



Holy Eucharist Rite I Church of the Advent

The Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 29, 2025, 6:30 PM

Welcome to Advent. Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope you meet God here today. All baptized Christians, regardless of tradition, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the red book in the racks.

Children of all ages are welcome in the service. You can find coloring sheets and children's bulletins in the narthex.

Most of our services are live-streamed on YouTube. Please see the priest to avoid being visible in the recording.



New or Visiting This Morning?

We would love to pray for you by name this week and have the opportunity to get to know you. Please fill out the welcome card found in the pew or through the QR code to the left.

The Word of God

Rite I BCP p. 323

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

People: **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

BCP p. 323

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with Thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Please kneel or stand as able.

We remember this day, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by the order of King Herod. Receive, we beseech Thee, into the arms of Thy mercy all innocent victims; and by thy great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish Thy rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

Please sit.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:15-17

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;
for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷ there is hope for your future,
says the Lord:
your children shall come back to their own country.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Please read responsively by whole verse beginning with the Lector.

Psalm 124

¹ If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

² **if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,**

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ **then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;**

⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

⁶ **Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.**

⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

⁸ **Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Second Lesson

Revelation 21:1-7

A Reading from the Revelation of John

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ ⁶ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’ ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Matthew 2:13-18

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell

you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ **14** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. **17** Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Brian McVey

Please stand.

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 326

Please kneel or stand as able.

The Prayers of the People

BCP p. 328

The Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 330

The Comfortable Words

BCP p. 332

Please stand as able.

The Peace

BCP p. 332

Please sit.

The Welcome and Announcements

*The offering plates are on either side of the center aisle by the front pew.
You may also give online through the QR code to the right.*



The Offertory Sentence

People: All Things come of thee, O Lord. And of thine own, have we given Thee.

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP p. 333

The people kneel or stand

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 336

The Prayer of Humble Access

BCP p. 337

This is the table, not of the Church, but of God. It is to be made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because I invite you: it is God, and it is God's will that you who want God should meet God here. All baptized Christians, regardless of tradition, are invited to receive.

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 339

The Blessing

Dismissal

BCP p. 340

*The flowers on the altar are given in Thanksgiving to God for the nativity of His Son, our
Savior Jesus Christ!*

MINISTRY CONTACTS

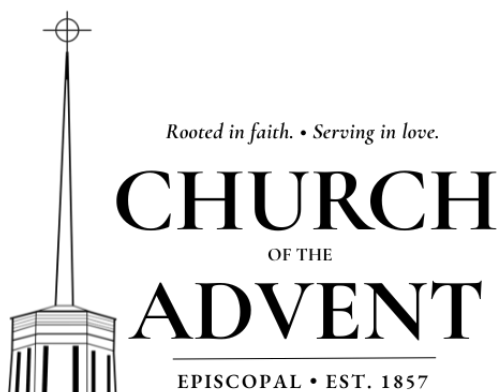
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VESTRY

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Candida Banister (2028), <i>Junior Warden</i>	Flora Ukoli (2027)
Jeri Platt (2027), <i>Clerk</i>	Janet Brown (2028)
Jennifer Honeycutt (2026)	Robyn Duffy (2028)
Rosemary Kelley (2026)	Hunter McCarty, <i>Treasurer</i>

DIOCESE OF TENNESSEE

Bishop John Bauerschmidt



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