

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the
HEAVENLY REST

God's Love. For All.

*Heavenly Rest is dedicated to serving and creating community by proclaiming the good news of God's love for all.
New here? Please fill out a welcome card from the back of the pew or on our website at heavenlyrestabilene.org/visit.*

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Sunday Morning Classes - Join us Sunday mornings for one of our adult classes.

Coffee Talks led by Mark Waters - Gen von Ende Room at 9:15 am

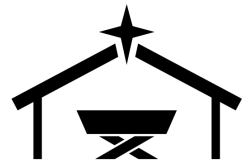
Exploring Spiritual Treasure - Gerhart Hall at 9 am

Sunday School for Children and Youth - Children and teens can head to the parish house for community, connection, and spiritual growth! Contact Carol Ann Weston for information on children's and youth classes. For information on youth confirmation, contact Mother Ashley.

ACU Vespers - Join us for the ACU Department of Music's annual Christmas Vespers, at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at First Baptist Church of Abilene. This beautiful program features our talented choral and orchestral student musicians. Admission is free for this local must-see holiday event.

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Advent Stations - Our Advent Prayer Stations will be available in Gerhart Hall November 30th through 22nd. Our Advent Prayer Stations are designed with ALL ages in mind, and for those with children to experience as a family. You are welcome to visit anytime the building is open or to stop by the office during the week and a staff member will open it for you. We hope that you will take part in this opportunity to prepare your heart for the coming of the Christ Child.



Wednesday Night Programming - Wednesday **December 10** will be our Angel Tree Wrapping party. **December 17** will be our Advent Quiet Night. Mother Ashley will be offering a reading for us to reflect on, as well as questions on the tables to help guide conversations around rest and hope in the season. It will be a chance for us all to relax and recognize the gifts we have been given in this loving community. Join us for supper at 6:00 and the program at 6:30. There will not be any Wednesday night programming on 12/24 or 12/31.

The Eve of the Epiphany and the Twelfth Night Feaste will be January 5, 2026. The festivities will begin with the service of the Eve of the Epiphany in the nave and followed by a procession following the piper to the Great Hall (Gerhart Hall) for singing, feasting on glorious fare and the chalking of the doors. Come one, Come all to participate in the last day of the Christmastide. Tickets are \$12.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child. Childcare will be provided for the service in the nave and childcare provided by reservation only (ages 5 and under) for the Feaste. This is a time for families to celebrate together and have one last time to sing those favorite Christmas Carols.



Vestry & Diocesan Delegate Nominations - The Parish Nominating Committee is currently soliciting recommendations from the congregation for qualified Vestry candidates and delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention. Please give recommendations to a member of the Nominating Committee by December 15. The members of this year's Nominating Committee are Norene Mansell, Harry Hurt, Jay Hardaway, Michael Christie, Judy Godfrey, Kathy Balch, Gay Ann Walts, Chris Rockett, Courtney Messer, and Melody Brown. The Vestry consists of twelve qualified parishioners and is responsible for the mission and governance of the Church. Vestry members are elected to three year terms at the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, the congregation also elects eight delegates to Diocesan Convention and four alternates. Nominees for delegate must be willing to attend the October Diocesan Convention, as well as the electing Convention for a new Bishop in December 2026 or January 2027.

Christmas Flowers and Music Donations - As we prepare for Christmas, you will have the opportunity to give flowers or music in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one. If you would like to give flowers or music this Christmas, please place a donation in the envelopes found in the pews or contact the church office. Sunday, December 21st is the last day to submit names.

Christmas Pageant and Party - This is a wonderful opportunity for children and youth to experience and remember the birth of Jesus by becoming immersed in the story. ALL children and youth who would like to participate are welcome, including first-time guests! The youth narrators and a few main characters will prepare in advance. Everyone else will choose their character when they arrive. ALL are welcome! **Sunday, December 14, 3:15 p.m.** - Get Ready! Meet upstairs in the Parish House to choose characters and costumes, then move to the Nave for a walk-through. **4:00 p.m.** - Christmas Pageant in the Nave followed by Christmas Party in Gerhart Hall.

Upcoming Youth Events - Youth Hang December 7 at the Gensics at 5pm. All students 6-12th grade are welcome to join us. **Youth Outing to Winter Lightfest** - Youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend Winter Lightfest with Heavenly Rest on Sunday, December 21 at 7pm. Admission for our group has been provided by a generous donor. Winter Lightfest is located on E.N. 10th Street. Contact Emily Gurley with any questions.

Quiet Night - Join us for a special Eucharist service on Wednesday, December 17th at 5:30 to commemorate our Quiet Night at Heavenly Rest. This time of year, busyness increases. Nights are long and cold. Our lives are filled with the noise of consumerism, expectations, and grief we feel pressure to hide behind holiday cheer. This service will be a time for you to slow down and rest in the presence of God through silence, prayer, anointing of holy oil, and Holy Communion. Please join us before heading over to Gerhart Hall for our Quiet Night dinner and program.

THE WEEK AHEAD

View a detailed schedule at heavenlyrestabilene.org/calendar

Sunday, December 7th

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I (Nave)*
 9:15 AM Sunday School Classes for Adults and Children
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Nave & livestream)*
 1:00 PM Morning Prayer (in Swahili)*
 2:00 PM Grow Sunday School
 2:00 PM Daughters of the King
 5:00 PM Youth Hang
 7:00 PM ACU Vespers (First Baptist)

Monday, December 8th

5:30 AM Breakfast on Beech Street
 8:30 AM Soup Sisters
 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
 6:30 PM Education for Ministry (EfM)

Tuesday, December 9th

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
 10:00 AM Staff meeting
 4:00 PM Contemplative Prayer
 7:00 PM Abilene Pipers
 7:00 PM Unity Group AA

Wednesday, December 10th

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
 10:00 AM Sewing Circle
 5:15 PM Children's Music, Choristers, and Wind Down
 Wednesday*
 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing*
 6:00 PM Meal and Programming*
 6:40 PM Canterbury Ringers
 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 11th

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study
 12:00 PM Men's Brown Bag
 12:00 PM EST Mentor Meeting (Midday Option)
 6:00 PM EST Mentor Meeting (Evening Option)
 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop
 7:00 PM Unity Group AA

Friday, December 12th

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
 9:30 AM Hands-On Grocery Distribution

Saturday, December 13th

8:30 AM Swahili Prayer
 9:00 AM Altar Guild Preparation
 10:00 AM High School Coffee Chats
 10:30 AM Afternoon Children's Choir Rehearsal
 4:30 PM Aleluya Kwaya Rehearsal

Sunday, December 14th

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I (Nave)*
 9:15 AM Sunday School Classes for Adults and Children
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Nave & livestream)*
 1:00 PM Morning Prayer (in Swahili)*
 2:00 PM Grow Sunday School
 4:00 PM Christmas Pageant and Christmas Party
 7:00 PM Evening Holy Eucharist
 7:30 PM Encounter - Young Adult Ministry

* Nursery available (ages 0-4 years old)

Christmas at Heavenly Rest

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm - Family Holy Eucharist with Choir, Choristers, and
 Candlelight Carols (Nave)
 6:00 pm - Lessons and Carols (Nave)
 10:00 pm - Festival Holy Eucharist with Choir and Candlelight
 Carols (Nave), Choral and Instrumental Prelude begins at 9:45

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

10:30 am - Holy Eucharist with Carols (Nave)
 1:00 pm - Holy Eucharist in Swahili (Nave)

Sunday, December 28 - First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
 1:00 pm - Worship in Swahili (Nave)

Thursday, January 1 - Holy Name

12:00 pm - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

Sunday, January 4 - Second Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
 1:00 pm - Worship in Swahili (Nave)

Monday, January 5 - Eve of the Epiphany

5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist with Hymns (Nave)
 6:30 pm - Twelfth Night Feaste (Gerhart Hall)

PRAYERS

Thanksgivings for those celebrating birthdays this week: Mulati Almasi, Isabella Bass, Isaac Mashauri, Nell Sims

Intercessions: Jim, Chuck Hurlbut, Scott Mead, Gilbert Knapp, Charlie Donovan, Jacob Moore, Mitch Barnett, Rosalie Cox, Evelyn French, Chris Thomas, Laura Dickson, Alice Townsend Poirrier, Charles Fairchilds, Bryan Gibbs, Karen Telck, Don Balch, Leslie Smith, Rita Sepuvela, Barbara Arnold, Frances Renfro, Mary Angermueller, Dianne Cash, Martha Swartz, Nancy Williams, Thomas Madrid, Mike Mansell, David Weigle, Hubert Smith, Arnold Guerra, Susan Langford, Johnny Musselman, Sandy Bridges, Dawn Ahart, Jerry Gulley, Jeannie Best, Ralph Webb, Keith Boyd, Rusty Plocheck, Barbara Brock, Anne Melcher, BJ Madrid, Larry and Leta Bell, Christopher Choate, Shane Jones, Amanda Sellers, Russell McKeever, Francois Mulanda, Suzie Ramsey, Barbara Payne, Glen Funkey, Angaza Alembo

Intercessions for deployed military and first responders: Weaver Lilly, Riziki Mulanda, Michael Scarborough, Fire, Police, and Sheriff's Departments, Health Care Workers

Intercessions for the recently departed: Melinda Galloway, Liza Goodson Nichols, Jessie Turner, Donald McDonald, Frank Sims, Jaime Burchfield, Stan Brown

CONTACT US

To learn more or to contact the clergy, visit us online at heavenlyrestabilene.org or by email info@heavenlyrestabilene.org.

602 Meander Street, Abilene, Texas 79602

Office Hours: M-Th 8:30 AM-12:00 PM, 1-4:30 PM, F 8:30-12:00 PM

Hands-On-Assistance (Online) M,W,F 10:30 AM-12:00 PM, Grocery Distribution F 9-11:30 AM

Phone: (325) 677-2091

@heavenlyrestabilene



Thrift House, 761 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX 79601

(325) 672-3812

Open: Tuesday-Friday 9:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Is there something you would like to share with the church? Please submit announcements and materials to the Communications office.

Contact Jen Rogers at jrogers@heavenlyrestabilene.org.