



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
of the
EPIPHANY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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 *Burleigh* (My Lord, what a morning)

Richard Billingham

Processional Hymn 66—Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122—Sung by the Choir

Laetatus sum

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

The Second Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 59—Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

Offertory Anthem—Teach me, my God and King

Arlen Clarke

Epiphany Choir

Teach me, my God and King, in all things Thee to see, and what I do in anything, to do it as for Thee.

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, verse 1

Gottes Sohn ist kommen



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 324—Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Picardy

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.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary—Gigue over *Stuttgart*

David Schleat

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: 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: Hugh Smith, father of Lynda Smith • Greta Corcoran, mother of John Corcoran • Sally Williams, daughter of Susan & Loren Williams • Betty Gardner-Tuzzalino, aunt of Loren Williams • Isabel Mintzmyer, great niece of Ellen Mintzmyer • Alan & Lucy Hinman, parents of Johanna Hinman • Tom & Jennie Smith, family of Pam Tipton • 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 • Anne Warner • Larry Wilcox • Colleen

For those who have died: Joel Burrow, father of Sharon Burrow; Maggie Blake Deck, great grandniece of Doug Runion

For those celebrating birthdays the week of 11/30-12/6: Beverly Burks • Susie Boyko • Avi Ackerly • Emme Neel • Jenny Fidler • Cate Matthews • Duane Burns • Lisa Gray

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.

FLOWER GUILD | **Advent Wreath-Making Workshop**—*reservation required* • *parish hall*

11/30—The Flower Guild will lead an Advent Wreath-Making Workshop after the service in the parish hall. The cost is \$20 for materials which includes everything that is needed for making an advent wreath: (1) oasis wreath, (4) candles with holders, and greenery. Register at epiphany.org/rsvp.

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

Youth group will meet in the Parish Hall Sunday at 5:00 p.m. to reflect on the themes of light and hope in Advent by making their own scented advent candles. We will also be writing cards for the Gateway shelter, which will be packed into Christmas gift bags by our families at the next Family Eucharist.

FORMATION | **Advent Devotional Booklets**—*free in the narthex, limited supply*

If you are looking for an Advent devotional to read as a spiritual practice during Advent, pick up one of the Living Compass booklets in the gallery: *Living Well Through Advent 2025: Practicing Generosity With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. Prefer a digital practice? A free PDF version is also available at livingcompass.org. You can also sign up to receive a daily email of each reflection for free.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Art Ministry**—*now showing for November*

Epiphany's Art Ministry welcomes quilters Beth Milis and Charlotte Nix. Learn more about the artist and the art ministry at epiphany.org/epiphany-gallery.

RAFFLE | **Braves Quilted Bag**

Part of the exhibit this month includes a raffle. The Art Ministry is raffling off an Atlanta Braves Quilted Bag, made by Beth Milis, for \$2 an entry. See the display on the dresser under the mirror in the gallery.

NOTICE | **Building Security**

Over the past several weeks, the double red doors and the double doors to the parish hall from the courtyard have been left either propped open or unlocked during business hours, as well as after church on Sundays. This poses a safety risk for our staff, parishioners, and visitors. If you unlock or prop open a door for a meeting or an event, or while loading or unloading a vehicle, please take care to secure the door again when your event is over or when you are finished. Thank you for helping keep our community safe!

THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE ALTAR AND THE SANCTUARY LIGHT RE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | Walk in Love Annual Shoe Drive—now through December 7

NOW THROUGH 12/7—Epiphany continues its tradition of collecting shoes for our friends at Church of the Common Ground (churchofthecommonground.org). Donations of new men's and women's shoes of any size will be accepted, and there is a particular need for men's sizes 10 to 13. We will be collecting shoes through December 7. Our youth will be packing them up for delivery, so please take shoes out of their boxes and tie their shoelaces together to make it easier for them. You can drop shoes off at the church on Sundays between 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and during weekday office hours.

PARISH GROUPS | Donate a nativity scene—now through December 14

NOW THROUGH 12/14—The Episcopal Church Women are asking for small gently used nativity scenes that will be used as table decorations for the Emmaus House Christmas Luncheon that the ECW hosts each year for the Senior Program participants. The nativities will be raffled away to participants along with other items at the end of the event. Please contact Sabra Hanson if you would like to donate a nativity.

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

NOW THROUGH 12/15—This Christmas, we have the opportunity to 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.

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

NOW THROUGH 12/15—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.

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

12/2—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 LIFE | The Nativities Display—help set up our annual display

12/2 - 4—This year, in addition to the main exhibit in the narthex and gallery of the stories of Luke and Matthew, we will be setting up a smaller curated selection of the rest of our collection in the parish hall. We are looking for volunteers to help set up the display the first week of December. Then we'll need folks to help pack it all back up on January 7 and 8. If you would like to sign up for a shift, please sign up at epiphany.org/rsvp.

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.

- 12/2—Beginning Choristers meet from 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
- 12/2—Junior Choir meets from 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

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

12/2—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.

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

- 12/3—The Epiphany Ringers rehearse from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft.
- 12/3—Our all-volunteer Epiphany Choir rehearses from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. in the Music Suite

FORMATION | Contemplative Book Group—next five-week study starts Thursday, December 4 • Room 201

12/4—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 the Hebrew prophets as models, Rohr sets out a wholehearted model of movement from rage to pathos and lamentation, and then to compassion for the world's suffering. 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.

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

12/4—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.

PARISH GROUPS | Young Adults Small Group Meeting—Every other week • 7:00 p.m. • location varies

12/4—The Epiphany Young Adults small group meets every other Thursday evening. They are currently reading through *Transforming Questions* by the Forward Movement. Location varies by need, so please reach out to Tristen Webb if you have any questions or would like to join!

PARISH GROUPS | Fireside Sit & Sip—Monthly at 7:00 p.m. • courtyard

12/4—The Fireside Sit and Sip group is for women primarily in their 40s, 50s, and 60s to come together just as you are. Bring a camp chair and join us around the fire pit in the courtyard to sit, sip, and enjoy conversation. Please RSVP at epiphany.org/rsvp and sign up to bring drinks or snacks. Questions? Use Realm to contact Kathy Corcoran or the Rev. Carmie McDonald.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES | Cookie Baking—Saturday 12/6 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. • parish hall

12/6—Children and youth and their parents are invited to join us in Epiphany's kitchen and parish hall to bake cookies and talk about Advent together! We will decorate the cookies the following evening after Lessons & Carols.

PASTORAL NOTICE | Funeral Service—Saturday 12/6 at 3:00 • St. Luke's Episcopal Church

12/6—The Celebration of Life service for Brenda Sherrill, mother of the Rev. Alex Sherrill, will take place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA on Saturday December 6, 2025 at 3:00 pm. A reception will follow in St. Luke's parish hall.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES | Feast of St. Nicholas—Sunday, 12/7 at 11:30 a.m. • Room 203

12/7—On Sunday, December 7, our children's formation classes will celebrate the feast of St Nicholas! Children ages 3 to 5th grade are welcome to join this event taking place in 203. Youth are invited to attend and to help stuff children's shoes with clementines and chocolate coins.

FORMATION | Adults—Sunday, 12/7 at 11:30 a.m. • parish hall

Staying Centered through Spiritual Practice: Spiritual practices are deliberate actions, repeated over time—often in community—that engage our senses, draw us into awareness of God's presence, and open our hearts to God's vision for creation. Throughout the fall, we've been exploring different practices that help us stay centered in difficult times. Please join Ann Fowler and the Rev. Amy Dills-Wright on December 7 as we pray with the image of Mary, Untier of Knots.

WORSHIP | Advent Lessons & Carols—5:00 p.m. with a reception following • cookie decorating will be happening!

12/7—The Epiphany Choir, Hildegard Ensemble, Beginning Choristers, Junior Choir, and Epiphany Ringers will present Advent Lessons & Carols on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. in a liturgy much like Christmas Lessons & Carols made popular in the 20th century by Kings College, Cambridge. The promise of the coming Messiah is told in lessons from the Old and New Testaments interspersed with Advent carols, hymns, and choir anthems. The service takes place in the nave followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

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

12/9—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.

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.

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.

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

12/18—The ECW we 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. Login to Realm to contact Kathleen Rinehart if you would like to help with this event.

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 6:00 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.

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.

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

Through Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), *Gifts for Life* gives communities all over the world the chance to transform lives. Empower a community in need while honoring a cherished loved one with a gift today. To see all the *Gifts for Life* options, please visit: episcopalrelief.org/gifts. Your gifts are fully tax deductible.

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

12/24—Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children ages 3 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 Hildegard Ensemble, Epiphany Children's & Youth choirs, 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 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.

PARISH GROUPS & ONGOING PROGRAMS

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.

PARISH GROUPS | **Social Justice Action Group**—*virtual group*

This social advocacy group promotes social and cultural change. The group identifies community events in which we can participate, and also provides a curated list of local community happenings via Realm Groups. If you'd like to be part of this virtual group, join via Realm to view current opportunities of social justice action in our area.

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

12/9—The Epiphany Book meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. See listing below for location. All are welcome. Log into Realm to Linda Ryder-Wolf if you have any questions.

- **December 8:** Appetizers & Dessert at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Wallace & Jeff McGrath.
- **January 12:** *A Spool of Blue Thread*, by Anny Tyler (Zoom).
- **February 9:** *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman (Zoom).

PARISH GROUPS | **The Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**—*2nd Tuesdays • parish hall*

12/9—For this month, the ECW will meet at 10:30 a.m. to make sandwiches for Emmaus House. There is not a meeting or program. Afterwards, we will adjourn to Melton's App & Tap for lunch. All women of Epiphany are invited to attend.

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

12/10-12—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/tsvp.

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

12/12—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 | **Epiphany Earth & Soul**—*3rd Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. • Room 201*

12/16—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. Virtual option available for most meetings. Led by the steering group of Carol Bartlett, Nan Ross, and April Maa. Contact April for more information or to be placed on the email list. To learn more about Celtic Spirituality in general, one resource is www.earthandsoul.org.

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.

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.

LITURGICAL & EVENT CALENDAR THROUGH EPIPHANY

NOVEMBER

- 11/30 Advent 1 • 10:00 a.m.
Advent Wreath-Making | rsvp

DECEMBER

- 12/6 Advent Cookie Baking Event • 10:00 a.m.
12/7 Nativities Collection goes on display
Advent 2 • 10:00 a.m.
St. Nicholas Event • 11:15 a.m.
Advent Lessons & Carols • 5:00 p.m.
Lessons & Carols Reception • 6:00 p.m.
12/9 Tuesday Family Dinner & Eucharist • 6:00/6:15 p.m. | dinner rsvp
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 11/26/2025