

December 28, 2025

The First Sunday After Christmas

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:00AM FAMILY HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE

<i>Processional Song</i> Opening Sentences, <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> 355 The Liturgy of the Word The Collect of the Day A Reading / Psalm Song The Gospel Sharing the Good News The Creed The Prayers The Confession & Absolution The PeaceBCP 360	Welcome & Announcements The Holy Communion <i>Offertory</i> The Great Thanksgiving: The Lord's PrayerBCP 364 The Breaking of the Bread The Administration Communion Song Post Communion PrayerBCP 365 The Blessing Song for the Procession Out The DismissalBCP 366
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11:00am Choral Holy Eucharist Service

Procession In, standing

O Come, O Come, Emanuel

Hymnal 56, v 1,2,4,6.

The Opening Sentences

The Book of Common Prayer 299

Song of Praise

The Gloria

Hymnal S278

The Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Note: This prophetic book is in many ways formed by the experience of the Exile, the time when Israel may well have felt abandoned by God in their Babylonian captivity (6th c. BC). But here is a flourish of God's love for his people and the promise of restoration not only to the land but to the deep intimacy of God's affection. This is the pattern of God we remember at Christmas: in the darkness and great light will shine.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 147:13-22 *Laudate Dnumomi*

Note: This is a psalm that sings in confidence that, despite any evidence to the contrary, God is in charge of his ordered creation and God sends forth his word to his people. At Christmas we are the recipients of that most extraordinary word: the Word made flesh.

- 13

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14

**For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.**
- 15

He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16

**He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.**
- 17

He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18

**He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?**
- 19

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20

**He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**
- 21

He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Note: This letter by St. Paul is sometimes called the "Magna Charta of Christian liberty". As Paul puzzles over the relative importance of the Mosaic law he declares that our salvation comes through our faith in God as God is revealed in Jesus Christ and not by good works or ritualistic obligations.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Sequence Hymn, standing

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymnal 82

The Gospel: John 1:1-18

Note: This "prologue" to the gospel of John gives both a preview of its style and symbolism and an introduction to its theology. John's gospel was written later than the other three gospels and takes for granted the common knowledge of the story of Jesus. John's gospel, therefore, concentrates on the deeper meaning of the Christ event, often in poetic passages like this one. This, in essence, is the nativity story as told in John's understanding of the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the

life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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. (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.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Homily

The Rev. James B. Stutler, D. Min

Followed by silence for reflection

The Nicene Creed, standing

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People, kneeling or standing

Greetings and Announcements

The Confession of Sin

BCP 359

The Peace, standing

BCP 360

The Holy Communion

Rite II, Prayer B

The Offertory

A Lovely Babe is Born

Choir

The Doxology, standing

The Great Thanksgiving

The Sursum Corda

The Sanctus

The Canon, kneeling or standing.

THE GREAT AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 367

Hymnal S114

BCP 368

BCP 364

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Choir Meditation

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Choir

BCP 364

Post Communion Prayer, kneeling or standing

BCP 365

Commissioning of Eucharistic Visitors

Priest: On behalf of this congregation, I give you these holy gifts, that those in whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: We send you forth with the body and blood of Christ.

Recessional Hymn:

Joy to the World

Hymnal 100

The Blessing

The Dismissal Response

Thanks be to God.

BCP 366

WE PRAY FOR:

Our Parish Family, especially

- ✚ BOB, LINDA, BOBBY, DAVID, GLORIA, MARK, CARY, MISSY, LESLIE, BILL, AMANDA, DOTTIE, PAIGE, CLAIRE, MARGE & ALAN, JOAN, VICTOR, CAROLE, JUDITH, JOHN T, ANN, AL, JEAN, HUBIE, AMANDA, ROBIN, KIM, TED, FRAN, DAKOTA, MARGARET, JOANN, and DEACON JUDITH.
- ✚ FR . JAMIE.
- ✚ THE MINISTRIES OF ST. CLEMENT’S.
- ✚ HEIDI AND RUSS, missionaries to Chile and for the variety of ministries & lives they impact.

Those in the Armed Forces, especially

- ✚ DAVID, AMANDA, NICK, BRANDON, MAGGIE, STEPHEN, NATHAN, LAUREN, GAVIN, & TY.

Others needing Intercessory Prayer:

- ✚ HEALING: DIANE, SANDRA, RYAN, DAN, MARTHA, PAM, PEGGY & FAMILY, KATHLEEN, STEVE, PATTI, JUSTIN, ADRIAN, MICHAEL, THE PEOPLE OF MAUI, ELVIE, ROB, SONJA, MOLLY, BRUCE, KRISTI, RAYMOND, GRACE, LESLIE, PAUL, LIZ, JOE, MISTY, LORI, CATHY, JEFF, JOANN, KASEY, CAROL, GORDAN, BEVER LY, LUPINA, LORA, KENNY, COLT, ANDREW, DONALD, LORELLA, KATHY, PRISCILLA & LARRY, LIZ, DAVID, KAREN, JASON, LAURIE, MARKHAM, MARTIN, TOMMY, GEORGE, RUBY, RICH, TOBY, BECKY, LINDA, LIBBY, BETH, GISELA, DONNA, JOY, JAN, PERRY & CHRISTY, KATHY, ROBIN, ANALISA, CHAD, CATHY, MICHELLE, KAY, CURTIS, SCOTTIE, YA YA, KIRSI ANN, BONNIE, LEO, SCOTT, RICHARD, BILL, LEVI, GRACE, REBECCA, IZZY, CHUCK, STAN’S BROTHER, SAM, SHERRY, ROSS, LORALYE, JEANIE, JOY, & BOB.
- ✚ COMFORT: THE LOEFFLER, BARRE, AND CROFT FAMILIES.
- ✚ ARBOR: The Congregants at The Arbor.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

Please take the bulletin home and pray for these concerns during the week.

Parish family & intercessory prayer requests stay on the list for two months unless extended, updated, or deleted sooner. Armed forces requests stay for one year. Notify the church office at 770-345-6722 or Trish Cole at 770-377-4348 to update requests. Prayer request cards are in church pews or call the church office.

Singing Christmas

We have so many great Christmas hymns with such lively scores and carefully wrought lyrics. It is a good exercise to listen to the words for the poetry they offer as much as the theology they seek to impart.

One very short well-known hymn was written by the English poet Christina Rossetti, the sister of the painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti and friend and colleague of many in the late-19th century "Bloomsbury Group". "Love came down at Christmas" has particular significance with the reading this Sunday of John 1:1-18 and particularly at verse 18: "No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known".

The central significance of Christmas is that it asserts that in Jesus Christ we see God: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (v. 13). But what Rossetti captures is the essential and important way we see God, through love. At Christmas we are offered the very same kind of intimacy with God which Christ himself enjoyed. In Christ, through the Spirit, we can be part of the commerce of God’s love.

Christmas reminds us, in this way, that relationship is everything. There is nothing more precious than our relationship with one another. In our simple, authentic care for another person we reflect God in the flesh. Love, therefore, is perhaps our most tangible evidence that the life of God has come down to us and is all around us.

That is something to sing about!

Jamie ✚

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us immediately after the services today for **Hospitality** across the parking lot in Davis Hall!

Thanks to everyone who donated to the **Angel Tree!** The children of Cherokee County and Path to Shine appreciate your thoughtfulness immensely! We gave over 165 gifts to 109 kids! Additionally, underwear, socks, tooth-paste, toiletries, and school supplies were collected for under-privileged children under DFCS and peanut-free snacks for Liberty Elementary School. Thanks also to Lee Kendrix and Diane Cainto for heading the efforts for the Cherokee County gifts and to Margie Woltering for coordinating the Path to Shine gifts.

The collection of underwear, toiletries, school supplies, snacks, etc. will be an ongoing project for Liberty Elementary School.

Next **Combined Service and Potluck Meal** will be Sunday, January 4, 2026. Start off the new year right with friendly fellowship!

Vestry Retreat
1/10 9:00am in Davis Great Hall.

COHI Adult Education Series
1/11 10:15am Davis Hall
Community of Hope International (COHI) is offering an 8-class adult education series. Class #5 is 1/11/26, and the speaker is Amber Jones. She will be discussing Serenade Heights, a nonprofit organization based in Woodstock, dedicated to assisting single mothers and their children. Its mission is to provide transitional housing and comprehensive support, educational and training goals, and spiritual growth. Join us in a journey in learning how to do extraordinary things!

Worship Committee Meeting
1/17 11:00am to 12:30 in the Vestry Room.

Tuesdays
The Men’s Group 11:30am at IHOP, 3010 Northside Parkway, Canton
Contact: stclementsmensgroup@gmail.com

The Way Bible Study will resume on 1/6/26. For information contact Anna Marie Smith at 717.713.5879.

Wednesdays
Rector’s Bible Study
12:00pm on Zoom will resume on January 7.

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler, *Rector*
Peter Waggoner, *Deacon*
770-324-2035
Email
frjamie@stclementscanton.org

Liz Bouis, Parish Administrator
Gloria Blackburn, Parish Assistant
770-345-6722
Email
stclements@stclementscanton.org

2026. We will begin the Gospel of Matthew.

Holy Eucharist 6:15pm, will be held on 12/31.
Bible Study & EYC will resume in January.

Thursdays
GriefShare 10:30am In the Vestry Room will resume on January 8, 2026.

Path to Shine 2:00-5:00pm in Davis Hall. This is a school children’s mentoring group. PTS will resume on January 8, 2025.

Fridays
Centering Prayer 12:30pm in the Ministry Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. If interested, please contact Fr. Jamie (770.324.2035) or Diane Hodgins (850.338.8540).

Online Giving is available through our website www.stclementscanton.org or by the Vanco app.


Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10am—2pm
Wednesdays: 9am-11am
Please call before coming to make sure someone is in the office.

The Ministry Center Office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec 31st, and Thursday, Jan 1st for the New Year Holidays!



Scan to visit our website

Serving Today:
VPOD: Tim Woltering/Kay Morrison
Crucifer/1st Server: Tim Hodgins
Epistle Torch:
Gospel Torch/Bells: Tim Hodgins
LEM: Diane Hodgins
Reader: Diane Hodgins
Teller: Scott Burleson

 **Birthdays this week:**

No known birthdays this week

 **Anniversaries this week:**
John & Ann Thompson 12/29
Cory DeBord & Sarah Shearouse 01/01
John & Lee Kendrix 01/01

TREASURER’S SUMMARY as of October 2025	
Pledges YTD	\$ 184,190
Total Income	\$ 289,010
Total Expenses	\$ 293,500



Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting for the first time, let us know you are here by filling out a visitor’s card and ask an usher about a gift we have for you in the narthex (foyer).

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

Regular Sunday Services //9am Contemporary //11am Traditional
First Sunday of each month// 10am Combined Service

MONDAY Al-Anon//12:00pm	THURSDAY Al-Anon//7:00pm Alateen//7:00pm
TUESDAY COHI //10:00am Men’s Group, IHOP//11:30am Bible Study: The Way//1:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous//8:00pm	FRIDAY Morning Prayer (online)//9:00am Service @ the Arbor//10:30am Women’s AA//12:00pm Centering Prayer//12:30pm
WEDNESDAY Morning Prayer (online)//9:00am Women’s AA//12:00pm Holy Eucharist Service//6:15pm	

The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God

By the St Clement’s Altar Guild

Address: 2795 Ridge Rd, Canton GA 30114
Mailing address: PO Box 36, Holly Springs, GA 30142
Phone 770-345-6722 | **Web** www.stclementscanton.org