

Church of the Epiphany

The Second Sunday in Lent, Year B
February 25, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist Rite II

according to

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979

Enriching Our Worship 1
The Book of Occasional Services 2022
and The Hymnal, 1982

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany. We are an Episcopal parish church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. 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). Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal, 1982 (the blue book). Hymns noted with an S are Service Music and are located in the frontmost section of The Hymnal.

*The half-hour before the Mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.
Please wait quietly for the service to begin.*

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

Prelude: In the Cross of Christ I glory – W. Held

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn 401 The God of Abraham praise

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The people kneel.

THE DECALOGUE

Enriching Our Worship 1

Celebrant Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of
bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord
your God.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant Honor your father and your mother.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not commit murder.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not commit adultery.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not steal.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not be a false witness.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And write all these thy laws in our hearts,
we beseech you.**

The Kyrie is sung, all standing.

Kyrie: Lord, Have Mercy

Hymnal S 86

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd

Kyrie eleison (repeat 3 times)

Christe eleison (repeat 3 times)

Kyrie eleison (repeat 3 times)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant faces the Holy Altar and says the Collect of the Day.

BCP 218

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

People **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

BCP 300

The people sit.

The Lessons, as appointed, are read. A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

Reader A Reading from Genesis [17:1-7, 15-16]

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

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 a portion of
Psalm 22, *Deus, Deus meus*
We will read responsively
by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 610

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; * *(pause)*
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; * (pause) but when they cry to him he hears them.**
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; * (pause)
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: * (pause) "May your heart live for ever!"**
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, * (pause)
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; * (pause) he rules over the nations.**
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * (pause)
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * (pause) they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said by All

THE GLORIA PATRI

BCP 406

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Reader A Reading from Romans [4:13-25]

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law

brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Hymn 147 Now let us all with one accord

Then, all standing, the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Mark [8:31-38].

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

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the

chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham

Silence.

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,

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Planning for Rites and Rituals, Year B

Prayer is offered with intercession for The Universal Church, its members, and its mission; The Nation and all in authority; The welfare of the world; The concerns of the local community; Those who suffer and those in any trouble; The departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate).

The Celebrant may introduce the Prayers with a sentence of invitation related to the occasion, or the season, or the Proper of the Day.

The Intersessor and people pray responsively

Celebrant As we walk on our Lenten journey, let us offer our prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

Intersessor We pray for the Church in all places, in all expressions, that we may be one.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Intercessor We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Mark, our bishop diocesan, for Kristin, our priest, and Florian, our deacon-intern. We pray for Debrah and all those preparing for Baptism.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Intercessor We pray for the City of Richmond, the County of Henrico, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States; for legislatures and courts and for all elected officials.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Intercessor We pray for those who suffer from violence and fear, give us wisdom and courage in the face of suffering.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Intercessor For all those who are injured, for those who are sick, for those needing ongoing care. For all those who seek healing.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Intercessor For this community and this congregation; for our joys and for our challenges.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Intercessor For those we love but see no longer; for all those who have died.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others.

A period of silence is kept. The people may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

The Celebrant says

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.

THE COLLECT AT THE PRAYERS

Gracious God, who sees us through the eyes of love and compassion, give us your sight as we pray for your world and

your people. Lead us into moments of your abundance
goodness, that we may rejoice, but also draw us closer to you as
we think on the sorrow of the Cross. Strengthen our repentance,
when we, by our actions, increase that sorrow, and renew our
hearts for the day to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

A Confession of Sin is said here if it has not been said earlier. On occasion, the Confession may be omitted.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

BCP 360

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the
truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful
and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel.

Silence is kept.

The 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, 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 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 Celebrant may begin the Offertory with some sentence of Scripture.

During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

BCP 361

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” *Mark 16:24*

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: O Love of God, How Strong and True – Bomar/Griffiths

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the deacon or celebrant.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

BCP 361

Hymn 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing

Nettleton

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 Table, 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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

THE SANCTUS

Hymnal S-130

Celebrant and People

**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 to 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.

People **AMEN.**

The Celebrant continues

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

People and Celebrant

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE AGNUS DEI

Hymnal S-161

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd

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

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 Holy Communion.

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.

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

We do not permit 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.

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.

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

If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

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.**

The people join the choir in singing the hymns during Communion.

Hymn 691 My faith looks up to thee

Taizé Chant: Eat This Bread

**Eat this bread, Drink this cup
Come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, Drink this cup,
Trust in him and you will not thirst.**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE Book of Occasional Services p. 10

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used, as follows

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel.

Celebrant Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing

mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people stand for the dismissal.

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.**

Hymn 636 How firm a foundation

An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism

The Holy Scriptures

Q. What are the Holy Scriptures?

A. The Holy Scriptures, commonly called the Bible, are the books of the Old and New Testaments; other books, called the Apocrypha, are often included in the Bible.

Q. What is the Old Testament?

A. The Old Testament consists of books written by the people of the Old Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to show God at work in nature and history.

Q. What is the New Testament?

A. The New Testament consists of books written by the people of the New Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to set forth the life and teachings of Jesus and to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom for all people.

Q. What is the Apocrypha?

A. The Apocrypha is a collection of additional books written by people of the Old Covenant, and used in the Christian Church.

Q. Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?

A. We call them the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.

Q. How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

A. We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures.

Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
and part 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.

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, D. Min. *h.c.*, Bishop Diocesan
The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SCP, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev'd Canon John F. Rice, D. Min., Retired Priest in Residence
Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm, Deacon Intern
Mrs. Anita Williams, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Sarvay, R.N., Parish Nurse
Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton
Marty Shephard, Treasurer

Vestry

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Presider
John Sarvay, Sr. Warden
Randy Holden, Jr. Warden
Jeri Townley, Register
Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris,
Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

Ministers

The ministers of the Church are all lay people, bishops, priests, and
deacons.

COMMUNICATION CARD
February 25, 2024

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: Jeri Ligon—David Skinner's sister

Parishioners: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Martha & Milton Jenkins, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, Irene Morris, Mike Young, Shirley Hughson, Dottie Strabley, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Oscar Aderholt, John Sarvay

Family & Friends: Marie Patterson—Crystal Sarvay's mother, Jean Stone—John Stone's mother, Melanie Goodpasture—Carol McElhinney's daughter, Ed Morrow—friend of Kathy Jimerson, Rush Middleton—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig, Karen Rood—sister of Jeri Townley, John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Linda Whitlock—sister-in-law of Wayne & Lucy Whitlock, Caitlin & Fr. Kyle Bomare & their family, Judy Watson—cousin of Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor, John Burkhardt—Brother-in-law of Chris & Sandy Tignor

Prayers for the departed: Susan Jackson (Ava Whittlesey's mother)

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers

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

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

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

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

Ushers: Gray & Frosine Corbett

Acolytes: Maura & Cora Whitlock

Lesson: Jennifer Jefcoats

Prayers of the People: Florian Jones-Stamm

Chalice: Florian Jones-Stamm

Sun. School Helper: Cory Isemann

Altar Guild: Crystal & John Sarvay, Conny Barrett

Coffee Hour: Karen & Randy Holden

Counters: Gray Corbett, Denise Russell



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024

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

1st Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

In our opening lesson God appears to Abam and enters into covenant with him, promising to make him an ancestor to multitudes. Abram is now a changed person. He will henceforth be called Abraham, and his wife Sarai will now be called Sarah. The covenant is to be an everlasting covenant made not only with Abraham and Sarah, but with all generations which issue from them. The Hebrew people will come to see this covenant as the originating source of their own identity, and Christians will find an example of saving faith in Abraham's response to God's promise.

2nd Reading: Romans 4:13-25

In this reading Paul explains that the new relationship with God is open to everyone who follows in Abraham's faith. This means that righteousness before God comes through God's free gift and the response of faith—not because of obedience to the law. This was first true in the case of Abraham, who trusted in God's promise before the law even existed. Now it is true for all who have faith and so show themselves to be among Abraham's descendants from many nations.

The Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

In our gospel passage Jesus teaches his disciples of the true nature of the ministry of the Son of Man and what it means to follow in his way. Peter has just previously stated his belief that Jesus is the Christ. But now he is called Satan because he tempts Jesus with human ideas rather than God's. Peter needs to understand that, as the Son of Man, Jesus' mission leads through suffering and death before resurrection. Disciples must also learn that the true self and true life are found by those who let themselves be lost for the sake of Jesus and the gospel.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Feb. 25th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
9:30—Children’s Sunday School & Adult Forum
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. Feb. 28th

6:00 pm—Bible Study

Thur. Feb. 29th

6:15 pm — Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm — Handbell Rehearsals.

Fri. Mar. 1st

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. Mar. 2nd

8:30 am—Outreach Bag Lunches—Green Team

Sun. Mar. 3rd

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
9:30—Children’s Sunday School & Adult Forum
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Congratulations to those Confirmed & those Received last Sunday by Bishop Stevenson:

Confirmed: Ezra Axselle, Kiden Kenyi, Maura Whitlock, Cora Whitlock, Conny Barrett and Ashley Stamm.

Received: Jeri Townley, Susie Fenn, and Robert Steele.

Stewardship: The compassionate life is a grateful life, and actions born out of gratefulness are not compulsive but free, not somber, but joyful, not fanatical but liberating. When gratitude is the source of our actions, our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers. (Unknown)

The prayers & sympathy of the congregation are extended to Ava Whittlesley and family on the death of her mother, Susan Jackson who died on Tuesday, February 13th. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 6—7:30 PM. They are reading Falling into Grace: Exploring Our Inner Life With God by the Rev. John Newton. All are invited to join.

2nd Sunday Lunch for April is cancelled due to Big Night Out.

May 19 — Sloppy Joes
June 9 — Church Picnic
It is free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all meals!
The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30 am. They are discussing Sunday’s lessons, focusing on the readings from the Gospel of Mark. Please join us for coffee, cookies and some great conversation about how the Word of God speaks to us today.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 13 from 6—9pm. Chapter 11’s Big Night Out! Stay tuned for more information!

Attendance: February 18, 2024
8:15 am No service
10:30 am 103

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 next diaper distribution will be on **March 16th**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!

Homeless Lunches: 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 Green Team on March 2nd and Chapter 4 & 5 on March 30th.** The 2024 homeless lunch schedule is now up on the outreach board and we will be entering our 25th year of participating in this ministry. **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).

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.

A new opportunity to help our community: Lakeside Elementary School needs individually wrapped **healthy snacks and juices**. A box/basket will be in the parish hallway to collect these items. There are many students whose families cannot afford to send snacks to school with their children. Students during the day between breakfast and lunch need snacks and those who stay later in the afterschool program. Snacks are not provided by the school, although they do participate in the lunch program. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal.

Also, Please be on the look out for the **“Blessing Box”** and **“Little Library.”** They are in the works and will be here soon!

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

COMMUNICATION CARD

February 25, 2024

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
