



**The Episcopal Church of the Advent  
September 2, 2025 Newsletter  
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**



**A Seat at God's Table**

This Sunday, we gathered around the Gospel of Luke 14:1, 7-14, where Jesus invites us to a banquet that reshapes how we live and love. The Rev. Cheryl Brainard reminded us that “Luke’s Gospel is filled with meals—more than any other Gospel.” At a Pharisee’s dinner table, Jesus shares timeless lessons on humility and hospitality that speak to our hearts today.

In verses 7-11, Jesus notices guests vying for the best seats and offers a parable: don’t claim the place of honor, or you may be asked to move down, feeling humbled. Instead, choose the lowest seat, and let the host lift you up. “For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (Luke 14:11, NRSV). Rev. Brainard connected this to Ryan Holiday’s *Ego is the Enemy*, noting that letting go of pride frees us to serve others. She offered further reflection by quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Every person I meet is my teacher in some way.” The message is powerful: with open hearts, we become teachable, growing closer to God.

In verses 12-14, Jesus urges the host to invite not only friends or those who can repay, but “the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” (Luke 14:13). These guests can’t return the favor, yet God promises a

blessing at “the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:14). This vision of God’s kingdom welcomes everyone, no matter their status.

Extending such hospitality in today’s world can feel challenging, but Rev. Brainard calls it a daily practice, “like brushing your teeth.” Through our parish’s outreach, such as Pup Packs and Joseph’s Coat, we share God’s grace with those who can’t repay us, just as God does for us.

Rev. Brainard closed with a prayer: “Give me the imagination to see what does not yet exist.” This week, try offering forgiveness to someone who doesn’t expect it or welcoming an outsider into your circle. At God’s table, there’s a seat for all, and our gratitude shines when we love without expecting return.

***Reflection Question: Where in your life can you practice humility or welcome someone unexpected?***

Peace be with you, Kim

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**Hospitality meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5:00 PM** – 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! [vicjacksonga@aol.com](mailto:vicjacksonga@aol.com)

**Parish House Renovation this Sunday, September 7:** A parish-wide meeting to display the conceptual drawings is in the Parish House this Sunday after the 10:30 service.

**Priest recruitment:** We anticipate knowing our candidate’s confirmation status very soon. Look for a message to the parish this week.

**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. 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.

**Rota for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 7, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Booker / 10:30 A.M. Booker

Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild:

1st Reading: Permar

2nd Reading: McCauley

Vestry of the Day: Burriss

Organ Tech: Simpson

**Readings for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 7, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11

The Psalm: Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

The Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

**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, Kathie Schmidt, Emily Sigman, Betty Thomas, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jay Whitcomb.

**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

338 Academy Street • Madison, Georgia 30650 • 706-342-4787

[www.adventmadisonga.com](http://www.adventmadisonga.com) • [adventmadison@bellsouth.net](mailto:adventmadison@bellsouth.net)

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden

Newsletter editors: Kim Jackson and O. J. Booker

News and Newsletters: <https://adventmadisonga.com/news/>

Contact: [info@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:info@adventmadisonga.com)

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