

Church of the Epiphany

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 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: Of the Father's Love Begotten – W. Held

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

Hymn 66 Come thou long-expected Jesus

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. *(repeat 3x)*

Christ, have mercy upon us. *(repeat 3x)*

Lord, have mercy upon us. *(repeat 3x)*

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 212

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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 2 Samuel [7:1-11, 16]

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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 89 [89:1-4, 19-26], *Misericordias Domini*

We will read responsively
by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 713

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; * *(pause)*
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your
faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established
for ever; * *(pause)*
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the
heavens.**
- 3 “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; * *(pause)*
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 ‘I will establish your line for ever, * *(pause)*
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”**
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful
people: * *(pause)*
“I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; * *(pause)*
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**
- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, * *(pause)*
nor any wicked man bring him down.**
- 23 I will crush his foes before him * *(pause)*
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, * *(pause)*
and he shall be victorious through my Name.**
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend * *(pause)*
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, * *(pause)*
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’”**

At the end of the Psalm 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 Romans [16:25-27]

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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 Luke [1:26-38].

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one!

The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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 Let us join with Mary in her song of joy, and proclaim
 the greatness of the Lord as we pray.

Silence

Intercessor We rejoice in the community of faith and pray for all
 those preparing for baptism; we pray for our Presiding
 Bishop, Michael, for our Bishop Diocesan, Mark, for our

priest, Kristin, for our parish lay leaders, and for all those who, like Mary, have said yes to God.

People **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Intercessor We pray for our President, Joseph, and for our Governor, Glenn; we pray for all those in positions of power; that they may seek to lift up the lonely.

People **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Intercessor We pray for nations torn by war, strife, and violence. We pray for all those in harm's way. We pray that the hungry may be filled with good things and that those with plenty may learn to become empty for those in need.

People **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

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 those who mourn. We pray for all those with any need whom we name now, silently or aloud ...

Silence

Remember your promise of mercy, O Lord, and help your people.

People **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Intercessor We praise you for the manifold gifts of our lives. We rejoice and exult in you, O God, and we give thanks for all the blessings of our lives, including those we name now, silently or aloud ...

Silence

We pray that you may fill us with your grace, that we, like Mary, may bear Christ into our lives.

People **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

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

People **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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 360

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

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

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the Bread and Wine and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Epiphany's ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a thank offering as the plate is passed. The offerings are then brought to the altar to be blessed by the priest.

The people sit

Flute Solo – Two French Carols - B. Adams

*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, St. Stephen, St. John the Apostle, 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 60 Creator of the stars of night

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 people stand for the blessing.

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 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 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Postlude: Let All Together Praise Our God - J. Walther

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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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

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

COMMUNICATION CARD
December 24, 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: Oscar Aderholt, Barbara Doty—friend of Susan Fenn 

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

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

Prayers for the departed:

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:

Acolytes:

Lessons:

Prayers of the People:


Chalice: Florian Jones-Stamm

Sun. School Helper:

Altar Guild: Kathy Jimerson, Carol McElhinney

Coffee Hour: No Coffee Hour

Counters:



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

In our Hebrew scriptures the enemies of David have been subdued and David turns his thoughts to building a temple to the Lord. Through the prophet Nathan, God declares to David that the construction of an earthly temple is not among the purposes for which God has anointed David. God has chosen David from among the lowly, a mere shepherd boy, and given him victory over his enemies. Now God will make of David a great house, securing the hopes of the people of Israel. David's throne shall be established forever, the prophet Nathan declares.

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In words that close his long letter to the community in Rome, Paul reminds the new Christians of the mystery now disclosed to all nations, bringing them to faith and obedience. Although the secret has long been kept in silence, the promise of the eternal God has been revealed and is made known through the prophetic scriptures. Glory to God who enables disciples to stand firm in the good news of Jesus!

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Our gospel relates the story of the visit to Mary by an angel: Gabriel tells her that she is to bear Jesus, who will be called the Son of God. This happens during the sixth month of the pregnancy of Elizabeth, a kinswoman of Mary, who will soon give birth to John the Baptist. Mary is assured by God's favor and that this is the work of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of the prophecy to David of an eternal kingdom. The narrative points to the transcendent origin of this child born into history.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Dec. 24th
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Sun. Dec. 24th
Christmas Eve
4:00 pm—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
10:30 pm—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Mon. Dec. 25th
Christmas Day
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

Sunday Dec. 24 through Monday, January 1
Church Office will be closed.

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Thur. Dec. 28th
No Chancel Choir or Handbell Rehearsals

Fri. Dec. 29th
7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sun. Dec. 31st
8:15 am—Holy Eucharist—Rite 1

9:30—No Children’s Sunday School or Adult Forum
10:30 am—Lessons & Carols

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Ray & Charlotte Lovelace.

The Bible Study will meet again on Wednesday, January 3 from 6—7:30 PM. They will read Br. David Steindl-Rast’s book, “You are Here: Keywords for Life.” We hope you’ll join us!

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

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

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!

Here is the schedule for the Chancel Choir & Handbells:
December 28—No Rehearsals

- January 4: 6:15 pm—Choir
7:30 pm—Handbells
- January 11: 6:15 pm—Choir
7:30 pm—Handbells

No Rehearsals January 18, 25, February 1, 8.

Rehearsals resume February 15 at 6:15 pm Choir and 7:30 pm Handbells.

Adult Forum returning Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 am. They will be discussing Sunday’s lessons, focusing on the readings from the Gospel of Mark. Please join us for coffee, cookies and some great conversation about how the Word of God speaks to us today.

Attendance: December 17, 2023
8:15 am
10:30 am 73

Outreach Opportunities

The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God’s love and develop relationships within our community. The next diaper distribution will be on **January 20th**. 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 Sarvary, Outreach Coordinator (crystalsarvary@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATION CARD

December 24, 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

