



January 2022

Dear Friends,

Over the past 15 months, the leadership and congregation of St. Thomas have been reviewing our history to better understand who we are and what people, events and values have shaped us. This process has highlighted certain unhealthy patterns that have affected our congregation to a greater or lesser degree for generations. These patterns include a lack of appropriate boundaries and abuses of power that have manifested as inappropriate anger outbursts, acknowledged and alleged sexual misconduct, and controversies regarding finances. These patterns, over the years, contributed to a culture of secrecy, mistrust, poor communications, and conflict. We recognize that over the years many people have been hurt by their association with St. Thomas whether as a victim of abuse of power or as the “scapegoat” of internal conflicts. For the pain that has been experienced, we are deeply repentant. Our heart breaks for all those who have been hurt.

St. Thomas is committed to breaking these patterns and creating a healthy church system and a safe, welcoming space for all people. We have discussed these patterns in congregational meetings and held a Service of Cleansing to purify and renew St. Thomas’ buildings and grounds. Using ritual acts and prayers, the spiritual stains from the spaces where acts that were not of God were either committed or concealed were cleansed.

As part of this intentional healing process, St. Thomas is offering a public service of healing and reconciliation on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. During this service we will acknowledge and confess the wrongs of our past and offer prayers of repentance and healing for all. After these prayers, we will ritually embody this commitment by exiting the church and symbolically “closing the doors” on the past. With Bishop Kym Lucas leading the procession, we will re-enter as a people forgiven, redeemed, and renewed. The church will be blessed with Holy Water, and we will ask God to guide and support us in becoming a community of healing, transformation, joy, and love. This service will provide the foundation for our conversations on core values, gifts, ministry opportunities and vision in the Spring.

If you have suffered because of your association with St. Thomas or were disappointed with your experience in the past, we invite you to join us for healing. If participating in such a service would not be helpful, we understand. Either way we will continue to pray for healing and reconciliation for all who have been harmed in the past. Please know that we acknowledge that over the years we have missed the mark in many ways. We apologize for the pain that has been experienced by many. We are committed to doing better.

Please know that our priest, The Rev. Terri Hobart, is available to talk with you about your experiences at St. Thomas if that would be healing for you. You can contact her at terri@saintthomasdenver.org.

May God bless and keep you.