

The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



"Come Unto Me Ye Weary," William W. Collins, watercolor on paper, 1888)

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

Welcome to the Church of the Nativity.

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole
Priest-in-charge: The Rev. Shelley C. Martin
Music Director: Jim Bailiff

Serving Today

Lector: Ashley Williamson
Server & Acolyte: Angeline and Alex Swafford
Prayer Leader: Amanda Oxford
Chalice Bearer: Barbara Redheffer
Ushers: DeeAnne Schaeffer and Ellie Williamson
Children's SS: Stephanie Shell
Altar Guild: Laura Wood
Vestry on Duty: Butch Shaver

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!

The Church of the Nativity
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CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2026 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: #594 God of grace and God of glory

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

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

Presider: 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.**

ALL: #S-280 (service music section in the beginning of the hymnal)

Glorify 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.

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

Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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

First Reading

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given

him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his

mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

Response

Psalm 45: 11-18

Lector: Let us pray a portion of Psalm 45.

**"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely;
forget your people and your father's house.**

**The king will have pleasure in your beauty;
he is your master; therefore do him honor.**

**The people of Tyre are here with a gift;
the rich among the people seek your favor."**

**All glorious is the princess as she enters;
her gown is cloth-of-gold.**

**In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king;
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.**

**With joy and gladness they are brought,
and enter into the palace of the king.**

**"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons;
you shall make them princes over all the earth.**

**I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another;
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."**

Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

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

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Gospel Hymn: #599 **Lift every voice and sing**

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Rev. Shelley C. Martin

The Creed and Prayers

Presider: 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 Shelley,
our priest. We pray for our country and for sound government .

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.**

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 Presider 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:

Presider 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; Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest.**

(People now stand or kneel)

Presider

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation.....

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father

Presider and People

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

The Presider 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....

...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.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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

All 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 Presider gives the blessing

Closing Hymn: **#716 God bless our native land**

The Presider says the dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude