

Church of the Epiphany

The First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

according to

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979

Rite II

and The Hymnal, 1982

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany. The Anglican tradition values common prayer. Praying together shapes our faith, binds us together, and helps us grow closer to God. We invite you to pray with us today. Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 (the red book). Hymns noted with an S are in the frontmost section of The Hymnal, 1982 (the blue book) and Wonder Love and Praise (the green book).

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

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

Prelude: Once He Came in Blessing – M. Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

Hymn 73 The King shall come when morning dawns

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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 [64:1-9]

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

-
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your
presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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 80 [1-7, 16-18], *Qui regis Israel*

We will read responsively

by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 702

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;

* *(pause)*

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the
cherubim.

2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and**

Manasseh, * *(pause)*

stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * *(pause)*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.

4 **O Lord God of hosts, * *(pause)***

how long will you be angered

despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * *(pause)*

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, ***

(pause)

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * *(pause)*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * (pause) the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; * (pause) give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; * (pause) show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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 1 Corinthians [1:3-9]

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 [13:24-37].

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

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going

on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 the new year dawns, let us pray to prepare for the
Day of the Lord, saying, “Holy One, enlighten the eyes
of our hearts.”

Silence.

Intercessor For the holy church of God, for its members in all places
and our mission to restore all people to unity with God
and each other in Christ, we pray.

People **Holy One, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.**

Intercessor For our beloved country and for those chosen to lead,
for Joseph, our President, Glenn, our Governor, for
those who represent us, and those who serve in courts of
law, pray.

People **Holy One, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.**

Intercessor For our Presiding Bishop, Michael, our Bishop

Diocesan, Mark, our Priest, Kristin; for the ministry of all the baptized and for all the holy people of God, we pray.

People **Holy One, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.**

Intercessor For the welfare of God's creation, all nations, tribes, and peoples, help us to stay awake in expectation, caring for this world and one another day by day, we pray.

People **Holy One, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.**

Intercessor For the concerns of this family of faith, that we may do your will in feeding the hungry, working toward peace, and using our resources wisely, we pray.

People **Holy One, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.**

Intercessor For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray.

People **Holy One, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.**

Intercessor For all those whom we love but see no longer, we pray

People **Holy One, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.**

Intercessor I invite your additional prayers, silently or aloud.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, you promise a peace the world cannot give: overwhelm us with such an awareness of your peace and presence that we become your peacemakers; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

AN EXHORTATION

BCP 316

This Exhortation may be used, in whole or in part, either during the Liturgy or at other times. In the absence of a deacon or priest, this Exhortation may be read by a lay person.

The people sit.

Beloved in the Lord: Our Savior Christ, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a sign and pledge of his love, for the continual

remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and for a spiritual sharing in his risen life. For in these holy Mysteries we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body in him, and members one of another.

Having in mind, therefore, his great love for us, and in obedience to his command, his Church renders to Almighty God our heavenly Father never-ending thanks for the creation of the world, for his continual providence over us, for his love for all mankind, and for the redemption of the world by our Savior Christ, who took upon himself our flesh, and humbled himself even to death on the cross, that he might make us the children of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, and exalt us to everlasting life.

But if we are to share rightly in the celebration of those holy Mysteries, and be nourished by that spiritual Food, we must remember the dignity of that holy Sacrament. I therefore call upon you to consider how Saint Paul exhorts all persons to prepare themselves carefully before eating of that Bread and drinking of that Cup.

For, as the benefit is great, if with penitent hearts and living faith we receive the holy Sacrament, so is the danger great, if we receive it improperly, not recognizing the Lord's Body. Judge yourselves, therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord.

Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory in the Church evermore. Through him let us offer continually the sacrifice of praise, which is our bounden duty and service, and, with faith in him, come boldly before the throne of grace and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

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

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: God the Sculptor of the Mountains –
Thornburg/Hancock (text may be found in WLP 746)

*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!**

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 WLP 721 Signs of endings all around us

Postlude: "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us – M. Dupre

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. – 1:00 p.m.

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, D. Min. *h.c.*, Bishop Diocesan
The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Priest-in-Charge
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 3, 2023

Welcome! You have blessed us with your presence. Please tell us how we can best serve you by completing the Communication Card.

Please place in the offering basket, hand it to an usher, or place on the table in the vestibule.

I'm looking for a church home
 I'd like to speak with a clergy member
 I'm ready to become a member
 I'm just visiting today

Name & Address Please update

Phone _____

Email _____

Children's names and ages

Please give me more information about:

Children's / Youth Programs
 Social events
 Outreach opportunities
 Classes and Small Group Studies
 Baptism or Confirmation
 How I can get involved

How did you hear about Epiphany?

(over)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

New to the Prayer List: Rush Middleton—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig

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, Pamela Carr — Nancy Sonne's niece, 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

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, SOCS
Priest in Charge
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

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


Ushers: Lee Poates, Frosine Corbett
Acolytes: Jason Ludwig, Faith Bingat
Lessons: Ann Poates
Prayers of the People: Ann Poates
Chalice: Florian Jones-Stamm
Sun. School Helper: Stephanie Norris
Altar Guild: Cheri & Scott Blackwell
Coffee Hour: John & Mackie Rice
Counters: Kim Ludwig, Gray Corbett

The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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 64:1-9

The Hebrew Bible lesson presents a contrite plea to God for merciful justice. The prophet recalls earlier times when the Lord's presence made the very mountains quake. Now the people have sinned grievously and are suffering for their wrongs. They can only pray that the Lord will remember them as God's Children, God creatures, and temper divine anger.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In this reading Paul greets the new disciples in Corinth, telling them of his gratitude to God on their behalf and offering comfort and assurance. Because they are sanctified in Christ, these converts, together with those everywhere who call upon Jesus, have a vocation as saints. They are rich in spiritual gifts. Trusting in a faithful God, they wait for the great revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

In this gospel lesson Jesus presents his disciples with a vision of the end of human history and repeatedly urges them to be on watch. The universe itself will reflect this transformation as the Son of man comes. That time is near, but no one knows it exactly. Disciples must live expectantly and be on the alert for their Lord's coming.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Dec. 3rd
 8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One
 9:30 am—Sunday School
 9:30 am—Adult Forum—Four Last Things
 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. Dec. 6th
 6:00 pm— Bible Study

Thur. Dec. 7th
 6:15 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 pm— Handbell Rehearsal

Fri. Dec. 8th
 7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

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

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in thanksgiving for our Epiphany family.

Congratulations to Wren Blackwell & Zaid Alsamir on the birth of their son, Rowan Zaid Alsamir on Tuesday, November 21, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. The very proud grandparents are Scott & Cheri Blackwell. The Red rose on the lectern is given in thanksgiving for Rowan.

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.

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**. They need **twin-size sheets** for each (blue, green or gray) and the oldest is autistic so soft, jersey type fabric is preferable and **also twin comforters** for each (blue, green or characters). **Winter jackets** size boys large and toddler 4T. Hats, mittens, **snow boots** sizes toddler 10 and boys size 5. **Legos, art supplies.** The youngest likes dinosaur themed toys, Squishmallows. Oldest one (autistic) likes Minecraft, gorilla tag, fidget/sensory type toys. There will be a collection box in the parish hallway separate from the “Toys for Tots” box.

Attendance: **November 26, 2023**
 8:15 am 5
 10:30 am 60

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 Green Team 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.

We are collecting and donating toys to “**TOYS for TOTS**”. If you would like to participate by donating an unopened, new toy for a child’s Christmas this year, there is a container to place your donation in the parish hallway. Toys will be collected **through December 6th.** If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Sarvay. Thank you so much!

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 Sarvay, MSN., RN at epiphanyrvaparishnurse@gmail.com*

COMMUNICATION CARD

December 3, 2023

Our Communication Card is for **all people at The Church of the Epiphany** so that you can share your thoughts and prayers, and request information.

If you are new, please complete the opposite side so we also have your contact information.

I'd like more information about an upcoming event or program

I am RSVPing or signing up for:

I am interested in learning more about how to be part of the following ministries or programs:

- Music
- Altar Guild
- Office help
- Christian Ed
- Outreach
- Ushers
- Chalice Bearer
- Greeters
- Pastoral Care
- Readers
- Prayer Team

Prayer Requests / Comments
