

The Church of the Epiphany

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 12, Year A
July 30, 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: Children of the Heavenly Father - W. Held

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

Hymn 594 God of grace and God of glory

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 forever.
Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity.

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

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung by all, standing

Hymnal S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant says the Collect

BCP 231

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our
necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have

compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

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

A Reading from 1 Kings [3:5-12]

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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 119, Pe, *Mirabilia* [119:129-136]
We will read responsively by whole verse.

BCP 774

- 129 **Y**our decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- 130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.**
- 131 I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.
- 132 Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.**
- 133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.**
- 135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.
- 136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.**

Reader A Reading from Romans [8:26-39]

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the

heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept

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

Laudate Dominum
Sung through three, six, or nine times

Songs from Taizé

**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 [13:31-33, 44-52].

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”
And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been
trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a
household who brings out of his treasure what is new and
what is old.”

After the Gospel, the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham

Silence is kept

The people stand. The Celebrant and people say

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE VESTRY Book of Occasional Services 154

Celebrant Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are all baptized by the Spirit into one Body and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Billy, Gray, Jeri, John, John, Mirendy, Randy, and Scott have been called to the ministry of vestry service. Vestry members are elected by the congregation annually for a term of three years. As outlined by the canons of the Diocese of Virginia, the duties of the vestry are: to elect a rector with the advice of the Bishop; to cooperate with the rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation; to assist the rector in his or her ministry; to support the programs of the church and encourage the others to do so; to give generously to church programs; to welcome the newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members; and to elect members of the congregation to the Regional Council and Council of the Diocese. Once elected, each chosen vestry member must qualify. Part of that qualification is the vestry declaration and promise, which we undertake today.

Billy, Gray, Jeri, John, John, Mirendy, Randy, and Scott, in the presence of God and this congregation, please make your vow.

Celebrant Do you believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation?

Vestry I do.

Celebrant Do you yield your hearty assent and approbation to the doctrine, worship, and discipline of The Episcopal Church?

Vestry I do.

Celebrant Do you promise that you will faithfully execute the office of Vestry member of the Church of the Epiphany, in the North Richmond Region, in the County of Henrico, according to your best knowledge and skill?

Vestry I do.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Look with favor upon those whom you have called, O God, and grant that they may be so filled with your Holy Spirit, that they may minister in their task with joy and steadfast devotion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Celebrant In the Name of God, we recognize you as the vestry of this parish church.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Intercessor Let us bring before the Lord the prayers that dwell in the heart of our community, responding, “Hear us, good Lord.”

Silence is kept

Spirit of Wisdom, guide our tongues, that we may speak of your marvelous works and rejoice in your bountiful gifts of forgiveness and new life; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Righteous Governor, assist our leaders in discerning truth from deception and good from evil, so that they may exercise their office with integrity and be signs of

hope to the people of our country and the world; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Source of strength, be with us in our weakness, and help those who live in the dark corners of hopelessness so that your love may reveal a greater light and dispel the fears that visit every heart; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Bearer of our sins, remove the dust that blinds us to our shortcomings, so that in admitting our wayward thoughts and actions we may turn toward your mercy and receive your forgiveness; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Creator of the universe, who brings us joy in the diversity of all that the eye can behold, make us ever grateful for the splendor of your making, and ever protective of its fruits; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Son of Righteousness, bring the dead into the brilliance of your light, and make us thankful for the intercession of your saints; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Bound together in the love of Christ, let us continue our prayers.

Silence is kept

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

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and

unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant reads one of the sentences from the Penitential Order

BCP 352

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

The people kneel and the Priest then says

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept

The Priest and People say

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

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

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

Matthew 11:28

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

BCP 376

The Celebrant says to the people

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

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 Anthem: Thy Holy Wings – W. Miller

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Altar, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever 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 forever. **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 711 Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Taizé Chant. Come and fill

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

CONCLUDING RITES

After Communion, the people kneel, and Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

BCP 365

**Almighty and ever living 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 forever. *Amen.*

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

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

Hymn 615 “Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee

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

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

Postlude: In Thee is Gladness – M. Dupre

An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

The Holy Spirit

Q. What is the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now.

Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the Old Covenant?

A. The Holy Spirit is revealed in the Old Covenant as the giver of life, the One who spoke through the prophets.

- Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the New Covenant?
- A. The Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord who leads us into all truth and enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ.
- Q. How do we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- A. We recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.
- Q. How do we recognize the truths taught by the Holy Spirit?
- A. We recognize truths to be taught by the Holy Spirit when they are in accord with the Scriptures.
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The Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

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

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

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

The Vestry

Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, Randy Holden (Jr. Warden),
John Norris, John Sarvay (Sr. Warden), Mirendy Smith,
Jeri Townley (Register), Billy Tucker

COMMUNICATION CARD
July 30, 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: Jeannie Riddick

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

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

Family & Friends: John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Jennie Gundersen—friend of Irene Temple, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Mary Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, William Higgins—Harrison Higgins' grandson, Helen Adams — friend of Gina Richardson, Virginia Barrett—Conny Barrett's daughter-in-law, Jean Stone— John Stone's mother, Donna Nuttal & family—niece of Gina Richardson, the family of Renee Stone—friends of Jennifer & Billy Tucker, Sebastian Strong—Jennifer Whitlock's grandson, Tom Devo!—friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Steve—friend of Gray & Frosine Corbett, Clay—friend of Gray & Frosine, Kim McMullin & Keri Roberts—friends of Becky Card

Prayers for the departed:

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers

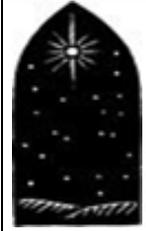
Weekly Worship
Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

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

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

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

Ushers: Becky Card, Conny Barrett
Acolytes: Ginny Tucker, Ezra Axselle
Lessons: Jeri Townley
Prayers of the People: Jeri Townley
Chalice: Cory Isemann
Sun. School Helper: Stephanie Norris
Altar Guild: Cheri & Scott Blackwell
Coffee Hour:
Counters: Kim Ludwig, Becky Card



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

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

Introducing the Lesson

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

In the opening lesson King Solomon pleases the Lord by requesting an understanding mind with which to govern the people. God appears to Solomon in a dream shortly after he has come to the throne of his father David. Solomon not only wishes the skill to rule but he wisdom to do it justly, distinguishing between good and evil. God grants him this and much more, and Solomon will become famous both for his wisdom and the splendor of his kingdom.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-39

In this lesson Paul expresses his great confidence that God is for us, making love known to humankind through the sacrifice of the Son and the help of the Spirit. The Spirit pleads with God for us, interceding when words fail. We learn that God works for good with those called according to God's purpose. Nothing, therefore, can separate us from the love of One who did not withhold from us the divine Son. Neither mortal distress nor supernatural power can separate us from such love.

The Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Our gospel is five of Jesus' short parables: the mustard seed, the leaven, the hidden treasure, the priceless pearl and the net. They suggest how the action of God's reign is realized. What seems insignificant is suddenly of great importance. It is like a marvelous gift which one seizes upon joyfully and for which all else is willingly sacrificed. The kingdom takes all kinds, and the sorting out must await the end. Wise servants will recognize treasure both old and new.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. July 30th

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

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. Aug. 2nd
Noon Eucharist Service

Fri. Aug. 4th
7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. Aug. 5th
8:30 am—Outreach Bag Lunches — The Red Team

Sun. Aug. 6th
8:15 am—Holy Eucharist
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Randy & Karen Holden in thanksgiving for Chuck Strabley. Happy Birthday!

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

Stewardship: Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2)

Attendance: July 23, 2023
8:15 am 6
10:30 am 48

Outreach Opportunities



The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God's love and develop relationships within our community. The most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, July 15th and **the next diaper distribution day is on August 19th**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!



A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Red Team on August 5th**. This ministry is currently in its 24th 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).



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

If anyone has any outreach projects or needs, they are aware of in the community, please share them! See Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator, or email at epiphanyrvparishnurse@gmail.com.

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

COMMUNICATION CARD

July 30, 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