



**HOLY INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

GOOD NEWS | NOVEMBER 2022 | ISSUE NO. 20



Join our Joy this Advent

THE DR. REV. BILL MURRAY

When you are a seminarian studying to be a priest, you get to practice with Morning Prayer with other church nerds. It is probably the hardest thing you have to do. Mainly because you have 300 “experts” in the room judging anything you say or do. One of the opening lines for the service comes from Psalm 122, “I was glad when they said to be, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” The only problem was that folks were so nervous and worried about doing it right, they said the words with a furrowed brow and an anxious voice. Nothing about the seminarian tended to match the phrase that was said. And I almost always laughed.

Psalm 122 is the first one we say together in the season of Advent. The opening line can be translated as glad or joyful or literally “I rejoiced.” I said the words this summer when I stood next to the Western Wall and on the Temple Mount. And I was filled with joy. I was ecstatic to finally be in that sacred place with good folks from Holy Innocents.

The great challenge of Advent is to be filled with joy, to be joy-ful, to rejoice. Typically we are worried about Christmas shopping lists, parties, events, the dangers of the world, and the hurried, crazy feel of the season. We say we are excited and joyful, but like those anxious seminarians, our faces and voices seldom match the words. We are called to take a moment or twenty and celebrate God in this sacred season. Advent should be a time when we try to connect our hearts and souls with the words of celebration found in the texts.

To say it differently, join us on the four Sundays of Advent to celebrate God’s presence in the world and rejoice that we are together. Join us as we celebrate the Rev. John Porter on December 4. Celebrate our long relationship with Temple Sinai when Rabbi Emeritus Phil Kranz preaches on December 11. Enjoy Lesson and Carols with our choir on December 18. There is so much to celebrate as a community returning together to the things we love. So, rejoice! Celebrate! Share the joy! “I rejoiced when they said, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord- to Holy Innocents- together!’”



Advent Retreat

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 14
4:00 – 6:00 PM OR
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 15
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

As we inch our way toward the winter solstice, Advent beckons us into the dark to play with shadows and ponder the light. The book, *Celtic Ways to Pray, Finding God in the Natural Elements*,* will provide the basis for the retreat in the Parish Hall, as we venture into this experiential moment apart from the daily stress of our demanding routines.

*no purchase necessary, but the first 3 people to sign up for each of the retreat options, will receive a free book, compliments of your author-leader!

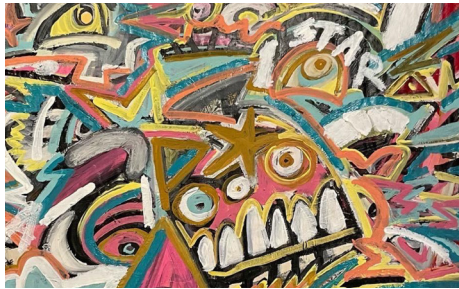
The Rev. Ruth Pattison
rpattison@holyinnocents.org

LESSONS & CAROLS WITH THE GEORGIA BOY CHOIR

DECEMBER 11 | 7:00 PM

A perennial liturgical favorite of our parish brought to life by candlelight and the sounds of the internationally traveled Georgia Boy Choir.

Dr. Sean Vogt | svogt@holynnoccents.org



Ventulett Gallery

**CURRENT SHOW:
STILL PROCESSING BY DAN GILSTRAP**

Artist Talk | December 11 | 9:00–10:00 AM

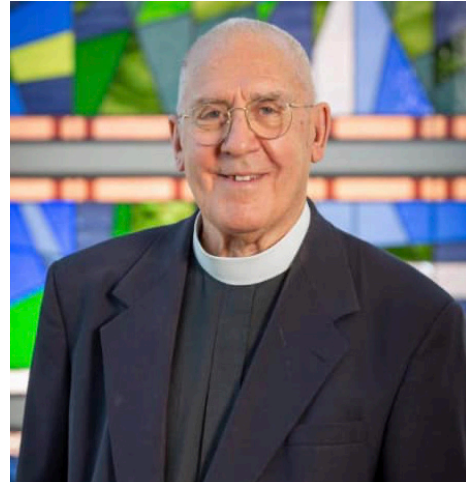
A Royal Visit | December 4

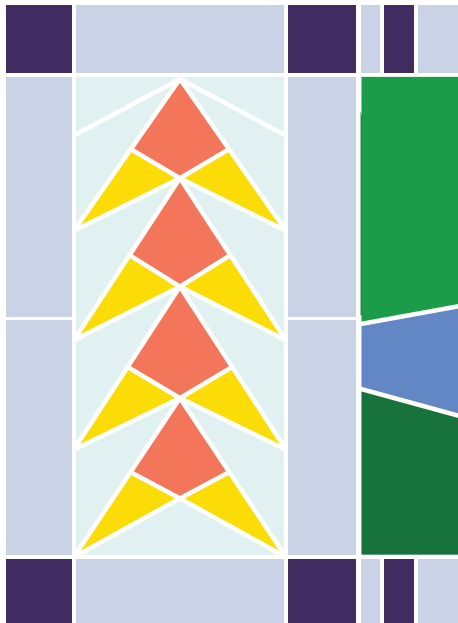
**CELEBRATING THE REV. JOHN PORTER
9:00 AM FORMATION | 10:15 AM WORLD PREMIERE**

We close out our 150th celebration with a visit from one of England's royal composers, Paul Mealar. He will be here for the world premiere of his new piece for 15-piece string orchestra, tubular bells, and piano. Players include members from the ASO, Atlanta Ballet Orchestra, Atlanta Opera Orchestra, and Holy Innocents' Episcopal School. As divine choreography would have it, we will also be celebrating the 56 years of ministry of The Rev. John Porter that Sunday. What a way to close out an amazing year!

Composer and professor, Paul Mealar has written many pieces for multiple royal occasions. One of his most popular pieces, which you can find on YouTube, is his motet *Ubi caritas* that was commissioned for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Paul has already been in the musical presence for His Majesty, King Charles and had many pieces performed at various functions for her late majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Paul Mealar, who is also a professor at the University of Aberdeen, will speak at formation at 9:00 AM on the intersection of faith and music. Come, invite your friends, and spread the word about this royal visit and as we honor a jewel in our crown – The Rev. John Porter. This will be a Sunday to remember.





Giving Update

**CAROLINE FLEMMING,
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

Holy Innocents is so thankful for the pledges and donations that we have recently received. As of November 15, we have 119 pledges for \$1,606,700 to pay off our capital debt. In the last 5 weeks, donations have allowed us to pay down \$555,157!

The interest rate on the loan has increased to 5.88% from 2.35% in April, so principal payments make a big difference. As for our 2023 operating budget, we have 161 pledges for \$973,965. If you have not pledged, please consider pledging as we plan for the 2023 budget.

Memorial Gifts

**RECEIVED
SEPTEMBER 1 –
OCTOBER 31**

In Memory of Larry Eckman
Rosalyn and Chris Devine

In Memory of Bud Dayries
Miles Espy

Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER 27

9:00 AM

Advent Wreath Activity*
Youth Advent Fundraiser*

DECEMBER 4

9:00 AM

Children's St. Nicolas Sunday
Faith and Music with Dr. Paul Mealor
10:15 AM Cantata World Premiere
11:30 AM Youth | Six Flags*

DECEMBER 7

6:00 PM Children's GLOW

DECEMBER 10

10:00 AM Children's Polar Express Event*

DECEMBER 11

8:00 & 10:15 AM

Rabbi Emeritus Phil Kranz Preaches
7:00 PM Lessons & Carols with The Georgia Boy Choir

DECEMBER 14

4:00-6:00 PM Advent Retreat

DECEMBER 15

10:00 AM-12:00 PM Advent Retreat

DECEMBER 18

10:15 AM Lessons and Carols with HIEC Choir
5:30 PM Youth Christmas Party*

DECEMBER 24

3:00 PM Children's Christmas Pageant
6:00 & 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Liturgy

DECEMBER 25

10:15 AM One Worship Service

JANUARY 1

8:00, 10:15 AM, & 6:00 PM Worship Services
9:00 AM Potluck Brunch

* Registration required.



What makes an Advent Wreath?

RENEE STEPHENS, ASSIST. DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN MINISTRIES

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned." Isaiah 9:2

For centuries, Christians have made Advent wreaths to help mark the time of waiting for the miracle of Christmas. Wreaths are made of evergreens, symbolizing the continuity of life, and the circle represents the eternity of God. Candles are lit each week, pointing us to the light of Christ, which came into the world on one starry night in Bethlehem. Each week we light a candle and say a prayer, and watch the light grow as we get closer to celebrating the birth of Christmas. We invite everyone to join in this unique tradition and make an advent wreath for your home so you can watch and wait.

Make an Advent Wreath

NOVEMBER 27 | 9:00 AM

Your wreath will be a fantastic tool to center your family during the busy holiday season. Advent wreaths are \$15. All proceeds go directly to the youth group.

Megan Atkinson
matkinson@holynnocents.org



Making Casseroles

SERVING AGAPE YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER

On Sunday, November 13, the children of our church made casseroles to serve at Agape Youth & Family Center. Agape serves 200 school age children year round through by providing academic support and dinner. Holy Innocents is so happy to join in that effort by providing a home cooked meal served on November 14.





Finding Your Joy

**MEGAN ATKINSON, DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES**

My time in our parish can be described as nothing less than a beautiful combination of joy and excitement surrounding the season of Advent. When I met our children and youth, I knew God would work to create a lasting connection between myself and the students and do remarkable things within this community.

Almost six years later, the children and youth have become like my own. I've shared in their joys, cried in their failures, and prayed for their futures. I'm beyond blessed to be part of their spiritual lives and to find joy in what I do daily. As we enter the season of Advent and celebrate the coming of our King, I invite you to celebrate and cherish those precious moments that bring you happiness, love, and joy.

Buddy Bags

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Our youth have assembled enough Buddy Bags to serve 230 of our community friends in Atlanta! Each bag contains essential items such as socks and gloves to help make the upcoming colder months easier. Church members will be able to take a bag this Sunday to keep in their car and the additional bags will go directly to our friends in Atlanta. Thank you so much to all those who donated items.

Youth Advent Breakfast Fundraiser

NOV. 27 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Join us as we celebrate the season and prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. Our youth will cook you breakfast for \$5 online and \$10 at the door. Please register by November 21.

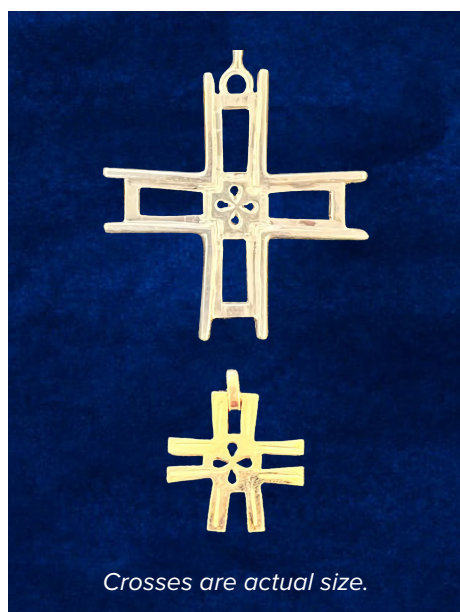
Megan Atkinson
matkinson@holynnocents.org



Holy Innocents' Cross Order

Contact Caroline Fleming, cfleming@holynnocents.org, to purchase. There is a three-week turnaround for the order.

- small .8"x.8" silver \$235
- large 1.5"x1.5" silver \$275
- small .8"x.8" gold \$450



Parish Retreat

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2023

We've reserved a spot for you at our Annual Holy Innocents' Parish Retreat at Amicalola Falls State Park. There are activities for children and youth as well as the young at heart. What does it mean to have *Open Minds and Full Hearts*? Join us as we delve deeper into our church's tag line.

PROGRAM FEE

\$150.00 per adult/child ages 12+

\$70.00 per child age 4 to 11

Children ages 3 and under attend at no charge

ESTIMATED ROOM COST

Rooms or Lofts | Rates: \$150-250/night

The Rev. Stewart Lucas

slucas@holynnocents.org



Discovering Joy, an Advent Practice

THE REV. RUTH PATTISON

Joy, says Brené Brown, is a guidepost for wholehearted living. She coined this phrase from the Episcopal confession of sin where we say, "we have not loved you with our whole heart".

Joy, she says, involves risk. It makes us vulnerable. Subject to pain, sorrow, fear, disappointment, and a sense of foolishness. When we suspect Joy is rising up within us, we beat it to the punch, and bar the door. As Brené Brown puts it, we forbode joy.

But Joy resides deep within us. It is there and fully available. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

A beautiful Sacred Story that evidences this Holy-Spirit-Joy is in Luke chapter one. Right before Jesus' birth stories, the Holy Spirit is twirling and swirling about, conceiving joy.

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. . ." She said, "the babe leaped in my womb for joy." And next thing you know, Mary was singing a song of salvation.

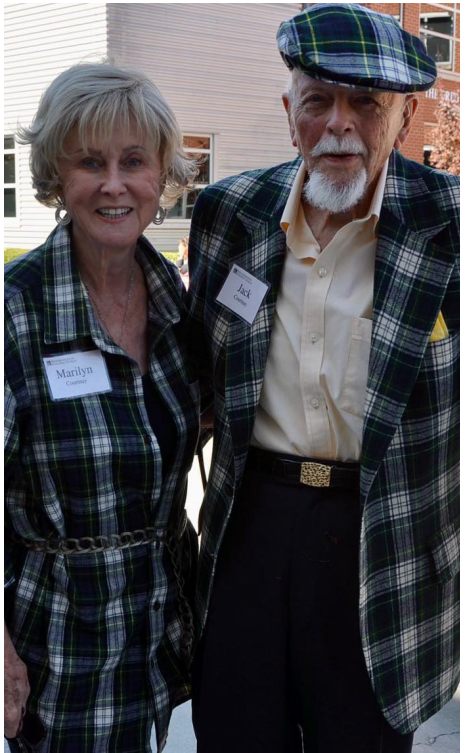
These were not ideal circumstances for Mary and Elizabeth. Not the perfection of life. Not the moments of prayers answered. These were difficult days, and yet, the thrill of the Holy Spirit wells up from the depths. And produces Joy.

Imagine each of us, ridiculously subdued. Drearily walking this earth, unknowing and unaware. While all along, there is a deep cool well of refreshing effervescence, a potion for joy in such full measure that it could make our hearts sing. Not because of circumstances, or perfection of life as we want it, but just because. Because of the Holy Spirit.

It is not the absence of joy that prevents joy, but it is our experienced practice of inhibiting it.

Accessing Joy can be an Advent practice. We count days with Advent Calendars, and light four blue candles, one at a time. The idea isn't to make the time pass more quickly, but to make our journey intentional. A practice to locate ourselves exactly where we are, in this day, in these circumstances, and then opening our hearts to the light in it, opening our souls to the Holy Spirit Joy in it.

It is in this day and only in this day, where we can find Joy. This is where God's Holy Spirit is, right here, right now. Maybe we, too, can find ourselves leaping and singing, and twirling about!





**HOLY INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

805 Mt. Vernon Hwy NW
Atlanta, GA 30327



Worship Christmas Eve

3:00 PM

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

6:00 & 9:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY

holyinnocents.org | @hiecatl