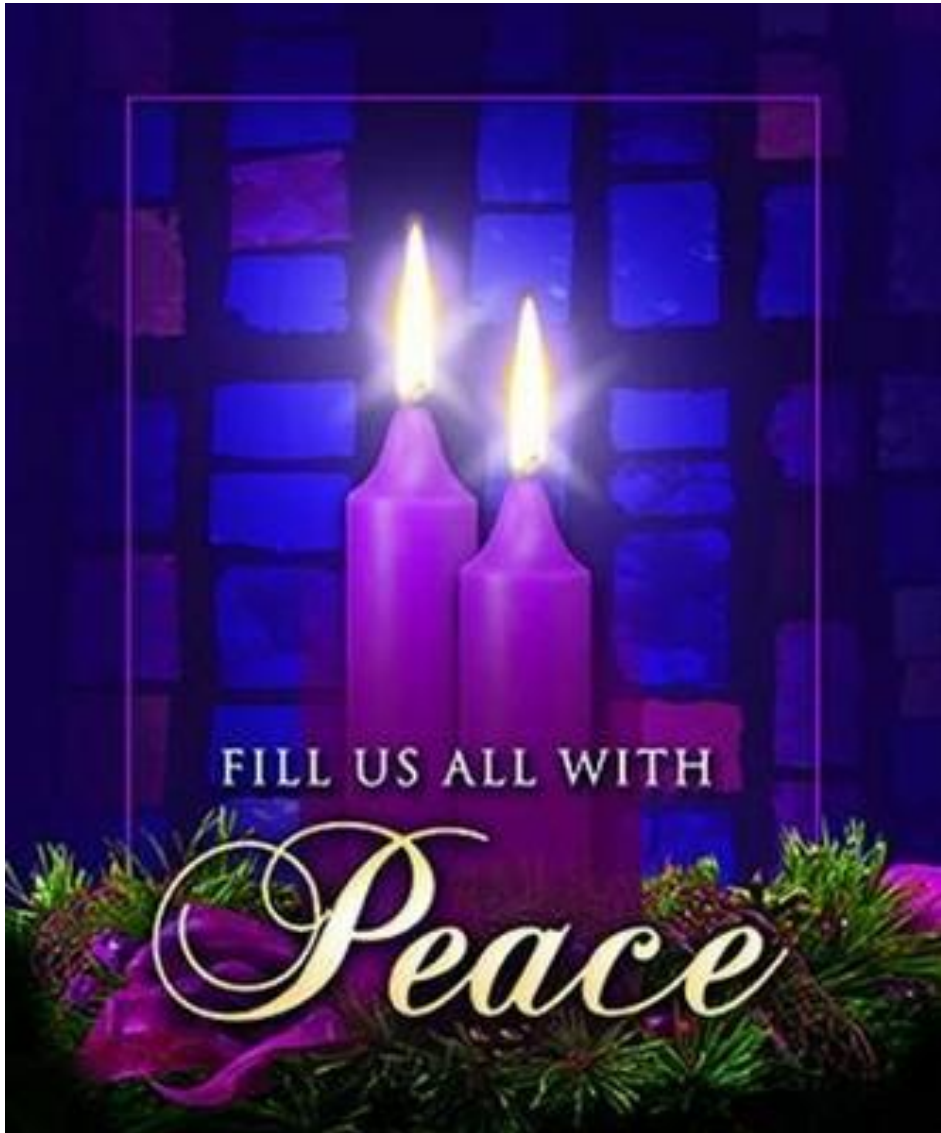


The Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
*The Second Sunday of Advent*



*The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents*  
*07 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.

## **Prelude**

*Voluntary*

*Please use this time for quiet prayer and contemplation*

## **The Parish Notices**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

#### **Hymn #56 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 3 and 4)**

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

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
free them from Satan's tyranny,  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
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 Second Advent Candle is now lit.*

*Officiant* Show us your mercy, O Lord:

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

**Entrance Hymn #76 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry** WINCHESTER NEW

*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** *Holy God (All sing)*

Alexander Archangelsky

### **The Collect of the Day:**

**BCP, p. 211**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *All: Amen.*

### **The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.  
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the  
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**      (*Read in unison*)

**BCP, p. 685**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

## The Epistle

## Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";  
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you  
may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn #75** *(Please stand) There's A Voice in the Wilderness Crying ASCENSION*

**The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the  
prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and  
his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea  
were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized  
by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,  
"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit  
worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our  
ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*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**

*(Please Stand)*

**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 that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. *(Pause to pray for the dead)*

*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.**

### **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 Hymn**

*Advent Echo Carol*

Mary Kay Beall

**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.*

### **The 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 Christ whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love 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 #65** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**Dismissal** BCP, p. 366

**Postlude** *Voluntary*

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

### **Serving Today**

**Crucifer** ~ John Wall **Lector** ~ Alexa Fahner

**Ushers** ~ Sue Hughes, Melissa Wall **Chalice Bearer** ~ Alexa Fahner

## **Parish Prayer List – December 7, 2024**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *If you need to add or remove a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by Wednesday, December 10<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	Barbara	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:** Ruth McLaughlin (12/10), Francis W. Kleber, IV (12/13)

**Anniversaries:** Thomas & Gail Jacobsen (12/09)

**Altar Candles & Sanctuary Candle:** This week's Altar Candles and Sanctuary Candle are given in celebration of Thomas and Gail Jacobsen's wedding anniversary and to the Glory of God.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR December 8-December12**

08 – Mon	Morning Prayer (FB)	9:00 AM
	Chair Yoga in MH	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
10 – Wed	Sandwich Ministry	9:30AM – 11:00AM
	Tai Chi Class	11:00AM
	Choir Rehearsal/Lunch	11:00 am – 2:30 PM
11 – Thurs	Vestry Meeting	7:00 PM
	"Clam-Diggers" AA Group	7:30 PM
	Compline (FB)	9:00 PM
12 – Fri	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
	<b>LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

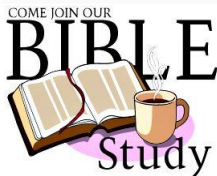


**THE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES**

Boxes are due TODAY!!. Thank you to all who participated!!

**ALL MINISTRY AREA REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE TOMORROW, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Please send reports in word format only so that they can be copied and pasted into the new report. Thank you!



**BIBLE STUDY**

*Jesus First Century Rabbi* by Rabbi David Zaslow

**Next Meeting December 11<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

**THE GIVING TREE** ~This year, we are supporting 7 families with 15 children varying in age, benefiting the Children's Home Society. Gifts need to be returned to church no later than **DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>** ~*Rolls of gift wrap are appreciated*~Thank you!! Any questions, call or text Maggie 609-709-6133



**ST. FRANCIS FOOD PANTRY** Please bring non-perishable food items to church and drop them in the Narthex. They will be delivered to St. Francis Food Pantry. **Food Drive** ends on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**.



### **FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Please note "**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**" on the outside of the envelope and "**Flower Guild-Christmas**" in the check memo. Forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins through December 14th. 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!

### **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.

### **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.cotypepeacock@gmail.com](mailto:pat.cotypepeacock@gmail.com)

Dave White, *Jr. Warden* [pacsman1965@comcast.net](mailto:pacsman1965@comcast.net)

*Vestry Class of 2025*

Judy Contreras

Bruce Hillyer

Bill Kehr

*Vestry Class of 2026*

Larry Peacock

Barbara Wheeler

Leila Sullivan

*Vestry Class of 2027*

Vince Contreras

Melissa Wall

Debbie Hunter

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

Pearl & Marine Streets, Beach Haven, NJ 08008