

# The Church of the Epiphany

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 20  
September 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).*

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 1 Colossians 3:16.

*The half-hour before mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.  
Please observe silence and turn off your electronic devices.*

Prelude: Lord of all Hopefulness – P. Manz

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

*All stand for the entrance procession*

Hymn 410 Praise my soul, the King of heaven

*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 Celebrant says the Collect for Purity.*

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

*The Gloria in Excelsis is sung by all, standing*

Hymnal S-280

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

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*The Celebrant faces the altar and says the Collect of the Day*

BCP 234

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

*The people sit*

*Reader* A Reading from Jonah [3:10-4:11]

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

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

*Silence is observed*

*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 145, *Exaltabo te, Deus*  
We will read responsively by whole verse,  
pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 801

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, \*  
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 **Every day will I bless you \***  
**and praise your Name for ever and ever.**
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 **One generation shall praise your works to another**  
\*  
**and shall declare your power.**

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \*  
and all your marvelous works.

**6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous  
acts, \*  
and I will tell of your greatness.**

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great  
goodness; \*  
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

**8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

*Reader* A Reading from Philipians [1:21-30]

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence is observed*

*The people stand for the Gospel procession*

Laudate Dominum

Songs from Taizé

*The people and choir sing,  
Sung through three, six, or nine times*

**Laudate Dominum,  
Laudate Dominum  
Omnes gentes, alleluia!  
Laudate Dominum,  
Laudate Dominum  
Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to Matthew [20:1-16].

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the

day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

*After the Gospel, the Celebrant says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev’d Kristin Wickersham

*Silence is observed*

*The people stand. The Celebrant and people say*

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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

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

*The Subdeacon bids the prayers. Then the Intercessor and people pray responsively*

*Subdeacon* Come, all who labor in the vineyard of God's grace, let us join together in the offering of our prayers, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

*Silence is observed*

That our commitment to justice may extend to those we employ in our households and businesses, paying a fair and living wage, clarifying expectations, and seeking honest work in return; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That we may bridle our tongue against the urge to complain, channeling our energy to generously participate in the building up of the community of faith; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That we may receive the sacramental Meal of the Eucharist as a foretaste of God's heavenly banquet, responding to its grace by helping those who are the weakest among us; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That our homes may be schools of religious faith, where

God's loving presence is revealed through personal sacrifice, ongoing forgiveness, and mutual joy; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That we may rejoice in the beauty of the season and honor the extraordinary diversity of plant and animal life; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That those who have died may join in the company of the angels and archangels, all the saints in heaven, and rest in the blessed arms of him who is the first and the last, Jesus our Redeemer; let us pray.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* With the steadfast love of God to guide us, we continue our prayers.

*Silence is observed*

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

*The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant reads one of the sentences from the Penitential Order*

BCP 352

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

*The people kneel and the Priest then says*

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is observed*

*The Priest and People say*

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

*The Priest alone 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.*

*All stand for The Peace*

*The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*Then the Celebrant and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord*

HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant says to the people*

BCP 376

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. *1 Chronicles 29:14*

*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*

Anthem: Steal Away – L. Larson

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation, v. 3

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

*The Celebrant faces the people and says*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Then, facing the altar, the Celebrant proceeds*

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

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal S-125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people kneel*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy,

and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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

*People and Celebrant*

BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. *Amen.***

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread*

*Silence is observed*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal S-161

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

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

*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.*

*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.*

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

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

BCP 365

*Celebrant*           The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

*Communicant*       **Amen.**

*Celebrant*           The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

*Communicant*       **Amen.**

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

Hymn 660   O Master, let me walk with thee

Taizé Chant. Come and fill

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

**You alone, O Lord, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!**

CONCLUDING RITES

*After Communion, the people kneel and Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

BCP 366

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.***

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.*

*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 404 We will extol you, ever-blessed Lord

Postlude: Salvation Unto Us Has Come – M. Dupre

An Outline of the Faith  
commonly called the Catechism

The Holy Eucharist

Q. What is the Holy Eucharist?

- A. The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again.
- Q. Why is the Eucharist called a sacrifice?
- A. Because the Eucharist, the Church's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, is the way by which the sacrifice of Christ is made present, and in which he unites us to his one offering of himself.
- Q. By what other names is this service known?
- A. The Holy Eucharist is called the Lord's Supper, and Holy Communion; it is also known as the Divine Liturgy, the Mass, and the Great Offering.
- Q. What is the outward and visible sign in the Eucharist?
- A. The outward and visible sign in the Eucharist is bread and wine, given and received according to Christ's command.
- Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace given in the Eucharist?
- A. The inward and spiritual grace in the Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people, and received by faith.
- Q. What are the benefits which we receive in the Lord's Supper?
- A. The benefits we receive are the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of our union with Christ and one another, and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet which is our nourishment in eternal life.
- Q. What is required of us when we come to the Eucharist?
- A. It is required that we should examine our lives, repent of our sins, and be in love and charity with all people.

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## **The Church of the Epiphany**

An Episcopal Church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

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

Office Hours:  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 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  
Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm, Deacon Intern  
Mrs. Anita Williams, Minister of Music  
Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator  
Mrs. Crystal Sarvay, R.N., Parish Nurse  
Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton  
Marty Shephard, Treasurer

### The Vestry

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham (Presider), John Sarvay (Sr.  
Warden),  
Randy Holden (Jr. Warden), Jeri Townley (Register),  
Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris,  
Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

**COMMUNICATION CARD**  
September 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:**

**Parishioners:** Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Martha & Milton Jenkins, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stichel, Irene Morris, Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Buddy Dunn, Timon Kenyi, Shirley Hughson, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Chuck Strabley

**Family & Friends:** Ed Morrow—friend of Bob & Kathy Jimerson, Dave & Melanie Erwin—friends of Dwight & Kim Ludwig, 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, Emma Greenman—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig, Keri Roberts—friend of Becky Card, Caitlin & Dcn. Kyle Bomare & their family

**Prayers for the departed:** Roselyn Timon

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**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

**Today's Ministers**

**Ushers:** Gray & Frosine Corbett

**Acolytes:** Elli Cloyes, Kiden Kenyi

**Lessons:** Randy Holden

**Prayers of the People:** Randy Holden

**Chalice:** Randy Holden

**Sun. School Helper:** Kathy Jimerson

**Altar Guild:** Lucy Whitlock, Ann Poates

**Coffee Hour:** Conny & Becky

**Counters:** Kim Ludwig, Gray Corbett

**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**

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www.epiphanyepiscopal.com

**The Church of the Epiphany**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 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

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

The Lord teaches Jonah a lesson when the prophet is angry because God is merciful to the repentant pagan city that Jonah has gone to great trouble to denounce. "I knew it," Jonah says, in effect, when the Lord spares Nineveh; "that's why I tried to avoid your mission in the first place, because you are such a gracious God, even toward non-Israelites." The Lord causes a shrub to grow up and provide shade for the prophet. Jonah is again angry when it dies. If Jonah would have mercy for the plant, should God not be gracious toward this whole city?

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

In this reading Paul tells the Philippians that he would prefer to be with Christ beyond death, but he recognizes that he still has good work to do in his earthly life. The passage suggests that Paul had reason to think his death might be near, perhaps by martyrdom. He looks forward to a closer union with Christ, but believes it more likely that he will be able to visit the Philippians again. Either way, he asks that they live in a manner worthy of the gospel and stand firm in unity with one another.

The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Our gospel is the story of the laborers in the vineyard, who are all paid the same wage despite their different hours of work. Like most parables, this story can have many meanings, as have been given to it in the life of the church. On one level it suggests that nobody can presume on God's grace, so often extended to those who may seem the least deserving. The parable deliberately flies in the face of normal human expectations. It offers a clue pointing to God's extraordinary evenhandedness in dealing with people quite apart from human ideas about their merit. Jesus may have told it in defense of his own sharing in the lives of the outcast.

**On the Calendar and Coming up**

**Sun. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>**

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One  
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

**Wed. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm — Bible Study

**Thur. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Fri. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

**Sat. Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**

11:30 am—Funeral service for Roselyn Timon

**Sun. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One  
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 by Gray & Frosine Corbett in memory of their parents, George & Eleanor Bazuzi and Wiley & Elsie Corbett.*

**Stewardship:** Jesus Christ said more about money than about any other single thing because, when it comes to a man's real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index to a man's true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a man's character and how he handles his money. (Richard Halverson)

**Adult Christian Formation** meets on Wednesdays. This small group meets after work, at 6:00 pm in the parlor. We will continue our focus on the Gospel According to John. Send an email to Mtr. Kristin if you would like to be included in this small group.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunches are back!** These lunches are free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all lunches! Mark your calendars thru December:  
Oct. 8 — Baked Potato Bar  
Nov. 12 — Chicken & mashed potatoes  
Dec. 17 — Soup & Bread Lunch

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

Attendance: September 17, 2023  
8:15 am 5  
10:30 am 67

**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 and this past month we have met several new families. The most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The next diaper distribution will be on October 16<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!



A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Green Team on October 7<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you to the Vestry who prepared and delivered lunches on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. This ministry is currently in its 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:crystalsarvay@gmail.com)).



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

**If anyone has any outreach projects or needs, they are aware of in the community, please share them! See Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator.**

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

**COMMUNICATION CARD**

September 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**

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