

Church of the Epiphany

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 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).

The half-hour before the Mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

Prelude: Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People – C. Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

Hymn 76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

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 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

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

All sit for the Readings.

Reader A Reading from Isaiah [40:1-11]

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

Directions for Reciting the Psalter

*The Psalm is read Responsively, the minister alternating with the congregation, verse by verse. An asterisk divides each verse into two parts. In reading, a **distinct pause should be made at the asterisk**. The pause is long enough to take a breath as one silently says the Name of Jesus. Commas in Psalms are not observed with a pause; a pause is observed at semi-colons. The Psalms are best able to be said when the readers both lower the pitch and volume of their voice.*

BCP 583

Reader The Psalm for today is a portion of
Psalm 85 [1-2, 8-13], *Benedixisti, Domine*
We will read responsively
by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 708

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, * *(pause)*
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people ***
(pause)
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, * *(pause)*
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear**
him, * *(pause)*
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; * *(pause)*
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, * *(pause)*
and righteousness shall look down from
heaven.**

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, * *(pause)*
and our land will yield its increase.

**13 Righteousness shall go before him, * *(pause)*
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

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

THE GLORIA PATRI

BCP 406

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

Reader A Reading from 2 Peter [3:8-15a]

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Advent Alleluias

Luke Mayernik

The people and choir sing.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Mark [1:1-8].

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of
God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people
from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in
the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed
with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate

locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham

Silence.

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

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

BCP 359

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

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

Subdeacon As we heed the call to prepare the way of the Lord, let us prepare our hearts in prayer, saying, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

Silence.

Intersessor We pray for those who work to prepare the way of the Lord, especially those in the Church. We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael, for our Bishop Diocesan, Mark, for our priest, Kristin, for our lay leaders and for all those who serve God’s people. May your Church strive to be a vessel of peace, O God, and hear our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intersessor We pray for our President, Joseph, for the Congress and the Supreme Court, for our Governor, Glenn; we pray for all those in positions of power, that they may seek to work for justice and peace in every place, leveling mountains of fear and raising valleys of hopelessness, that your will may be known on earth. May you guide and govern us, O God, and hear our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor We pray for nations torn by war, strife, and violence. We pray for all those in harm's way. We pray for those who hunger and those who suffer for the sake of conscience. We pray for those who seek refuge far from home. May they find consolation and strength in the face of your Son Jesus, O God, and hear our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor We pray for all those who struggle and suffer. We pray for the poor, the sick, the oppressed, and those in prison. We pray for all victims of violent crimes and their families. We pray for those who mourn and for those who have known bitterness. We pray all those with any need we name now, silently or aloud ...

Silence

Shine the light of your Christ into our broken world, O God, and hear our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor We pray for this community of faith that, like John the Baptizer, we may bear witness that God is coming into the world in our own lives. Give us hope and strength, O God, and hear our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor We praise you for the manifold gifts of our lives. We give thanks for all the blessings of our lives, including those that you would like to name now, silently or aloud ...

Silence

We pray that you may fill us with your grace, that we may be truly thankful, O God, and hear our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor We pray for those who have died. We pray that we may join with them, with the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptizer, and all the saints in the fellowship of the Church Triumphant.

O God, hear our prayer:

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

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

The people kneel.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

**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 pronounces absolution.

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

BCP 360

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with some sentence of Scripture.
During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

BCP 361

You shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which he has given you. *Deuteronomy 16:16,17*

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

Voluntary: Savior of the Nations, Come – K. Wissinger

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the deacon or celebrant.
The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

BCP 361

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation (v. 3)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

Because 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.

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-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 kneel

Then the 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.

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 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,

Celebrant and People

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

The 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, Francis Xavier, 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. **AMEN.**

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

BCP 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

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

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

Celebrant and People

Hymnal S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who come seeking the Body and Blood of Christ, who earnestly repent of their sins, are in love and charity with their neighbors, and intend to lead a new life following the commandments of God are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

All are welcome to come to the altar rail and receive a blessing from the priest. Indicate this at the rail by crossing both arms over your chest.

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

We do not permit the practice of intincting the Holy Sacrament, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If, for any reason, you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, please cross your arms as the minister approaches. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the Holy Sacrament is fully available in the Body or Blood alone.

You may stand or kneel to receive Communion. The consecrated Bread is received in the hand, the right hand laid flat and placed on top of the left. To receive the consecrated Wine, grasp only the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

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

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

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

BCP 365

Celebrant The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Communicant **Amen.**

Celebrant The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Communicant **Amen.**

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

Hymn 51 We the Lord's people

Taizé Chant. Wait for the Lord.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart! *(repeat)*

CONCLUDING RITES

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people kneel.

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless 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 people stand.

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 65 Prepare the way, O Zion

Postlude: "Winchester New" – C. S. Lang

An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism

The New Covenant

Q. What is the New Covenant?

A. The New Covenant is the new relationship with God given by Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to the apostles; and, through them, to all who believe in him.

- Q. What did the Messiah promise in the New Covenant?
A. Christ promised to bring us into the kingdom of God and give life in all its fullness.
- Q. What response did Christ require?
A. Christ commanded us to believe in him and to keep his commandments.
- Q. What are the commandments taught by Christ?
A. Christ taught us the Summary of the Law and gave us the New Commandment.
- Q. What is the Summary of the Law?
A. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
- Q. What is the New Commandment?
A. The New Commandment is that we love one another as Christ loved us.
- Q. Where may we find what Christians believe about Christ?
A. What Christians believe about Christ is found in the Scriptures and summed up in the creeds.

Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion

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

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Clergy and Staff

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

Vestry

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

Ministers of the Church

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

COMMUNICATION CARD
December 10, 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: Rush Middleton—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig 

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

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

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: Scott Blackwell, Conny Barrett
Acolytes: Avery Craver, Cora Whitlock
Lessons: Jennifer Jefcoats
Prayers of the People: Jennifer Jefcoats
Chalice: Florian Jones-Stamm
Sun. School Helper: Mary Kenyi
Altar Guild: Crystal & John Sarvary
Coffee Hour: Ellie & David Tuck
Counters: Gray Corbett



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

The first reading is a message of comfort and new hope to God's people. The time of exile in Babylon is coming to an end. A new way is made through the desert, and the mighty Lord comes, bringing peace and pardon to Jerusalem. Though all human powers fail, the Lord's word will stand. Like a shepherd, God will care for the people.

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This lesson is a reminder that the divine perspective on time can be very different from that of human beings. Many wonder why the Lord seems so slow to fulfill the promises of salvation and judgment. God, however, is patient and has divine purposes. Still, the day of the Lord will come suddenly, bringing a new heaven and earth. Christians must live both in patience and with a zeal for righteousness and peace in readiness for that judgment.

The Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark begins with the ministry of John the Baptist. He is the messenger spoken of in the scriptures, the voice that cries aloud in the wilderness. He is sent to prepare the way of the Lord through his call for repentance and baptism in water for the forgiveness of sins. The people flock to him, but he tells of a mightier one still to come who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Dec. 10th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One
 9:30 am—Sun. School
 9:30 am—Adult Forum—Four Last Things
 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two
 11:45 am—Confirmation Meeting

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Thur. Dec. 14th

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

Fri. Dec. 15th

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. Dec. 16th

10—12 noon—Diaper Ministry

Sun. Dec. 17th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One
 9:30 am—Sun. School
 9:30 am—Adult Forum—Four Last Things
 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

Children's Pageant after 10:30 service in Parish Hall & Soup & Bread Luncheon!

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Kim & Sandy Ruder in memory of their parents, Alex & Nadine Mickel and Neal & Mary Ruder and her brother, David Mickel.

There will be an Adult Christian Formation meeting the 4 weeks before Christmas from 9:30—10:15 am in the parlor. Each week we will discuss one of the Four Last Things and the promise that Christ will come again. We will go through Sunday, Dec. 17.

2nd Sunday Lunch! These lunches are free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all lunches! Mark your calendars for remainder of 2023 & beginning of 2024.

Dec.	17	— Soup & Bread Lunch
Jan.	14	— Salad Bar
Feb.	13	— Pancake Supper (Tue. Night)
April	14	— Breakfast Bar
May	19	— Sloppy Joes
June	9	— Church Picnic

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

A reminder it's not to late to turn your pledge cards in either by placing them in the collection plate or mail them to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Epiphany!

Attendance: December 3, 2023
 8:15 am 8
 10:30 am 64

Outreach Opportunities

The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God's love and develop relationships within our community. The next diaper distribution will be on December 16th. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!

Homeless Lunches: If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Red Team on January 6, 2024.** Thanks to the Green Team who prepared and delivered the lunches on December 2nd. *The 2024 homeless lunch schedule is now up on the outreach board.* We will be entering our 25th 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).

Warm & Fuzzy Tree is now up in the parish hallway. Please, bring new mittens, scarves, socks and hats to be donated to children/adults in our community who are in need. This will be available **through December 17th**. Thank you so much for your donations.

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.

There is a **family in need**, and we will be collecting items to help this family out this Christmas. There are **2 boys ages 8 ½ and 3 years**. We have already collected some items. They need **twin-size sheets** for each (blue, green or gray) and the oldest is autistic so soft, jersey type fabric is preferable. **Legos, art supplies.** The youngest likes dinosaur themed toys. Oldest one (autistic) likes Minecraft, gorilla tag, fidget/sensory type toys. There is a collection box in the parish hallway.

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

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

COMMUNICATION CARD

December 10, 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