

# **The Church of the Epiphany**

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

December 4, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*(This service is live-streamed. Streaming and recording conclude at  
The Great Thanksgiving. Holy Communion is not recorded.)*

Prelude: O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines - C. Hand

Announcements

Processional Hymn: 76 On Jordon's bank the Baptist's cry

## THE WORD OF GOD

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

*The people standing, the Priest-Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The people kneel.*

THE DECALOGUE

Enriching Our Worship 1

*Celebrant* Hear the commandments of God to his people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of  
bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

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

*Celebrant* You shall not make for yourself any idol.

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

*Celebrant* You shall not invoke with malice the Name of  
the Lord

your God.

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

*Celebrant* Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

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

*Celebrant* Honor your father and your mother.

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

*Celebrant* You shall not commit murder.

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

*Celebrant* You shall not commit adultery.

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

*Celebrant* You shall not steal.

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

*Celebrant* You shall not be a false witness.

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

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

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

*The people stand.*

Kyrie: Lord, Have Mercy

Hymnal S 91

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The Priest-Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Priest-Celebrant says the Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent.*  
BCP 211

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

The Lessons

BCP 357

*The people sit.*

*Reader* A Reading from Isaiah [11:1-10]

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the  
wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion  
shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's  
den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the  
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling  
shall be glorious.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

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

*Reader* The Psalm for today is portions of Psalm 72. We will read the psalm responsively by whole verse.

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
\*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the  
oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
\*  
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon  
shall be no more.

**18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

*Reader* A Reading from Romans [15:4-13]

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May

the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The people stand.*

Sequence Hymn. Advent Alleluias

Luke Mayernik

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to Matthew [3:1-12].

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who

warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

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

THE HOMILY

Mtr. Kristin Wickersham

*The people stand.*

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,**



**begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and  
glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
Form VI

BCP 392

*The Intercessor and People pray responsively*

*Intercessor* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* For all people in their daily life and work:  
*People* **For our families, friends, and neighbors,  
and for those who are alone.**

*Intercessor* For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*People* **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Intercessor* For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*People* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice,  
and oppression.**

*Intercessor* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind  
of trouble;  
*People* **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless,  
and the needy.**

*Intercessor* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*People* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who  
seek the Truth.**

*Intercessor* For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Mark and  
Susan  
our Bishops, Kristin our Priest; and  
all bishops, priests, deacons, and other ministers;  
*People* **For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Intercessor* For the special needs and concerns of  
this congregation.

### *Silence*

*The people may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.*

*Intercessor* Hear us, Lord;  
*People* **For your mercy is great.**

*Intercessor* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

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

*Intercessor* We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*People* **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all who have died, that they may have  
a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The people may add their own petitions.*

*Intercessor* Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*People* **Who put their trust in you.**

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

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The people sit.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

*The Priest-Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All kneel.*

*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 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 Priest and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Sentences  
376

BCP

*The Priest-Celebrant says to the People*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*The people sit.*

*The people place their offerings and commitment/pledge cards into offering plates, which are brought to the altar as an offering to God, and blessed by the Priest.*

Anthem: The Father's Love - W. Price

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer B*  
367

BCP

*The people stand.*  
*The Priest-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.**

*The Priest-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, the Preface for Advent is said*  
378

BCP

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

BCP 367

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:

*Priest-Celebrant and People*

Sanctus

Hymnal S

130

**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 stand or kneel.*

*Then the Priest-Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Priest-Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Priest-Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

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

*People and Priest-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 Priest-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.**



*the Priest-Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*How to Receive Communion and An Invitation to Baptism*

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. If you do not wish to receive, you may come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest. If you desire to be Baptized and thereby enter into membership in the mystical Body of Christ, please contact the Priest-in-Charge.*

*At the altar rail, to receive the bread, lay your right hand in your left hand, palm open. To receive the wine, as the priest brings the chalice to your lips, gently touch the base to help guide it to your lips.*

*We do not allow the practice of intinction, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the holy sacrament is fully available in the bread or the wine alone.*

*If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please tell an usher and the priest will come to you.*

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

*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.**

Music During Communion    Wait for the Lord, Taizé Chant

*After Communion, the Priest-Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*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 Priest-Celebrant blesses the people.*

May the almighty and merciful God,  
by whose grace you have placed your faith  
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son  
and yearn for his coming again,  
sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent  
and enrich you with his blessing.

*People*    **Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life,  
may he make you firm in faith,  
joyful in hope and active in charity.

*People*    **Amen.**

So that, rejoicing now with devotion  
at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh,

you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

*People* **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

*People* **Amen.**

*The Priest-Celebrant dismisses the people.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Post-Communion Hymn: 65 Prepare the way, O Zion

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Robert Statton in memory of his mother, Mary B. Statton.*

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## **An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism**

*Human Nature*

Q. What are we by nature?

A. We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God.

Q. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

A. It means that we are free to make choices: to love, to

*create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation  
and with God.*

*Q. Why then do we live apart from God and out of  
harmony with creation?*

*A. From the beginning, human beings have misused their  
freedom and made wrong choices.*

*Q. Why do we not use our freedom as we should?*

*A. Because we rebel against God, and we put ourselves in  
the place of God.*

*Q. What help is there for us?*

*A. Our help is in God.*

*Q. How did God first help us?*

*A. God first helped us by revealing himself and his will,  
through nature and history, through many seers and  
saints, and especially the prophets of Israel.*

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**The Church of the Epiphany**

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

Office Hours:

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

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

The Vestry

Gray Corbett (Sr. Warden), Randy Holden (Jr. Warden),  
Becky Card (Register), Scott Blackwell, Cory Isemann, Stacy Mitchell, John  
Norris, John Sarvay, Jeri Townley

**COMMUNICATION CARD**  
December 4, 2022

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:** Sandra — friend from community

**Parishioners:** Dottie Strabley, Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Fran LaVigne, Buddy Dunn, Milton Jenkins, David Skinner, Chip Dunn, Herb Williams, Marion Magruder, Martha Jenkins, George Baynes, Nancy Sonne, Jeannie Riddick

**Homebound:** Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Charlotte Lovelace, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, Betty Van Valkenburg, and Irene Morris

**Family & Friends:** Joyce Matchunis—Irene Morris' daughter-in-law, Dave Schulte—friend of Wayne & Lucy Whitlock, Nancy Baynes Rojas—daughter of George & Joy Baynes, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Buster & Janet Magruder—Marion Magruder's son & daughter-in-law, Carolyn Hall—friend of Kathy Jimerson, Lynn Selfe—friend of Gray & Frosine Corbett, Deb—cousin of Jeri Anne Townley, David Thabet, Elizabeth Mickel,—relatives of Denise Russell and Sandy Ruder, Christian Devol—friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Easton Guyer—Cheryl Lineberry's grandson, Mike Marcial—friend of Cory Isemann, Kelly & Steve Schaaf, Emily, Stephen Bruke—son of Scott Blackwell's friend, Karen Rood—Jeri Anne Townley's sister, Melissa Matthews —friend of Kim Ludwig, Jack Nance, friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Janie Dunnlevy—friend of Lucy & Wayne, Billy Callahan—friend of Karen Holden, Joan Senoga—friend of Jeri Townley, Joan Church—friend of Gail Wood, Jean McDonough—Kim Ludwig & Karen Tucker's aunt

**Prayers for the departed:**

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**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

Today's Ministers  
**10:30 AM—Worship Service**

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

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

8000 Hermitage Road  
804-266-2503

Office hours:  
Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12noon  
[www.epiphanyepiscopal.com](http://www.epiphanyepiscopal.com)

**Ushers:** Becky Card, Frosine Corbett

**Acolytes:** Jason Ludwig, Kim Ludwig

**Lessons:** Randy Holden

**Prayers of the People:** Randy Holden

**Sun. School Helper:** Conny Barrett

**Altar Guild:** Karen & Randy Holden

**Coffee Hour:** Ellie & David Tuck

**Counters:** Becky Card, Gray Corbett

**The Church of the Epiphany**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 4, 2022**



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 Lessons**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

In our lesson from the Hebrew Bible the prophet foresees a time when God will bring forth a righteous judge and a new spirit of peace in the world. The wise and faithful judge will come from the stump of Jesse—that is, from the line of the great King David, whose father was Jesse. The Spirit of the Lord will be his as he defends the humble and slays the wicked. The new age of peace will extend even to the animal kingdom.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 15:4-13

In this reading Paul points to several passages from the Hebrew scriptures to show how God's promise that the Gentile peoples should come to praise God was being fulfilled. The new Roman converts, whom Paul hopes soon to visit, are urged to live in harmony and to recognize the manner in which Christ's ministry has brought these prophecies to fruition. He is the root of Jesse, that is, the promised son of David, on whom their hope is to be set.

The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Our gospel lesson tells of the ministry of John the Baptist, his message of repentance and his prophecy of the mighty one to come. John himself is the messenger of preparation foretold by Isaiah. He baptizes with water those who confess their sins and wish to change their ways, but he chastises those who do not show the fruits of repentance. Soon comes the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with refining fire.

**On the Calendar and Coming up**

**Sun. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

7:30 pm—AA Meeting in parish hall

**Tue. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm—JRRingers

**Wed. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist  
6:30 pm—Bible Study

**Thur. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Fri. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

**Sat. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

9—noon—Leaf Raking

**Sun. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

Soup & bread luncheon

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

**Leaf Raking**—We'll be having our annual leaf raking day on Saturday, December 10 from 9 am—noon. It seems that we have an especially heavy leaf drop this year and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Come help keep Epiphany looking great! Call Scott Blackwell (804 868-6489) if you have any questions. If you can't make December 10, there are opportunities to help with some pre-work before that date.

**LAMB's Basket** needs your help with canned veggies, canned fruits, pastas, pasta sauces, canned meats and any holiday foods you deem appropriate. They also need the staple items like peanut butter and jelly and breakfast cereals as well as snacks for kids.

**There is still time to turn in your pledge card** and if you have lost or misplaced yours there are some on the table in the narthex.

**Due to the busy bustle of the holidays** we are cancelling the Noon Service for the month of December. We will be resuming again after the first of the year!

**Here's the upcoming kitchen news.**

Dec. 11: Soup and Bread lunch—sign up sheet in the kitchen if you can bring either one.

Dec. 25 and Jan 1: No coffee hour

Jan. 8: Feast of the Epiphany, this is a pot luck event. Bring your favorite dish to share. The church will provide chicken tenders.

Feb. 12: Pasta Bar

Feb. 21: Pancake Supper

Attendance: November 27, 2022  
8:15 am ?  
10:30 am 40

**Outreach Opportunities**



The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of each month from 10 am to 12:00 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 on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The next diaper distribution day is on **December 17<sup>th</sup>**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!

**Homeless Lunch 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 participating in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy ([msabernathy88@gmail.com](mailto:msabernathy88@gmail.com)) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. Most recent lunches were prepared and delivered on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> by chapter 11**. 2023 will be the 24<sup>th</sup> year that our parish has participated in the homeless lunch ministry! A big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support this ministry. Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags or napkins are always welcome as well and can be dropped off 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))



**The Warm and Fuzzy Tree** is up again this year in the parish hallway. Please, bring new mittens, scarves, socks, and hats to be donated to children in our community who are in need. Warm and fuzzy contributions will be collected on December 11<sup>th</sup> for distribution on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much for your donations.



Three families in our community have reached out with needs for their children who are not eligible for other programs. Their needs are listed on the outreach board and include clothes for a male (third grade) **clothes size 8/shoes size 13**. Another male (fourth grade) **clothes size 16/shoes size 6** and another male (kindergarten) **clothes size 7/shoes size 4** and a 9-month-old male who needs **clothes size 18 months**. If anyone can help with these needs, there will be a box in the hallway for collection by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much for all that you do to support our community!

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

**COMMUNICATION CARD**

December 4, 2022

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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