



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
February 3, 2026 Newsletter
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Jesus wept.

A Letter to Our Fellow Americans: a Joint Statement from 150+ Episcopal Bishops

We encourage you to watch the video and read the full joint statement from 150+ Episcopal bishops released earlier this morning. Both Bishops from Georgia signed the letter.

[Please click this link to read the statement and watch the video](#)

AND/OR

[Click here to watch the video on YouTube](#)

Sermon Reflection from Father Tryggvi

As the Good News comes to us this Sunday, we are brought to the opening of Jesus's teaching - The Beatitudes. It is always helpful to remind ourselves that God's blessing is not something we must earn, achieve, or bargain for, but is woven into our very being. Before the Fall, humanity was created and named a blessing, and that original blessing has never been revoked. The Beatitudes, therefore, are not commandments or spiritual hurdles to clear; not a quid pro quo—do this and God will bless you. In God's economy of grace, there is no transaction. God already loves us fully, perfectly, and unconditionally.

Jesus' words this Sunday do not divide the world into the blessed and the unblessed. Instead, reveal a deeper distinction: between those who know they are blessed and those who haven't recognized their blessedness. God has never left us. God is always at our side, and is often most present in the shadows, the griefs, and the dark places of our lives; precisely where we are tempted to believe we are abandoned.

The Beatitudes name what is already true. They awaken us to our blessing and invite us to live differently because of it. When we know we are blessed, we live with humility, mercy, courage, and hope. When we forget, we live from fear and scarcity. The invitation of the Gospel is not to earn blessing, but to recognize it, and to let that recognition transform how we live.

This week, I invite you to hold the following questions in your heart. These aren't questions to solve, but invitations to notice, where grace is already at work, and how awareness of blessing shapes the life we live.

Where in my life am I still trying to earn God's love or blessing, rather than trusting that I am already blessed? Notice how your awareness shapes your prayers, your self-expectations, and your relationships. What might shift if you allowed yourself to rest in God's already-given love?

What would change in the way I live, speak, or love if I were more mindful, especially in the darker or more vulnerable places of my life, that God is present with me there? Pay attention to where you sense God's nearness or absence. Consider how recognizing your blessedness might invite a different way of being in those places.

As always, peace and blessings to you, Tryggvi+

Tomorrow! First Wednesday Hosts: Ricardo and Janel Ureña
Wednesday, February 4 • 5:00 PM 'til
1041 Parsonage Road - Madison, GA 30650

We will have food, drinks, and fellowship. It will be a blessing to have y'all join us! We will have a fire and lots of bananas to feed to the cows. Rain or shine, come learn more about the exciting lives of everyone who sits in the pews next to you. God bless and cya Wednesday! Our cell numbers are 678-478-3327 and 678-612-3327.

Episcopal 101 will not meet this week. Next meeting February 11.

Episcopal 101 is delayed until next week so we can enjoy First Wednesday at Janel and Ricardo's. The fourth and last installment of Episcopal 101 will be the following Wednesday, February 11. Please join us as we learn more about what it means to be an Episcopalian. On Wednesdays during Epiphany, starting at 6:00 in the Parish House, we'll have soup and bread supper followed by conversation about our Anglican tradition. An offering for new members, seekers, and longtime Episcopalians alike we will look at the different components that make us who we are as Episcopalians; i.e. Holy Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, the sacraments, prayer and worship, and our tradition.

Please RSVP for February 11 if you have not already done so. [Click here to RSVP](#)

Rota for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026

Vestry of the Day: Dartnell

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M. Roman

1st Reading: Quillin

2nd Reading: Freyer

Altar Guild: Abbott-Strickland-Yost

Flower Guild: Branch
Organ Tech: Jackson-Lewis

**Readings for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]

Psalm 112:1-9, (10)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]

The Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

Parish Prayer List

Flossie Dodge, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jennie Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathie Schmidt, Betty Thomas, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Beth Tamplin Jones, Fr. Dann Brown, Jay Whitcomb, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jack Leo, Eric Wiemann, Susan Crosher, Jennifer Mize, Gloria Leo, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Robert Boswell, Liz Cunningham, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, David Medlock, Marcy Lay, Laura, Caroline, Kim Jackson, Monterey Powers

February Birthdays: 4 Emily Buck, 7 Sally Green, 8 Harrison Buck, 11 Doug Adkins, 12 Debbie Permar, 19 Nancy Bush, 21 Grace Yost, Kate Jackson, Francis Ramfos, 23 Woody Burriss, 28 Kathy Lehman, Rick Thompson

Anniversaries: 17 Dianne and Patrick Yost, 21 Annie Hunt and Woody 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, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Volunteer for service: To learn about and volunteer to be a lay reader, organ tech, or lay eucharistic minister, or to be a member of the flower and/or altar guild, click this link!

Pastoral Care Requests: email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com for:

- Additions to the Prayer List
- Inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals
- Use of the Memorial Garden
- Requesting Eucharistic visits
- Short-term meals following surgery or during illness

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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