

# Fourth Sunday in LENT

March 22, 2020

Morning Prayer Rite II, 10:30am



**St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
231 Sunset Ave.  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086**

**408-736-4155  
[www.stthomas-svale.org](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)**

# Fourth Sunday in LENT

March 22, 2020

Morning Prayer Rite II, 10:30am

*Welcome to ZOOM worship.*

*Around 10:20-10:25am, please connect to our worship meeting.*

*There are two ways to do this.*

*1. by computer or smartphone:*

*You may access our ZOOM meeting on the following link:*

<https://zoom.us/j/954611396>

*2. by telephone:*

*Dial +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)*

*Meeting ID: 954 611 396*

*When prompted for a participant number, touch the pound key #*

*Actual connection time may take several minutes; please be patient.*

*Once you are connected, your face (or phone number) should appear in a square on your screen, as will the faces of others who have signed in, including Pastor Salying.*

*Note: For the sake of audio clarity, your mic will be muted on entry.*

*We will have Morning Prayer together as one large body, and then break out into small groups for “coffee hour”.*

*You may print the order of service from this document,  
OR you may follow along when the order of service appears on the screen.*

*When all are ready, the officiant will begin.*

**Prelude music**

Myrna Emata Diaz

**Officiant:** Lord, open our lips.

**People:** **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

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

### **The Confession**

**All:** 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.

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

### **Venite Psalm 95:1-7**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## **Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
**I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
**and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul \*  
**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
**for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
**you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Lesson      1 Samuel 16:1-13**

Lector: A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel

said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 14: A Song of Penitence**

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*  
**God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
and of all their righteous offspring:**

You made the heavens and the earth, \*  
**with all their vast array.**

All things quake with fear at your presence; \*  
**they tremble because of your power.**

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; \*  
**it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.**

O Lord, you are full of compassion, \*  
**long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.**

You hold back your hand; \*  
**you do not punish as we deserve.**

In your great goodness, Lord,  
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, \*  
**that they may repent of their sin and be saved.**

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
**and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.**

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
**and I know my wickedness only too well.**

Therefore I make this prayer to you: \*  
**Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.**

Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
**nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.**

For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, \*  
**and in me you will show forth your goodness.**

Unworthy as I am, you will save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
**and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.**

For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, \*  
**and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.**

## **The Epistle      Ephesians 5:8-14**

Lector: A reading from Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Canticle 15: A Song of Mary Magnificat**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

**the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

**in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

**and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

The promise he made to our fathers, \*

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **The Gospel**

**John 9:1-41**

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,

that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ**

**The Sermon**

**Lou Poulain, LLP**

## **The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 today 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.**

## **Litany in the Midst of Pandemics**

by the Rev. Salying Wong

Leader: God the Creator,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: God the Redeemer,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: God the Sanctifier,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: God the Holy Trinity, one God,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Draw us near to you, O God,

**People: For you sustain us.**

Leader: Give us trust in you in the midst of our fragility,

**People: For you sustain us.**

Leader: Teach us to love when we are afraid,

**People: For you sustain us.**

Leader: Give us courage when we are uncertain,

**People: For you sustain us.**

Leader: Turn our hearts to the poor and the suffering, including this  
good earth.

**People: For you sustain us.**

Leader: We pray for those who are sick, especially those who have  
the coronavirus,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those are working for a cure,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all care-providers,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the dying and those who have died.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the communities in the greatest danger and for cooperation between nations within the human family.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: “God of the present moment,  
God who in Jesus stills the storm  
and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to all  
who wait or work in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make us the equal  
of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is our wholeness;  
you are our God, and we need you.” \*

\* adapted from *New Zealand Prayer Book*

## The Collects

### Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.**

## **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The General Thanksgiving**

**All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your  
praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**All: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with  
one accord to make our common supplication to you; and  
you have promised through your well-beloved Son that**

**when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
vocal & piano, Patricia Pietrzyk with John Pietrzyk

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction, grace bestoweth:  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.

**A Message from Bishop Lucinda**

youtube video

**Break-out groups: Check-in by mutual invitation  
and**

**Question for reflection:**

What has been your experience of coming to see something in your  
life or around you, that you previously had “been blind” to?



**Serving today**

**Officiant:** The Rev. Salying Wong

**Preacher:** Lou Poulain, LLP

**Intercessor:** Ann Kopischke

**Lectors:** Dorothy Furgerson, Patricia Pietrzyk

# General Announcements

**Easter Blessing Baskets** Once again this year the children will be helping to create special Easter Blessing Baskets, for you to give to family, friends, or anyone you think might need some Easter joy. To order one, please contact the office and leave a message. Order deadline is **March 29**.

**Holy Week & Easter** will be celebrated in some new and different formats this year. Details will be announced in the next week or so. Please see page 19 for details.

## Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

**Centering Prayer Service** is now meeting on-line. A link will be sent out early in the week.

**Join our Prayer Chain Team** The Prayer Chain at St. Thomas is a group of people dedicated to lifting up our concerns to God. If you would like to join this team, please email to [prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us](mailto:prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us) and let Deacon Bertram know that you would like to join. Also, this email address receives prayer requests, so please send your concerns here.

**Men's Spiritual Growth Group** meets on the **2nd and 4th Saturdays** of the month at 8:45 a.m. in the Library. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **April 11**.

**Craft Group** is on hiatus, with the next meeting tentatively scheduled for **April 24**.

**Book Club** meets once a month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the St. Thomas Library. We are an open book club: All are welcome, whether you have

read the book or not. **Our meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 24 has been canceled.** The July meeting will now take up *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf.

On **Tuesday April 28**, it is hoped we will meet to discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, a mesmerizing and original World War II story of 9-year-old Liesel who is adopted into a working class suburban Munich family. Liesel begins to steal books that the Nazi party is looking to destroy, but also writes her own story, combining themes of love, identity, and language, all of which provide freedom and power in the midst of chaos and control. Please join us.

**The Parish Library and Diocesan Resource Center** are normally staffed from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, open on Sundays after the morning services and may be visited at any time the Parish Office is open (408-736-4155).

**Currently the Library is closed until mid-late-April.**

The Library catalogue can be viewed at

<http://www.stthomas-svale.org>





## The Calendar for next Week

<b>Sunday, March 22</b> <b>4TH SUNDAY IN</b> <b>LENT</b> <b>YEAR A</b>	10:30am	Morning Prayer, Rite II ZOOM meeting
	12:00 noon	Vestry meeting - ZOOM
<b>Monday, March 16</b>	TBD	Monday's Crew
<b>Tuesday, March 17</b>		
<b>Wednesday, March 18</b>	6:30pm	Centering Prayer ZOOM meeting
<b>Thursday, March 19</b>		
<b>Friday, March 20</b>		
<b>Saturday, March 21</b>		
<b>Sunday, March 29</b> <b>5TH SUNDAY IN</b> <b>LENT</b> <b>YEAR A</b>	10:30am	Morning Prayer, Rite II ZOOM meeting



*To keep abreast of the most current activities at church,  
please check our website: [www.stthomas-svale.org](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)  
or follow us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasSunnyvale/>*

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

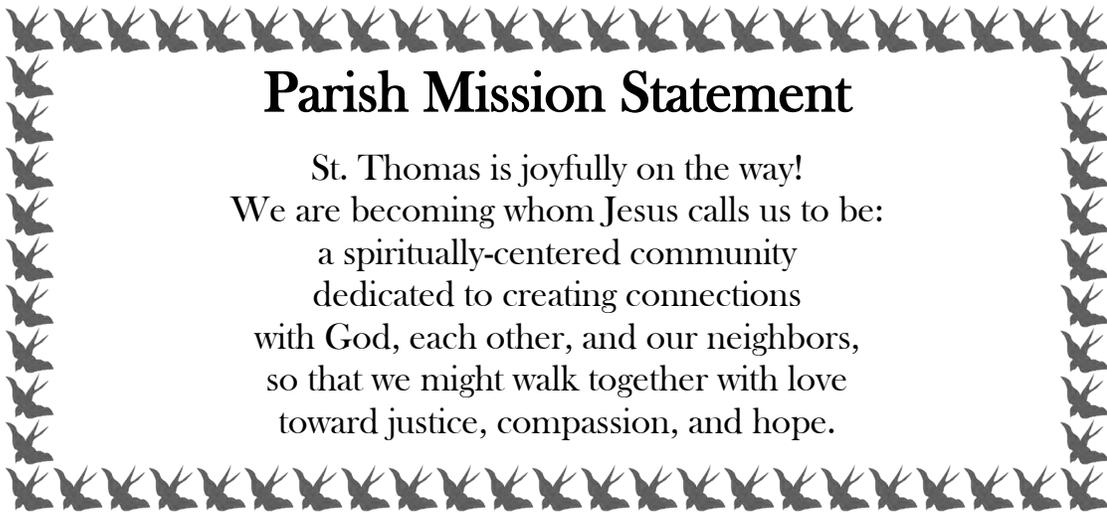
Ann Kopischke, **Senior Warden**  
Lou Poulain, **Junior Warden**  
  
Fran Hostettler, **Clerk**

2020  
Dorothy Furgerson  
Peg Prior  
Bill Rosgen  
Pam Storrer

2021  
Marilyn Winans  
Lou Poulain  
Ann Kopischke  
Hugo Lopez-Laguna

2022  
Susan McVey  
Chris Schmidt  
tba  
tba

St. Thomas Web-Site: [www.stthomas-svale.org](http://www.stthomas-svale.org)



## Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!  
We are becoming whom Jesus calls us to be:  
a spiritually-centered community  
dedicated to creating connections  
with God, each other, and our neighbors,  
so that we might walk together with love  
toward justice, compassion, and hope.

**Rector:** The Rev. Salying Wong.....[pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.org)  
or 510-478-3554

**Deacon:** The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah.....[deaconbertram@stthomas-svale.us](mailto:deaconbertram@stthomas-svale.us)

**Treasurer:** Jim Cobb.....[Finance@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:Finance@stthomas-svale.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Anne Buelteman.....[office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

**Family Ministry Director.:** Susan Beckham.....[family\\_ministry@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org)

**Adjunct Priest:** The Rev. Rebecca Lyman, Ph.D.....[lyman.rebecca@gmail.com](mailto:lyman.rebecca@gmail.com)

**Library and Resource Center Coordinator:** Carol Campbell .....[resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:resourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org)

**Music Director:** Patricia Pietrzyk,..... [patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com](mailto:patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Anne Buelteman..... [office@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:office@stthomas-svale.org)

**Organist:** Myrna Emata..... [myrnaemata777@gmail.com](mailto:myrnaemata777@gmail.com)

**Our Daily Bread (ODB) Coordinator:** David Barnes.....408-736-4108, [odb@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:odb@stthomas-svale.org)

**Social Outreach Worker:** Janette Brambila Ramirez .....[jbrambila@svcommunityservices.org](mailto:jbrambila@svcommunityservices.org)

### IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If you or a loved one is in urgent need of pastoral care (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), PLEASE CALL US.

(The hospital does not always automatically notify the parish)

The Rev. Salying Wong, Rector..... 510-478-3554

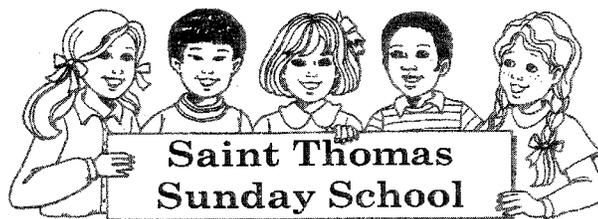
Parish Office .....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

You may invite prayers online through The Intercessory Prayer Chain  
at [prayerchain@stthomas-svale.org](mailto:prayerchain@stthomas-svale.org)

# Welcome to St. Thomas Episcopal Church!

We are glad you are able to worship with us today.



For children who are ready to separate, Sunday School classes are held during 10:30am services in the **Education Center**.

**Ages 0-3:** Care available in the Nursery

**Ages 3-7:** Meet in the Heart classroom

**Ages 8-11:** Meet in the Treasure classroom

Children of all ages are welcome to participate in the service as well. For children ages 3 and up, our library offers a book cart, located in the far right side of the back of the church. A carpeted area on the far right side of the narthex, near the organ, is designated for parents and toddlers.

