

# The Church of the Epiphany

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 15  
August 20, 2023  
10:30 a.m.

## The Holy Eucharist

according to

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979

**Rite II**

and The Hymnal, 1982

*Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany. The Anglican tradition values common prayer. Praying together shapes our faith, binds us together, and helps us grow closer to God. We invite you to pray with us today. Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 (the red book). Hymns noted with an S are in the frontmost section of The Hymnal, 1982 (the blue book).*

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 1 Colossians 3:16.

*The half-hour before mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.  
Please observe silence and turn off your electronic devices.*

Prelude: God of Mercy, God of Grace – C.S. Lang

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

*All stand for the entrance procession*

Hymn 380 From all that dwell below the skies

*The people standing, the Celebrant joins the people in facing the altar and says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The 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 by all, standing*

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 Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*The Celebrant says the Collect*

BCP 231

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

*The people sit. The Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading from Isaiah [56:1,6-8]

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.  
And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant--  
these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

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

*Silence is kept*

*Directions for Reciting the Psalter*

*The Psalm is read Responsively, the minister alternating with the congregation, verse by verse. An asterisk divides each verse into two parts. In reading, **a distinct pause should be made at the asterisk**. The pause is long enough to take a breath as one silently says the Name of Jesus. Commas in Psalms are not observed with a pause; a pause is observed at semi-colons. The Psalms are best able to be said when the readers both lower the pitch and volume of their voice.*

BCP 583

*Reader* The Psalm for today is Psalm 67, [*Deus misereatur*]  
We will read responsively by whole verse, pausing at  
the asterisks.

BCP 675

- 1 **May God be merciful to us and bless us, \***  
show us the light of his countenance and come to  
us.
- 2 **Let your ways be known upon earth, \***  
**your saving health among all nations.**
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \***  
**for you judge the peoples with equity**  
**and guide all the nations upon earth.**
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 **The earth has brought forth her increase; \***  
**may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**
- 7 May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of  
him.

*Reader* A Reading from Romans [11:1-2a, 29-32]

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received

mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence is kept*

*The people stand for the Gospel procession. The people and choir sing.*

Laudate Dominum

Songs from Taizé

*Sung through three, six, or nine times*

**Laudate Dominum,  
Laudate Dominum  
Omnes gentes, alleluia!  
Laudate Dominum,  
Laudate Dominum  
Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to Matthew [15:10-28].

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes

out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

*After the Gospel, the Celebrant says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev’d Kristin Wickersham

*Silence is kept*

*The people stand. The 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

*The Intercessor and people pray responsively*

*Intercessor* The gift of forgiveness surpasses our understanding; it  
heals relationships and mends our wounds. In  
thanksgiving for God's unfailing love, we offer our  
prayer, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

*Silence is kept*

That the leaders of the nations may maintain justice that  
leads to peace and harmony that leads to abundant life  
for all people; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* For the humility to receive God's blessings and the willingness to be a blessing to others, especially those who are lost and afraid, ill and without hope for recovery, mentally fragile, and without friends; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* For teachers preparing for the school year that is ahead, that they may be inspired to patiently nurture the minds of those in their charge; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* That we may be a people of gratitude, giving thanks to God with our whole heart, and soul, and mind; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* That we may not succumb to the harmful temptations of our culture, the desire to possess things beyond our need, our misuse of intimacy, our reliance on drugs and alcohol to improve our lives, and all things that keep us from trusting the power of the Spirit; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* That we may set our sight on the new life that awaits all who live in hope; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* That the dead who have died in the faith of Christ may inherit the kingdom prepared for them, and that those whose faith was known to God alone may receive divine mercy; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* In the company of all the saints, let us continue our prayers.

*Silence is kept*



*The people may add their own intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.*

*The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Celebrant reads one of the sentences from the Penitential Order*

BCP 352

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

*The people kneel and the Priest then says*

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept*

*The Priest 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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.  
*Matthew 11:28*

THE PEACE

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

BCP 376

*The Celebrant says to the people*

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. *1 Chronicles 29:14*

*At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the Bread and Wine and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Epiphany's ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a thank offering as the plate is passed. The offerings are then brought to the altar to be blessed by the priest.*

*The people sit*

Anthem: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy – M. Schweitzer

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation v.3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

*The people remain standing. The 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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Altar, the 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. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal S-125

**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 Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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

**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 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.**

*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal S-161

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

THE INVITATION

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

*The Sacrament is celebrated using wheat bread and fermented grape wine.*

*All baptized Christians who come seeking the Body and Blood of Christ, who earnestly repent of their sins, are in love and charity with their neighbors, and intend to lead a new life following the commandments of God are welcome to receive.*

*You may stand or kneel to receive Communion. The consecrated Bread is received in the hand, the right hand laid flat and placed on top of the left. To receive the consecrated Wine, grasp only the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips.*

*All are welcome to come to the altar rail and receive a blessing from the priest. Indicate this at the rail by crossing both arms over your chest.*

*We do not permit the practice of intincting the Holy Sacrament, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If, for any reason, you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, please cross your arms as the minister approaches. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the Holy Sacrament is fully available in the Body or Blood alone.*

*If you would like Communion brought to you in your pew, please inform an usher.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

BCP 365

*Celebrant*           The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.  
*Communicant*       **Amen.**

*Celebrant*           The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.  
*Communicant*       **Amen.**

*During the ministration of Communion, hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung.*

Hymn 321 My God, thy table now is spread

Taizé Chant. Come and fill

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!**

CONCLUDING RITES

*After Communion, the people kneel and Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

BCP 366

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.***

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing.*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Hymn 531 O Spirit of the living God

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the people with these words*

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Prelude on “Old 100th“ – J.C. Bach

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An Outline of the Faith  
commonly called the Catechism

The Ministry

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Q. What is the ministry of a bishop?

A. The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

Q. What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter?

A. The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.

Q. What is the ministry of a deacon?

A. The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Q. What is the duty of all Christians?

A. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.



## **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. – 1:00 p.m.

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, D. Min. *h.c.*, Bishop Diocesan

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Priest-in-Charge

Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm, Deacon-Intern

Mrs. Anita Williams, Music Minister

Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator

Mrs. Crystal Sarvay, R.N., Parish Nurse

Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton

Marty Shephard, Treasurer

### The Vestry

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham (Presider), John Sarvay (Sr.  
Warden),

Randy Holden (Jr. Warden), Jeri Townley (Register),

Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris,

Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

**COMMUNICATION CARD**  
August 20, 2023

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:** Karen Rood—sister of Jeri Townley, Karen Tatti—friend of Jennifer Tucke, Chuck Strabley

**Parishioners:** Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Milton Jenkins, Herb Williams, Martha Jenkins, Buddy Dunn, Timon Kenyi, Shirley Hughson, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick

**Homebound:** Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, and Irene Morris

**Family & Friends:** Helen Adams — friend of Gina Richardson, Virginia Barrett—Conny Barrett's daughter-in-law, Jean Stone— John Stone's mother, Donna Nuttal & family—niece of Gina Richardson, the family of Renee Stone—friends of Jennifer & Billy Tucker, Sebastian Strong—Jennifer Whitlock's grandson, Tom Devol—friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Steve—friend of Gray & Frosine Corbett, Clay—friend of Gray & Frosine, Kim McMullin & Keri Roberts—friends of Becky Card, John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Ed Morrow —friend of Bob & Kathy Jimerson, Dave & Melanie Erwin — friends of Dwight & Kim Ludwig,

**Prayers for the departed:**

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**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

**Today's Ministers**

**Ushers:** Gray Corbett, Kim Ruder  
**Acolytes:** Ginny Tucker, Faith Bingat  
**Lessons:** Carol Cullinan  
**Prayers of the People:** Carol Cullinan  
**Chalice:** Crystal Sarvary  
**Sun. School Helper:** Augustine Kiplagat  
**Altar Guild:** Crystal & John Sarvary  
**Coffee Hour:** Diana Stone  
**Counters:** Gray Corbett

**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





## The Church of the Epiphany

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 20, 2023**

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 Lesson

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

In our opening lesson the Lord exhorts the people to do what is just because the time of righteous salvation is close at hand. The temple will be a house of prayer for all nations. This vision of hope emphasizes the outgoing aspects of Israel's faith. Historically it deals with the fact that after the exile certain non-Israelites had come to live in Jerusalem and serve in the temple. The passage set the conditions for their participation but also looks beyond to a day when many peoples will worship the God of Israel.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

In this reading Paul sets forth his belief that God plans to bring Jews as well as Gentiles to salvation. This apostle to the Gentiles continues to wrestle with a difficult question: why is it that so many of Jesus' own people have not accepted him as the Christ? God has not rejected the Jewish people who were foreknown, yet now Jews and Gentiles are equal in that all have been disobedient to God. In the next step the Jewish people will see the mercy shown to the Gentiles and want themselves to share in it in their own way.

The Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

In our gospel Jesus teaches that the thoughts and intentions of the human heart are paramount. Jesus warns against such blind guides pre-occupied with externals. He then travels beyond the boundaries of Israel to the territory of Tyre and Sidon and encounters Canaanite woman who beseeches him to heal her daughter. The first Christians were unsure whether they were to offer the faith to non-Jews and the give-and-take in this story may reflect the uncertainty. Jesus sees his own mission as confined to Israel, but the woman's faith causes him to give her the bread she asks for. Symbolically it is the saving food of the gospel which heals her daughter.

**On the Calendar and Coming up**

**Sun. Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:15 am — Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am — Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

**Wed. Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Noon Eucharist Service

**Fri. Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

**Sun. Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist

Blessing of Backpacks!

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

***The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Melba Shumaker & Herb & Anita Williams in memory of their parents, Herbert & Glenna Williams & Anita's parents, Allie & Mary Brooks.***

**Congratulations to Eric Ludwig** for receiving an Episcopal Church Women Scholarship. He will attend James Madison in the fall.

**Please check out the sign up board**, by the kitchen door, for a Sunday to do coffee hour! We have a few open Sundays coming up!"

**Stewardship:** When the church becomes an institution, people are nothing more than volunteers to be recruited. When the church is a movement, our stewardship becomes the unleashing of our God-given gifts, talents, and passions. (Erwin McManus)

**Blessing of the Backpacks** next Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Attendance: August 13, 2023  
8:15 am 5  
10:30 am 55

**Outreach Opportunities**



The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 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 Saturday, **August 19<sup>th</sup>** and the **next diaper distribution day is on September 16<sup>th</sup>**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 5 and 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 Vestry Team on September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. This ministry is currently in its 24<sup>th</sup> year! **Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags and 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)).



**Lambs Basket** continues to need donations of food items, particularly cereals, peanut butter, jams, jellies, and canned foods. Please, bring in your donations and leave them in the parish hallway in the red wagon. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

**If anyone has any outreach projects or needs, they are aware of in the community, please share them!** See Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator, or email at [epiphanyrvaparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanyrvaparishnurse@gmail.com).

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



**COMMUNICATION CARD**

August 20, 2023

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**