



The Incarnation Word

January 2025

We love and serve the Lord by loving and serving others.

It's January, so my gym is full of newbies brimming with enthusiasm and resolve. This will be the year they finally get it all together, get into shape, and get control over their lives. This will be the year we all change who we are and turn our lives into the vision of perfection we believe they should be.

But there's one problem with that goal: we're human. We're flawed, limited, and weak. We're not at all in control of our lives. And we're the beloved children of God just the way we are.

When our New Year's Resolutions ignore that reality, they become projects that are impossible to achieve and set us up for failure and self-loathing.

So what if this year we resolved instead to be more connected to our beloved-ness? What if, instead of trying to make ourselves better, we decided to become more aware of the ways God has already

gifted us with abilities to share? What if we were kinder to ourselves, treating ourselves as beloved by God?

That's a lovely thought, but what would that look like in real life? I think that would look like time spent with our church family and others who love us just the way we are. It might include keeping a journal in which each day we note something in ourselves for which we're grateful. And it might require less time on social media or in front of a TV that floods us with negativity and impossibly high

standards of perfection.

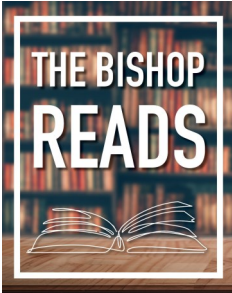
But wouldn't it be freeing to accept who God created us to be and learn to appreciate ourselves just the way we are? And maybe even encourage others to do the same?

God's Peace,
Jenny+



— Christian Education —

Adult Ed – John’s Gospel Sundays at 9:30



The Bishop has a new challenge for us this year – in each quarter of the year we’ll read and discuss a book together. The Bishop will be reading

along with us, and will share his thoughts in his EDUSC podcast, Coffee with the Bishop and in his regular diocesan communication, Notes Along the Way. We begin this month in the Gospel of John. You’re encouraged to select a commentary to read along with the gospel. On Sunday mornings we’ll gather to share insights from our various studies. Join us! Here are the readings each week:

Week 1 - January 12-18

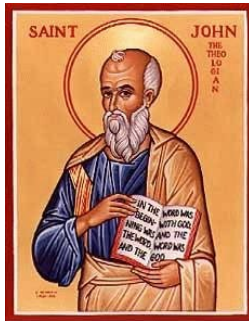
John 1-2

Week 2 - January 19-25

John 3-4

Week 3 - January 26 – February 1

John 5-6 (no class)



Godly Play Sundays at 9:30

This month our children experience some of Jesus’ teachings. The stories are:

January 11 - Jesus is Baptized



John took the people through the Jordan River to baptize them, and then he baptized Jesus too. I wonder how they felt when they came

out of the water?

January 18 - Parable of the Great Pearl

Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a great pearl. I wonder what a great pearl could be? I wonder what we could exchange for it?



January 25 - Parable of the Mustard Seed



Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. I wonder what it would be like to be a bird that lives in that kind of tree?

Children's Chapel Sundays at 10:30



During the 10:30 service, the children who choose to cross to the chapel after the Children's Sermon for their special time, learning the basic prayers of our faith and hearing and responding to the gospel at their level. They'll return to their families at the Peace.

Education for Ministry Tuesdays at 11:30

We'll meet at 11:30 on Tuesdays for lunch, worship, and study together. A recent discussion centered around humility - where we see examples in scripture, where we've experienced it in ourselves and others, and what our culture has to say about it. Our prayer was that God would give us the humility not to be jerks!



Administration

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 4 9:00 am



Bring a breakfast item to share as we gather and meet (breakfast casseroles, muffins or pastries, fruit, etc.) We'll fill our plates and as we eat, we'll meet. We'll vote on a budget for 2026. We'll thank Ellie Bird for her years as Treasurer and welcome Ed Harkins as our new Treasurer.

We'll thank Don Bird for his years of service on vestry and we'll elect three new vestry members from the following nominees:

Niccie Dearing
Nancy Fowler
Ben Torres.

We'll also thank Robin Childers and Jennie Hamrick for their years serving as delegates to Convention. And we'll elect two new delegates from the floor.

Come make your voice heard and celebrate all God is doing among us.

Hospitality

Supper Clubs

Want to get to know a few parishioners and share meals together? Sign up to be part of a Supper Club! You'll be divided into groups of about 8 people. You'll aim to get together about once a month, with the hosting duties rotating among group members. The host typically prepares the main dish and group members bring sides and dessert, although the host may suggest going Dutch at a restaurant as well. Gatherings are always BYOB.

Mardi Gras Oyster Roast Saturday, February 7, 2026



Tickets to our Oyster Roast are on sale! We'll have oysters (raw, steamed, and fried), boiled shrimp, and fried fish plus jambalaya, slaw, and hush puppies. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$15 for children ages 7-12, and free for those 6 and under. Single-serving to-go plates are available for \$20. Want to help make this event possible? Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway to be part of the fun!

Outreach

Bread from Heaven

Last month we saw a noticeable increase in need for the food we provide through Bread from Heaven. We've received big donations from Wal-Mart and Hunters for the Hungry, but we could still use items for our miscellaneous shelf: peanut butter; canned proteins like beef stew, chicken, or deviled ham; boxed mac and cheese; and hearty soups. And we always need canned vegetables, especially greens and succotash.



This month's schedule is

Thursday, January 15

10:00 Set Up and Unload Produce

Saturday, January 17

8:30 Serve our Shoppers



Pastoral Care

Birthdays

January 1 Ben Torres
January 8 Bobbi Albert
January 12 Pat Throneburg
January 12 Patterson Greene
January 19 Zoe Dearing
January 20 Lynne Harkins
January 23 Teresa Rhymer

Todd Kaderabek
Deloris Livingston
Garrett Moss
Pat Murray
June Oman
Gary Pope, Sr.
Greg Power
Jane Russell
Dever and Carolyn Smith
Ken Smith
Linda Wilkins

Prayer List

Those with Long-Term Needs:

Betina Alexander
Gail Barzee
Lauren Bridges
Kristie Camp
Tom Cooper
Billy Corbett
Michael Darnell
Ida May Glidden
Hope Greene

Those Expecting Children:

Sarah Saylor & Christopher Clinton,
family of the McCullys
Thames and Ty Higginbotham, niece
of Jenny Gettys
Rory and Abby Marett

Thanksgivings:

The birth of Ann Wellington McVey,
family of the McCullys

January Readings

January 4, 2nd Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 84:1-8, Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a, Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

January 11, 1st Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 18, 2nd Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-12, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

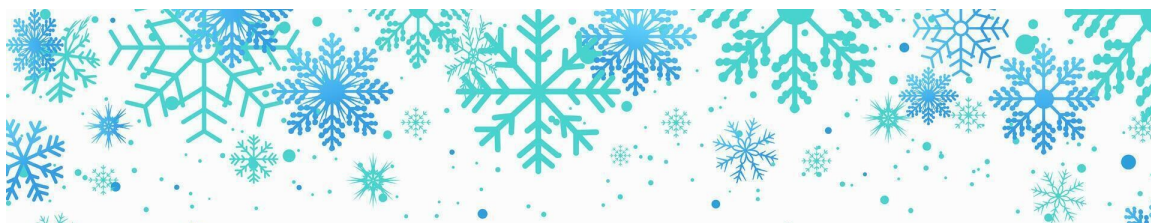
January 25, 3rd Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 5-13, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

— January Servers

| Date | January 4 2nd Christmas 10:00 | January 11 1st Epiphany 10:30 | January 18 2nd Epiphany 10:30 | January 25 3rd Epiphany 10:30 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Altar Guild | Sudie Gelok Nancy Fowler | Marty Marett Hope Greene | Dawn Bridges Jennie Hamrick | Joette Johnson Niccie Dearing Lucia Nagel |
| Coffee Hr. | Breakfast | Marty Marett | Robin Childers | Joette Johnson |
| Godly Play | None | Cora Torres Jasmine Dorsett | Scott & Cynthia Glidden | Angharad Torres Jen Spencer |
| Greeters | Ed and Jackie Hoffman | Charlie Zinko Niccie Dearing | Dorsett Family | Jen Spencer Joette Johnson |
| Dig Greet | Niccie Dearing | Angharad Torres | Niccie Dearing | Ben Torres |
| Camera | Max Hyde | Angharad Torres | Niccie Dearing | Ben Torres |
| Nursery | Available | Marty Marett | Cora Torres | Angharad Torres |
| Chapel | None | Jasmine Dorsett | Angharad Torres | Morgan Johnson |
| Euch Min | Robin Childers | Niccie Dearing | Cynthia Glidden | Niccie Dearing |
| Acolyte | Ellie Bird | Cora Torres | Asher Torres | Niccie Dearing |
| 1st Lector | Scott Glidden | Noah Lindemann | John Gelok | Cora Torres |
| 2nd Lec- | Jen Spencer | Gena Poovey | Marilou Dutra | Bobbi Albert |
| Interces. | Niccie Dearing | Scott Glidden | Jasmine Dorsett | Ellie Bird |
| Counters | Scott Glidden Ed Hoffman | Ellie Bird Nancy Fowler | John Gelok Cynthia Glidden | Ben Torres Niccie Dearing |
| Flowers | Available | Available | Jenny Gettys | Available |
| Pew | Julia Johnson | Asher Torres | Mimi McCully | Angharad Torres |

January Calendar



| Sunday | Mon | Tues | Weds | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 28 1st Christmas 8:30 HE Rite II 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 HE Rite II | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 |
| 4 2nd Christmas 9:00 Breakfast and Annual Meeting 10:00 Lessons & Carols with Eucharist | 5 | 6 11:30 EfM | 7 9:00 Worship Com. | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 1st Epiphany 8:30 HE Rite II 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 HE Rite II 11:45 Vestry Retreat | 12 | 13 11:30 EfM | 14 10:00 DOK | 15 10:00 BfH Set-Up | 16 | 17 8:30-12:00 Bread fr. Heaven |
| 18 2nd Epiphany 8:30 HE Rite II 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 HE Rite II | 19 MLK, Jr Day | 20 11:30 EfM | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 3rd Epiphany 8:30 HE Rite II 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 HE Rite II | 26 | 27 11:30 EfM 2:00 Homeless Court | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
308 College Drive
Gaffney, SC 29340
864-489-6183

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation



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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards | Bishop of Upper S. C. |
| The Rev. Jenny Gettys | Rector |
| Mrs. Angharad Torres | Parish Secretary / Bookkeeper |
| Mrs. Bobbi Albert | Choir Director |
| Mr. Matt Compton | Organist |

2026 Vestry

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Niccie Dearing | Joette Johnson |
| Nancy Fowler | Morgan Johnson |
| John Gelok | Ben Torres |
| Scott Glidden | Charlie Zinko |

ex officio Ed Harkins, Treasurer
ex officio, Cynthia Glidden, Clerk