

# The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



*("The Transfiguration," Raphael, oil on wood, 1516)*

Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 15, 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: Chuck Brown  
Server & Acolyte: Angeline and Alex Swafford  
Prayer Leader: JoLynn Bennett  
Chalice Bearer: Butch Shaver  
Ushers: Nannette Brass, Coleen Sprayberry & Leah Couch  
Children's SS: DeeAnn Schaeffer  
Altar Guild: Laura Wood and Becky Brown  
Vestry on Duty: Doug Woods

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**

**Last Sunday after Epiphany   February 15, 2026   11:00 a.m.**

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn: #460 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

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

People:      **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

**Gloria**

Hymnal S-280

*(service music located in beginning of the hymnal)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your  
glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of  
God.**

**You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. AMEN.**

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

Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Sunday School**

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Response

Lector: Let us pray Psalm 2. **Psalm 2**

**Why are the nations in an uproar?**

**Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?**

**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
and the princes plot together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed?**

**"Let us break their yoke," they say;**

**"let us cast off their bonds from us."**

**He whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
the Lord has them in derision.**

**Then he speaks to them in his wrath,  
and his rage fills them with terror.**

**"I myself have set my king  
upon my holy hill of Zion."**

**Let me announce the decree of the Lord:  
he said to me, "You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you.**

**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

**You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."**

**And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.  
Submit to the Lord with fear,  
and with trembling bow before him;  
Lest he be angry and you perish;  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Happy are they all  
who take refuge in him!**

Second Reading

**2 Peter 1:16-21**

Lector: A reading from the second letter of Peter.

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

Gospel Hymn: **#307 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor**

**Gospel Lesson**

**Matthew 17:1-9**

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

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to

him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Celebrant/Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Rev. Susan Butler

The Creed and Prayers

Celebrant: 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:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Brian our Bishop, and for Susan our Celebrant. We pray for the Clergy Families in East Tennessee; and for the Church Convention.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for our national leaders, Donald our President, J.D. our Vice President, our senators and representatives and our Supreme Court.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East. Are there other places or peoples?

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for the homeless and hungry in our communities.

We pray for those on our prayer list (names here.....) Are there others?

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, (...names from prayer list here, and a pause for congregation to remember others...) that your will for them may be fulfilled and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.* People: **Amen.**

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

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

Doxology **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.**



*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...

*After the Proper Preface, the Celebrant continues*

...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-125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

...Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all  
honor and glory is your, 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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

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

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

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*

Closing Hymn: **#618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones**

*The Celebrant/Deacon says the dismissal*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**