



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
of the
EPIPHANY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 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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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 Veni Emmanuel

Flor Peters

Processional Hymn 56—O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy. Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for 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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary—Sung by all

Magnificat Luke 1:46-55



- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in¹ God my¹ Savior; *
for he has looked with¹ favor on his¹ lowly¹ servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will¹ call me¹ blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and¹ holy¹ is his¹ Name.
- 3 He has mercy on¹ those who¹ fear him *
in¹ every¹ gener¹ation.
- 4 He has shown the¹ strength of his¹ arm, *
he has scattered the¹ proud in¹ their con¹ceit.
- 5 He has cast down the¹ mighty from their¹ thrones, *
and has¹ lifted¹ up the¹ lowly.
- 6 He has filled the¹ hungry with¹ good things, *
and the¹ rich he has¹ sent away¹ empty.
- 7 He has come to the¹ help of his¹ servant¹ Israel, *
for he has re¹membered his¹ promise of¹ mercy,
- 8 The promise he¹ made to our¹ fathers, *
to¹ Abraham and his¹ children for¹ ever.

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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 75—There's a voice in the wilderness calling

Ascension

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-1

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'"

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Emily Elder

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

Offertory Anthem—Isaiah's voice

John Ferguson

Epiphany Choir • Rebecca Follman, flute

A word of comfort echoes; it is Isaiah's voice speaking the balm of pardon and God's forgiving choice. The valley lifted up; uneven ground made level; glory revealed: rejoice! God's word will come to pass. Fleeting is human nature, withered, fading grass. Ageless the promise: God's word will come to pass. And with a shepherd's arms, God gathers and sustains us close to his heart so vast. Nestled in fields of amber, when winter's zephyr blows, there is a bloom so vivid within the grass a rose.

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.

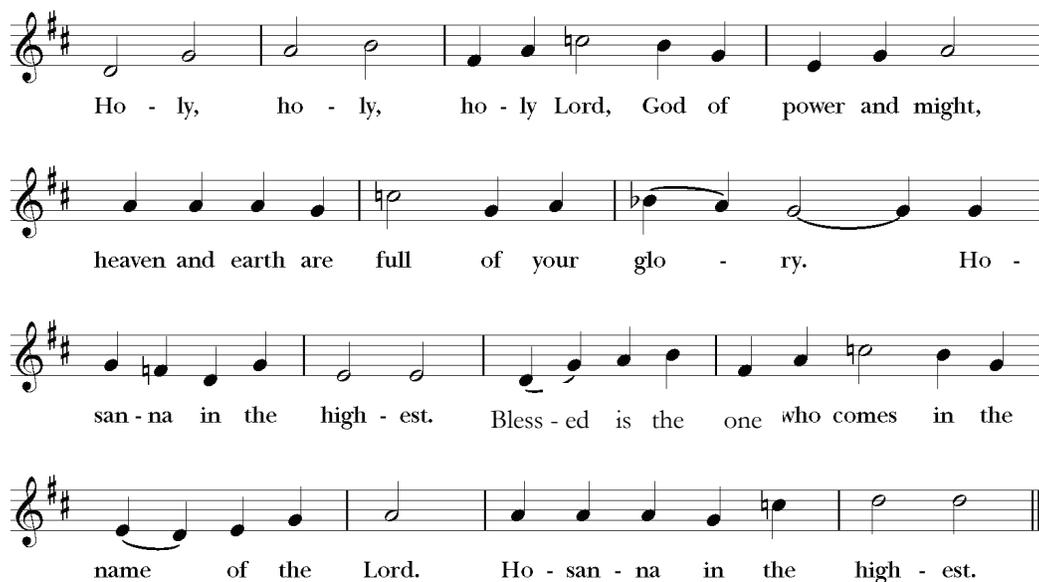
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus S131—Holy, holy, holy Lord

Gerald R. Near



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,

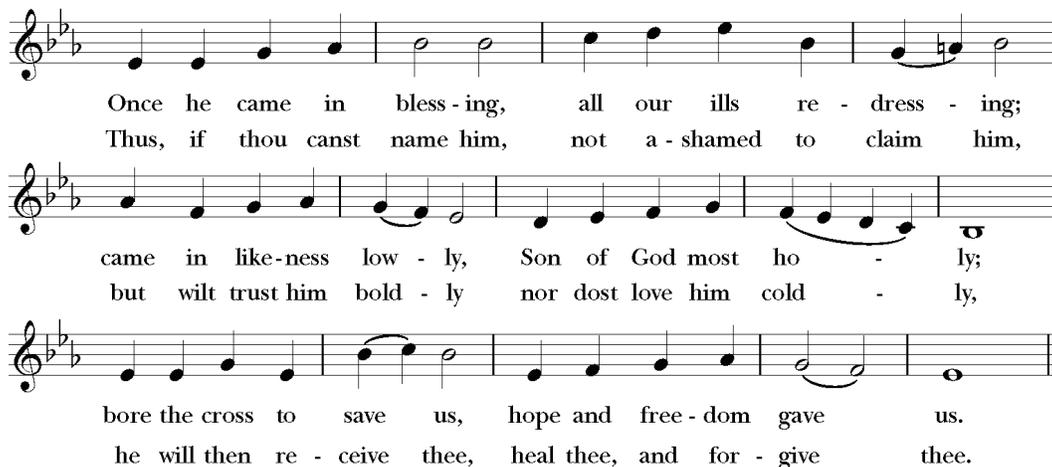
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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 & 3*

Gottes Sohn ist kommen



Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give 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 Motet—Climb to the top of the highest mountain

Carolyn Jennings

Epiphany Choir • Alix Janke, soloist

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world, Lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, he. Behold, your Lord! He will come in power and glory, he will rule with mercy and truth, Hope of the nations, light of all the world. He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms. Love him and trust him as a little child. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

Communion Hymn w722—The dessert shall rejoice

Sterling

Sung by all

The des-ert shall re-joice and blos-som as a rose: 1. It shall
2. For the
3. For the
4. For the

blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.
ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

5. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
as the ransomed return to God
and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
unto Zion we come with joy,
for our God has come to save us.

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 436—Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

Truro

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary—Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Johann Gottfried Walther

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 • Carol Fuller • Chris Braden • Larry Wilcox • Brandon Laird • Joy Boyden • Jewel Allen • Mike Curry • Wes, Kelly & Lillian Wright • Laraine Fraijo-Paul • Evelyn Stewart • 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: Polly Becton, friend of Page Love & Steve Smith • 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 • 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 • Tom Mundy • Ann Rowles • Pat Spivey • Beth Towers • Michael Towers, Jr. • Wayne & Judy Urban • Larry Wilcox • Colleen

For those who have died: Anne Warner • Tom Mundy, Jr.

For those celebrating anniversaries the week of 12/14-20: Marion & Mike Curry • Lisa & Randy Stewart • Susan & Loren Williams • Laura & Stephen Gurley • Kelli Gantt & Yanko Rickell

For those celebrating birthdays the week of 12/14-20: George Janke • Gabriel Guyton-Edmiston • Kathie Ryan • M. K. Williamson • Jessie Montgomery • Isabelle Braden • Sytha Cheatham • Everett DiBello • Carlos Quiroz • Ron Hutcheson • Dan Matthews

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

PARISH GROUPS | **ECW Christmas Craft & Bake Sale**—*purchase homemade goodies and crafts*

12/14—The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will hold their annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale Sunday December 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please stop by the parish hall before or after the 10:00 a.m. service. The proceeds from the bake/craft sale support our service projects during the year. Login to Realm to contact Kathleen Rinehart if you would like to contribute an item to this event.

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.

FORMATION | **Adults**—*Sunday, 12/14 at 11:30 a.m. • parish hall*

12/14—**Advent Gifts of the Magi:** Join Ann Fowler in an exploration of the rich history of the Magi story in art and culture. From early Christian mosaics to Renaissance masterpieces and modern interpretations, we'll examine how changing theological, cultural, and political contexts have shaped visual depictions of Matthew's account. We'll also look at the Magi's connection to the Advent season and how their journey symbolizes anticipation, revelation, and the widening circle of those drawn to the Christ child.

FORMATION | **Advent Mini-Quiet Day**—*Choir Loft from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.*

12/14—Advent is a season of quiet wonders: questions, awe, despair, curiosity. Come. You are welcome: Sunday, December 14 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. to join others in quiet and shared reflection and prayer. Let's discover 'how it's working out' - the season, you, family, decisions, life with God. Guided by the Rev. Dr. Bobbi Patterson. Register at epiphany.org/rsvp.

YOUTH MINISTRIES | **Youth Group**—*5:00-6:30 p.m. • donut den*

Youth Group will meet this week with Rev. Carmie! Join us in the Donut Den Sunday from 5:00-6:30 p.m. to learn more about listening as a spiritual practice.

PARISH GROUPS | **Young Adult Cookie Swap**

12/14—The young adult group will celebrate the season with a cookie swap on Sunday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring two dozen cookies and a container to take goodies home. For more details, reach out to Jordan Moody.

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 began with a bequest of a 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 and in memory and thanksgiving for Elizabeth Keys, by McCall Butler.

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD and in honor and remembrance of her brother Chris Belcore, 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.

— DEADLINES ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 —

GIVING | Christmas Flowers & Music—submit names by Monday, December 15

12/15 DEADLINE—If you would like to make an offering in thanksgiving or memory of someone for Christmas, please fill out the form at epiphany.org/Christmas-flowers-music. From there you can choose to make your donation via online giving, or if you can also mail a check payable to Church of the Epiphany noting Christmas Flowers and/or Christmas Music in the memo line. To be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins, submissions must be received in the parish office by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 15.

FINANCE | Submit Reimbursements—submit by Monday, December 15

12/15—If you have expenses that should be reimbursed in this fiscal year, they must be submitted and approved by Monday, December 15. Any expenses submitted after the December 16 will be applied to the 2026 budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | Toy Drive for Emmaus House—bring unwrapped gifts by December 15

12/15 DEADLINE—This Christmas, we can share God’s love with the children and families of Peopletown. Our donations of unwrapped gifts or gift cards for infants through teenagers can help bring joy to the over 500 children served by Emmaus House. Click the “Toy Drive” button on the home page for the complete list of gifts by ages. Bring unwrapped gifts to Epiphany by December 15.

WORSHIP | Sacrament of Holy Baptism on 1/11/26—for all ages

12/15—Deadline to sign up is MONDAY DECEMBER 15—The sacrament of Holy Baptism for adults, infants and children will be administered on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Contact the parish office if you or a member of your family desires to be baptized.

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

12/16—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.

MUSIC | Choirs for Children & Youth—Tuesdays • Music Suite upstairs • Julie Ryder / music@epiphany.org

New members are welcome! Please register your student at epiphany.org/rsvp.

- 12/16—Beginning Choristers meet from 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
- 12/16—Junior Choir meets from 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

MUSIC | Choirs for Adults & Youth—Wednesdays • Julie Ryder / music@epiphany.org

- 12/17—The Epiphany Ringers rehearse from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft.
- 12/17—Our all-volunteer Epiphany Choir rehearses from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. in the Music Suite

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

12/16—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.

PASTORAL CARE | Community of Hope’s Circle of Care—For December on the 3rd Monday • parish hall

12/16—Members gather at 6:00 p.m. 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.

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

12/17—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.

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

12/18 (Week 3)—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. Note: DUE TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON, WEEK 4 WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8.

PARISH GROUPS | **Emmaus House Seniors Luncheon**—*hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW)*

12/18—The ECW will host a luncheon for the Emmaus House Seniors. This is an annual event and a lot of fun for the seniors and the ECW Members. Contact Kathleen Rinehart if you would like to help with this event.

FORMATION | **Epiphany Earth & Soul**—*For December we'll meet online only at 11:00 a.m.*

12/20—This group focuses on practicing Celtic Spirituality, where we gather to discuss and experience the beauty of nature and celebrate the divine in all creatures, including ourselves. *For the month of December*, the group will join the John Phillip Newell Winter Solstice Online Virtual Celebration at 11:00 a.m. and meet immediately after for an Epiphany group reflection on 12/20. Led by the steering group of Carol Bartlett, Nan Ross, and April Maa. Contact April for more information, be placed on the email list, or to receive a link to the virtual meeting. To learn more about Celtic Spirituality in general, one resource is www.earthandsoul.org.

UPCOMING SERVICES, EVENTS, AND OTHER NEWS

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

12/21—On Sunday, December 21, 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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Gifts for Life**—*give a gift with lasting impact*

This holiday season, consider giving gifts that make a lasting difference for communities impacted by injustice, poverty, disaster, and climate change. Through Episcopal Relief & Development's *Gifts for Life*, you can help transform lives around the world. To explore the full catalog of gift options, visit <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/gifts/catalog>

ADMINISTRATION | **Office & Building Closure**

12/24-1/5/25—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.

FORMATION | **Education for Ministry**—*Courses starting in January*

Esther Harbert is looking for a co-mentor for an EFM group that would start in January 2026 and end in December 2026. We will only meet for 36 out of 52 weeks in 2026. If interested, please contact Esther.

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.

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.

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.

LITURGICAL & EVENT CALENDAR THROUGH EPIPHANY

DECEMBER

- 12/14 Advent 3 • 10:00 a.m.
ECW Bake Sale • 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- 12/18 ECW Luncheon for the Emmaus House Seniors • 12:00 p.m.
- 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 12/11/2025

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, flute, 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 of 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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

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 an 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.

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.