



POHICK EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The 1774 home church of George Washington and George Mason.
In Christ: Embracing our history, welcoming in the present, transforming for the future.

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist: Rite I

The people standing, the Celebrant may say

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

p. 323

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

p. 324

KYRIE

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT

Third Sunday of Advent, p. 160

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. ***Amen.***

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!"
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

THE PSALTER (*said seated*)

Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE LESSON

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

THE SERMON

The Reverend Ted Renaud

Moment of Silence

THE NICENE CREED	p. 326
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	p. 328
THE CONFESSION	
THE PEACE	
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	
THE PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD AND WINE	
THE OFFERTORY	
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: <i>Eucharistic Prayer I</i>	p. 333
THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION	p. 334-335
THE LORD'S PRAYER	p. 336

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD	p. 337
THE AGNUS DEI	p. 337
THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS	p. 337
THE INVITATION	p. 338

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion (see back page). Please follow the direction of the ushers to Communion Stations.

THE MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION	
THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	p. 339
THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL	p. 339-40

❧SERVING TODAY❧

Celebrant	The Reverend Daniel M. Cenci
Preacher	The Reverend Ted Renaud, <i>Assistant Rector</i>
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Doug Comer and Angela Edgemon
Acolyte	Kyle Johnson
Ushers	Dave Billingsley and Clint Herbert
Greeters	Anne and Tony Marsico
	Vera Jones

We warmly welcome all newcomers and visitors and hope you'll introduce yourselves, receive a gift, and leave us your contact information!

Blessed Advent! The season of Advent is when we intentionally become reflective and await with hope the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Advent Wreath is one way we symbolically remind ourselves that Christ's coming is near. The round shape represents the circle of eternity. Evergreen is the symbol of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Four candles represent each Sunday leading up to Christ's birth. The theme for this Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, is Joy. Today we light the pink candle that reminds us of the Joy the world experiences at the birth of Jesus.

❧PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND THANKSGIVINGS❧

- **For the special needs and concerns of this congregation**, especially for Craig Floyd, Wren Norwood, Andrea Godwin-Stremmer, Cathie McCall, Alisa Romero, Steve Alfieri, Jennifer Sassin, Becky Wagner, Tanya Reams, Joe Coleman, Andy, Kelly, Nissa D'Andrea, Carol Schiering, Ray Rios, Mickie Krause, Anne Derbes, Bill Hosp, D'Andrea Wooten, Brett Ward, Juan Bernal, Troy Roberson, Ann Carter, Lydia Cepeda, Terry Abrams, Steve & Mari Harding, Tom Mayberry, Jim Murphy, Barb Rader, Margo Singleton, Mary Reilly, David Urbanski, Boatner Howell, Anne Arnhart, Susanne Roberts, Fred and Donna Crawford, Pat DeYoung, Barry Brown, Lara Gore, Larry Mobley, Alexander Clumpkens, Everett Wanko, Maggie Calio, Jack Oates, Anne Sayer, Jan Hover, Cheryl Maddock, Christina Cole, Rob Grant, Judy Sunderland, Sally Hogg, Caleb Caesar, Anne & Tony Marsico, Jim Bartholomew, and Nolan Brown.
- We pray for all the blessings of this life, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Virginia Rouse, Jud Sage, Ginger Albertson, Linda Egan, Christopher Hempel, Kristin Anderson-Hurt, Kathy Bray, Robyn Snyder, Danny Powell, Catherine Turner, and Sarah Kirkland.
- We pray for our members who serve our country, particularly those overseas, and their families: Ryan Moatta, Gabby Rolland, and Summer Lancet.
- We pray for the victims of violence and of natural disasters worldwide. We pray for a Peaceful resolution of all global conflicts, and we ask your protection for all innocent people.
- We pray for all Christians who face persecution for their faith.
- In the Diocese of Virginia, we pray for Santa Maria, Falls Church; St. Barnabas, Annandale, and Westover, Charles City.

❧ALTAR FLOWERS❧

Thank you to everyone in the church who has helped see us through during this time of sadness.

The Bland Family

❧ TODAY'S EVENTS ❧

- **7:45 am to 11:45 am:** The Nursery will be open and an attendant will be on site.
- **9:15 am: Praying with St. Hildegard Von Bingen (1089-1179): An Introduction to Her Spirituality.** In this four-week study we will explore a selection of her Hymns, prayers, letters, and her visual art. Facilitator: Dr. Marleen McCabe.
- **Coffee hour/receptions** in the Parish House after the 8 am and 10:30 am services.
- **9:15 am-10:15 am: Church School,** preschool-4th grade
- **9:15 am in the Nursery: Grace Space** (18–36-month-olds with parent or grandparent)
- **10:20 am Classroom D: Children's Chapel,** parents can drop off preschool-2nd graders
- **5 pm-8 pm EYC Christmas Party.** EYC will do a White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift with value \$10 or less.

❧ UPCOMING EVENTS ❧

- **DEC 15: Christmas Flower dedication forms due:** (Forms available in Parish office)
- **DEC 16: NEW DATE! Tuesday - Caroling at the Fairfax, ALL ARE INVITED,** meet at the church at 5:45 pm
- **DEC 17: Wednesday Holy Eucharist at the Fairfax, 1:30 pm.**
- **DEC 18: Prayer Service at Harmony at Spring Hill, 1:30 pm.**
- **DEC 21: 4th Sunday of Advent, 8 am and 10:30 am Rite I**
- **DEC 24: A Colonial Candlelight Christmas Eve**
 - **4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**
 - **10:30 p.m. Carols and Midnight Eucharist: Rite One**
- **DEC 25: Christmas Day Service, 10 am.**
- **DEC 25: Christmas Day, Parish Offices Closed**
- **DEC 28: Christmas Lessons and Carols, 10 am.**
- **JANUARY 01, 2026: New Year's Day, Parish Offices Closed**
- **JAN 8 Golden Dove Gift Shop Inventory day - 9 AM - we finish! in the gift shop & Vestry house.**
- **JAN 18 Pohick Annual meeting and Vestry Elections**

❧ MINISTRIES ❧

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- **TODAY:** Church School, Grace Space, and Children's Chapel
- **DEC 21:** NO Church School, NO Grace Space, Children's Chapel: 10:20 am
- **DEC 28:** NO Church School, NO Grace Space, NO Children's Chapel
- **JAN 04:** Church School, Grace Space and Children's Chapel all resume
- Susan Pehrsson, Director of Christian Education, 703-282-6574 or spehrsson@pohick.org

YOUTH MINISTRY:

- **TONIGHT:** EYC Christmas party 5pm – 8 pm. EYC will do a White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift with value \$10 or less.
- **NEW DATE! Tuesday December 16: Caroling at the Fairfax, ALL ARE INVITED:** meet at the church at 5:45 pm.
- **Dec 21:** meeting 6 pm
- **Dec 28:** NO meeting
- The Rev. Ted Renaud, Youth Minister, trenaud@pohick.org

MUSIC MINISTRY:

- **TODAY, The Third Sunday of Advent,** 9:45 a.m. all choirs meet, Music Room
- **10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist: Rite I,** *Pohick Choir & Pohick Youth Choir, St. Francis Choir, no 11:45 a.m. meeting*
- Tuesday, December 16, 6 p.m. St. Francis Choir
- Thursday, December 18, all meet at 7:15 p.m., Music Room,
- 7:30-9 p.m. Christmas Eve and Lessons & Carols final dress rehearsal, *in Church,*
- *Pohick Youth & Pohick Choir - no afternoon rehearsals*
- **Sunday, December 21, The Fourth Sunday of Advent,** 9:45 a.m. Pohick Choir & Handbells meet, Music Room
- **10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist: Rite I,** *Pohick Choir, Pohick Handbells - no 11:45 a.m. meeting*

❧ *FOR YOUR INFORMATION* ❧

- **Stewardship Update:** Thank you to those who have returned their pledge cards! If you have not, please return your pledge cards as soon as possible. We will present our final budget in January based on pledges received.
- **Good News -** We will continue to use **MyEOffering** (the current vendor) into 2026.
- **Don't Forget -** If you increased your pledge for 2026, you will need go online to make the adjustment to your donations.
- If you are not an online giver, please consider this for 2026. If you make your payment through your checking/savings account, the fee is only \$0.30.
- This is a great way to have continuity in your donations and help us budget for expenses. If you would like assistance, please contact me at the office.

Thank you for your continued support of Pohick Church!
Julie Ramacciotti, Finance Administrator

GOLDEN DOVE GIFT SHOP-Thank you for shopping at our recent sale; proceeds totaled over \$1,000 and will go toward helping those in need!

We still have lots of great gifts at the shop.....come by to finish your shopping!

SHOP HOURS:

Dec 14 & 28-8:45-10:30AM

Dec 21-11:30AM-12:30PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for **SHOP INVENTORY DAY**-Thursday, Jan 8th, 9AM-?
ALL are welcome to help out even if you can only stop by for a short time!

- **Education for Ministry (EfM) Classes are Mondays at 7pm in the Vestry House.**
Contact: Denise McHugh at 410-300-9867 or dmchugh@umd.edu, or John Egan 703-973-5038 or jjegan3@netscape.net.
- **Coffee N Compline** on-line Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Fellowship, reflection and worship.
Call the Parish Office at 703 339-6572 for the Microsoft Teams link. This same link is used every Wednesday.

- **Our regular Sunday Services** are at 8 am (Rite I Eucharist) and 10:30 am (Rite II Eucharist). Christian Education for all ages begins at 9:15 am. Announcements are on [pohick.org /news/weekly-announcements](http://pohick.org/news/weekly-announcements). Send your email to adminassistant@pohick.org to receive our weekly email.
- **Parish Office hours:** Mon-Thu 9am-3pm, Fridays 9am-noon. (limited office hours Dec 22-Jan. 2)

✠ ***INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING COMMUNION*** ✠

In the Episcopal tradition, all baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Communion at the Lord's Table; simply come to the altar rail and kneel to receive if you are able, or you may stand. If you are unable to come to the rail, please indicate to an usher that you would like communion brought to you.

The options for receiving communion are:

- *You may hold out both hands to receive bread and drink from the cup;*
- *To receive by intinction, please leave the bread in your open palm and the Chalice bearer will dip the bread in the chalice for you and place it back in your hand.*
- *To reduce germ exposure in the chalice medical authorities have suggested, and the Diocese recommends, only the Chalice Bearer intinct the bread in the Common Cup.*
- *If you prefer to receive only bread, simply cross one arm across your chest as you hold out your hand for bread.*

You may cross your arms over your chest and simply receive a blessing.

Vestry of Pohick Church

<u>Member</u>	<u>Elected Position and Commissions</u>
Neil Hogg	Senior Warden
Dave Billingsley	Junior Warden / Building & Grounds
Andrea Gurrola	Treasurer
Tom Mayberry	Register
Chris Brown	Communication & Digital Ministry
Beth Cooke	Service & Fellowship / Outreach
Dan Derbes	
Molly Diaz	Young Adult & Family Ministry
Rick Church	
Kathy Kirkland	Pastoral Care / Worship / Education
Jeff Schavland	Resources / Stewardship / Policy
Barbara Schavland	(youth rep 25/26)
Hal Yarwood	

Staff of Pohick Church

Priest-In-Charge: The Reverend Daniel M. Cenci
Assistant Rector/
Youth Minister: The Reverend Ted Renaud
Minister of Music: Ronald Butts Boehmer
Director of Education: Susan Pehrsson
Finance Admin.: Julie Ramacciotti
Sexton: Clint Herbert
Administrative Asst.: Kara Faunt
Cemetery Warden: Sandra Caesar
Communications Mgr: Deborah Hennig
Nursery Supervisor: Jennifer Tatum

Pohick Episcopal Church

The Reverend Daniel M. Cenci, Priest-In-Charge

9301 Richmond Highway

Lorton, VA 22079

703-339-6572 • pohick.org

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**Home Church of George Washington
and George Mason**



**QR Code is set up for one-time giving for
visitors or guests.**