

# The Church of the Epiphany

Christmas Eve, Year A

December 24, 2022

4:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

## The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*This service leaflet is excerpted from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the red book located in the pew rack in front of you. If you prefer to use the BCP itself to aid your worship, all BCP page numbers are noted. Hymns and service music are from The Hymnal 1982, the blue book located in the pew rack in front of you. Service music is noted by an S in front of the number and can be found in the front of The Hymnal 1982, before the hymns.*

*(Our worship service is live-streamed. Streaming and recording conclude at The Great Thanksgiving. Holy Communion is not recorded.)*

Prelude: 4:00 pm – What Child is This – C. Callahan  
10:30 pm - O Little Town of Bethlehem – arr. B. Austin  
He is Born – J. Behnke

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD  
Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

*The people stand.*

Processional Hymn: 83 O come, all ye faithful

THE ENTRANCE RITE

BCP 355

*The people standing, the Priest-Celebrant faces the altar and says*

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

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

**Amen.**

*The Priest-Celebrant says the Collect for Purity*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Gloria in Excelsis is sung, all standing.*

BCP 356

Hymnal S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The Priest-Celebrant faces the people and says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Priest-Celebrant, facing the altar, says one of the Collects for Christmas.* BCP  
212

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

*People* **Amen.**

The Lessons

BCP 357

*The people sit. The Lessons, as appointed, are read.*

*Reader* A Reading from Isaiah [9:2-7]

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Silence*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm [96]

BCP 725

*Reader* The Psalm for today is Psalm 96. We will read  
the psalm responsively by whole verse.

Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \***  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day**  
**to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \***  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \***  
**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \***  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \***  
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be**  
**moved;**  
**he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**  
**before the LORD when he comes, \***  
**when he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

*Reader* A Reading from Titus [2:11-14]

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Silence*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand.*

Gradual Hymn. Christmas Alleluias

Luke Mayernik

*Then, all standing, the Priest-Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to Luke [2:1-20].

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to

the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he  
favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Silence*

*After the Gospel, the Priest-Celebrant says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

Mtr. Kristin Wickersham

*Silence*

*The people stand. The Priest-Celebrant and people say*

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**



**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
Intercessions for Year A

Church Publishing

*The Intercessor and people pray responsively*

*Intercessor*      The Word has been made flesh, the light of  
God's love      has broken through our darkness, the Daystar  
from on      high now shines in our hearts. Filled with the joy  
of      Jesus' birth, let us pray together in the power of his  
Spirit, responding "Lord, hear our prayer."

That the Prince of Peace may guide the leaders of the  
nations, and all men and women everywhere, into the  
ways of freedom and truth; let us pray.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor*      For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael,  
Presiding      Bishop of our Church, Mark, our Bishop, and  
Kristin,      our Priest, that they may guide us in our journey  
to      Bethlehem, uniting the whole Church as we live into our  
spiritual kinship with one another; let us pray.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor*      For those for whom the darkness has suffocated  
hope: the lonely, the fearful, the hungry, and those who bear a  
private grief; that they may see the dawn of God's love,  
and revive the eternal hope that never fades away; let us  
pray.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For our families and friends, and for all our absent sisters and brothers; for those who are sick, and for those who have died and who now feast at the heavenly banquet of God's grace; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That we may be released from the captivity of our sins, the places of interior blindness that cause us to choose darkness over light; that we may be forgiven by the power of the Holy Spirit; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That we who gather to share the Holy Eucharist, and those throughout the world who come to receive this sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, may bear witness to him born in our hearts; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In the beauty of this morning, let us continue to offer our petitions unto Almighty God.

### *Silence*

*The people may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.*

*Intercessor* Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*People* **Who put their trust in you.**

*The Priest-Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.*

BCP 213

Almighty God, you have poured out 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.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

*The Priest-Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All kneel.*

*Silence is kept.*

*The Priest-Celebrant and people say*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest-Celebrant stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

*All stand.*

*The Priest-Celebrant says to the people*

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

*Then the Priest-Celebrant and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

THE OFFERTORY

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Offertory Sentences  
BCP 376

*The Priest-Celebrant says to the people*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*The people sit.*

*The people place their offerings and commitment/pledge cards into offering plates, which are brought to the altar as an offering to God, and blessed by the Priest-Celebrant.*

Offertory

Voluntary: 4:00 pm O Little Town of Bethlehem – J. Barr

Anthem : 10:30 pm Before the Marvel of the Night – C.

Schalk

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer B*  
BCP 367

*The people stand.*

*The Priest-Celebrant faces them and says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Priest-Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of

heaven and earth; because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Priest-Celebrant and people join together in singing the Sanctus*  
Hymnal S-124

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people kneel.*

*Then the Priest-Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*The Priest-Celebrant and people*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Priest-Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People* **AMEN.**

*The Priest-Celebrant continues*

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*Priest-Celebrant and people*

BCP 364

**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  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Priest-Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

*Facing the people, the Priest-Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Priest-Celebrant and ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*How to Receive Communion and An Invitation to Baptism*





*The Priest-Celebrant and people say*

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest-Celebrant blesses the people.*

May the God of infinite goodness,  
who by the Incarnation of his Son  
has driven darkness from the world  
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night,  
drive far from you the darkness of vice  
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

*People* **Amen.**

May God, who willed that the great joy  
of his Son's saving Birth  
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,  
fill your minds with the gladness he gives  
and make you heralds of his Gospel.

*People* **Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation  
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,  
fill you with the gift of his peace and favor  
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

*People* **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Ushers distribute candles to the people. Candles are lit during the final hymn.*

Post-Communion Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

Recessional Hymn: 111 Silent night, holy night

*The Priest-Celebrant dismisses the people.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude (on bells)

4:00 pm God rest you merry, gentlemen – W. Held

10:30 pm Angels Canon – arr. M. Larsen

*The flowers on the altar this evening are given to the Glory of  
God by Charlotte Lovelace in loving memory of her husband,  
Ray Lovelace.*

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### **An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism**

Sin and Redemption

Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of  
God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other  
people, and with all creation.

Q. How does sin have power over us?

A. Sin has power over us because we lose our liberty when  
our relationship with God is distorted.

- Q. What is redemption?  
A. Redemption is the act of God which sets us free from the power of evil, sin, and death.
- Q. How did God prepare us for redemption?  
A. God sent the prophets to call us back to himself, to show us our need for redemption, and to announce the coming of the Messiah.
- Q. What is meant by the Messiah?  
A. The Messiah is one sent by God to free us from the power of sin, so that with the help of God we may live in harmony with God, within ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.
- Q. Who do we believe is the Messiah?  
A. The Messiah, or Christ, is Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God.
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**The Church of the Epiphany**

*An Episcopal Church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion*

8000 Hermitage Road  
Richmond, Virginia 23228  
(804) 266-2503

Office Hours:  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – noon

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Priest-in-Charge  
Mrs. Anita Williams, Minister of Music  
Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator  
Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton  
Marty Shephard, Treasurer

The Vestry

Gray Corbett (Sr. Warden), Randy Holden (Jr. Warden),  
Becky Card (Register), Scott Blackwell, Cory Isemann, Stacy Mitchell, John  
Norris, John Sarvay, Jeri Townley

**COMMUNICATION CARD**  
December 25, 2022

Welcome! You have blessed us with your presence. Please tell us how we can best serve you by completing the Communication Card.

*Please place in the offering basket, hand it to an usher, or place on the table in the vestibule.*

I'm looking for a church home  
 I'd like to speak with a clergy member  
 I'm ready to become a member  
 I'm just visiting today

**Name & Address**  Please update

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Children's names and ages**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please give me more information about:**

Children's / Youth Programs  
 Social events  
 Outreach opportunities  
 Classes and Small Group Studies  
 Baptism or Confirmation  
 How I can get involved

**How did you hear about Epiphany?**


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(over)

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS**



**New to the Prayer List:**

**Parishioners:** Dottie Strabley, Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Fran LaVigne, Buddy Dunn, Milton Jenkins, David Skinner, Chip Dunn, Herb Williams, Marion Magruder, Martha Jenkins, George Baynes, Nancy Sonne, Jeannie Riddick

**Homebound:** Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Charlotte Lovelace, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, Betty Van Valkenburg, and Irene Morris

**Family & Friends:** Joyce Matchunis—Irene Morris' daughter-in-law, Dave Schulte—friend of Wayne & Lucy Whitlock, Nancy Baynes Rojas—daughter of George & Joy Baynes, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Buster & Janet Magruder—Marion Magruder's son & daughter-in-law, Carolyn Hall—friend of Kathy Jimerson, Lynn Selfe—friend of Gray & Frosine Corbett, Deb—cousin of Jeri Anne Townley, David Thabet, Elizabeth Mickel,—relatives of Denise Russell and Sandy Ruder, Christian Devol—friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Easton Guyer—Cheryl Lineberry's grandson, Mike Marcial—friend of Cory Isemann, Kelly & Steve Schaaf, Emily, Stephen Bruke—son of Scott Blackwell's friend, Karen Rood—Jeri Anne Townley's sister, Melissa Matthews —friend of Kim Ludwig, Jack Nance, friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Janie Dunnlevy—friend of Lucy & Wayne, Billy Callahan—friend of Karen Holden, Joan Senoga—friend of Jeri Townley, Joan Church—friend of Gail Wood, Jean McDonough—Kim Ludwig & Karen Tucker's aunt, Saundra — friend from community

**Prayers for the departed:**

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**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

Today's Ministers  
**10:30 PM—Worship Service**

**Weekly Worship**  
Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

**Contact info:**  
The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SOSc  
Priest in Charge  
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

8000 Hermitage Road  
804-266-2503

Office hours:  
Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12noon  
www.epiphanyepiscopal.com

**Ushers:** Kim Ruder, Frosine Corbett

**Acolytes:** All Acolytes

**Lessons:** Stacy Mitchell

**Prayers of the People:** Stacy Mitchell


**Sun. School Helper:**

**Altar Guild:** Karen & Randy Holden

**Coffee Hour:**

**Counters:** Gray Corbett

**The Church of the Epiphany**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2022**



Welcome—we are glad you are here! Know that whoever you are, and where ever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place here. If you are new, or haven't yet given us your contact information, please complete the attached communication card and place it in the plate so that you can learn more about Epiphany's community.

*Introducing the Lessons*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

From the Hebrew Bible we hear a hymn of thanksgiving and hope offered at the birth of a new king in Jerusalem. The prophet hails the one born to be the ruler of his people. His reign will end oppression and bring justice, righteousness and a lasting peace. Christians see these words coming to fulfillment in Jesus.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Titus 2:11-14

This New Testament reading speaks of the two comings of Christ: first in his sacrificial ministry for all people and then in glory. He has enabled his disciples to free themselves from ways of evil. Disciplined and eager to do good, they look forward to the fulfillment of the hope God has given to the world in Jesus.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The gospel presents the story of the birth of Jesus. He is born amid very humble human circumstances. A government registration program requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. Because there was no other place for them to stay. Mary lays her new son in a stable manger. An angel announces the joyful news of the Savior's birth to shepherds who come to Bethlehem and report the angelic vision.

**On the Calendar and Coming up**

**Sun. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Day**  
 10:30am—Holy Eucharist—quiet service

7:30 pm—AA Meeting in parish hall

**Tue. Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:00 pm—JRRingers

**Wed. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**  
 No Bible Study

**Thur. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>**  
 No Choir or Handbell Rehearsals

**Fri. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

**Sun. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**New Years Day**  
 8:15 am Holy Eucharist  
 10:30am—Holy Eucharist

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The office will be closed during the week between Christmas and New Years.

There is still time to turn in your pledge card and if you have lost or misplaced yours there are some on the table in the narthex.

Due to the busy bustle of the holidays we are cancelling the Noon Service for the month of December. We will be resuming again after the first of the year!

**Here's the upcoming kitchen news.**

Dec. 25 and Jan 1: No coffee hour

Jan. 8: Feast of the Epiphany, this is a pot luck event. Bring your favorite dish to share. The church will provide chicken tenders.

Feb. 12: Pasta Bar

Feb. 21: Pancake Supper

*I have the 2023 Envelopes and if you want to pick yours up please let me know in the office and I can get them for you.*

Attendance: December 18, 2022  
 8:15 am 7  
 10:30 am 63

**Outreach Opportunities**



The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of each month from 10 am to 12:00 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God's love and develop relationships within our community. The most recent diaper distribution was held on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The next diaper distribution day is on **January 21<sup>st</sup>**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!



A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Yellow Team on January 7<sup>th</sup>**. The year 2023 will be the 24<sup>th</sup> year that our parish has taken part in the homeless lunch ministry! A big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support this ministry. Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags or napkins are always welcome as well and can be dropped at the church office. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, I am always available to answer any questions. Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator ([crystalsarvay@gmail.com](mailto:crystalsarvay@gmail.com)).



Thank you all so much to everyone who donated to the Salvation Army Angel tree, to the "Coats for Kids" drive, brought in the "warm and fuzzies" for our annual warm and fuzzy tree and for the clothing and toy items donated to the three families in our community who requested clothes for their children during this special season! Our outreach projects have been a blessing to so many families and are truly a special gift sent into our community from our parish!



There are some needs within our elementary schools currently. They are requesting these items for their clinics for those students who may come in and find a special need during the day, which oftentimes does occur. These items include **boys and girl's pants with elastic waists, sizes 5 through 14 (sweat pant type) and children underwear sizes 5 through 14**. If anyone would like to donate any of these items, I will have a box in the parish hallway for them. These can be donated up through February 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much!

The love and kindness that our parish shares are beyond amazing!  
*Love lives here!* ♡

**COMMUNICATION CARD**

December 25, 2022  
 Our Communication Card is for **all people at The Church of the Epiphany** so that you can share your thoughts and prayers, and request information.

If you are new, please complete the opposite side so we also have your contact information.

I'd like more information about an upcoming event or program

I am RSVPing or signing up for:

I am interested in learning more about how to be part of the following ministries or programs:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music          | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office help    | <input type="checkbox"/> Readers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Ed   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalice Bearer | <input type="checkbox"/>               |

**Prayer Requests / Comments**