THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHATTANOOGA, IN THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

DECEMBER 24, 2023–8:00 P.M.

Welcome to worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church!

We are glad that you are here.

PRELUDE OF CAROLS

St. Peter's Parish Choir Tim Hinck, Organist & Choirmaster

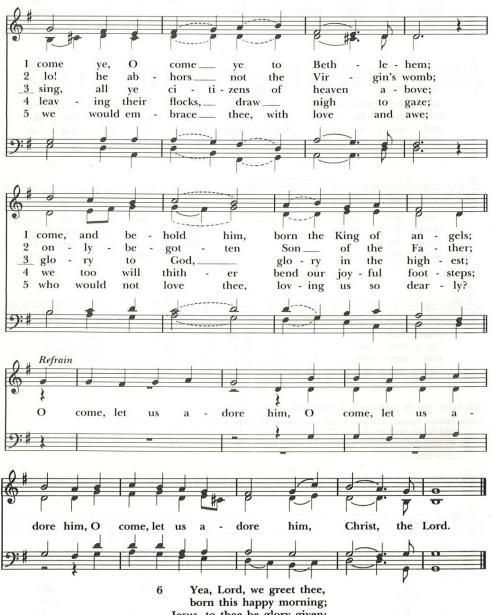
"Hail, All Hail the Glorious Morn" - arr. Ivan Trusler
"Coventry Carol" - arr. William Vollinger
"Sweet Baby, Sleep" - Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Darrell Peter
"Before the Marvel of This Night" - Carl Schalk

THE WORD OF GOD

Please stand and join in singing the hymn.

OPENING HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Hymn 83)





born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others Music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

Irr.

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

THE GLORIA: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Hymn 96, v 1)



Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

77. 77 with Refrain

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and

reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON (Isaiah 9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; * sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
 he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; * let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth.

THE SECOND LESSON (Titus 2:11-14)

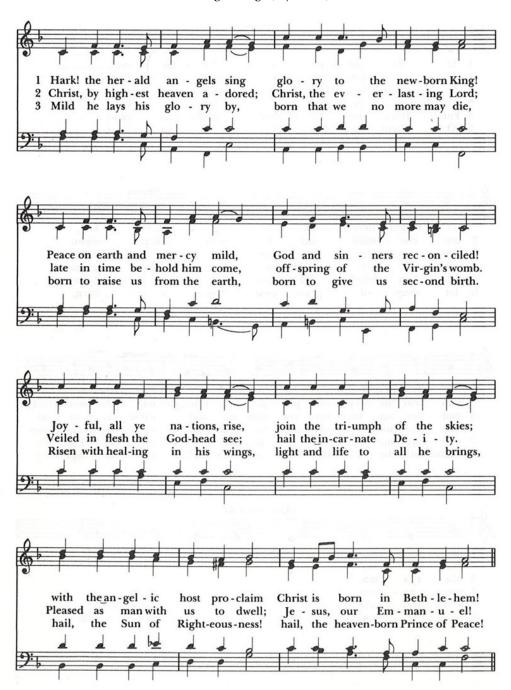
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand and join in singing the hymn.







Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William

H. Cummings (1831-1915)

77. 77. D with Refrain

THE GOSPEL (Luke 2:1-20)

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. John H. Bonner III

Please stand.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (The people stand or kneel.)

Intercessor Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into

his marvelous light. Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to

know you, to worship you, and to serve you. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church

to reveal the mystery of your love and fill us with the Spirit of your truth. Lord,

in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the

nations and bring about your kingdom of justice and righteousness. Lord, in

your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all

your children, bless our families, and renew our communities. Lord, in your

mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through your birth, life, death,

and resurrection: by your healing power give to the departed eternal rest and

give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

The Priest adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE BCP 360

The People stand to greet one another.

Priest The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

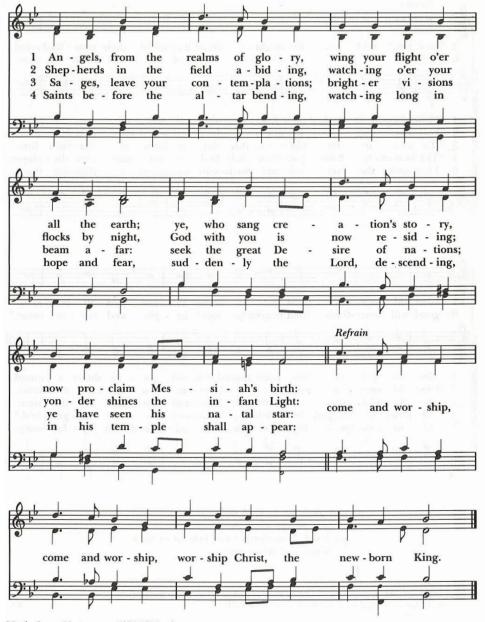
People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the Eucharistic table is set, the ushers collect offerings from the congregation. If you prefer to make an online donation, please use this QR code.



OFFERTORY HYMN: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (Hymn 93)



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

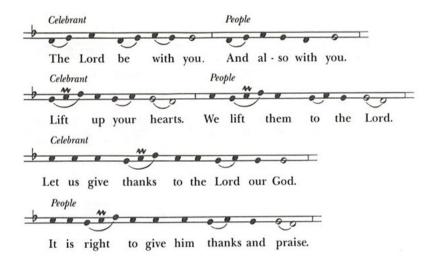
87. 87. 87

THE HOLY COMMUNION

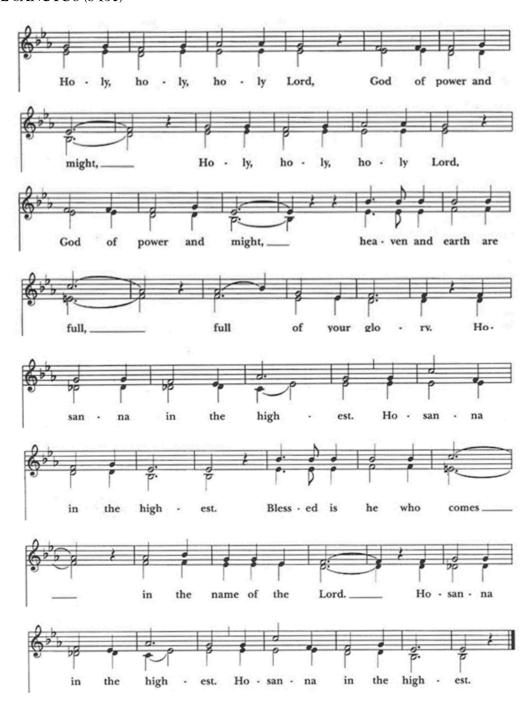
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP 367

Sursum Corda (S-120)



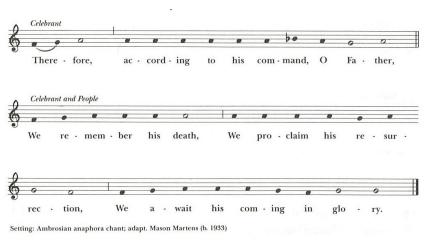
Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:



Priest (*The people stand or kneel.*) We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

The Memorial Acclamation (S-136)



Priest 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. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be

acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the blessed Virgin Mary, St. Peter, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

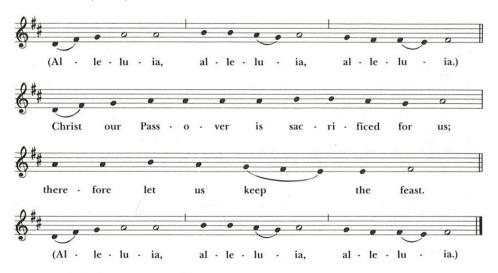
Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All 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

BCP 364

Fraction Anthem (S-154)



Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950)

THE AGNUS DEI (S-164)



Setting: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited to receive the bread and wine. Come up the center aisle to receive the Eucharist at the altar rail. Return to your pew using the side aisle. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please let the clergy know by crossing your arms in front of you at the altar. The chalice will be offered to all. If you prefer not to receive, you may choose to reverently acknowledge the presence of Christ in the wine, while the minister says, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

COMMUNION HYMN: "The First Nowell" (Hymn 109)





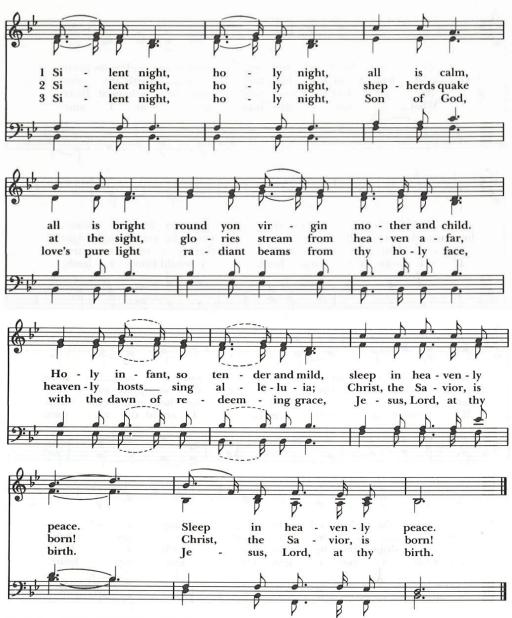
6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: The First Nowell, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

Irr. with Refrain

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: "Silent Night" (Hymn 111)



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All 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 CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand.



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

CM with Repeat

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Lectors: Laura Burgess (OT), Caroline Johnson (NT)
Intercessor: Patti Amorello; Livestream / Audio: John Trieber
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Chip & Rena Stansbury
Thurifer: Shanda Schmitt; Acolytes: Kelsey Aebi, Jessie Long, Sterling Porter
Ushers: Fonda Harwell, Kris Riefler

The Open Offering is for the Mission & Ministry of St. Peter's Church.

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The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God

And in Loving Memory of

Conde & Jamie Alday by Kathy Alday
The Rev. Dr. Ralph L. Carnes by The Rev. Dr. Valerie Carnes
The Rev. & Hon. Sam Payne by The Rev. Dr. Valerie Carnes
The Rev. Walter JRR Thomas by The Rev. Dr. Valerie Carnes
John W. Edde by Jeanne Edde

John William Batterham Lindsey and Jimme Lee Lindsey by Pete & Anne Garland Alexander Bonnyman Garland and Willetta Ball Garland by Pete & Anne Garland

Alice "Dallie" Pinegar by Pete & Anne Garland
Pamela Kaye Greene by James & June Glass
Chief Justice Muecke Barker by Tom & Kathy Greenholtz
Max Bahner by Tom & Kathy Greenholtz
Ray Hannah by the Hannah Family
Dr. Sue C. Cox by Jaye & Susan Harris
Glen Harris, Sr. by Jaye & Susan Harris
Jim & Jackie Hunt by Jaye & Susan Harris

Tucker Hunt by Jaye & Susan Harris
Tami Collier by Fonda & Patty Harwell

John E. & Neely Harwell by Fonda & Patty Harwell Jack & Sara Payne by Fonda & Patty Harwell Edward S. James by Bill James

Clarence & Loretta Kazmier by Fred & Joani Koch Priscilla Koch by Fred & Joani Koch My loving nephew, John Sellman, by Mary Alice Northern

Marie Middleton Orman by Jack Shannon Orman Ralph Cox by Jenks & Harriett Parker

Nola Kennedy by Jenks & Harriett Parker William Mabry by Jenks & Harriett Parker Alice Parker by Jenks & Harriett Parker

Mr. & Mrs. Fain Parker by Jenks & Harriett Parker
John Parker by Jenks & Harriett Parker
Ann Swafford by Jenks & Harriett Parker
Cathey Lowe Higgins by Carolyn Payne
Frances Lowe by Carolyn Payne
Richard Lowe by Carolyn Payne
Ernestine Cunningham Payne by Carolyn Payne

The Rev. Sam Payne by Carolyn Payne

Julia Reilly Fields by Mary Jane Reilly
George & Jean Riefler by Rachel Riefler
Gladys Riefler by Rachel Riefler
Jack & Marion McDaniel by Rachel Riefler
Wanda Sharp and Roy Van Allen by Bonnie Rodgers
Bob & Judy Boehme, Papa Cody & Eloise Smith, and Tom Toussaint by Josh & Cyndie Smith
Charles & Shirley Topping by their sons and their families
A.J. & Louisa, Bernard & Flossie, Charlie & Dot, Charlie & Marylynn, Jack & Margaret
The Rev. Hallie D. Warren, Jr.

And in Honor of

Alexandra, Madison, and Mason Bixler by David Bixler
Our family by John & Debbie Bonner
Duncan by Jaye & Susan Harris
Jack & Victoria by Jaye & Susan Harris
Riley, Melissa, Aaron, Jaxx, Aurora, Piper and Lillie by Jaye & Susan Harris
Carter Paden by Fonda & Patty Harwell
Nancy Cope James by Bill James
Ryan, Betsy, Emily, and Caroline Gentzler by Frank & Gail Pinchak
Sathish & Katie Chandra by Frank & Gail Pinchak
The Rev. F. Quinn Parman IV by Frank & Gail Pinchak
Sharilyn Toussaint by Josh & Cyndie Smith
Jaclynn, Mac, and Trey & Bridget
Dixie Warren

And in Thanksgiving for

Augusta, Hartley, Odin, and Oliver by Betsy Beckham
The people of St. Peter's Church by Allen & Tina Chambers
James & June Glass by Tom & Kathy Greenholtz
St. Peter's Church staff by Jaye & Susan Harris
Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren by Fonda & Patty Harwell
The Very Rev. John H. Bonner III by Fonda & Patty Harwell
Bill Kazmier by Fred & Joani Koch
My children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren by Jack Shannon Orman
Our grandchildren by William & Sarah Orman
The Very Rev. John H. Bonner III by Jenks & Harriett Parker
My children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren by Carolyn Payne
St. Peter's Episcopal School by Frank Pinchak
Carly, Will, and Hollis Berry; Cody, Blair, and Eloise Smith by Josh & Cyndie Smith

The wreaths in the Nave are given to the Glory of God

And in Loving Memory of

My mother, Janet Fassinger, by Susan Crawford
John William Batterham Lindsey & wife, Jimmie Lee Lindsey, by Pete & Anne Garland
Jack & Sara Payne and John & Neely Harwell by Fonda & Patty Harwell
Tami Collier by Fonda & Patty Harwell
Jimmy & Susie Lynch and Arthur & Alma Dutton by Alan Baird & Cassandra Lynch
Calvin Baird and Wanda Ingalls by Alan Baird & Cassandra Lynch
Mapes Painter and Betty Painter Radford by Barbara Painter
James L. "Bucky" Wolford by Diane Wolford

And in Honor of

Lois Baird by Alan Baird & Cassandra Lynch

And in Thanksgiving for

Hank and Jessie Long by Kirt & Chassie Long
Our grandchildren by Bill & Sarah Orman
My family by Jack Shannon Orman
The people of St. Peter's Church & School by the Parman Family
The St. Peter's Altar Guild and Flower Guild by Sarah Poole
Our family by Chip & Rena Stansbury

The Nativity pieces displayed at the Altar and in the Narthex are a gift to the glory of God from Jack Shannon Orman.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Prayer for Our Clergy Search

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: Look graciously upon us and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new priest for this parish. Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Guide the members of our Vestry, as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will. We pray for the life of our parish that we may continue in our mission to proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Christ's sake. Amen.

St. Peter's Church Staff

Church Office Hours: M-F, 9am to 4pm; 423-877-2428

The Very Rev. John H. Bonner III, Interim Rector

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