

The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



("For God So Loved The World," artist unknown, oil on wood, 17th century)

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

Welcome to the Church of the Nativity.

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole
Celebrant: The Rev. Susan Butler
Music Director: Jim Bailiff

Serving Today

Lector: Ashley Williamson
Server & Acolyte: Angeline and Alex Swafford
Prayer Leader: Amanda Oxford
Chalice Bearer: Butch Shaver
Ushers: DeeAnn Schaeffer & Ellie Williamson
Children's SS: Leigh Hinton-Ridling
Altar Guild: Laura Wood
Vestry on Duty: Carol Schaeffer

At the Church of the Nativity, we believe God's love is tremendously powerful, and has a profound effect on individuals, the community, and the world. Our desire is to experience and share God's love so that we may be changed and be the change in the world around us.

We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 11 a.m.
and you are invited to join us.

You are God's beloved child! Thanks be to God!

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CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

2nd Sunday of Lent March 1, 2026 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: **#401 The God of Abraham praise**

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

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. **Amen.**

Kyrie S-91 (beginning of hymnal)

Lord, have mercy upon us,

Lord, have mercy upon us,

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us,

Christ, have mercy upon us,

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading **Genesis 12:1-4a**

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who

curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

Response: **Psalm 121**

Lector: Let us pray Psalm 121 together:

**I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

Second Reading: **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

Lector: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the

adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: **#151 From deepest woe I cry to Thee**

Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-17

Celebrant/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

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

Celebrant/Deacon:

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Celebrant/Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: Rev. Susan Butler

The Creed and Prayers

Celebrant/Deacon: Let us affirm our faith together in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**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.**

Leader: The Prayers of the People are Form I, beginning on page 383 of the Book of Common Prayer.

With all our heart and will all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all people. We pray especially for peace in the
Middle East and the Ukraine, for St. James’ in Knoxville, TN and for All
Angels’ in Spearfish, SD; let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Brian our Bishop, Susan our celebrant,
and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For the leaders of the nations, especially Donald our President, J.D. our
Vice President, our Senators and Representatives, our Supreme Court,
and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For this city, Fort Oglethorpe, for every city and community, and for
those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord:

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will
to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick
and the suffering.

We pray especially for those on our prayer list (names read here, for
others), let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute,
for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them,
We pray especially for our neighbors who are homeless and hungry, let
us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the
departed, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

All: **To you, O Lord our God.**

Silence

The concluding Collect:

Celebrant: O Lord, our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people: in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant/Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

All: **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.

Celebrant: 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. People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The congregation offers one another a sign of peace

Announcements

Offertory

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory **Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, faces them and says:

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 him 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.

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:

Celebrant and People S-102 (beginning of hymnal)

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty , Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

The people stand or kneel and the Celebrant continues....

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues...

...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. **AMEN.**

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.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All who are baptized are welcomed with great joy to the Lord's table. To receive the bread, hold both hands over the altar rail and take the wafer. To receive the wine, either drink from the cup or dip the bread. To receive a blessing, come to the rail with both hands crossed over your chest.

Post Communion Prayer Celebrant: Let us pray.

**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.**

The Celebrant gives the Blessing

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: **#636 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord**

The Celebrant/Deacon says the dismissal

People: **Thanks be to God.**

---We depart in silence---