



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
of the
EPIPHANY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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*



2089 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30307
www.epiphany.org • info@epiphany.org • 404.373.8338

All music is reprinted by permission under ONE LICENSE (license number A-739774). Music from *The Hymnal 1982* © Church Publishing, Inc., unless noted otherwise.

*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 *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Helmut Walcha

Processional Hymn 616—Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19—Sung by the Choir

Deus, judicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
 and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
 and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
 and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
 from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
 like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
 who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
 and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 54—Savior of the nations, come

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. The people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Amy Dills-Wright

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—A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse

Richard Horn

Epiphany Choir

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, and a bud shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of life shall be with him, the spirit of wisdom and truth. Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox, for the hand of a Child shall lead them to the peaceable kingdom of God. From out of the wells of salvation will he draw us the water of life; his waist shall be girdled with justice, the heart of his heart shall be Love. He'll come from the end of his heaven, and the earth shall be torn from its place; our lives shall be filled with his radiance as floodwaters cover the sea.

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 & 2

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us

came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.

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 67—Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

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 76—On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary—Chorale Prelude on *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

J. S. Bach

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 • Sally Williams, daughter of Susan & Loren Williams • Isabel Mintzmyer, great niece of Ellen Mintzmyer • Alan & Lucy Hinman, parents of Johanna Hinman • 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: Maggie Blake Deck, great grandniece of Doug Runnion • Betty Gardner-Tuzzalino, aunt of Loren Williams • David Curry, brother of Mike Curry

For those celebrating birthdays the week of 12/7-13: Barbara Belcore • Ben Burris • Lucy Davidson • Carol Bartlett • Emily Thompson • Randall Moody • Charles Sterne • Elizabeth Ura

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.

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

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.

TODAY AT EPIPHANY

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.

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.

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

TODAY 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.

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.

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

THIS EVENING 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.

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

There will be no youth group tonight, but youth are invited to attend Advent Lessons & Carols and to join in the cookie decorating afterwards!

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

12/8—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.

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

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

12/9—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 | 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.

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.

- 12/9—Beginning Choristers meet from 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
- 12/9—Junior Choir meets from 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

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.

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

- 12/10—The Epiphany Ringers rehearse from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft.
- 12/10—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*

12/9—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.

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

12/11 (Week 2)—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. Register at epiphany.org/rsvp.

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

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

12/14—**Advent Gifts of the Magi:** Join us as we explore the rich history of the Magi story in art. From early Christian mosaics to Renaissance masterpieces and modern interpretations, we'll examine how changing theological, cultural, and political contexts have shaped the representations. We'll also look at the Magi's enduring connection to the Advent season—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.

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.

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 at parishadmin@epiphany.org if you or a member of your family desires to be baptized.

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.

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.

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.

LITURGICAL & EVENT CALENDAR THROUGH EPIPHANY

DECEMBER

- 12/7 Nativities Collection goes on display
Advent 2 • 10:00 a.m.
St. Nicholas Event • 11:30 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 12/4/2025

HOLIDAY GIVING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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/rsvp.

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 Peoplestown. 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.

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>

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 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.

YEAR END GIFTS, REIMBURSEMENTS & PLEDGING

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.

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.

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.