



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
of the
EPIPHANY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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: The Rev. Deacon 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—Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*
Rebecca Follman, *flute*

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Processional Hymn 57—Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

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

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

The First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 679—Surely it is God who saves me—*Sung by all, seated*

Thomas Merton

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

The Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

Sequence Hymn 75—There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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—Zion, at your shining gates

Bohemian Brethren,

Epiphany Choir

arr. George Guest

Zion, at thy shining gates lo, the King of Glory waits, haste thy monarch's pomp to greet, strew thy palms before his feet. Christ, for thee their triple light, faith and hope and love unite; this the beacon we display to proclaim thine advent day. Come and give us peace within, loose us from the bands of sin, take away the galling weight laid on us by Satan's hate. Give us grace thy yoke to wear, give us strength thy cross to bear, make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord. So, when thou shalt come again, judge of angels and of men. we with all thy saints shall sing alleluias to our King.

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:

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,

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.

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 descended - 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.

Communion Hymn 272—The great forerunner of the morn
 Sung by all

The Truth from Above

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

Johann Gottfried Walther
(1684-1745)

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: Mary Katharine Williamson • Matilda McNeely (daughter of Katie Pedersen) • Judy Jarady • John Wyman • Caitlyn Trautwein • Marion Curry • Pam Hall • Jerry Wall (husband of Lucy Davidson) • Barbara Belcore • Esther Harbert • Veta Smith (mother of Cecilia Democko) • Chris Miller & Ron Hutcheson • Chris Belcore • Brandon Laird • Anne Warner • 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: Charlton Allen & Family, brother and relatives of Jewel Allen • Eileen Gleman, mother of Lisa Carlson • Libby & Dave Belcher, friends of Larry Wilcox • Clark Weigle • Emanuel Martinez, cousin of Evan & Kaylie Gibbs • Chris Korbesmeyer, sister of Nan Ross • Peggy Brockington, mother of Sally Brockington • 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: Mike Williams, cousin of Paige Howell • Kitty O’Shea, mother of Kathleen Rinehart • John Ballard, friend of the Graves family

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

For those celebrating anniversaries for the week of 12/15-21: Lisa & Randy Stewart • Susan & Loren Williams • Laura & Stephen Gurley • Laura & John Keys • Kelli Gantt & Quinten Rickell

For those celebrating birthdays the week of 12/15-21: Gabriel Guyton-Edmiston • Kathie Ryan • M. K. Williamson • Chris Belcore • Jessie Montgomery • Reese Weatherford • Isabelle Braden • Sytha Cheatham • Everett DiBello • Ron Hutcheson • Dan Matthews

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

For racial justice: For the staff and volunteers at Emmaus House, building relationships within the community of Peoplestown and sharing in the joy of God’s gift of love at Christmas.

For our fragile and beautiful Earth: The Coosa River—flowing through Rome Georgia, among the most endangered in the country.

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.

FORMATION | **Adults**—*join us from 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. • Choir Loft in the Nave*

The Weary World Rejoices – Sundays December 15 & 22: In this season of Advent, you are invited to join us in silent reflection as we sit together in the complexities of life, embracing both joy and sorrow, light and shadows. In these shared moments, we will pray with Scripture, images, and creation as we look for God's promises already being fulfilled, and anticipate Christ's coming into the world.

FORMATION | **Children & Youth**—*11:30 a.m. • location varies*

- Searching the Scriptures class will meet downstairs in the donut den to watch and discuss the Bible Project's Advent Word Study.
- Godly play continues as normal in room 203 with the story of Mary.
- The youth group will gather after the 10:00 a.m. service to ride together to attend worship at the Church of the Common Ground. This "church without walls" is located downtown and focuses on ministry to unhoused individuals. Worship begins at 1:00 p.m. Please note this is an outdoor event so dress warmly!

PARISH LIFE | **The Nativities Display**—*now on view in the Narthex and Gallery through Sunday, January 5*

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. There are scripture and hymn texts that accompany the crèche scenes. This is 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.

NEW THIS YEAR: A curated selection of an additional 100 nativities from the larger collection have been put on display in the parish hall, including a small selection that children are invited to touch. If you'd like to help with taking them down on Monday, January 6, please sign up at epiphany.org/rsvp.

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

LAST SUNDAY OF THE EXHIBIT. 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.

PARISH GROUPS | **Young Adults**—*Christmas Gathering at 7:00 p.m. • parish hall*

Join us for the Young Adults Christmas Gathering on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall; please bring a white elephant gift valued at \$25 or less for a fun gift exchange as we enjoy fellowship and holiday cheer. Contact Edie Brush for details.

THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD with appreciation to her new church home by Lynda Smith and in memory of Kitty O'Shea, mother of Kathleen Rinehart, by Eric & Ruth Olson.

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD with deep gratitude for Amy and Carmie's warm guidance, by Katie Pedersen.

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

NOTICE: DATES FOR ALL OF 2025 ARE NOW POSTED ON THE SIGNUP.

ADVENT • CHRISTMAS • EPIPHANY

- 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. (Zoom only)
- 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.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

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
- Wednesday Noonday Prayer—12:00 p.m. in the side chapel, a Healing Eucharist follows at 12:15 p.m.

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.

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

12/17—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.

MUSIC | Choirs for Children & Youth—Tuesdays • Music Suite upstairs

- 12/17—Beginning Choristers (pre-K - 2nd grade) meet from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- 12/17—Junior Choir (3rd grade-unchanged voices) meet from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

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

12/17—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.

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

- 12/18—The Epiphany Ringers rehearse from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft.
- 12/18—Our all-volunteer Epiphany Choir rehearses from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. in the Music Suite.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | Gift Drop-Off and Wrapping Party 12/17—Do you love being Santa's Helper? Join us to transport gifts to Emmaus House and participate in their "wrapping party." We'll meet at Epiphany at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday December 17, to gather the presents and then stay for an hour or two to help wrap! Donations of gift wrap are welcome. To sign up, contact Suzanne Yoder or Marion Curry.

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 at noon on Thursday December 19 in the parish hall. 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.

PASTORAL CARE | **The Community of Hope's Circle of Care**—Third Monday for December at 6:00 p.m.
12/16—Members gather in the parish hall 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 | **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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

LITURGY | **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**—for all ages • *notify the office by Monday, December 23*
1/12—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.

ADMINISTRATION | **Office & Building Closure**
12/24-1/2—The Parish Office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and open again on Thursday, January 2. With the exception of the Sunday Morning Eucharist on 12/29 and Tuesday Morning Prayer on 12/31, no other services, programs or meetings will take place during that time.

NOTICE: Our Annual Shoe Drive for the Church of the Common Ground will take place after the first of the year.

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.

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, flute, and strings.
- **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**—*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**

12/29—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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

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

1/2/25—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.

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.

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

1/8-10—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.

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

1/10—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.

FORMATION | **Contemplative Practice**—*join us in the Choir Loft at 4:00 p.m.*

1/12—Come gather with us on 2nd Sundays at 4:00 p.m. for a time of reflection, meditation instruction, and gathering with others seeking a more grounded way of being in the world. Led by Bobbi Patterson, Elizabeth Ura and Amy Dills-Wright. Contact the Rev. Amy Dills-Wright at adillswright@epiphany.org if you have any questions.

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

1/13—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. **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*

1/14— The ECW meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. to make sandwiches for Emmaus House. The meeting and program begins at 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall. Afterwards, we will adjourn to Melton's App & Tap (2500 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur) for lunch. All women of Epiphany are invited to attend.

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

1/14—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.

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.