



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
of the
EPIPHANY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 ✠ 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.



We are passing the plate, but if you would prefer to virtually pass the plate today, use your phone's camera to 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 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*; Saffie Coker-Robinson, *Childcare Worker*

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

Seminarians: Peter Waggoner, Taylor Irwin

Wardens: Kaylie Gibbs, *Senior Warden*; Andrea Strahan, *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—Meditation on *Conditor alme siderum* (Creator of the stars of night) Rebecca Groom te Velde

Processional Hymn 73—The King shall come when morning dawns St. Stephen

Celebrant Blessed be the one holy and living God.

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

Celebrant

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

Hymn of Praise 67—Comfort, comfort ye my people *Psalm 42*

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 First Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9—*Sung by the Choir* William Crotch

Ad te, Domine, levavi

- 1 To you O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from ever-/lasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

There is no Children's Chapel today; children are invited to remain with their parents for the remainder of worship. Children's Chapel will return next week.

Sequence Hymn 64—O heavenly Word, eternal Light

O Heiland, reiss

The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

As we long for the coming of Christ, we offer all the needs of God's people, as we pray
Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.

For the church, that all peoples may be gathered into the love of God, let us pray
Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.

For the nations, that hostilities between peoples and between nations may come to an end, let us pray
Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.

For this community, that this holy season may find us growing in unity with God and each other, let us pray
Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.

For all those who are longing for hope, that this Advent may be a sign of companionship with all those who suffer, let us pray
Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.

You are invited to offer your own intercessions and thanksgivings.

For those who have died, that the peace of heaven may now be theirs, let us pray
Illumine our darkness and keep us alert.

Celebrant's concluding collect

God of all life, we give you praise this day for the coming of your reign. Grant us the gift of your Spirit so that hope may dwell in our hearts and minds. Through Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Celebrant and People

**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.**

Celebrant

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.**

The Welcome

Offertory Anthem—Creator of the stars of night

Malcolm Archer

Epiphany Choir

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, Jesu, redeemer save us all, and hear thy servants when they call. Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide, proceeding from a virgin shrine, the son of man, yet all divine. At thy great Name, exalted now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: and things in heaven and earth shall own that thou are Lord and King alone. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

Presentation Hymn 59—Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

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.**

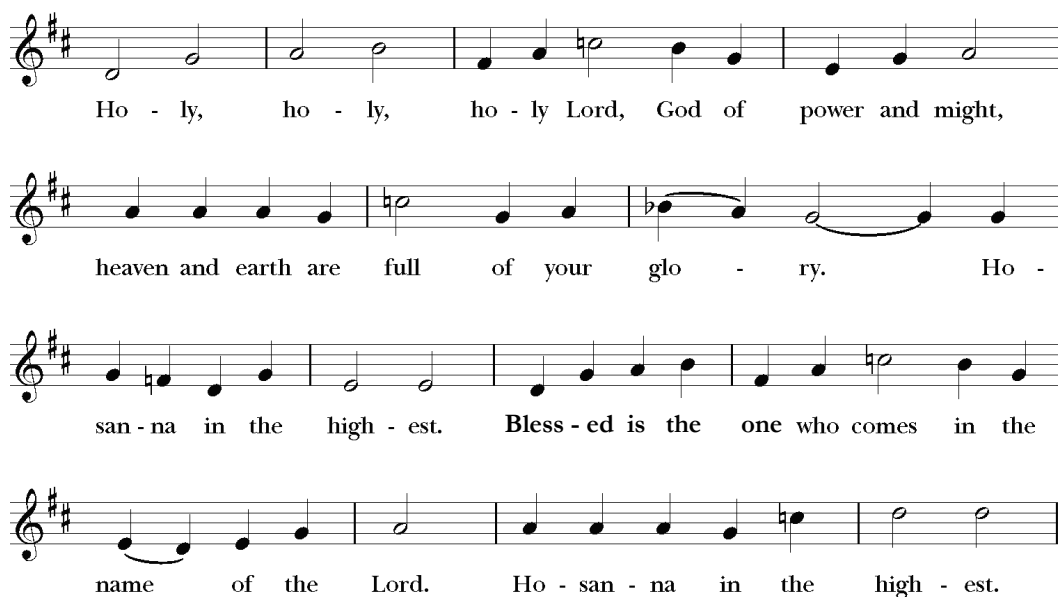
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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,

The Lord's Prayer—*traditional language*

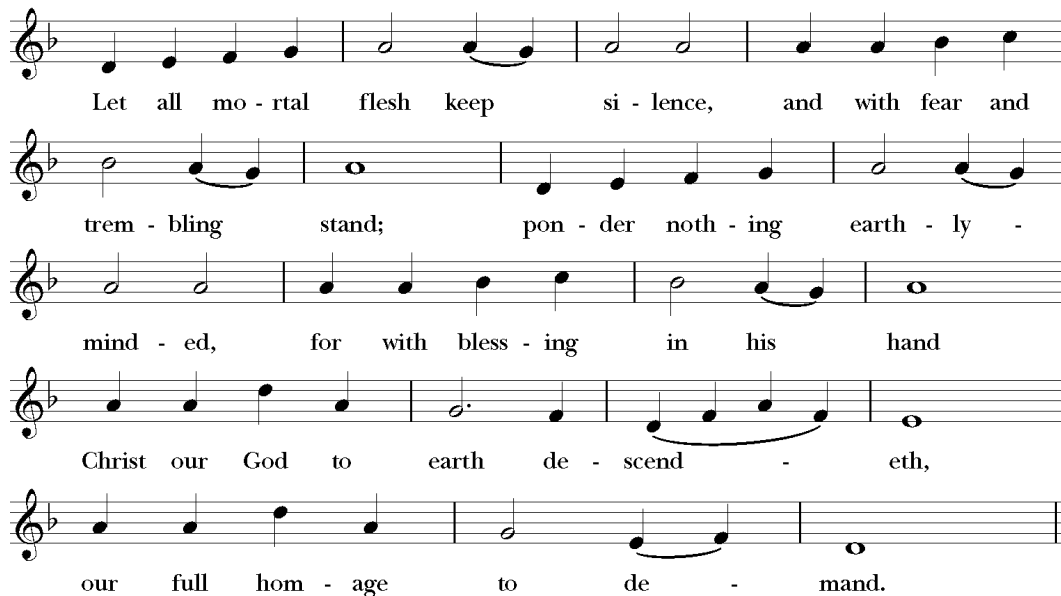
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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 324—Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Picardy



Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly -
minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descend - eth,
our full homage to demand.

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.

Harmony

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing,— O

Fine

my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

Unison

1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, _____
2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, _____ To wake the
3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, _____

na - tions un - der - ground, _____ Look - ing to my God's right

D.C.

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

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: Matilda McNeely (daughter of Katie Pedersen) • Judy Jarady • John Wyman • Caitlyn Trautwein • Kathy Corcoran • Marion Curry • Pam Hall • Jerry Wall (husband of Lucy Davidson) • Clove Wroe • Barbara Belcore • Esther Harbert • Veta Smith (mother of Cecilia Democko) • Chris Miller & Ron Hutcheson • Chris Belcore • Brandon Laird • Anne Warner • Kim Boswell • Eric Olson • Francis Lee • Brett Boatright • Laura, John & Sarah Keys • Robin Hairston • Beth Towers • Mary McCall Cash • Wende Crowe • Sally Brockington

For friends and family: Emanuael Martinez, cousin of Evan & Kaylie Gibbs • Kitty O’Shea, mother of Kathleen Rinehart • Chris Korbesmeyer, sister of Nan Ross • Peggy Brockington, mother of Sally Brockington • Jennifer Olson, daughter of Ruth & Eric Olson • Mike Lunceford, friend of Nancy Thompson • Alice-Marie Schwenkler, friend of Susan Williams • Sandy Miller, relative of Sharon Burrow • Louise Peters, grandmother of Tristen Webb • Sherri Sharpe, cousin of Terri Lawrence & Julie Ryder • Gary Davis, father of Jeremy Davis • Dave Tipton, brother of Pam Tipton • Isabel, granddaughter of Mike & Beth Towers

For members who desire our continuing prayers: Jewel Allen • Rod MacLeod • Sally McClintock • Chris Miller & Ron Hutcheson • Tom Mundy • Ann Rowles • Pat Spivey • Michael Towers, Jr. • Wayne & Judy Urban • Larry Wilcox • Colleen

For those who have died: Robert Aultman, cousin of Evan & Kaylie Gibbs

For all those serving in the armed forces, especially: Stewart Mundy

For those celebrating birthdays the week of 12/1-7: Susie Boyko • Kyle D’Mello • Emme Neel • Jenny Fidler • Cate Matthews • Duane Burns • Lisa Gray • Barbara Belcore • Ben Burris • Lucy Davidson • Andrew McBath

For our Haitian sisters & brothers and the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

For our fragile and beautiful Earth: The Whooping Crane.

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | Appleton Ministries Offering

12/1—The Thanksgiving Offering for Appleton Ministries is collected the Sunday following Thanksgiving and designated for Appleton Episcopal Ministries. This Diocesan ministry funds food pantries, community feeding programs, tutoring programs and community ministry programs throughout the Middle GA Convocation. All cash offerings will be designated to them that day. You can also give online at www.epiphany.org/ways-to-give or via check, marking “Appleton Ministries” in the memo field.

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL WILL NOT TAKE PLACE TODAY due to the Thanksgiving break.

FORMATION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE TODAY: Advent Wreath Making is taking place in the parish hall for those who reserved a kit and children are invited to color in the parish hall during this time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Art Ministry**—now showing until December 18

Epiphany's Art Ministry welcomes paintings and small works by Sherry Cook. Her show in the gallery features Angels from her "Growing Toward God" series. Items from the tables may be taken home when purchased. Hanging items need to remain in place until the close of the show on December 18. Remember, 25% of all sales benefit Epiphany. *The artist is visiting us today—please greet Sherry in the Gallery.*

FORMATION | **Contemplative Practice**—will meet the *FIRST* Sunday of December

12/1—Come gather with us at 4:00 p.m. for a time of reflection, meditation instruction, and gathering with others seeking a more grounded way of being in the world. Led by Bobbi Patterson, Elizabeth Ura and Amy Dills-Wright. Contact the Rev. Amy Dills-Wright at adillswright@epiphany.org if you have any questions.

YOUTH GROUP WILL NOT TAKE PLACE TODAY due to the Thanksgiving break.

THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE ALTAR AND THE SANCTUARY LIGHT ARE 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.

NOTICE: *The sign up is empty through the end of the year, except for one Sunday for the Sanctuary Light.*

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

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

- Weekday Morning Prayer—9:00 a.m. online
- Tuesday Morning Prayer (Holy Eucharist 1st Tuesdays)—7:00 a.m. in the side chapel
- Wednesday Noonday Prayer—12:00 p.m. in the side chapel, a Healing Eucharist follows at 12:15 p.m.

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

12/3—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. Log into Realm to contact John Yntema with any questions.

PARISH LIFE | **The Nativities Display**—help set up our annual display

12/3 - 5—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 6 and 7. 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*

- 12/3—Beginning Choristers (pre-K-2nd grade) meet from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- 12/3—Junior Choir (3rd grade-unchanged voices) meet from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

MUSIC | **Choirs for Adults & Youth**—Wednesdays • *music suite*

- 12/4—The Epiphany Ringers rehearse from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft.
- 12/4—Our all-volunteer Epiphany Choir rehearses from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. in the Music Suite.

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

12/4—All are invited to join the Epiphany Trivia Group on Tuesdays at Wild Heaven in Avondale. Trivia begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends by 9:00 p.m. Questions? Log into Realm to contact Edie Brush or Jacob.

FORMATION | **Contemplative Book Group: A Fresh Look at the Hope of Advent**—Room 201

12/5—The Contemplative Book Group is studying the book *The First Advent in Palestine* by Kelley Nikondeha, led by Paul Hinson and Suzanne Yoder. Nikondeha puts the story of *God-with-us* into its original embodied context, provoking comparisons to our own, in a beautiful narrative spanning scripture and experience.

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

12/5—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 | **Fireside Sit & Sip**—*Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.* • *courtyard*

12/5—The Fireside Sit and Sip at Epiphany 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 with other women on the journey. 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 12/7 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.* • *parish hall*

12/7—Children and youth and their parents are invited to join us Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Epiphany to bake cookies and talk about Advent together! We will decorate the cookies the following evening after Lessons & Carols. Please RSVP for this advent at epiphany.org/rsvp.

ADVENT • CHRISTMAS • EPIPHANY

- 12/1 **Advent 1**
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.
Advent Wreath-Making (RSVP)
- 12/6 Nativities Collection goes on display
- 12/7 Advent Cookie Event • 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- 12/8 **Advent 2**
ECW Bake Sale • 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.
St. Nicholas Event • 11:30 a.m.
Formation for all ages • 11:30 a.m.
Advent Lessons & Carols • 5:00 p.m.
Lessons & Carols Reception • 6:00 p.m.
- 12/10 Family Dinner & Holy Eucharist (dinner RSVP) • 6:15 p.m.
- 12/15 **Advent 3**
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.
Formation for all ages • 11:30 a.m.
- 12/19 ECW Luncheon for the Emmaus House Seniors • 12:00 p.m.
- 12/22 **Advent 4**
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.
Formation for all ages • 11:30 a.m.
Service of Light • 6:00 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. (incense will be used)
- 12/25 **The Nativity of Our Lord** • 10:00 a.m.
- 12/29 **Christmas Lessons and Carols** • 10:00 a.m.
- 1/5 **Feast of the Epiphany**
Holy Eucharist & Epiphany Pageant • 10:00 a.m.
Feast Day Feast • 11:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

12/8—The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will hold their annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale Sunday December 8 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 our 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 | Feast of St. Nicholas—*Sunday, 12/8 at 11:30 a.m. • Room 203*

12/8—On Sunday, December 8, 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.

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

12/8—The Epiphany Choir, 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.

WORSHIP | Family Eucharist Service & Service Project—*all activities in the parish hall*

12/10—Join us for a Family Eucharist (6:15 p.m.) after choir practice or the Family Service project. Arrive by 6:00 p.m. if you'd like to eat pizza together, or come at 5:00 p.m. to take part in the Family Service Project. RSVP for the pizza at epiphany.org/rsvp.

YOUTH MINISTRIES | Youth Group—*worship at Common Ground from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

12/15—The youth group will be attending worship at the church of the Common Ground. This "church without walls" is located downtown and focuses on ministry to unhoused individuals. We will gather after the 10:00 a.m. service at Epiphany to ride together. Worship is at 1:00 p.m., followed by lunch. Please note this is an outdoor event so dress warmly!

GIVING | Christmas Flowers & Music—*submit names by Monday, December 16*

Deadline by 12/16—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 16.

PASTORAL CARE | The Community of Hope's Circle of Care—*3rd Monday for December at 6:00 p.m. • parish hall*

12/16—Members gather to pray, learn, and provide each other with mutual support as they reflect on their emotional and spiritual responses to pastoral encounters. If you or a loved one would like to receive a pastoral visit or home communion by one of the trained caregivers, please login to Realm to contact Ann Fowler.

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

12/19—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.

LITURGY | Service of Light—*Sunday, December 22 at 6:00 p.m. • in-person & live-streamed*

12/22—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

12/24-1/2/25—The Parish Office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and open again on Wednesday, January 2. Outside of worship services, no other services or programs will take place during that time.

LITURGY | **Epiphany Pageant**—*for all ages*

1/5/25—The Annual Epiphany Pageant will take place on Sunday, January 5 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Children, youth, and adults are invited to participate in the retelling of our Feast Day! Rehearsal will be January 5 at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up at epiphany.org/rsvp. Contact Taylor Irwin at tirwin@epiphany.org with any questions.

LITURGY | **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**—*for all ages*

1/12/25—The sacrament of Holy Baptism for adults, infants and children will be administered during the service on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Contact the parish office (parishadmin@epiphany.org) by Monday, December 23 if you or a member of your family desires to be baptized.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ONGOING PROGRAMS

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 9:** Appetizers & Dessert at 5:30 p.m. and pick books for 2025 (Epiphany)
- **January 13:** *Still Fooling 'Em*, by Billy Crystal (Zoom)

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

12/10—No regular meeting because of the Bake Sale and Emmaus House Senior luncheon. We will meet at 10:30 am to make sandwiches for Emmaus House. Afterwards, we will adjourn to Melton's App & Tap for lunch. All women of Epiphany are invited to attend.

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

12/13—Epiphany's Caregiver Group meets on the 2nd Friday of the month, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Zoom. Parish members who are caring for a loved one, or who are anticipating caring for a loved one, gather to talk about their experience and support one another. The group is facilitated by Epiphany parishioner Nancy Thompson, a Georgia-licensed psychologist, and is co-facilitated by parishioner Anne Bucey, who is trained as a spiritual advisor. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Nancy Thompson to express your interest. You can find her contact information in the Epiphany directory in Realm.

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

12/18—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.

HOLIDAY GIVING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

12/11-13—Volunteers cook in the Epiphany kitchen and then serve the meal at Gateway Shelter on 2nd Fridays. To help prepare, cook, or serve the meal, visit epiphany.org/rsvp.

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

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.

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.

<p>NOTICE: Our Annual Shoe Drive for the Church of the Common Ground will take place after the first of the year.</p>
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT EPIPHANY

WORSHIP | **Christmas Eve Services**—*all 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 & Youth choirs, and Holy Eucharist.
- **7:30 p.m.**—An extended prelude begins at 7:30 p.m. and will feature the Epiphany Choir, Epiphany Ringers, strings, and congregational carols.
- **8:00 p.m.**—The Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus with incense, music of the season, and Festival Eucharist.

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

Join us at 10:00 a.m. for a quieter celebration of 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**

12/29—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.

YEAR END GIFTS, REIMBURSEMENTS & 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. Give through Realm and be sure to select the Staff Christmas option from the pull-down menu, or you can give by check, and list “Staff Christmas” in the memo line.

FINANCE | **Submit Reimbursements**—*submit by Monday, December 16*

12/16—If you have expenses that should be reimbursed in this fiscal year, they must be submitted and approved by Monday, December 16. Any expenses submitted after the December 16 will be applied to the 2025 budget.

FINANCE | **Year End Gifts & Pledges for 2024**

Deadline 12/31—Pledges and contributions need to be received at the church or postmarked by December 31, 2024 and stock contributions must be delivered to the church brokerage account by December 31, 2024 to be recorded for 2024.

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.

STEWARDSHIP | **Make a Pledge for 2025**

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.

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.