



**FOR THE GRACE OF  
GOD HAS APPEARED!**

*Christmas Day*

# Welcome to Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

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We are delighted you are with us to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. We hope our Christmas liturgies open your heart and soul to receive the Christ Child, to welcome the Prince of Peace into your life so that the Good News might be lived day-to-day. Holy Innocents is a place to gather as a faith community, where we sing and celebrate, think and talk, laugh and cry, and pray. Together we discover that we are all beloved children of God. With open minds and full hearts, we grow closer to God and to one another. We know we do not have all the answers. We are comfortable with the mystery of the Holy Spirit, alive and active in every person and in the world. Join us as we gather to worship God and serve our neighbors.

If this is your first time with us, we invite you to fill out a newcomer card in the pew rack or online. No matter your age, gender, orientation, or political or sports team affiliation, you are welcome at communion. Our clergy are always available to answer any questions. We're so glad you're here.

## *About Today's Service*

The celebration of Christ's coming among us at Christmas is one of the two highest holy days of the Christian year, along with the celebration of his resurrection on Easter. In *The Book of Common Prayer*, Christmas Day is one of the seven principal feasts. The Christmas season lasts twelve days: from Christmas Day until January 5, the day before the Epiphany.

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth: it reminds us of the central truth that "the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14), fulfilling the prophecy that "the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel—God is with us" (Isaiah 7:14).

Please add your voice and heart to the prayers. Everyone is welcome at Jesus' Table, and everyone's voice is needed to tell the Good News of God's love in Christ.

## *Giving*

Jesus understood the power of gratitude and sharing all that God has gifted to us. Your generosity enables us to continue our programs to follow the way of Jesus and to love God by serving our neighbors. Use this QR code to give.



Thank you for considering a year end gift to support our ministry. We hope you will consider making a pledge to our 2024 Ministry budget with a pledge card in the pews. Again, we welcome

*Bill +*

you to this celebration and thank you for your continued generosity.

The Rev. Dr. Bill Murray, Rector

If you would like to learn more about The Episcopal Church, or how you can become a member of Holy Innocents, please visit our website [www.holyinnocents.org](http://www.holyinnocents.org)

## Prelude

Hymn 83 vs. 1, 3, 6 | O Come, All Ye Faithful

## Opening Acclamation

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.**

His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Blessed be the holy undivided Trinity, who sends the word with angels,

who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his 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.**

## Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson | Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

*The people stand as  
they are able at the  
sound of the bell.*

*The peoples' responses  
are in bold.*

*The people may be seated.*

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98** | read responsively by half verse

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
**for he has done marvelous things.**  
With his right hand and his holy arm  
**has he won for himself the victory.**  
The Lord has made known his victory;  
**his righteousness has he openly  
shown in the sight of the nations.**  
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel,  
**and all the ends of the earth have  
seen the victory of our God.**  
Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
**lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**  
Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
**with the harp and the voice of song.**  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
**shout with joy before the King,  
the Lord.**  
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,  
**the lands and those who dwell therein.**  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
**and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.**  
In righteousness shall he judge the world  
**and the peoples with equity.**

**The Second Lesson** | Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand.*

**Hymn 87** | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

## Gospel | Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

### **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon | The Rev. T. Stewart Lucas VICAR

### 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;**

*The people stand.*

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

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, medical staff and service workers doing essential tasks.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## Welcome and Announcements

# The Holy Communion

## The Offertory

*At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Holy Innocents' ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed or with QR code on page 2.*

## The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfectly human of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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."

*The people stand.*

After supper Jesus 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember Christ's death,  
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,  
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Invitation to Holy Communion

*All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Communion. Please move to the altar rail at the direction of the ushers. Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and respond by saying "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please notify a minister. Receiving the bread is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available. If you prefer to receive a blessing, indicate this by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.*

*The people stand.*

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Christmas Blessing

Hymn 99 | Go Tell It on the Mountain

## Dismissal

Go in peace to proclaim the Good News.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Savior is Born.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**





## *Christmas Flower Donations*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Peter de Lanoy Welles, Jr.  
by Sandra Cummings

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Betty Barstow  
by Bill and Diane Clark

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Evelyn & Douglas Goodman  
by Sandy Freeman

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Marilyn & Alice Thomas  
by Pat Thomas

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
their parents, William (Bill)  
Chace Corbett & John Charles  
Corbett  
by Charles and Wendy Corbett

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
William Lee Schwieger  
by Helen Johnson

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Buck Kinsey  
by his family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Betty Barstow  
by Libby and Pick Lindsay

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
James E. Heerin  
by his family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Lucy and Dave Peterson  
by Doug, Kim, Douglas, Milly  
& Lucy Peterson

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Don Plunkett  
by his family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Pat Pate  
by Kris and J.T. Hroncich

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Sandra Allen, dear friend  
by Mary Newsome

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Helen & Sharman Dennard and  
Lilla & Wamon Faulk  
by Susan and Dan Faulk

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Terry Stinson & Brit Treadway  
by Emily Treadway

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Warren Reedy  
by Kit Reedy

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Mary Croft  
by Jay Croft

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Bob, Ann, and Tom Thompson  
and Luann and Viron Vaky  
by Debbie and Pete Vaky

## *In Thanksgiving*

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
family and friends  
by Curtis and Marilyn Kimball

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
family and friends  
by Sandy Freeman

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
Altar Guild Team 4: Lisa  
Shunnarah, Cole Yarsawich,  
Craig Wilson, Disa Mason, and  
Nettie Silva  
by Hayley Kelly

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
their parents  
by Sarah and Tom Buchanan

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
their grandsons John and Walter  
by Nettie and Don Silva

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
their children Avery, Payton and  
Harris  
by Karen and David Calhoun

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
Susan & Dan Faulk; Sharron  
Thomas; Jeannie, Jim, Sidney  
& Madeline Roberts; Lisa,  
Michael, Taylor & Kate  
Mallady; Leigh, John & Chip  
Cummings,  
by Marie, Brian, Anna, and Will  
Thomas

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
her family  
by MollyO Wagner

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
Priests, staff, and parishioners  
of Holy Innocents' Episcopal  
Church  
by Paul Barton, Head of School,  
Board of Trustees, faculty, staff,  
and students of Holy Innocents'  
Episcopal School

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
Susan Faulk; Jeannie, Jim,  
Sidney and Madeline Roberts;  
Marie, Brian, Anna and Will  
Thomas; Leigh, John and Chip  
Cummings  
by Dan Faulk

## *Christmas Music Donations*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Betty Barstow  
by Bill and Diane Clark

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Richard Werner  
by Dale Werner

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Pat Pate  
by Kris and J.T. Hroncich

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Jack Wagner  
by his family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Betty Barstow  
by Karen and David Calhoun

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Terry Stinson and Brit Treadway  
by Emily Treadway

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Barry Thomas, Helen & Sharman Dennard;  
Lilla and Wamon Faulk; Dorothy & Lyndell  
McKibbin; Jane and Barry Thomas.  
by Marie, Brian, Anna, and Will Thomas

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Betty Barstow  
by Lynne Eckma

## *In Thanksgiving*

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
family and friends  
by Marilyn and Curtis Kimball

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
their sons  
by Sarah and Tom Buchanan

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
all our musicians, and especially Sean  
by Libby and Pick Lindsay

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
their children Douglas, Milly and Lucy  
by Kim and Doug Peterson

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
priests, staff, and parishioners of Holy Innocents'  
Episcopal Church  
by Paul Barton, Head of School, Board of  
Trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Holy  
Innocents' Episcopal School

IN THANKSGIVING FOR  
her wonderful family  
by Kit Reedy

*This list was believed to be complete on December 19, 2023. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or improperly listed, please accept our sincere apologies.*

# Connect

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