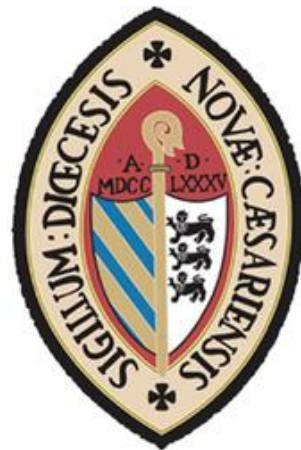
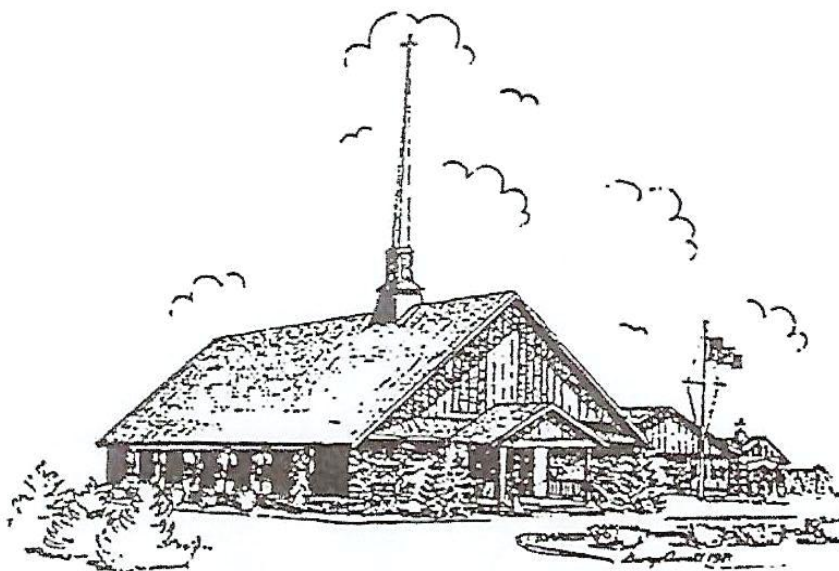


*The Episcopal  
Diocese  
of New Jersey  
at  
Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church*



*The Holy Eucharist  
with  
Receptions Into the Episcopal Church*



*The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents  
23 February 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**

*Love Never Fails*

J.A.C. Redford

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Entrance Hymn #657**    *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

*The people standing, the celebrant says*

*Bishop*        Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***Assembly*    And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*Bishop*        There is one Body and one Spirit;

***Assembly*    There is one hope in God's call to us;**

*Bishop*        One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

***Assembly*    One God and Father of all.**

***Gloria S-280 (all sing)***    ***Gloria in excelsis***

Robert Powell

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

*Bishop*        The Lord be with you.

***Assembly*    And also with you.**

*Bishop*        Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All*       **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 37:1-12, 41-42**   *(Read responsively by whole verse)*

**BCP, p. 633**

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; \*  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, \*  
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; \*  
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

- 4 Take delight in the LORD, \*  
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, \*  
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light \*  
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD \*  
and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, \*  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; \*  
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, \*  
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; \*  
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; \*  
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; \*  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; \*  
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because they seek refuge in him.

## **The Epistle**

## **1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50**

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown

in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn #707** (*Please stand*) *Take My Life, and Let It Be* HOLLINGSIDE

**The Holy Gospel**

**Luke 6:27-38**

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

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

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon** (*Please be seated*)

**The Rt. Rev. Sally J. French**

## **RECEPTIONS INTO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTATION and EXAMINATION of the CANDIDATES**

*The parish formally presents its candidates for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation to the Bishop.* (*Please Stand*)

*Bishop* The Candidates will now be presented.

**Presenter** **We present Deborah Hunter, Joan Melega and Michael Melega to be received into The Episcopal Church.**

*After the candidates have been presented, the Bishop asks the candidates:*

*Bishop* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

**Candidates** **I do.**

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**Candidates** **I do.**

*After all have been presented. The Bishop addresses the congregation saying*

*Bishop* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*Assembly* **I do.**

## THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*Bishop* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

*Assembly* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*Assembly* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*Assembly* **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

*Assembly* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*Assembly* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*Assembly* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*Assembly* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*Assembly* **I will, with God's help.**

*The Celebrant then says to the Congregation*

*Bishop* Let us now pray for Debbie, Joan and Michael who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES**

**BCP, p. 305**

**Leader** Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**



**Leader** Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader** Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

The Bishop says:

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Reception into the Episcopal Church** (*Please be seated*)

**BCP, p. 418**

*The Bishop invites candidates forward. Sponsors and family, please be seated and remain in place during this time. The Bishop extends a hand of welcome and makes the sign of the cross and lays hands on each one and says:*

**For Reception**

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

*When the rites have been completed for all the candidates, all stand as able. The Bishop concludes with this prayer:*

**Bishop** Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** *Amen.*

## The Peace

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* And also with you.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**Offertory** *(Please be seated)* An offering of money is received. All undesignated funds collected during this day will go to support the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

**Offertory Anthem** Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me arr. K. Lee Scott

**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 B**

**BCP, p. 367**

*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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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-129** *(all sing)* Holy, Holy, Holy Lord *(Please kneel)* Robert Powell

*Celebrant* 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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have

delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 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, according to his command, O Father,

**Celebrant and People:**

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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**

Bishop      And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say.

**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**

*Celebrant*      Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People*          **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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

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

David Hurd

## **Music During Communion**

*Veni Sancte Spiritus*

Taizé Community

*Soloist will sing the verses, all sing refrain*

## **Postcommunion Prayer** *(Stand or kneel)*

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.*

## **Episcopal Blessing** *(Please stand)*

*Bishop*          Our help is in the name of the Lord

*Assembly*      **The maker of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Blessed be the name of the Lord.

*Assembly* **From this time forth for ever more.**

*Bishop* The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever.

*All Respond: Amen.*

**Hymn LEVAS #1**      *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

J. Rosamond Johnson

**Dismissal**

**BCP, p. 366**

**Deacon** Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*Assembly Thanks be to God.*

**Postlude**      *Toccata Francais*

Gordon Young

We celebrate our last service during Black History month this Sunday with our final hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing* with lyrics by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) and set to music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954). Written from the context of African Americans in the late 19th century, the hymn (written for the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Birthday) is a prayer of thanksgiving to God as well as a prayer for faithfulness and freedom, with imagery that evokes the biblical Exodus from slavery to the freedom of the "promised land."

Premiered in 1900, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was communally sung within Black American communities, while the NAACP began to promote the hymn as a *Negro national anthem* in 1917 (with the term *Black national anthem* similarly used in the present day). It has been featured in 42 different Christian hymnals, and it has also been performed by various African American singers and musicians.

*Wikipedia*



## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**

### **Presider & Preacher**

The Rt. Rev. Sally J. French, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey

### **Assisting**

The Rev. Peter De Franco

The Rev. Ted Foley, Deacon

### **Bishop's Chaplains**

Leila Sullivan

The Rev. Ted Foley, Deacon

### **Musicians**

Ellen Dondero, Minister of Music

The Choir of Holy Innocents'

John Dondero, Trumpet

### **Crucifer**

John Wall

### **Lector**

Kay DeCicco

### **Ushers & Greeters**

Sue Hughes, Melissa Wall

### **Flowers**

Carol Hammond

### **Videography**

Kimberly Sparks

# CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION, and REAFFIRMATION

Debbie Hunter  
Joan Melega  
Michael Melega

*Please join us for a reception in Martin Hall!*

## **Parish Prayer List – February 23, 2025**

*If you need to add or remove a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.*

Lara Sparks Deitz	Joan Connolly	Mary Ann Crewdson
Dennis	Connie Anderson	Christian Balint
Bob Hendricks	Christine Hendricks	Barry Longenbach
Warren Lamon	Ann White	Pierro Family
Lovas Family	Debbie & Joe Reising	Connie
Joe	Peg Appleget	Dcn. Judy
Lynne Weidmann	Alycia Mullin	Meg Neff
Rob Meyer	Chuck Hall	Tino
Florence Lamon	Melanie Harman	Pat
Kathy Rice	Jessie	Rich
Charles Sullivan	Doug Hunter	Marie Kleber
JoAnn King	Matt Starr	Ellis Barbieri
Judy Hamilton	Cindy Wood	Diane
Linda K.	Linda M.	Ray M.
Gia	Jeannine	Phil
Frank	Gail South	

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

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

**Birthdays:** Connie Anderson (02/26), John Paul Dondero (02/26)  
Sherry Johnson (02/26), Leila Sullivan (02/27), Jo-Anne Entrikin (02/28)  
Barry Baxter (02/28)

**Anniversaries:** Robert & Ellen Meyer (02/26)

**WEEKLY CALENDAR February 24 - 28**

24 – Mon	Morning Prayer (FB)	9:00 AM
	Yoga in MH	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
27 – Thurs	Book Club/Bible Study in MH	2:00 PM
	“Clam-Diggers” AA Group	7:30 PM
	Compline (FB)	9:00 PM
28 – Fri	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	

**CLERGY & STAFF**

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

**WARDENS & VESTRY**

Pat Peacock, *Sr. Warden* pat.cotypepeacock@gmail.com  
Dave White, *Jr. Warden* 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	TBA

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