

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
*The Third Sunday of Advent*  
*Gaudete!*



*The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents*  
*14 December, 2025 ~ 9:30 AM*

**Welcome!** In The Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. **BCP** means The Book of Common Prayer (Red Book). You'll find the BCP and Hymnals in the pew rack in front of you.

## **The Parish Notices**

**Prelude**

*Voluntary*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

**Hymn #56** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 5 and 6)*

VENI VENI EMMANUEL, plainsong 15<sup>th</sup> C

*O come, Thou Key of David, come, and  
open wide our heavenly home. Make safe  
the way that leads on high, and close the  
path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and  
death's dark shadow put to  
flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall  
come to thee, O Israel!*

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Officiant* Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

*People* **Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.**

*Officiant* Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

*People* **O Lord God of Hosts**

*Officiant* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.**

*The third Advent Candle is now lit.*

*Officiant* Show us your mercy, O Lord:

*Response* **And grant us your salvation.**

**Entrance Hymn #68** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

LLANGLOFFAN

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

*Celebrant* 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. *All Amen.*

*Trisagion S-102 (all sing)*

*Holy God*

Alexander Archangelosky

**The Collect of the Day:**

**BCP, p. 212**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you**

*Celebrant* 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 First Lesson**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle**

**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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn #59** (*Please stand*) *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!* MERTON

**The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

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

*People* **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.”

*Celebrant*    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** *(All are seated)*

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Peter De Franco**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP, p. 358**

**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:**

*(Fr. Rich Morley, St David's Episcopal Church, Radnor, Pennsylvania)*

*(The people may stand or kneel)*

*Celebrant* In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

*Leader* O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Sally our Bishop, for Erin, our Newly Called Rector and Peter, our Supply Priest, for our Wardens, Vestry and Lay Leaders that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

*People* **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, especially Colleen our Mayor, Philip our Governor, Mikie, our Governor-elect, Donald, our President, for António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations and leaders and people of all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

*People* **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

*Leader* In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially all on our Parish Prayer List and those we remember in the silence of our hearts (*Pause*); that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

*People* **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

*Leader* In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday

and anniversaries; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

*People* **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

*Leader* In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray for the dead. (*Pause to pray for the dead.*) May you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

*People* **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among us with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

#### **Confession**

**BCP p. 360**

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.*

#### **Absolution**

**BCP p. 360**

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 Peace** (*All stand*) *Greet one another with a sign of God's peace*



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Anthem**

*Prepare the Way of The Lord*

William Rowen

**Presentation of the Gifts** *(All stand)*

*All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP, p. 361**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 S-130*** *(All Sing)* *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Franz Peter Schubert

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed

over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *All: AMEN.*

### **Lord's Prayer**

**BCP, p. 364**

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**

*The Celebrant breaks the Consecrated Bread. The congregation observes a time of silence.*

**Fraction Anthem: S-154** (All sing) *Christ Our Passover*

David Hurd

*(All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.)*

**Postcommunion Prayer** *(Please stand)*

**BCP, p. 365**

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.

**Blessing**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at Christ's second Advent be rewarded with unending life and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn #556**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

MARION

**Dismissal**

**BCP, p. 366**

**Postlude**

*Voluntary*

**Serving Today**

**Crucifer** ~ John Wall **Lector** ~ Bill Kehr

**Ushers** ~ Bob Weidmann, Mike Fahner **Chalice Bearer** ~ Bill Kehr

*Please join us in Martin Hall for Coffee & Fellowship following the service!*

### **Parish Prayer List – December 14, 2025**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *If you need to add or remove a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.*

Lara Sparks Deitz

Mary Ann Crewdson

Dennis

Christian Balint

Warren Lamon

Ann White

Pierro Family

Lovas Family

Debbie & Joe Reising

Connie

Joe

Peg Appleget

Dcn. Judy	Lynne Weidmann	Meg Neff
Rob Meyer	Tino	Melanie Harman
Pat	Kathy Rice	Jessie
Rich Cashel	Charles Sullivan	Doug Hunter
JoAnn King	Ellis Barbieri	Judy Hamilton
Cindy Wood	Diane	Ray M.
Gia	Jeannine	Phil
Frank	Fran Iozzi	Johnny Johnson, Jr.
Bill Bentley	Dr. John	Scott
Nellie Riley	Mike Phillips	Adam Boulderstone
Chris Mercer	Katie Gillis	Frank, III
Will Locovare	Ollie	Ben Giannico
Bill O'Connell	Glenn Servetah	Mary K.
Pat Strocchia	George Balch	Barbara Wheeler
Devin Hone	Rick Rosenbaum	Flood Family
Kay DiCicco	Joe Verrone	Rose Federici
Anna & Matteo Mannino	Scotty Camarote	Don Deitz
Priscilla Ruoff Harvey	Family & Friends of TJ Patton	
Friends and Family of Pete White		

**Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:**

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

**Birthdays:** Bruce Hillyer (12/14) Richard Cashel (12/15), Meg Neff (12/16)  
Collette Southwick, (12/17)

**Altar & Sanctuary Candles:** This week's Altar Candles and Sanctuary Candle are given by Jeanne Cashel in celebration of Richard Cashel's birthday and to the Glory of God.

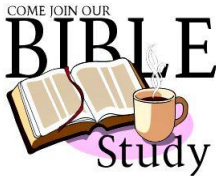
## WEEKLY CALENDAR December 15-December 19

15 – Mon	Morning Prayer (FB)	9:00 AM
	Chair Yoga in MH	9:15-10:15 AM
16 – Tues	Christmas Flower Forms Due Today!!	
17 – Wed	Tai Chi Class in MH	9:30 AM
	Choir Caroling	3:30 PM
18 – Thurs	Book/Bible Study	2:00 PM
	“Clam-Diggers” AA Group	7:30 PM
	Compline (FB)	9:00 PM
19 – Fri	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	

**If you have not done so already, please kindly send your ministry area reports for the annual report. Thank you!**



**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS** This is the last Sunday that forms will be available. Make sure the donor and recipient names are clearly written. In order to have all Memorials acknowledged in the Christmas bulletins, please return no later than **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!



### **BIBLE STUDY**

*Jesus First Century Rabbi* by Rabbi David Zaslow

**Next Meeting December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join us in Martin Hall or via Zoom at 2:00pm

Text or email Leila Sullivan, 919-280-4602 for more info or Zoom Link

## **CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SERVICES**

### **Christmas Eve**

4:30pm Family Service

7:00pm Caroling in the Church

7:30pm Holy Eucharist w/special music by choir as well as congregational singing

### **Christmas Day**

10:00am Said Holy Eucharist

**January 4, 2026 Epiphany Service**

On Sunday, January 4, 2026, we shall celebrate the Epiphany, the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. We shall welcome three Magi during the Sermon.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Our Annual Meeting & Brunch**

*Sun. Jan. 11th after Service*

Please mark your  
calendars! See Pat if you want  
to help with Brunch.



**Donate your way.**

Give one time, anytime or  
set up a recurring donation.



# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to memorialize loved ones with a donation toward Christmas Flowers, kindly send your clearly-designated donation to the church office or place it in the Sunday collection plate. Please note "**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**" on the outside of the envelope and "**Flower Guild-Christmas**" in the check memo. Make sure the donor and recipient names are **clearly** written.

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION AMT: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In order to have all Memorials acknowledged in the Christmas bulletins, please return this form to the office no later than **Tuesday, December 16, 2025**



### **CLERGY & STAFF**

Rev. Peter De Franco, *Supply Priest* [revdefranco@gmail.com](mailto:revdefranco@gmail.com)  
Mrs. Ellen J. Dondero, *Minister of Music & Organist* [ejdondero@comcast.net](mailto:ejdondero@comcast.net)  
Mrs. Lisa Halpin, *Parish Administrator* [hichurch08008@gmail.com](mailto:hichurch08008@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: *Monday through Thursday • 9 AM - 2 PM*

### **WARDENS & VESTRY**

Pat Peacock, *Sr. Warden* [pat.coteypeacock@gmail.com](mailto:pat.coteypeacock@gmail.com)  
Dave White, *Jr. Warden* [pacsman1965@comcast.net](mailto:pacsman1965@comcast.net)

<i>Vestry Class of 2025</i>	<i>Vestry Class of 2026</i>	<i>Vestry Class of 2027</i>
Judy Contreras	Larry Peacock	Vince Contreras
Bruce Hillyer	Barbara Wheeler	Melissa Wall
Bill Kehr	Leila Sullivan	Debbie Hunter

### **The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents**

Pearl & Marine Streets, Beach Haven, NJ 08008