The people are seated.	
The Homily	The Right Reverend William H. Stokes, D.D.
-	Twelfth Bishop of New Jersey

Silence follows the homily.

## Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

*Presider:* The Candidates will now be presented. Presenters: I present Scott Carr for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks each candidate

*Bishop:* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil? Candidate: I do.

*Bishop:* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? Candidate: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

Wait for questions to be asked before presenting each subsequent candidate. Presenters: I present Don Davis for Confirmation. Presenters: I present Jonathan Wilson for Confirmation.

The people stand as able. After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

- *Bishop:* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?
- People: We will.
- *Bishop:* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

- *Bishop:* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
- People: I do.
- *Bishop:* Do you believe in God the Father?
- People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop: People:	Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
Bishop: <b>People:</b>	Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Bishop: <b>People:</b>	Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? <b>I will, with God's help.</b>
Bishop: <b>People:</b>	Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? <b>I will, with God's help.</b>
Bishop: <b>People:</b>	Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? <b>I will, with God's help.</b>
Bishop: <b>People:</b>	Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God's help.
Bishop: People:	Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? <b>I will, with God's help.</b>

## **Prayers for the Candidates**

Bishop:	Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.
Leader: <b>People:</b>	Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death. <b>Lord, hear our prayer.</b>
Leader: <b>People:</b>	Open their hearts to your grace and truth. Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader: <b>People:</b>	Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit. <b>Lord, hear our prayer.</b>
Leader: <b>People:</b>	Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. <b>Lord, hear our prayer.</b>
Leader: <b>People:</b>	Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit. <b>Lord, hear our prayer.</b>
Leader: <b>People:</b>	Send them into the world in witness to your love. <b>Lord, hear our prayer.</b>
Leader: <b>People:</b>	Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory. <b>Lord, hear our prayer.</b>

A period of silence follows.

Bishop: Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant N. with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of his life. **Amen.** 

or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.** 

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

*Bishop:* Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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**

Please note that, adhering to our Covid-tide protocols, the offering basin will not be passed around. Instead you will find it on the welcome table and you are welcome to make your contributions as you enter or exit. **Today's loose offerings (i.e., moneys not enclosed in pledge envelopes) will be contributed to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.** If writing a check, it can be made payable to St. Thomas' or directly to "Bishop's Discretionary Fund." Come, Thou fount



Works: Robert Robinson (1755-1790) Music: Nettleton, me:ody from A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813; harm. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from Songs of Praise, Harm. Copyright © 1992.

## We Offer Ourselves To God

The altar is prepared in silence. Then the people stand as able.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Presider:	Lift up your hearts.
Deemler	Tate life theme to the I and
People:	We lift them to the Lord.
-	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The Bishop 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 Bishop 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 Bishop 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,<br/>thy kingdom come, thy will be done,<br/>on earth as it is in heaven.Give us this day our daily bread.And forgive us our trespasses,<br/>as we forgive those who trespass against us.And lead us not into temptation,<br/>but deliver us from evil.For thine is the kingdom,<br/>and the power, and the glory,<br/>for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

Presider:Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.People:Therefore let us keep the feast.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 Bishop has received the Sacrament in both kinds, donned a mask, and carefully sanitized hands, the Bishop 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 Bishop will drop the host into your hands without making contact.
- 2. Wait until the Bishop 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 Bishop 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 Episcopal Blessing

- <b>F F</b> -	
Bishop:	Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
People:	The maker of heaven and earth.
Bishop:	Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
People:	From this time forth for evermore.
Bishop:	The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the
	Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and
	remain with you for ever.
People:	Amen.

See processional hymn on next page  $\rightarrow$ 

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#### 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.

## **About Our Bishop**

The Right Reverend William H. (Chip) Stokes is the twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. Elected on May 4, 2013, he was Consecrated on November 2, 2013 and succeeded The Right Reverend George Councell.

Prior to becoming the Bishop of New Jersey, he served as the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach, Florida, a position he held from January 1999 through July of 2013. From 1995 to 1998, he was the Associate for Christian Education at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-bythe-Sea in Palm Beach, Florida. Prior to this, he served as the School Chaplain and Curate to Grace



Episcopal Church and Day School in Massapequa, Long Island, serving there from 1990 to 1994. Bishop Stokes earned a Master of Divinity Degree from the General Theological Seminary in New York in 1990 and a Bachelor of Arts from Manhattan College in 1987; he was recently awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary.

He is a recognized preacher and Christian educator. He has been active in the area of anti-racism, is a certified trainer in multi-culturalism and antiracism and was a member of the Committee on Anti-Racism for the Episcopal Church. He has served at many levels of governance in the Episcopal Church. While in Florida, he served as Chairman of the Board of Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida. He was an active leader in his community in Delray Beach serving on several Boards and Committees and working actively to see that St. Paul's was actively engaged in the life of the city. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of General Theological Seminary.

He and his wife Susan have been married for 38 years and live in Trenton. They have four grown children, one granddaughter and a grandson.

source: https://dioceseofnj.org/about-bishop-stokes/

## About Confirmation

The sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860). Those who were baptized at an early age and those baptized as adults without laying on of hands by a bishop are expected to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive laying on of hands by a bishop (BCP, p. 412). Adults baptized with the laying on of hands by a bishop are considered to be confirmed.

The Prayer Book rite for Confirmation includes forms for Reception and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. In some dioceses, those who have already made a mature Christian commitment in another denomination are recognized as members of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. In other dioceses, those who have been sacramentally confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches are received and others are confirmed. Those who have returned from a time of religious inactivity to an active practice of faith may publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows. Others who have experienced a renewal of faith or desire to renew their Christian commitment may also reaffirm their baptismal vows. Reaffirmation may be repeated, depending on the pastoral needs of the person. Preparation for Confirmation / Reception / Reaffirmation should help the candidates discover the meaning of Christian commitment in their lives, and explore ways that their Christian commitment can be lived. This preparation may draw upon the baptismal covenant (BCP, pp. 416-417) and An Outline of the Faith (BCP, pp. 845-862).

The Episcopal Church's theology of Confirmation has continued to evolve along with its understanding of baptism. Confirmation is no longer seen as the completion of Christian initiation, nor is Confirmation a prerequisite for receiving communion. Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the church (BCP, p. 298). Accordingly, Confirmation has been increasingly understood in terms of a mature, public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and the baptismal promises. Some dioceses require that candidates for Confirmation be at least sixteen years old to insure that the candidates are making a mature and independent affirmation of their faith.

### Announcements

### We welcome our Bishop today!

**Congratulations to our Confirmands**: Scott Carr, Don Davis, and Jonathan Wilson. May we follow them into fresh responses to the call of Christ.

Thank you to **Kitchen of Hope** for their service this weekend.

**Holy Week** is coming soon! If you would like to participate in the Passion Reading on Palm/Passion Sunday (28 March), please contact Kathy Iannacone right away. Our **Holy Week Schedule** will be:

Palm Sunday		Normal weekend schedule
Holy Monday	7pm	Evening Prayer (online-only)
Holy Tuesday	7pm	Evening Prayer (online-only)
Holy Wednesday	5.30pm	Holy Eucharist (Lychgate)
Holy Wednesday	7pm	Evening Prayer (online-only)
Maundy Thursday	7pm	(Parish Hall & Online)
Good Friday	7pm	(Parish Hall & Online)
Holy Saturday	10am	Prayer Office (Lychgate)
Great Vigil of Easter	6pm	Rectory Lawn
Easter Sunday		Normal Sunday schedule

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.

This Week at St. Thomas'			
Monday	3/15	4.00pm 7.00pm	Centering Prayer (Zoom) Book Group (Zoom)
Tuesday	3/16	Noon 6.30pm 7.00pm	Coffee Hour (Zoom) Small Group Bible Study (Zoom) Work Crew
Wednesday	3/17	5.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Eucharist (Lychgate) Lenten Pilgrimage (Zoom)
Thursday	3/18	7.30pm	Vestry Meeting (Zoom)
Friday	3/19	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross (Zoom)
Saturday	3/20	6.00pm	Holy Eucharist (Nave)
Sunday	3/21	8.00am 9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Eucharist (Parish Hall, Zoom) Sunday School (Zoom) Holy Eucharist (outdoors) Youth Group (Online)

Lectionary readings for next week: *Jeremiah* 31:31-34; *Hebrews* 5:5-10; *John* 12:20-33; *Psalm* 51:1-13

Please continue in your daily prayers for: *Dennis, Marge, Joann, Sandy, Andrea, Bob, Jimmie, John, Chuck, Linda, Russel, April, Jim, Gail, Jimmie, Jerry, Bill, Jennifer, Ben, Joan, Kendon* 

## **Parish Leadership**

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

Eric Cephas, Senior Warden seniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org

The Rev. Todd Foster, *Rector fathertodd@stthomasglassboro.org* 

Joe Rizzuto, Junior Warden juniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org

The Rev. Dr. John Hanson, *Deacon deaconjohn@stthomasglassboro.org* 

## St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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