



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
of the
EPIPHANY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 ✠ 10:00 AM

WELCOME TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Whether you just stopped in to visit, or you are looking for a place of belonging, we welcome you. In our worship, formation, fellowship, and community engagement work, we strive for justice and peace and to honor the dignity of every human being. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey, we are glad you are here. We believe God loves you—no exceptions!

Communion of the People: All God's people are welcome to share in the Holy Eucharist. Communion is received either kneeling or standing at the altar rail or at the standing station on the floor level. At the altar rail you have the option to drink from the chalice, to hand your wafer to the Lay Eucharistic Minister to intinct for you, or to cross your arms after you receive the bread to indicate that you do not wish to receive the chalice. At the floor station, communion is received by intinction by the Priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, cross your hands across your chest; the priest will bless you. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

For the latest news and events at Epiphany, visit our website at epiphany.org or subscribe to our weekly newsletter. There are newcomer cards available in the pew in front of you and on the newcomer page of our website. We hope that you will fill one out while you're here and hand it to one of the clergy so we can welcome you personally.

Children of all ages are invited to participate fully in our liturgy. We welcome wiggles and giggles as signs of life and understand that sometimes children need to move about during worship. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available. Ask an usher to help you locate those near the entrance to the worship space.

If you do not have a nametag, please sign up on the clipboard on the welcome table in the Gallery. For today, there are stick-on nametags available.

Giving to Epiphany: If you would prefer to give electronically today, please scan this QR code. Visit epiphany.org/ways-to-give to learn about other ways to give to our parish or to make a pledge. You'll also find more information about Realm, our giving platform and secure online community.



Recording/Livestreaming may be in progress: Liturgies and meetings at Church of the Epiphany may be live-streamed and/or recorded so that we may include those who cannot be with us physically. If you prefer to sit in a location where you will be less visible to the camera, please let an usher, clergy, or staff person know.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, founded in 1898, is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop.

Clergy: The Rev. Amy Dills-Wright, *Rector*; The Rev. Carmie McDonald, *Associate Rector*

Staff: Julie P. Ryder, *Organist & Choirmaster*; L. Shea McNutt, *Parish Administrator*; Taylor Irwin, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*; Susie Boyko, *Bookkeeper*; Jason Sullivan, *Facilities Manager*; Anna Democko, *Childcare Worker*; Jessica Tirado, *Childcare Worker*; Sierra Jamison, *Childcare Worker*

Assisting Priests: The Rev. Barbara Ryder, The Rev. Bobbi Patterson

Wardens: Sally Walker, *Senior Warden*; Matthew May, *Junior Warden*



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www.epiphany.org • info@epiphany.org • 404.373.8338

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You are invited to enter in silence as you prepare for worship
Use the water in the font as a remembrance of your Baptism

Voluntary—Chorale Prelude on Psalm 42

Egil Hovland

Processional Hymn 74—Blest be the King whose coming

Valet will ich dir geben

Celebrant Blessed be the one holy and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant

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.**

Hymn of Praise—Blessed be the God of Israel

Merle's Tune



1. Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2. Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is given;
3. On pri - so - ners of dark - ness the sun be-gins to rise,



who vi - sits and re-deems us, and grants us li - ber - ty. The
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven. Be-
the daw-ning of for -give - ness up - on the sin-ner's eyes, to



pro-phets spoke of mer - cy, of free-dom and re - lease;
fore him goes the he - rald, fore - run - ner in the way,
guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the pro - mise to bring our peo-ple peace.
the pro-phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin-ger of day.
O bless our God and Sa - vior with songs that ne - ver cease!

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Together, let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18—*Sung by the Choir*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
 the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Children (up to 3rd grade) are invited to gather at the cross by the Choir Loft during the last verse of the Sequence Hymn for the reading of the Gospel and Children's Chapel

Sequence Hymn 260—Come now, and praise the humble saint

Tallis' Ordinal

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mathew.

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Carmie McDonald

A period of silence is kept

Celebrant With Christians from across time and around the world, we say together the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed—*Celebrant and People*

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 for Advent

Let us now open our hearts and offer to God our deepest prayers as we say, Come Lord Jesus, bring us your light. Heavenly Father, inspire the universal church to be most concerned with living lives inspired by your Son, and give us hearts that beat to serve you.

Come Lord Jesus,
bring us your light.

Bless those in authority, in this nation and in all the nations, with an urgency to care for all people and to undo systems of injustice.

Come Lord Jesus,
bring us your light.

Give us opportunities to live into our faith and identity as followers of Jesus. Open our eyes to see those around us, in our neighborhoods, schools, and places of work, who need our loving support and care.

Come Lord Jesus,
bring us your light.

Grant comfort to those who seek cures and relief of pain, and heal those who suffer from illness.

Come Lord Jesus,
bring us your light.

Give us wisdom and persistence for the care of creation.

Come Lord Jesus,
bring us your light.

Grant rest eternal to those who have died and comfort to those who mourn, [especially]; grant us daily an awareness that life is precious and fleeting, that we might use our days to your glory.

Come Lord Jesus,
bring us your light.

Celebrant's concluding collect

Almighty God, you lovingly created and care for us, hear now these prayers and answer them as may be best for us and for the furtherance of your redemptive grace. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

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 our Savior 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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome

A Birthday Blessing—Bill Graves

Offertory Anthem— The angel Gabriel

Epiphany Choir

Basque carol,

arr. Richard Shephard

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; All hail, said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria! "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady, Gloria!" Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, to me be as it pleaseth God, she said, my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name. Most highly favored lady, Gloria! Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say - Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Presentation Hymn 65—Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A, Expansive Language

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

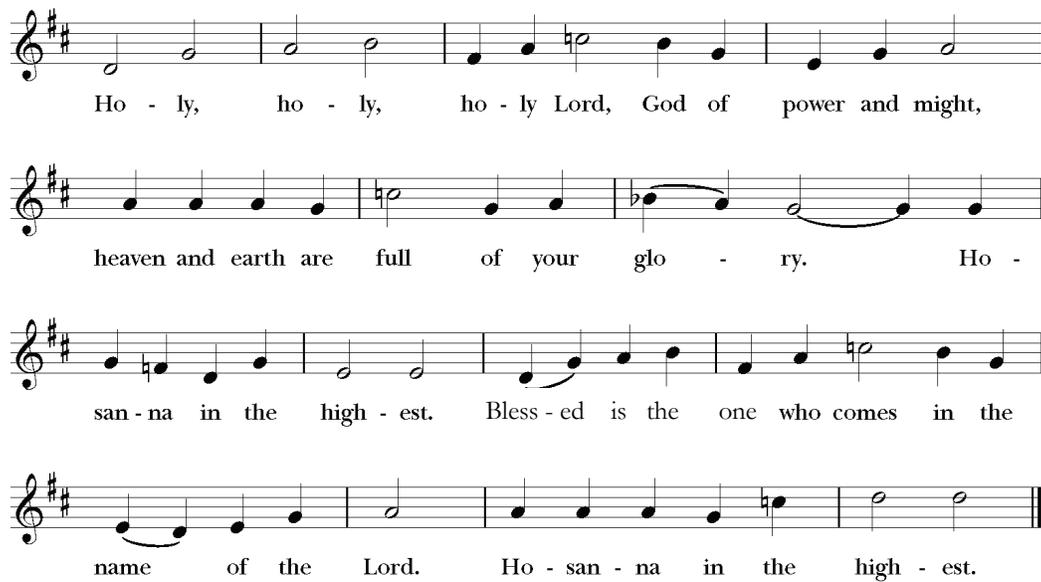
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: 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 creator of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ’s 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

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

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem 53—Once he came in blessing, verses 1 & 4

Gottes Sohn ist kommen



Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

The Communion of the People

All God's people are welcome to share in the Holy Eucharist. Communion is received either kneeling or standing at the altar rail or at the standing station on the floor level. At the altar rail you have the option to drink from the chalice, to hand your wafer to the Lay Eucharistic Minister to intinct for you, or to cross your arms after you receive the bread to indicate that you do not wish to receive the chalice. At the floor station, communion is received by intinction by the Priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, cross your hands across your chest; the priest will bless you. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

The Healing Rite

During the Communion of the People, prayers for healing and anointing with oil are offered in the Chapel for those desiring them on their own behalf, or upon the behalf of another. All are welcome.

Communion Hymn 490—I want to walk as a child of the light

Houston

Sung by all

Eucharistic Visitation

Celebrant We, the church of Jesus Christ, send you forth bearing these holy gifts so that N. may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People We who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

Advent Blessing—Celebrant

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of divine blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May the One whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at the second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Holy and undivided Trinity be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn w724—People look east

Besançon Carol



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary—Dance on a French Carol

Wayne Wold

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Names of friends and family are listed for a month. Contact the parish office if you would like them listed for another month.

For members who are bidding our prayers: Kim Boswell • Chris Braden • Larry Wilcox • Joy Boyden • Mike Curry • Wes, Kelly & Lillian Wright • Laraine Fraijo-Paul • Chris Miller • Ellen Mintzmyer • Philip Anderson • Bruce & Ann Fort • Louise Bedrossian (wife of Bob Thompson) • Barbara Belcore • Esther Harbert • Veta Smith (mother of Cecilia Democko) • Sally Brockington

For friends and family: Bret Gurley, mother of Stephen Gurley • Joseph Johnson Jr., nephew of Kathleen Rinehart • Hugh Smith, father of Lynda Smith • Greta Corcoran, mother of John Corcoran • Mark McCord, cousin of Pam Tipton • Sally Williams, daughter of Susan & Loren Williams • Kay Harris, mother of Rebecca Webb • Ray Piper, husband of Charlotte Piper • Danny Nodine, brother of Larry Nodine • Mark Thornhill, uncle of Kurt Erskine • Louise Peters, grandmother of Tristen Webb • Sherri Sharpe, cousin of Terri Lawrence & Julie Ryder • Dave Tipton, brother of Pam Tipton • Isabel, granddaughter of Mike & Beth Towers

For members who desire our continuing prayers: Jewel Allen • Mary McCall Cash • Wende Crowe • Pat & Bill Graves • Esther Harbert • Robin Hairston • Rod MacLeod • Sally McClintock • Chris Miller & Ron Hutcheson • Ann Rowles • Pat Spivey • Beth Towers • Michael Towers, Jr. • Wayne & Judy Urban • Larry Wilcox • Colleen

For those who have died: Polly Becton, friend of Page Love & Steve Smith • Anne Warner • Tom Mundy, Jr.

For those celebrating birthdays the week of 12/21-27: Jessica Burns • Bill Graves • Stephen Gurley • Chris Kissler • Katharine Hilliard-Yntema • Brent Henderson

For our Haitian siblings and the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

Did we miss your anniversary or birthday? Send the full date of your anniversary and/or your date of birth to the parish office at parishadmin@epiphany.org so that we can update our records.

TODAY AT EPIPHANY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES | Children's Chapel—during the service

Children up to 3rd grade are invited to gather at the cross by the Choir Loft during the last verse of the Sequence Hymn and follow the cross to chapel after the reading of the Gospel. They return at the Peace. Parents are welcome to join them.

COMMUNITY | Birthday Reception—today at 11:30 a.m. • parish hall

You're invited! Long-time Epiphany Choir member (and Epiphanyite!) Bill Graves will celebrate his 90th birthday on Monday, and the choir is hosting a party in his honor following the 10:00 a.m. service today. Happy Birthday, Bill!

FORMATION | Children & Youth—today at 11:30 a.m. • locations vary

Visit epiphany.org/rsvp to register your children and youth for formation.

- The Godly Play classes will combine (children 3 years - 5th Grade) and meet in Room 206.
- Youth Formation is on hiatus until January 4.

YOUTH MINISTRIES | Christmas Advent Party—Sunday, 12/21 at 5:00 p.m. • Donut Den

12/21—TONIGHT, our last youth group of the year will be the annual Youth "Advent" Party (previously, the Youth Christmas Party)! Youth are invited to wear their favorite ugly sweater or cozy pajamas and to join us in the donut den for a night of crafts, movies, candy, and hot chocolate!

LITURGY | Service of Light—Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. • in-person & live-streamed

12/21—The Christmas season is a time of joy and expectation but it can also deepen the pain and isolation experienced by those who are grieving. The Service of Light is a worship service with Holy Eucharist meant to speak to the needs of those experiencing grief and loss. It offers a time of prayer and meditation and a reminder that we are not alone. This service is hosted by the Grief Group, the Pastoral Care Committee and Community of Hope, all of whom provide care to Epiphany parishioners who would like pastoral support. The service will also be live-streamed.

PARISH LIFE | **The Nativities Display**—now on view through January 6

In our narthex, 23 nativities are arranged to illustrate the birth story in Luke and in our gallery, 35 nativities are arranged to illustrate the birth story in Matthew accompanied by scripture and hymn texts. This is just a part of a larger collection that was bequeathed to Epiphany in 1995 by Dr. William Lemonds in loving memory of James Lattimer Anderson Belcher. A curated selection of additional nativities from the larger collection are on display in the parish hall, including a collection of nativities that children are invited to handle. They will be packed back up again on January 7 and 8. If you can help, please sign up at epiphany.org/rsvp.

THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD and in remembrance with love of Joan Hambalak, by Barbara Belcore.

Altar Arrangements & the Sanctuary Light can be given in honor of an anniversary, birthday, or in memory of a loved one. Visit epiphany.org/rsvp to reserve dates that have meaning for you.

NOTICE: DATES FOR ALL OF 2026 ARE NOW POSTED ON THE SIGNUP.

LITURGICAL & EVENT CALENDAR THROUGH EPIPHANY

DECEMBER

- 12/21 Advent 4 • 10:00 a.m.
Service of Light • 5:00 p.m.
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services
Festival Eucharist • 4:00 p.m.
Preservice Music • 7:30 p.m.
Festival Eucharist • 8:00 p.m.
- 12/25 The Nativity of Our Lord • 10:00 a.m. | zoom only
- 12/28 Christmas Lessons & Carols • 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY

- 1/4 The Second Sunday of Christmas • 10:00 a.m.
- 1/6 Feast of the Epiphany & Epiphany Pageant • 6:00 p.m.
Feast Day Feast • 7:00 p.m.

Updated on 12/19/2025

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Due to persistent scams, parishioner contact information is not published. Please use the parish directory in Realm.

WORSHIP | Weekday Services—visit epiphany.org/worship-services for details

- Weekday Morning Prayer—9:00 a.m. online, request the login link from the parish office.
- Tuesday Morning Prayer (Holy Eucharist 1st Tuesdays)—7:00 a.m. in the side chapel.

PARISH GROUP | Men's Breakfast Group—Tuesdays following the 7:00 a.m. service

12/23—The Men's Breakfast Group gathers for breakfast and discussion following the 7:00 a.m. Tuesday service and are typically on their way by 8:00 a.m. Contact John Yntema with any questions.

PARISH GROUPS | Trivia Group—Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. • *Wild Heaven Avondale*

12/23—All are invited to join the Epiphany Trivia Group. Trivia begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends by 9:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Edie Brush or Jacob Geiger.

ADMINISTRATION | Office & Building Closure

12/24-1/5/26—The Parish Office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and open again on Monday, January 5. Outside of worship services, no other services or programs will take place during that time.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT EPIPHANY

WORSHIP | Christmas Eve Services—both liturgies will be live-streamed

12/24—Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children ages 4 and under for the 4:00 p.m. service.

4:00 p.m.—The Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus with a moment for children, music of the season by the Epiphany Children's & Youth Choirs, the Hildegard Ensemble, and the Epiphany Ringers, and Holy Eucharist.

7:30 p.m.—An extended prelude begins at 7:30 p.m. and will feature the Epiphany Choir, organ, and strings.

8:00 p.m.—The Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus with music of the season and Holy Eucharist.

12/25—**WORSHIP | Christmas Day Service**—ZOOM ONLY

Join us at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning. Take a moment to pause this day and give thanks for the glorious arrival of the Word incarnate among us.

WORSHIP | Christmas Lessons & Carols—Christmas 1: The First Sunday after Christmas

12/28—On this festive day, we continue to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas with Christmas Lessons & Carols. Come and continue our gratitude for the birth of Christ in word, music, and Eucharist.

WORSHIP | Christmas 2

1/4—Please join us for Sunday morning Eucharist. Formation for all will take place afterwards at 11:30 a.m.

YEAR END GIFTS & PLEDGING

GIVING | Staff Christmas Gifts

Parishioners are invited to express their gratitude to clergy and staff for their work this year by making an offering online or by check. To give online click the button and select the Staff Christmas option from the pull-down menu. To give by check, please list "Staff Christmas" in the memo line.

FINANCE | Year End Gifts & Pledges for 2025

Deadline 12/31—Pledges and contributions need to be received at the church or postmarked by December 31, 2025 and stock contributions must be delivered to the church brokerage account by December 31, 2025 to be recorded for 2025.

STEWARDSHIP | Make a Pledge for 2026

If you have not already done so, please make a pledge of support to our operating budget—without which we would not be able to worship, find respite, and serve one another and all those in our community we touch through our ministries. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and gallery, or you can make your pledge online at www.epiphany.org/stewardship.

REMINDER: For those of you who schedule online giving, be sure to check your realm account to be sure that your online giving is set up to continue in the new year, and that the amount adds up to the amount of your annual pledge for the coming year.

FINANCE | Track your Giving with Realm

Our online ministry platform called Realm, isn't just a church directory or a way to register online for events. Members can also manage their giving and check pledge status at any time through the website or the smart phone app. If you've not created a login for Realm yet, contact the parish office at parishadmin@epiphany.org.

OUR FEAST DAY—THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY—JANUARY 6

WORSHIP | The Feast of the Epiphany—Tuesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m.

1/6—The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated on our Feast Day, Tuesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. Following the service, please join us in the parish hall for our Feast Day Feast.

WORSHIP | Participate in Epiphany Pageant—open to both adults & children

1/6—Are you interested in playing a part in Epiphany's annual pageant on our Parish's feast day? All ages are

invited to participate. Children, youth, and adults who are interested in participating are invited to sign up at epiphany.org/rsvp. The pageant rehearsal will take place at 4:30 p.m. on January 6.

PARISH LIFE | Epiphany Feast Day Feast—Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. • *please RSVP for the dinner*
1/6—Following the Epiphany Pageant service will be our Feast Day Feast: A Tex-Mex potluck dinner. Sign up to bring a table-ready entrée (chili con carne, tamales, enchiladas, etc.) side, salad, or cornbread. Drinks, desserts, toppings, and chips & salsa will be provided. Go to epiphany.org/rsvp to sign up if you plan to stay for dinner and let us know what you are bringing.

OTHER SERVICES & PROGRAM IN JANUARY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **January DEAM Pantry Drive**

Epiphany stocks the pantry at the Decatur-area Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM) twice a year in January and June. For the month of January, we are collecting cereal, soup, canned fruit. Our goal this time is to collect 50 of each. Wooden bins for your donations are in the gallery by the front door. Also, if you have travel toiletries that you want to clean out, you can drop those in the bins as well.

FORMATION | **Adults—Sundays at 11:30 a.m.** • *parish hall*

1/4—Bible & Poverty: This five-session course explores biblical views on and responses to material poverty. We will examine the causes and dimensions of economic inequality in the biblical world and how that reality is addressed by various parts of Scripture, from the Law and Prophets to the Gospels and Epistles. In addition, we will consider the nature and scope of the problem of poverty in America today, including how we can cultivate more just, effective, and transformative responses to poverty in our own churches and communities. Facilitated by Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio, Exec. Dir. of the Candler Foundry, and Assoc. Prof. in the Practice of Old Testament, Candler School of Theology. Sessions will take place 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 2/1, and 2/8.

FORMATION | **Children & Youth—Sundays at 11:30 a.m.** • *locations vary*

1/4—2026 Formation for Children and Youth will begin on January 4, 2026. Visit epiphany.org/rsvp to register your children and youth for formation.

- Room 206—Godly Play for children 3 years old through 2nd grade.
- Room 205—Children in 3rd through 5th grade—a lectionary based curriculum for older children
- Lower-Level Classroom / Donut Den—Youth Formation (6th through 12th grade)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Gateway Center Meal Ministry—meals served 2nd Fridays of the month**

1/7-9—Volunteers cook in the Epiphany kitchen and then serve the meal at Gateway Shelter once a month. To help prepare, cook, or serve the meal, visit epiphany.org/rsvp.

FORMATION | **Contemplative Book Group—five-week book study Thursdays** • *Room 201*

1/8 (Week 4)—Join us for discussion of Richard Rohr's book, *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* as we learn to live compassionately in a time of violence and despair. Using what he calls "sacred criticism," Rohr shares a distinct approach to confronting evil and injustice that acknowledges the wholeness of history, our interconnectedness, and the reality of a divine and universal love. Register at epiphany.org/rsvp.

PASTORAL CARE | **The Grief Pastoral Care Group—1st Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.** • *Zoom*

1/8—The group meets online each month for a healing and faith-based conversation around grief and loss. It is led by parishioner and trained psychotherapist, Nancy Thompson. Please log into Realm to contact Nancy before attending for the first time.

PASTORAL CARE | **Caregiver Support Group—2nd Fridays at 11:45 a.m.** • *Zoom*

1/9—The Caregiver Support Group meet monthly over Zoom. Parish members who are caring for a loved one gather to talk about their experience and support one another. The group is co-facilitated by parishioner Nancy Thompson, a Georgia-licensed psychologist, and by parishioner Anne Bucey, a trained spiritual advisor. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Nancy Thompson.

FORMATION | **Contemplative Practice—2nd Sundays in the Choir Loft at 4:00 p.m.**

1/11—Come gather with us on second Sundays at 4:00 p.m. for a time of reflection, meditation instruction, and gathering with others seeking a more grounded way of being in the world. Led by Bobbi Patterson, Elizabeth Ura and Amy Dills-Wright. Contact the Rev. Amy Dills-Wright if you have any questions.

PARISH GROUPS | **Epiphany Book Group**—2nd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. • *location varies*

1/12—The Epiphany Book meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. See listing below for location. All are welcome. Contact Linda Ryder-Wolf if you have any questions.

- **January 12:** *A Spool of Blue Thread*, by Anne Tyler (Zoom).
- **February 9:** *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman (Zoom).

PARISH GROUPS | **The Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**—2nd Tuesdays at 9:30/11:00 a.m. • *parish hall*

1/13—The ECW meets monthly at 9:30 a.m. to make sandwiches for Emmaus House. The meeting and program begin at 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall. Afterwards, we will adjourn to Melton's App & Tap for lunch. All women of Epiphany are invited to attend.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES | **Family Eucharist Service & Service Project**—*all activities in the parish hall*

1/13—We look forward to seeing you for this family and kid focused celebration of the Eucharist. Please arrive at 5:00 p.m. for the service project, 6:00 p.m. for pizza (RSVP at epiphany.org/rsvp), and 6:15 p.m. for the start of the service.

NOTICE | **Office Closure**

1/19—The office will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

PARISH GROUPS | **The Munch Bunch**—3rd Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. • *Thinking Man Tavern*

1/21—Give yourself a mid-week-treat and join friends and friends-to-be for lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the Thinking Man Tavern on Howard Avenue in Decatur. No agenda. No reservation needed. Just fun. Log into Realm to contact Laura Keys if you have any questions.

NOTICE | **Annual Parish Meeting**

1/25—All members of the parish are encouraged to join us in the parish hall at 11:30 a.m. for this important meeting in the life of our church. The Rev. Amy Dills-Wright and members of the Vestry will report on the state of the parish in 2025 and look ahead to what's planned for 2026. We will also elect new vestry members and thank the retiring ones. *Adult formation will not take place today. Children & Youth are meeting upstairs.*

PASTORAL CARE | **The Community of Hope's Circle of Care**—*Last Monday of the month* • *parish hall*

1/26—Members gather to pray, learn, and provide each other with mutual support as they reflect on their emotional and spiritual responses to pastoral encounters. If you or a loved one would like to receive a pastoral visit or home communion by one of the trained caregivers, please contact Ann Fowler.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS — 40 words or less — are due by NOON on Wednesdays. Longer versions may run in the *Friday eNews*. Email submissions to parishadmin@epiphany.org.