



HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GAUDETE SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 10:15 AM

Today

8:00 AM: WORSHIP CHRIST CHAPEL
8:45 AM: BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY THE MEN OF HI BISHOP COMMONS
9:00 AM: FORMATION INGLETT HALL
10:15 AM: WORSHIP NAVE
11:30 AM: WOHI: COOKIE SWAP INGLETT HALL
1:00 PM: SPANISH-SPEAKING WORSHIP CHRIST CHAPEL
4:30 PM: ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS NAVE
6:00 PM: CELTIC STYLE WORSHIP CHRIST CHAPEL

Welcome

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.

Newcomers

If this is your first time with us, we invite you to fill out a newcomer card in the pew rack or online and come by the welcome table near the front door and introduce yourself. 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.

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.



Childcare

We love children of all ages in worship. You may prefer to let our attentive professional Nursery staff care for your young ones under four years old. The nursery is available from 8:00 AM through 10:15 AM worship.

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

*The liturgy is found
in the red Book of
Common Prayer.*

Prelude | Noel en Musette LOUIS CLAUDE D'AQUIN

Hymn 616 | Hail to the Lord's Anointed ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALGÖGELEIN

Opening Acclamation | BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

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.**

Trisagion | S100 HURD

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The First Lesson | Isaiah 35:1-10

The people are seated.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler,
not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 146:4-9 | *said responsively by half verse.*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord cares for the stranger;

he sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign for ever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson | James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 81 | Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN ROS

VV.1-2 BEFORE; VS. 3 AFTER

The Gospel | Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon | The Rev. T. Stewart Lucas VICAR

The people stand as able.

The people stand as able.

During the Gospel processional, children ages Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to follow the cross to attend Children's Chapel. The children will return during the peace.

The Gospel Procession reminds us that it is our responsibility to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ into all the world.

We stand, as we are able, to listen to this reading. Some will trace a cross with their thumb over their forehead, lips, and heart. This "enacted prayer" asks that the Gospel be inscribed in our minds, spoken with our lips and loved in our hearts.

The people are seated.

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

Sisters and brothers, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Let us seek the Lord praying, “Let us see your glory, O Lord; Come to us and save us!”

Lord, save your Church from weakness of heart. Give us strength to prepare this world for the coming of your Christ. And give us patience when it seems Christ’s kingdom does not come quickly enough. Let us see your glory, O Lord; **Come to us and save us!**

Lord, save this nation from disordered priorities and misplaced hope. May our values mirror your values. May we be a nation that gives justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and care to the stranger.

Let us see your glory, O Lord; **Come to us and save us!**

Lord, save your creation from human misuse. Bless us to play a part in the redemption you have planned for all of creation.

Let us see your glory, O Lord; **Come to us and save us!**

Lord, save this city from hopelessness. Give us a vision and a future. Raise up prophets who will speak hope and encouragement to the people of our region.

Let us see your glory, O Lord; **Come to us and save us!**

Lord, save the sick and the sorrowful in the midst of their affliction. May they experience the healing work of their Messiah. Make happy all those who have you for their help.

Let us see your glory, O Lord; **Come to us and save us!**

Lord, bless Betty Creekmuir and Sonny Everett, all members of your heavenly kingdom. May they obtain eternal joy and gladness in your presence—where sorrow and sighing are no more.

Let us see your glory, O Lord; **Come to us and save us!**

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **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 people kneel or
remain standing.*

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.**

Children's Choir | Whatcha Gonna Call That Baby? PHYLLIS WOLFE-WHITE

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that baby?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that boy?

All the animals gather' round,
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?

In the straw a baby found.
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?

See that babe in swaddlin' clothes?
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?

Mary smiles 'cause Mary knows!
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that baby?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that boy?

"Glory! Glory, Hallelujah!" angels sing from on high.

"Glory! Glory, Hallelujah!"

"Glory! Glory, Hallelujah!"

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that baby?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that boy?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that baby?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that boy?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that baby?

Whatcha gonna call, whatcha gonna call,
whatcha gonna call that boy?

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The people are seated.

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 online with QR code on page one.

Offertory Anthem | Carol of the Advent PHILIP DIETTERICH

Presentation Hymn | OLD 100TH

The people stand as able.

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving | EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2, *ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP*

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.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus | Missa Guadalupe MARTINSON

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the
high-est. San - to, san - to, san - to es el Se -
ñor. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en el
cie - lo. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en el cie - lo.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Joseph, the Holy Innocents, all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

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

**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

We break this bread or share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei | S161 HURD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Holy Communion

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Communion. 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, rather than the Eucharist, indicate this by placing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

Anthem | Sheep May Safely Graze J.S. BACH

BETSY DONNELLY, FLUTIST

Hymn 76 | On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry WINCHESTER NEW

Sending forth of Holy Communion

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts to our friends, that they may share with us in the sacrament of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We who are many are One Body, because we all share one Bread, and one Cup.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

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 people stand as able.

The Blessing

Hymn 68 | Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers LLANGOFFAN

The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world,
Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude | Once in Royal David's City ARR. ALICE JORDAN



Atlanta

Gay Men's Chorus **Holiday Concert**

Sunday | December 14 | 4:30 PM

FREE!



holynnocents.org

CHRISTMAS AT HOLY INNOCENTS

The Weary World Rejoices

This Christmas we celebrate the astonishing news that God comes to us in tenderness and glory, meets us in our weariness, and fills our world with unquenchable light. Joy and light break into every shadow.

10:00 AM • DECEMBER 24 • CHAPEL

QUIET CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

Begin Christmas Eve in peace before the busyness begins. A simple, beautiful service in Christ Chapel with communion, prayer, and organ.

3:00 PM • DECEMBER 24 • NAVE

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our beloved, family-friendly pageant. Children may come 30 minutes early to dress as angels, shepherds, or animals and participate in the telling of the Christmas story. Holy Eucharist to follow.

6:00 PM • DECEMBER 24 • NAVE

FESTIVAL EUCHARIST WITH CHOIR & STRINGS

A joyful and elegant Christmas celebration with full choir, organ, strings, carols, and communion. A favorite for families no longer in the pageant years.

9:00 PM • DECEMBER 24 • NAVE

CANDLELIGHT & INCENSE FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

A stunning, traditional Christmas liturgy with choir, strings, incense, carols, communion, and the beauty of candlelit worship.

10:00 AM • DECEMBER 25 • CHAPEL

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

A peaceful, reflective Christmas morning service in Christ Chapel with communion and the story of Christ's birth.

You Belong Here

Whether this is your first Christmas with us or your fiftieth, Holy Innocents opens its doors with warmth, beauty, and deep joy. Bring your family, your neighbors, and your longing for peace. There is room for you here.

Connect

Clergy

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JENNY PITTMAN CANTRELL *Junior Warden*
CAMMIE IVES *Secretary*
DOUG PETERSON *Treasurer*
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Youth Members

LUCY PETERSON **ELLISON LOSIN**

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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