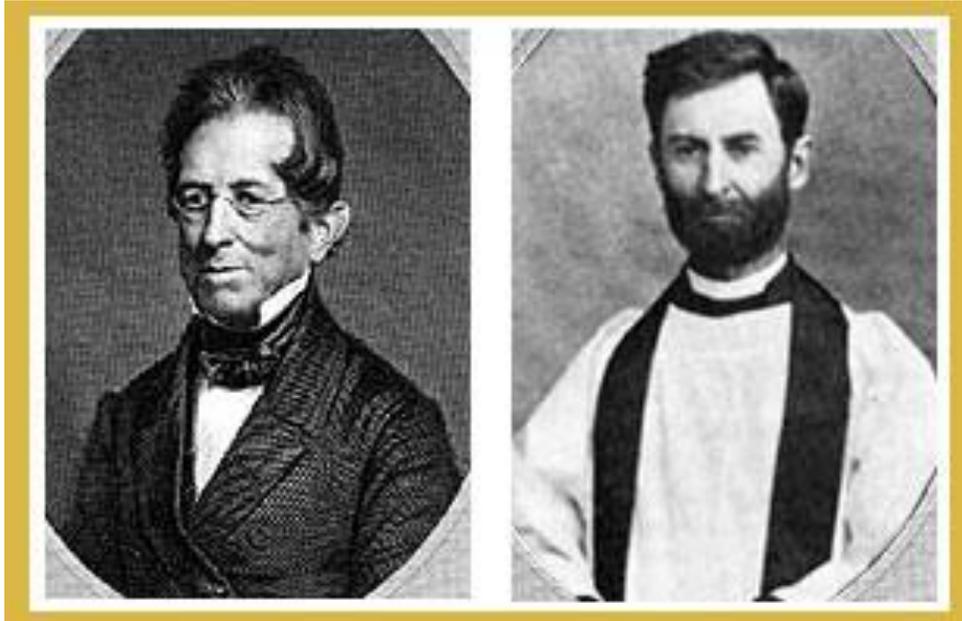




## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

August 19, 2025 Newsletter  
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



[Thomas Gallaudet and Henry Winter Syle](#)

Priests, 1902 and 1890

Ministry to the deaf in the Episcopal Church begins with Thomas Gallaudet and his protégé, Henry Winter Syle. Without Gallaudet's genius and zeal for the spiritual well-being of deaf persons, it is improbable that a history of ministry to the deaf in the Episcopal Church could be written. He has been called "The Apostle to the Deaf." Henry Winter Syle was encouraged by Gallaudet to offer himself for ordination as a priest. He was ordained as a deacon in 1876, the first deaf person to be ordained in the Episcopal Church, and later ordained as a priest in 1883. In 1888, he built All Souls Church for the Deaf in Philadelphia, the first Episcopal church constructed especially for deaf persons.

### **Sermon Reflection: The Fire of Faith: Why Jesus Divides and Unites.**

This week's Gospel (Luke 12:49-56) delivers a fiery, urgent message from Jesus about division, truth, and transformation. Father Harold Lockett opened our service by expressing that it was his "joy, privilege, and pleasure to be with the Advent congregation once again." His homily confronted a pressing challenge: division fractures our world, nation, and churches, often beyond our comfort zone. Yet, he reminded us that "God is always good, always present, and calls us to pursue peace as the path forward." Let's explore Jesus' words and how they inspire us to heal divides through love.

As Jesus journeys toward His crucifixion, He declares, "I came to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" This "fire" evokes the Holy Spirit's power, God's purifying judgment, or the refining work of

His kingdom—think of the burning bush or the pillar of fire guiding Israel. But this mission has a cost. Jesus speaks of a “baptism”, His impending death and resurrection, which He faces with resolve despite “great stress.”

Shockingly, Jesus says He brings not peace but division. He warns that His truth divides even families— “father against son, son against father.” In a culture where family unity was sacred, this was radical: following Jesus could mean alienation or persecution. Yet, Jesus doesn’t seek conflict; His message demands a choice—follow Him or turn away.

Finally, Jesus rebukes the crowd for their spiritual blindness. They read weather signs— “a cloud rising in the west” means rain—but miss the “present time,” God’s kingdom arriving through Him. His words call us to radical decision-making, revealing the transformative cost of our Christian faith.

Jesus’ fire purifies, but it divides when hearts respond differently to His truth. As Father Lockett emphasized, the church’s mission is to bridge these divides through peace. How? By living Christ’s love in three ways:

1. **Open Hearts with Love:** Loving those different from us sows peace in a fractured world.
2. **Embrace Forgiveness:** Forgiveness, though hard, transforms us and unites others when we seek it and offer it.
3. **Be Christlike:** Walk as Jesus did—be the Good Samaritan, generous, compassionate, and loving.

Jesus’ fire starts with us. In a divided world, we’re called to choose Christ and reflect His love. Father Lockett urged, “If we open our hearts, forgive, and embody Christ’s compassion, we can change the world.”

Love opens our hearts and brings peace. To be more Christlike in our lives, we should forgive one another, accept forgiveness from others, and love one another. Let’s embrace the fire of faith—not to divide, but to unite through love and forgiveness.

Let us strive to become instruments of love and change the world.

***Reflection Question: How can you “keep your lamp lit” this week through one small act of faith? What’s one way I can show love or unity to others today, despite differences or conflict?***

Peace be with you,  
Kim

**Priest recruitment:** We continue to await the Bishop's approval of our candidate for permanent Rector. The process has been delayed by the schedules of those in charge at the Diocese. As such, we will have a supply priest for the next two Sundays. The Reverend Cheryl Brainard will lead the prayer service at 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. services. She is a part of the clergy staff at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens as a part-time associate with a concentration on congregational care. Additionally, she has served as a hospital chaplain for over 15 years, and currently serves as a part-time chaplain at Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital. We anticipate welcoming our new rector-in-charge very soon.

**Musical Performance – August 24:** The Lux Treble Choir, co-founded and co-directed by Ashley Conway and Emily Allison, will present a concert at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on **Sunday, August 24th at 4pm**. This auditioned choir is comprised of 40 women from across the state of Georgia, many of whom are music educators. Their program, titled "Moving Forward", explores our journey through life. The texts reflect life’s highs and lows, honoring the resilience, growth, and hope that come from pressing onward. More information about Lux can be found at [luxsings.org](http://luxsings.org). This concert is free. Emmanuel Episcopal Church is located in Athens at

498 Prince Avenue, just across the street from Birdies. Free parking is available in the lot behind the Golden Pantry/Shell gas station.

**Parish House Renovation:** We now are ready to schedule a parish-wide meeting to display the conceptual drawings. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, September 7, after the 10:30 service** in the Parish House. Please mark your calendar. As a reminder, the major elements of the project are:

1. Replace the parish house roof.
2. Create two first floor handicapped restrooms from the existing restrooms, chapel, and storage spaces.
3. Create new storage for tables and chairs from the remainder of the chapel.
4. Create new expanded back-of-building porches and stairs with roofs.
5. Replace and enlarge the existing handicapped ramp.
6. Renovate or modify the kitchen to improve usability and functionality, including replacing flooring.
7. Improve handicapped parking and access.
8. Improve landscaping (plan to be developed).

**Rota for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 24, 2025**

LEM: 10:30 A.M. Roman  
Altar Guild: Bennett-Roman  
Flower Guild: Eskew  
1st Reading: K Jackson  
2nd Reading: Hillman  
Vestry of the Day: Booker  
Organ Tech: M Dartnell

**Readings for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 24, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10  
The Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6  
Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29  
The Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

**Parish Prayer List**

Jack Armistead, Dann Brown, Jay Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Julie Hancock Jones, Mary Mack Jones, Jan Kozel, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jerry Maddoz, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Dennis Reeder, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Betty Thomas, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jay Whitcomb.

**August Birthdays:** 18 Avery Jackson, Malin Dartnell, Gail Thompson, 24 Reese Freyer, IV, 26 Jamie Crotts

**Recurring weekly calendar**

Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM  
Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM  
Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM  
Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM  
Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon  
Madison AA group: Th, Su @7:30 PM, F @ 7:00 PM

## **The Episcopal Church of the Advent**

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