

The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



(*"The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew,"* Duccio di Buoninsegna, tempera on panel, 1308)

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 18, 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: Wally Russell
Chalice Bearer: Butch Shaver
Ushers: Nannette Brass, Coleen Sprayberry & Leah
Couch
Children's SS: DeeAnn Schaeffer
Altar Guild: Laura Wood & Becky Brown
Vestry on Duty: DeeAnn 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!

The Church of the Nativity
1201 Cross Street
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
706-866-9773 (Office)
nativityfto@gmail.com

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 18, 2026 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

“Tell Out My Soul” --- choir

Opening Hymn: #535 Ye servants of God

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.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Sunday School

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Listen to me, O coastlands,

pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born,

while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow,

in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain,

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my cause is with the Lord,

and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says,

who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,

and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,

and my God has become my strength--

he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,

the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up,

princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

because of the Lord, who is faithful,

the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Response

Lector: Let us pray a portion of Psalm 40.

Psalm 40:1-12

I waited patiently upon the Lord;
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay;
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the Lord.
Happy are they who trust in the Lord!
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.
Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us!
there is none who can be compared with you.
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!
but they are more than I can count.
In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure
(you have given me ears to hear you);
Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required,
and so I said, "Behold, I come.
In the roll of the book it is written concerning me:
'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'"
I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation;
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.
Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great
congregation.
You are the Lord;
do not withhold your compassion from me;
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Lector: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Gospel Hymn: **#439 What wondrous love is this**

Gospel Lesson

John 1:29-42

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

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

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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 Christ Church in Chattanooga, TN; St. Andrew's in Cherry Creek, SD; St. James' in Bear Creek, SD; St. Luke in

Iron Lightning, SD; St. Peter in Thunder Butte, SD; and for St. Phillip in Dupree, SD.

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.**

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...

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 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: **#542 Christ is the world's true light**

The Celebrant/Deacon says the dismissal

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude