

We Remember in Prayer...

Betty Gilmore - Kenny Drafts - Chris Jones - Bennie Horne - Johnny Corley - Neil Shealy - Jim & Ann Hodges - Carol Hall - Rev. Lavaughn Keisler - Emilia Davis - Clint Parnell - Duane Long - Royce Segar - Lynn Shealy - Geri Kentgen - Terri Keisler - Rebekah Tinman - Family of Eddie Laboone

Send a card to Homebound and care facility members...

Ellie Long (205 St. Paul's Church Rd. Gilbert, SC 29054) - **Peepsie Hendrix** (4236 Augusta Highway. Gilbert, SC 29054) - **Carol Ann Green** (Columbia Presbyterian Community #78 Room H-14, 700 Davega Drive Lexington SC 29073) - **Delle Price** (Lakeside Place Senior Living, 487 Hwy 378. Lexington, SC 29072. Room 404) - **Carl & Juanelle Swygert** (505 Spool Wheel Rd. Gilbert, SC 29054) - **Virginia Cousins** (Saluda Nursing Center. 581 Newberry Hwy. Riley Unit Room 319-A. Saluda, SC 29138) - **Rachel Price** (Lowman Home, PO Box 444, White Rock, SC 29177) - **Jaye Snelgrove** (Hartford Retirement Village. 12196 East State Hwy 52 Hartford, AL 36344) - **LouVeria Price** (Lexington Extended Care, 815 Old Cherokee Rd. Lexington, SC 29072, Crews Point Room 209A) - **Sam Johnson** (3310 Augusta Hwy. Gilbert, SC 29054) - **Brenda Keisler** (2220 Priceville Rd. Gilbert, SC 29054) - **Lona Hutto** (272 Harley Taylor Rd. Gilbert, SC 29054) - **Becky LaBoone** (2057 LaBoone Court. Leesville, SC 29070)

Remember our Military...

Ervin Baker - Chris Barefoot - Kevin Clowdis - DJ Hoover - Jeff Hoover - Cody Hutto - Carter Lybrand - Todd Morgan - Ryan Shaw - Henry Hutto - Christopher Welch - Ben Risher - Ben Schimek

The flowers are given to the Glory of God.



January 4, 2026
2nd Sunday of Christmas

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Song *We Hail King Jesus* W&P #3

We Confess our Sins and Receive Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Reconciling God, **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

God’s grace upon grace flows over you ☩ Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

Song *Come and See* W&P #29

We Worship and Praise the Lord

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

In the beginning, God created the world,
With His powerful and gracious Word.
In the beginning, God created you and me,
With his loving and purposeful Word.
The Word was God,
And the Word was with God.

In the beginning, God gave His only Son,
The Word became flesh.
The Word made his dwelling with us,
We have seen the glory of the Father, Son and Spirit!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Words of Institution

In the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, He gave thanks. He gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat, this is my Body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and drink. This is the blood of the new covenant, given and shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. **Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Distribution of the Sacrament

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in faith and hope this day and always, **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord cause his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor, and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn *On Our Way Rejoicing* ELW #537

Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sharing the Peace
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering of our Gifts/Distribution

Doxology
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Prayers for the Church

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you always. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in Holy Communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself through your healing power. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day....*(Pastor prays for those on our Sunday prayer list and any local and national concerns).* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise ELW #413
**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty,
Early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together. **Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children’s Sermon

We Hear God’s Holy Word

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “**Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.**” ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; **I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble,** for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, **and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,** over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, **and the young men and the old shall be**

merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, **and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.**
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Scripture Lesson **Ephesians 1: 3-14**
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,** ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ **to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.** ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ **he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,** ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, **having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,** ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel **John 1: 1-18**
¹ In the beginning was the Word, **and the Word was with God,** and the Word was God. ² **He was in the beginning with God.** ³ All things came into being through him, **and without him not one thing came into being.** What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, **and the life was the light of all people.** ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness did not overtake it.** ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the

world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, **and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.** ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”) ¹⁶ **From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.** ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

<u>We Hear God’s Word for Daily Living</u>		
Sermon	<i>“God Has A Face!”</i>	Pastor Matt Lash
Hymn	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	ELW #275

The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.