

# Church of the Epiphany

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord  
January 7, 2024, 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). 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: Brightest and Best – J. Bender

Welcome and Announcements

### THE WORD OF GOD

THE ENTRANCE RITE

BCP 355

*The people stand.*

Hymn 135 Songs of thankfulness

*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 Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*The Celebrant faces the altar and says the Collect of the Day.*

BCP 214

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River  
Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him  
with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his  
Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly

confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

*All sit for the Readings.*

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

*Reader* A Reading from Genesis [1:1-5]

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*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 Psalm 29, *Afferte Domino*

We will read responsively

by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 620

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of  
peace.

*Reader* A Reading from Acts [19:1-7]

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence.*

*The people stand for the Gospel procession*

Christmas Alleluias

Luke Mayernik

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to Mark [1:4-11].

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit

descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven,  
“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

Mthr. Kristin Wickersham

THE SERMON

Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm

*Silence.*

*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing, said by all*

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

BCP 292

*Celebrant* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and  
Renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* **I do.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the  
dead.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows*

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

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 Intercessor and people pray responsively*

*Presider* Let us bring our prayers and thanksgivings to God.  
Please offer any prayers you would like to add during the times of silence.

*Intercessor* I invite your prayers for the Church, its members, and mission.

*People* *Silence.*

*Intercessor* I invite your prayers for this nation and for all those who exercise its authority.

*People* *Silence.*

*Intercessor* I invite your prayers for the broader community, for any needs across the world.

*People* *Silence.*

*Intercessor* I invite your prayers for this community, for the needs that you know we face here in our community.

*People* *Silence.*

*Intercessor* I invite your prayers for all those who suffer, for those in any trouble.

*People* *Silence.*

*Intercessor* I invite your prayers of thanksgiving.

*People* *Silence.*

*Intercessor* I invite your prayers for those who have died.

*People* *Silence.*

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

BCP 252

Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



*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 359

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 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

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*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: Shall We Gather at the River – R. Lowry

*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 43 All praise to thee (v. 3)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

*The people remain standing.  
The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or 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.*

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

THE SANCTUS

Hymnal S-130

*Priest-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 Priest-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:

*Priest-Celebrant and People*

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

*The Priest-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 Priest-Celebrant continues*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

*People and Priest-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.*

*Then may be sung or said*

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

*In place of, or in addition to, the preceding, some other suitable anthem may be used.*

*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.**

*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 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 fermented grape wine.*

*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.*

*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 339   Deck thyself, my soul,

Taizé Chant. The Lord is my light.

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:  
in God I trust, in God I trust.**

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:**

**in God I trust, in God I trust.**

*After Communion, the Priest-Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The people stand or kneel.  
Priest-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.**

*The people stand for the blessing.*

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.*

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

*The people remain standing for the dismissal.*

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

Hymn 448 O love, how deep, how broad, how high

Postlude: On This Day Earth Shall Ring – J. Mawby

***Please join us outside the doors to the Church as we chalk  
the blessing for 2024.***

# 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, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev'd Canon John F. Rice, D. Min., Assisting Priest  
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

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**  
January 7, 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:** Barbara Doty—friend of Susan Fenn, John Sarvay

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

**Family & Friends:** 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, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Karen Tatti—friend of Jennifer Tucker, Marie Patterson—Crystal Sarvay's mother, Jean Stone—John Stone's mother, Sebastian Strong—Jennifer Whitlock's grandson, Keri Roberts—friend of Becky Card, Caitlin & Fr. Kyle Bomare & their family, for all those called up to Military Service in Israel, especially Adam, Evan, Jared, Omri—nephews of Joy Baynes' son-in-law, Brian, the family of Emma Greenman—friends of Kim & Dwight Ludwig, family of Frosine Corbett living in Jerusalem, Jim & Carole Godwin—son & daughter-in-law of Carol Cullinan, Christopher & Johanna—relatives of Florian Jones-Stamm, Paul & Janie—friends of Wayne & Lucy Whitlock, Donna Tignor—sister-in-law of Chris & Sandy Tignor, Melanie Goodpasture—Carol McElhinney's daughter, Ed Morrow—friend of Bob & Kathy Jimerson, Rush Middleton—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig

**Prayers for the departed:**

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**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

**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

**Today's Ministers**

**Ushers:** Gray & Frosine Corbett

**Acolytes:** Maura & Cora Whitlock

**Lessons:** Jennifer Jefcoats

**Prayers of the People:** Florian Jones-Stamm


**Chalice:** Florian Jones-Stamm

**Sun. School Helper:** Kathy Jimerson

**Altar Guild:** Cheri & Scott Blackwell

**Coffee Hour:** Chapter 5/Sandy Ruder

**Counters:** Gray Corbett, Becky Card



# The Church of the Epiphany

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**First Sunday after the Epiphany:  
The Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 7, 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*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

In our opening lesson we read the beginning of the story of creation. God sweeps like a wind over the chaos and formless void and begins to establish order, bringing forth light and separating that light from darkness. This light precedes the creation of the sun, moon, and stars and may be perceived as an initial revelation of God's character as this first step in creation is declared good.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Acts 19:1-7

In our second reading the apostle Paul continues to travel through Asia Minor carrying the good news of Jesus to Jew and Gentile alike. In Ephesus he encounters a group of believers who had received only John's baptism of repentance. Paul baptizes them in the name of Jesus. He then lays his hands upon them and they are filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying as had others among those who first came to faith. The number of believers was twelve, which could reflect a connection with the original twelve disciples, the twelve tribes of Israel, and the ongoing power of the Spirit of God evident in Paul's ministry.

The Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Our gospel is the story of the ministry of John the Baptist, and of Jesus' baptism. John tells of the mightier one to come whose baptism will be with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is then baptized and the Spirit is manifest. A voice from heaven speaks to Jesus in words that echo ancient oracles concerning the king and the calling of the Lord's chosen servant.

**On the Calendar and Coming up**

**Sun. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 1  
 9:30 am Adult Forum & Sun. School  
 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

**Wed. Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:00 pm—Bible Study

**Thur. Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:15 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 7:30 pm—Handbell Rehearsal

**Fri. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

**Sun. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:15 am—Holy Eucharist—Rite 1  
 9:30—Children’s Sunday School & Adult Forum  
 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

The Rev. Fred Huntington will be here with us.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday luncheon

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God. by Joyce Melton in loving memory of her husband, Herman D. Melton, Jr.*

**The Bible Study** will meet on Wednesdays from 6—7:30 PM. They will read Br. David Steindl-Rast’s book, “You are Here: Keywords for Life.” We hope you’ll join us!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch next Sunday, January 14** and is free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all lunches! Mark your calendars for 2024.

- Jan. 14 — Salad Bar
  - Feb. 13 — Pancake Supper ( Tue. Night)
  - April 14 — Breakfast Bar
  - May 19 — Sloppy Joes
  - June 9 — Church Picnic
- The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

**Here is the schedule for the Chancel Choir & Handbells:** No Rehearsals January 18, 25, February 1, 8. Rehearsals resume February 15 at 6:15 pm Choir and 7:30 pm Handbells.

**Adult Forum returning Sundays at 9:30 am.** They will be 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.

**Stewardship:** This time of year we have more than our fair share of football games to watch. I find that one of the silliest penalties to get is delay of game. For fans, tension builds up as the play clock ticks down toward zero. Most of the time the ball is hiked in time. Similarly during stewardship season, we know that pledges will come in eventually. Nevertheless, like near delay of game, those planning the annual budget get a little concerned the longer they wait for pledge cards. Please take a moment to indicate your support to your Epiphany family. Darel Gallagher

There are some pledge cards in the church office if you have lost or misplaced yours.

Attendance: December 31, 2023  
 10:30 am


**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 **January 20<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 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 Vestry Team on February 3, 2024.** Thanks to the Red Team who prepared and delivered the lunches yesterday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. *The 2024 homeless lunch schedule is now up on the outreach board.* We will be entering our 25<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)).

**Coming soon** is our long awaited “Blessing Box” and “Little Library.” Be on the lookout for upcoming information and ways that you can help contribute!

**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.

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

**Care Notes Corner:** *The parish nurse ministry continues to promote a healthier faith community through spiritual support and healthy life choices, while supporting ministries already in place within the church. If there are any special needs that can be accommodated through the parish nurse ministry, please contact Crystal Sarvay, MSN., RN at [epiphanyrparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanyrparishnurse@gmail.com)*

**COMMUNICATION CARD**

January 7, 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**

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