



## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

August 27, 2025 Newsletter

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



### **Moving Closer to God**

Our guest rector, The Reverend Cheryl Brainard, began her sermon with a powerful image from Dorotheos of Gaza, a sixth-century monk born around AD 500 in Antioch. He described our journey toward God as a circle with a dot in the center—God Himself. We stand on the rim, and as we move toward the center, we draw closer to God. Dorotheos added spokes, representing other people, showing that as we each move toward God, we grow closer to one another, forming a community centered on Him. But when we chase worldly distractions—our own desires or fears—we drift away from God and each other.

This image sets the stage for today's readings, which show how God calls us closer through trust and compassion. In Jeremiah 1:4-10, we meet a young prophet who feels unworthy of God's call to speak to the nations. He protests, "I am only a youth," but God reassures him, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you to deliver you." God appoints Jeremiah to "build and plant" (Jer. 1:10), a mission to restore His people by uprooting what divides them from Him and planting seeds of hope and renewal. Like Jeremiah, Moses, and Abraham, we may feel inadequate, but God calls us to trust His presence, drawing us closer through obedience to His purpose of restoration.

This call to restore God's people finds a powerful echo in the Gospel of Luke 13:10-17. Jesus is teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath when He sees a woman crippled for 18 years, bent over and unable to stand. In a bold act, He calls her forward—into a space where women were often sidelined—and says, "Woman, you are set free." He touches her, and she stands upright, praising God. This story, unique to Luke's Gospel, is a teachable moment. Just as Jeremiah was called to build and plant, Jesus restores this "daughter of Abraham" to wholeness, bringing her back into the community of God's people. His healing fulfills the same mission: to renew and unite God's people through compassion.

Jesus' actions also challenge the synagogue leader's strict Sabbath rules, showing that God's law is about love and mercy. By healing this woman, Jesus demonstrates that the Sabbath's purpose—to honor God by blessing others—aligns with God's restorative work. As Jeremiah built and planted through words of hope, Jesus builds and plants through acts of love, drawing both the woman and the crowd closer to God.

These stories challenge us to ask: How are we moving closer to God? Throughout life, we hear many voices—our own desires, the world's temptations, or God's gentle call. One way to discern God's voice is to ask: Are we being drawn into community? God's work for us is the work the world needs us to do—work that restores and unites. Like Jesus, we can reach out to the marginalized: perhaps by volunteering at a local shelter or listening to someone who feels unseen. These acts of love draw us closer to God and to one another.

As we reflect on Jeremiah's trust and Jesus' compassion, let's commit to moving toward the center of the circle—toward God—knowing that as we do, we'll find ourselves closer to one another, in a community of love and healing. May we, like Jeremiah, trust God's call to build and plant, and like Jesus, extend His love to restore those around us.

***Reflection Question: This week, how can you move closer to God by reaching out to someone in need?***

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.

**Hospitality update** – Advent hospitality received an enthusiastic injection of vitality at last week's forum. The discussion was comprehensive, covering major topics that require hospitality engagement. Interest in how hospitality is done at Advent has been energetic. Thank you to all who have shown interest and an ongoing invitation for more parishioner involvement. A follow up meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, at 5:00. See you there! [vicjackson@aol.com](mailto:vicjackson@aol.com)

**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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 31, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson / 10:30 A.M. Crown

Altar Guild: Jackson Lewis-Hawkins-Pike-Hilsman

Flower Guild: Permar

1st Reading: D Dartnell

2nd Reading: M Dartnell

Vestry of the Day: D Dartnell

Organ Tech: K Jackson

**Readings for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 31, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Jeremiah 2:4-13

The Psalm: Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

**Parish Prayer List**

Jack Armistead, Sue Baldwin, Dann Brown, Jay Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, 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, Betsy VanLaanen, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jay Whitcomb.

We offer a prayer of thanksgiving for Jeanne DuFort's recovery from cancer as she celebrates her first anniversary of being cancer-free.

September Birthdays: 1 Alexander Reid, 4 Penny Lyle, 14 Vic Jackson, 15 Maryann Dartnell, 17 Julie Jenkins, 20 Ray Bennett, 20 Alex Branch, 26 Devon Dartnell, Harrison Yost, 28 William Wood Burriss

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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