

# The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



(*"The Parable of the Weeds,"* Domenico Fetti, oil on panel, 1620)

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

## **Welcome to the Church of the Nativity.**

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

### **Serving Today**

Lector: Leigh Rogers  
Server & Acolyte: Angeline and Alex Swafford  
Prayer Leader: JoLynn Bennett  
Chalice Bearer: Butch Shaver  
Ushers: Leah Couch and Nannette Brass  
Children's SS: Stephanie Shell  
Altar Guild: Laura Wood and Becky Brown  
Vestry on Duty: Debbie Dodski

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**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost    July 19, 2026    11:00 a.m.**

*As we prepare for worship, we invite you to be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place and of the connection we share as prayerful members of the Body of Christ.*

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn: #423    Immortal, Invisible, God only wise**

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)

**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.**

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Response

**Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23**

Lector: Let us pray a portion of Psalm 139.

**Lord, you have searched me out and known me;**

**you know my sitting down and my rising up;**

**you discern my thoughts from afar.**

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places**

**and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,**

**but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

**You press upon me behind and before**

**and lay your hand upon me.**

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;**

**it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

**Where can I go then from your Spirit?**

**where can I flee from your presence?**

**If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Even there your hand will lead me  
and your right hand hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,  
and the light around me turn to night,"  
Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.  
Search me out, O God, and know my heart;  
try me and know my restless thoughts.  
Look well whether there be any wickedness in me  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

**Second Reading**

**Romans 8:12-25**

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

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

Gospel Hymn: **#453 As Jacob with travel was weary one day**

**Gospel Lesson**

**Matthew 13:24-30,36-43**

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

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Rev. Shelley Martin-Grimes

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 the unity of the Church and for the human  
family.

*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 every where 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: **#344 Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing**

*The Presider says the dismissal*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**