

# HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 28, 2025 | 10:15 AM

## **Today**

8:00 AM: WORSHIP CHRIST CHAPEL

8:45 AM: POTLUCK BREAKFAST BISHOP COMMONS

10:15 AM: WORSHIP NAVE

1:00 PM: SPANISH-SPEAKING WORSHIP 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 A Christmas Prelude CHARLES CALLAHAN PAMELA SCHUETTLER, FLUTE

Hymn 102 | Once in Royal David's City IRBY

## 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.** 

## Gloria | S278 MATHIAS



## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

#### And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

## The Word of God

## The First Lesson | Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her iewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people are seated.

## Psalm 147:13-21 | said responsively by half verse.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;

he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders;

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth,

and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool;

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;

who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them;

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob,

his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation;

to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

## The Second Lesson | Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 96 | Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

VV.1-2 BEFORE; VV. 3-4 AFTER

The people stand as able.

## The Gospel | John 1:1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon | The Rev. John Porter Assisting Priest

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 people stand as able.

#### 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,

## 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.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.** 

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.

God of grace, Hear our prayer.

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.

God of grace, Hear our prayer.

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.

God of grace, Hear our prayer.

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.

God of grace, Hear our prayer.

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.

God of grace, Hear our prayer.

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 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.** 

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

The people are seated.

The Peace | BCP 360

## 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.

Anthem | Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light J.S. BACH

The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn | OLD 100TH



## 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:

## Sanctus | MATHIAS



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."

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 his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his 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.** 

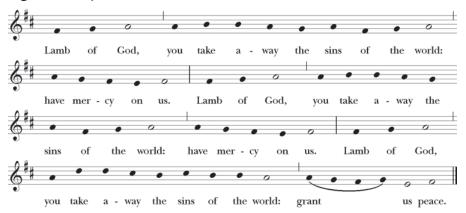
And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead 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

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



## **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.

## Communion Anthem | Greensleeves CHARLES CALLAHAN

Hymn 109 | The First Nowell THE FIRST NOWELL

## 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.

The people stand as able.

## **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 Blessing

Hymn 99 | Go Tell It on The Mountain GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

#### The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.** 

Postlude | Postlude on "Adeste Fidelis" ARR. G. YOUNG

## We are here for you.

If you have a pastoral emergency at any time, please call the church office and follow the prompts. You will immediately be connected to Bill, Stewart or Ruth, who take turns being on-call. The word "pastor" is the Latin word for shepherd. The Community of Hope at Holy Innocents is a community of lay persons in the parish who have been deeply and thoroughly trained in the care and practice of being a pastor. If you would like to talk or pray with a lay pastoral caregiver, please email *CoH@holyinnocents.org* 

## **HI-LIGHTS**

## Learn More | holyinnocents.org/events

#### **CURIOUS ABOUT HOLY INNOCENTS?**

Whether you're new to the Episcopal Church, returning after time away, or simply ready to go deeper—we invite you to take the next step through our **Inquirers' Classes** for adults and **Confirmation Classes** for youth. These gatherings are a welcoming, nopressure way to explore our faith, our community, and what it means to belong. Classes will begin in early 2026, leading up to a special visit from the Rt. Rev. Rob Wright, Bishop of Atlanta, on May 31, 2026, when he will welcome and confirm new members. If you'd like to learn more or express interest, please **email** the Rev. Ruth Pattison (*rpattison@holyinnocents.org*) or the Rev. Stewart Lucas (*slucas@holyinnocents.org*). Parents interested in confirmation for their 9-12th graders should **email** Megan Atkinson (*matkinson@holyinnocents.org*).

#### **ANNUAL MEETING** JANUARY 25, 9:00 AM

Join us in Inglett Hall for breakfast and fellowship as we review our ministry's finances, reflect on 2025's accomplishments, and embrace the vision for the year ahead. We'll elect vestry members and step forward together in faith and community.

#### SANDWHICH BUILD FOR CHURCH OF THE COMMON GROUND JAN. 25, 11:15 AM

We will be packing 125+ lunches for our unhoused brothers and sisters who attend Church of the Common Ground in Woodruff Park in downtown Atlanta. Please join us in Parish Hall after the 10:15 AM service to help make sandwiches and assemble lunch bags. An additional part of our outreach is to worship with the men and women of CCG at their 1:00 PM service in Woodruff Park.

Contact Robin Hickey (hickeys5040@gmail.com)

**Learn More** churchofthecommonground.org

### WINTER WARM-UP: SONG & CELEBRATION JANUARY 30, 4:30 PM

Something wonderful is cooking at Holy Innocents! Join us for a cozy winter evening featuring some of our very own staff singers as they share favorite songs, along with the choir singing a few of our all-time favorite anthems. After the music, we'll move into a festive reception with food, fellowship, and celebration. Come celebrate the talent among us, enjoy good company, and shake away the winter blues!

#### PARISH RETREAT REGISTRATION FEBUARY 13-15

Join us this February at Kanuga (Hendersonville, NC) for our parish retreat exploring the connection between body and soul, spirit, and daily life. Together we'll reflect on longing, authentic relationship, and the ways food, nature, and shared table fellowship reconnect us to God and one another.

Our retreat leader is the Rev. Mark Wastler—Episcopal priest, farmer, and founder of Chesapeake Watershed Ministries—who brings rich experience in spirituality, ecology, and the practice of food as sacred gift.

Cost: \$375 single room. • \$575 double room (two people)
Includes lodging, meals (Friday dinner–Sunday lunch), and all programming.
Learn more and register on the church website.

## **GROUPS**

#### PRAYER SHAWL JANUARY 6, 7:00-8:30 PM

Join us in the Parlor on Tuesday, January 6, 7:00-8:30 PM. We knit and crochet shawls for those in need, but bring any project—needlepoint, cross-stitch, even mending—and enjoy fellowship while you work. **Contact** Cammie Ives (cammieives@gmail.com)

#### YOUNG ADULTS: WINTER PARTY JANUARY 9, 6:00-9:00 PM

We're excited to invite you to a Winter Party at Rev. Stewart Lucas' home! Come as you are and join us for a cozy evening of delicious food, fun, and great conversation. Come hang out, get to know one another, and kick off the new year together!

Contact Megan Atkinson (matkinson@holyinnocents.org)

#### MEN'S THIRD FRIDAY BREAKFAST JANUARY 16, 7:30-8:30 AM

Enjoy warm hospitality, engaging discussions, and a fresh breakfast in the Frost Youth Center. Come for the conversation and stay for the fellowship.

Contact Charles Crosby (charles@corepm.net)

#### WOMEN OF HI: WINE AND WISDOM JANUARY 15, 6:00 PM

Wine and Wisdom: What Every Woman Should Know about Money and Planning Preparation empowers women in every season of life. The Women of HI and the Endowment Committee invite you to join us for an evening of wine, conversation, and practical wisdom. In the spirit of the late Betty Barstow, we will share some quips from the book "Being Dead is No Excuse" along with door prizes! We will welcome a trusted estate attorney to share what every woman should know about estate planning and financial security. While this is not a workshop, it will be a pain free way to learn what documents matter, what to have in place, and where to find essential information.

#### MEN'S RETREAT APRIL 24-26, 2026

We are pleased to welcome Bill Harkins once again as retreat leader for the 2026 Men of Holy Innocents' Retreat at Lake Logan Episcopal Center in the mountains of North Carolina , where our theme will be "Arete, Faith, and a Rule of Life for Connection Among Men." Bill will serve as both facilitator and homilist, guiding us with the wisdom, depth, and grounded presence many of us have come to value over the years.

**Contact** John Harris (harris4338@gmail.com), Charles Crosby (charles@corepm.net)

## **BOOK CLUBS**

#### BUCKET LIST BOOK CLUB JANUARY 6, 1:00 PM

This co-ed group is reading *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. We'll meet at 1:00 PM in the Parlor room. All are welcome!

**Contact** Audrey Sumner (audreysum4833@gmail.com)

#### MEN'S DINNER AND A BOOK JANUARY 13, 6:30 PM

The book is Devil in The White City by Erik Larson. John Cox is hosting. All men at H.I. are invited!

Contact Jeremy Webber (jhwwebber@gmail.com)

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

#### GLOW JANUARY 7, 6:00-7:00 PM

Kids (PreK–5th grade) are invited to join us for a faith-filled evening focused on God's love and the beauty of winter. We'll enjoy snow-themed games, activities, and a meaningful take-home project to help kids grow in faith. Wear your favorite winter or snow-themed outfit and get ready for some fun!

Adults and kids are invited to gather for dinner at 5:30 PM, then kids will head to the GLOW program from 6:00–7:00 PM. Parents are welcome to stay for wine and conversation while the kids are at GLOW. Friends are welcome!

#### YOUTH GROUP JANUARY 11, 4:00-6:00 PM

Middle and highschoolers are invited to Youth Group on Sunday, January 11! We'll kick back with some good food and great company. We'll also play a hilarious game of human batteship! It's the perfect way to relax and reconnect after the holidays, bring a friend and come hang out!

#### Connect

## Clergy

THE REV. DR. BILL MURRAY Rector | bmurray@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. T. STEWART LUCAS Vicar | slucas@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. RUTH PATTISON Associate Rector | rpattison@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. ANTONIO BRITO Associate for Hispanic Ministries

THE REV. JOHN PORTER Assisting Priest | jjporter10@gmail.com

THE REV. DR. STEFANIE TAYLOR Head Chaplain | stefanie.taylor@hies.org

THE REV. KC CREWDSON Middle School Chaplain | kc.crewdson@hies.org

THE REV. TREY DAVIS Lower School Chaplain | trey.davis@hies.org

#### Music

RANDALL ROMIG Interim Director of Music | music@holyinnocents.org

ALEXIS LUNDY Children's Choir Director | alexis.lundy@hies.org

#### Children & Youth

**MEGAN ATKINSON** Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Families | matkinson@holyinnocents.org **RENEE STEPHENS** Director of Membership and Children's Ministry | rstephens@holyinnocents.org **ALBERTA HAYES, SHERRIE THOMAS, CHLOE FOLTS** Nursery Staff

#### **Administration & Support**

CAROLINE FLEMING Parish Administrator | cfleming@holyinnocents.org

MELODY MCNEIL Executive Assistant for the Clergy | mmcneil@holyinnocents.org

CAMILLE WALLER Parish Accountant | accounting@holyinnocents.org

EMILY BADACOUR Director of Communications | ebadacour@holyinnocents.org

ISABELLY LUCIANO Sexton | SUSANA MUNEVAR Sunday Sexton

#### Vestry

HAYLEY KELLY Senior Warden
JENNY PITTMAN CANTRELL Junior Warden
CAMMIE IVES Secretary
DOUG PETERSON Treasurer
DAVID STOCKERT Assistant Treasurer
MARC HOWARD Chancellor

Members

JOHN RASH JOHN CUMMINGS
KARLA SMITH ANNA MARIE FULBRIGHT
MARY KATHERINE WILLIS GREG EUSTON
RICK OTNESS MICHELLE VENTULET
TRICIA CARLSON

Youth Members

LUCY PETERSON ELLISON LOSIN

HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

805 Mt. Vernon Hwy NW | Atlanta, GA 30327 | 404.255.4023 | holyinnocents.org



