

# The Church of the Epiphany

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 17  
September 3, 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: Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him – J. Jordan

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

*All stand for the entrance procession*

Hymn 427 When morning gilds 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 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 232

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and 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 Jeremiah [15:15-21]

O Lord, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my  
persecutors.  
In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.  
Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O Lord, God of hosts.  
I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.  
Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the Lord:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.  
And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the Lord.  
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

*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 a portion of  
Psalm 26, *Judica me, Domine*

We will read responsively by whole verse.

BCP 616

- 1 Give judgment for me, O Lord,  
for I have lived with integrity; \*  
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 **Test me, O Lord, and try me; \***  
**examine my heart and my mind.**
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 **I have not sat with the worthless, \***  
**nor do I consort with the deceitful.**
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

**6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, \*  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell \*  
and the place where your glory abides.**

*Subdeacon* A Reading from Romans [12:9-21]

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Subdeacon* 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

*The people and choir sing.  
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 [16:21-28].

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

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "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 will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

*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.**

*After the Creed, the Celebrant invites the candidate for the order of Subdeacon to come forward and stand at the altar rail. The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying*

*Celebrant* Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose today is to recognize this person in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which he is called – the office of Subdeacon.

*The Celebrant then addresses those to be recognized as subdeacons*

According to ancient tradition, it belongs to the office of Subdeacon to assist the Deacon in their ministry with the Priest-Celebrant; to chant or read the Epistles of the Church; to hold the Gospel book while the Deacon chants or reads the Gospel; to see that the holy vessels and all things are prepared for divine service; to assist with the administration of Holy Communion; and to perform other duties according to the direction of those under whose authority you serve.

See, therefore, that you be faithful, watchful, sober, pure-hearted, and devout in this ministry; and may God grant you to fulfill this calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying*

#### THE PRESENTATION & EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

*Celebrant* Florian has prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by weekly attendance at Eucharist, and a regular practice of the Daily Office, and by the knowledge of his duties, to exercise this ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of God's church.



*The Celebrant then addresses the person to be admitted, saying*

*Celebrant* I charge you who seek the holy office of Subdeacon to consider carefully again and again what a duty it is that you desire to take upon yourself, and to seek this office not for the sake of personal gain, but for the honor and service of God.

Do you believe that God himself has called you to his service?

*Candidate* I do.

*Celebrant* Will you be diligent in framing your life and conduct after the rule of Christ's doctrine?

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

*The Celebrant then says the following Antiphon*

*Celebrant* Do not be negligent, for the Lord has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him, and to be his minister. Therefore, I exhort you so to conduct yourself as to be pleasing to God.

*The Candidate replies, saying*

*Candidate* I will go unto the altar of God: to the God of my joy and gladness.

*The Candidate kneels at the altar rail.*

*The Celebrant anoints the forehead of the Candidate with the sign of the cross, saying,*

*Celebrant* I recognize you Florian as a Subdeacon in the Church of God; in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant then prays the following Collect*

*Celebrant* O Lord, heavenly Father, Almighty, everlasting God, we

pray you to bless this your servant, whom you have chosen for the office of Subdeacon; make him diligent in your sanctuary; grant him perseverance in resisting evil; make him a faithful minister at your holy altar; endow him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and godliness; and fill him with the spirit of your fear: establish him in the sacred ministry, that obedient in word and deed, he may obtain your grace. *Amen.*

*The Subdeacon stands, and the Celebrant presents him with a cruets filled with water, a sign of his ministry, as well as the book of Epistles, which they touch with the right hand while the Officiant says,*

*Celebrant* Receive the New Testament so that what you read here, in this holy church, will be hope and salvation for the living and the dead. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Subdeacon* Amen.

*The Subdeacon returns to their place and the service continues with the Prayers of the People.*

*The Intercessor and people pray responsively*

*Intercessor* God is the great “I AM” in whose Name we pray, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

*Silence is kept*

That we may open our ears to the cries of those who suffer, freeing them from enslavement to poverty, abuse, and lack of opportunity, taking our share in the saving acts of God; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* That the leaders of the nations may lead their people with integrity, honoring all that is past and moving into the challenges that define a new life; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* For the courage to lift up our crosses to the light of day,

carrying them on our journey of faith, uniting ourselves with the Christ of The Passion so as to share in the glory of his resurrection; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* That we be given the strength to leave behind the fruits of temptation, turning our gaze upon that which is nourishing and sound, living a life of love, honor, and respect for others, full of rejoicing and thanksgiving; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* For all laborers, that they may receive a fair wage, a safe working environment, the companionship of fellow workers, and the respect of those who exercise authority over them; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* For those who have died surrounded by family and friends, and for those who were unloved and unmourned, that all may have a place in God's kingdom; let us pray.

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

*Intercessor* May the Name of God be grafted on our hearts as we 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.*

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 Celebrant and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant says to the people*

BCP 376

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*

Offertory Voluntary: New Every Morning is the Love – W. Held

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation v3

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

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,

*People and Celebrant*

BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. *Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The 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 439   What wondrous love is this

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.

*Celebrant and People*

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, may bless the people.*

*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 551 Rise up, ye saints of God!

Postlude: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation – M. Archer

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An Outline of the Faith  
commonly called the Catechism

Prayer and Worship

Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.

Q. What is Christian Prayer?

A. Christian prayer is response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Q. What prayer did Christ teach us?

A. Our Lord gave us the example of prayer known as the Lord's Prayer. See page [364](#).

Q. What are the principal kinds of prayer?

A. The principal kinds of prayer are adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition.

Q. What is adoration?

A. Adoration is the lifting up of the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence.

Q. Why do we praise God?

A. We praise God, not to obtain anything, but because God's Being draws praise from us.

Q. For what do we offer thanksgiving?

A. Thanksgiving is offered to God for all the blessings of this life, for our redemption, and for whatever draws us closer to God.

Q. What is penitence?

A. In penitence, we confess our sins and make restitution where possible, with the intention to amend our lives.

Q. What is prayer of oblation?

A. Oblation is an offering of ourselves, our lives and labors, in union with Christ, for the purposes of God.

Q. What are intercession and petition?

A. Intercession brings before God the needs of others; in petition, we present our own needs, that God's will may be done.

Q. What is corporate worship?

A. In corporate worship, we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments.

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### **The Church of the Epiphany**

An Episcopal Church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

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

Office Hours:  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 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  
Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm, Deacon Intern  
Mrs. Anita Williams, Minister of Music  
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

The Ministers of the Church

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

**COMMUNICATION CARD**  
September 3, 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:** Pamela Carr — Nancy Sonne's niece, Marie Patterson— Crystal Sarvay's mother, Roselyn Timon

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

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

**Family & Friends:** Jean Stone— John Stone's mother, 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, Caitlin & Dcn. Kyle Bomare & their family, Ed Morrow —friend of Bob & Kathy Jimerson, Dave & Melanie Erwin — friends of Dwight & Kim 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, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Karen Tatti—friend of Jennifer Tucker

**Prayers for the departed:**

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**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

**Today's Ministers**

**Ushers:** Becky Card, Conny Barrett

**Acolytes:** Elli & Ceanna Cloyes

**Lessons:** Stacy Mitchell

**Prayers of the People:** Stacy Mitchell

**Chalice:** Florian Jones-Stamm

**Sun. School Helper:** Augustine Kiplagat

**Altar Guild:** Karen & Randy Holden

**Coffee Hour:** Gray & Frosine Corbett

**Counters:** Kim Ludwig, Becky Card

**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**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 3, 2023**



Epiphany's community.

*Introducing the Lesson*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

In the first reading Jeremiah complains to the Lord about the pain and difficulties of his mission. He then receives God's answer. The prophet has been called to preach a message of dark judgment to a people who are soon to be sent into exile. Despite persecution, the Lord's words were at first a joy to Jeremiah, but God has become like a treacherous brook—a stream that dried up when its water were needed. Then the Lord tells Jeremiah that it is he who needs to turn again to God. The Lord will be with him, and he will be a wall of bronze against the people.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 12:9-21

In this lesson Paul exhorts the disciples in Rome to live lives full of Christian dedication and virtue, overcoming evil with good. One hears strong echoes of Jesus' beatitudes. Also present is Paul's own emphasis on the central role of love together with the importance of a readiness to share in both the joy and sorrow of others. Blended with these teachings are some of the best of both Jewish and pagan ethical counsel. The apostle concludes with the insistence that revenge cannot be a motivator of Christians; final justice must be left to divine retribution.

The Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

In gospel reading Jesus teaches Peter and the other disciples that the way of his ministry and theirs is the way of the cross. Peter had just confessed Jesus to be the Christ, but now he cannot accept the idea of the Christ being put to death. Jesus calls Peter "Satan" because his words represent a temptation to him. Jesus' way costs no less than everything and leads to the discovery of that which is priceless. In the end the Son of Man will come as judge to repay all people for what they have done.

**On the Calendar and Coming up**

**Sun. Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

**Mon. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>**

Office Closed  
Labor Day

**Thur. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>**

6:15 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Fri. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

**Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch—Taco Bar

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Lauryn Boyd in memory of her parents, Francis & Beatrice Byrd.*

**Stewardship:** Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family and his grace? In each case, he evaluates how we regard what he has entrusted to us and what we do with it. (Randy Alcorn)

**Adult Christian Formation** begins again on Wednesday, September 13. This small group meets after work, at 6:00 pm in the parlor. We will continue our focus on the Gospel According to John. Send an email to Mtr. Kristin if you would like to be included in this small group.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lunches are back** beginning Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. These lunches are free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all lunches! Mark your calendars thru December:  
Sept. 10 — Taco Bar  
Oct. 8 — Baked Potato Bar  
Nov. 12 — Chicken & mashed potatoes  
Dec. 17 — Soup & Bread Lunch

The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

Attendance: August 27, 2023  
8:15 am 7  
10:30 am 62

**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 and this past month we have met several new families. The most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 4, 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 Green Team on October 7<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you to the Vestry who prepared and delivered lunches 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.**

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

**COMMUNICATION CARD**

September 3, 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**

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