

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
December 24, 2023
The Holy Eucharist at 4:00 PM

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY ATLANTA, GEORGIA

# THE MUSIC AND DECORATIONS WHICH GRACE OUR WORSHIP ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND...

In Thanksgiving for

Isabelle and Boyd Braden, Frank Block, and Molly Nugent, by Erin & Chris Braden Polly & Larry Nodine and family, by Ellen D. Carruth

The Pastoral Care Committee, the Community of Hope, and all parishioners who engage with others with pastoral needs, by David Draper

our family and friends, by Kurt & Christen Erskine

Sharon, Buddy, Graydon, and Maddie, by Richard & Sheila Ferrell

John, Laura, and Sarah Keys, by Virginia Harrison

Julie Ryder, and all those participating in the music program, by Brent Henderson

our parents–Eileen, Lucy, and Alan; and our Chosen Family–Nancy, Brittany, Chris, Reid, and Ripley by Lisa Carlson & Johanna Hinman

the Epiphany community, by Pam Hall

our family and friends, by Rod & Michele MacLeod

Linda & Steve, Julie & Terri, and Rachel & Matthew, by Barbara Ryder

Julie Ryder, the Epiphany Choirs, and our Epiphany family for the past 16 years, by Eric Schulz & Amy Shipp

the Weekday Morning Prayer Group, by Diane Tate

the people of Epiphany, and the Collins, Prikkel, and Hinman-Carlson families, by Nancy Thompson Brandon, Tracey, Zoey, and Henry Laird, by Anne Widiger Barbara, Julie, Terri, Rachel, and Matthew, by Linda Ryder-Wolf & Steve Wolf

## In Memory of

Rob Ashmore and Jim & Katie Youngblood, by Susan Ashmore Robert Boyd Block, Jean & Robert Braden, and Sarah Loebs Werkman, by Erin & Chris Braden Linda Nelson, by Edie Brush

> Richard & Vivian Knox and Foster & Bertha Toney, by David Draper our Grandparents, by Kurt & Christen Erskine

> > Elizabeth Keys and Harrison Keys, by Virginia Harrison

Donald & Mary Ellen Henderson and Dorothy Houts, by Brent Henderson

Edgar J. Grider and Janet Brendel Montgomery, by Rick & Susan Montgomery

Collus & Eugenia Johnson, by Colleen & Peter Morich

Craig Ryder, Maggi Ewing, Marilyn Hughes, and Daniel Textoris, by Barbara Ryder

Nancy Goodyear and Lou Sadler, by Nancy Thompson

Craig Ryder, Meg Wolf, and Robert Wolf, by Linda Ryder-Wolf & Steve Wolf

## **UPCOMING LITURGIES**

Monday, 12/25/2023 Christmas Day • The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, 12/31/2023 Christmas 1 • Holy Eucharist and Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 1/7/2023 Feast of the Epiphany • Holy Eucharist and Epiphany Pageant at 10:00 a.m.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We are so glad you are here to celebrate this moment with us at The Church of the Epiphany. Tonight we are here for a very special reason. It is the night we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus in a manger in a stable on a hillside in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. And yet, God is so near to us. Right here. Right now.

Please accept our very warm welcome from Epiphany to you to be fully engaged with us this morning.

Be with us in this celebration. Let the musical offerings wash over you. Dip your finger in the font, whether you are already baptized, or just beginning to feel God's tug. Join us at God's table for Eucharist, or come for a blessing, or sit quietly in your seat. You are welcome. God is near.

Please let the clergy or staff know if there is anything we can do to support you on your journey.

Merry Christmas! From our Epiphany family, to yours.

## 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!

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 livestreamed 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 Priest for Family Ministry & Community Engagement

Staff: Julie P. Ryder, Organist & Choirmaster; L. Shea McNutt, Parish Administrator; Emily Elder, Director of Children & Youth Ministries; Susie Boyko, Bookkeeper; Anna Democko, Childcare Worker; Saffie Coker-Robinson, Childcare Worker; Sarah Elizabeth Moore, Childcare Worker

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

Seminarian: Peter Waggoner

Wardens: Bert Bender, Senior Warden; Lisa Daily, Junior Warden



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Voluntary—Gesu Bambino Catherine Allain, violin



6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Celebrant Blessed be the one holy and living God. People Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Collect for Purity

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—Angels we have heard on high

Gloria



#### The Collect for The Nativity of Our Lord

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Together, let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The First Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

## Response–Light of the world

Michael Bedford

Junior Choir and Beginning Choristers

Light of the world, Light of the world, Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. Savior of the nations, come, and make here your earthly home. Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth. Just as the brightly beaming star led the wise ones from afar, now let the love of Christ burn bright, ever-shining through the night.

The Second Lesson Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you?" Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?" And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.



This hymn may be performed in equal note values:

The Gospel John 1:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children are invited to come to the Chancel steps after the Gospel procession for a special Christmas message.



The Sermon

The Rev. Amy Dills-Wright

A period of silence is kept

## The Prayers of the People for Christmas

The People stand

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who in coming to dwell among us has revealed the radiance of God's glory and brought us into marvelous light. Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you. Lord, in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love, and fill it with the Spirit of truth. Guide and inspire your faithful people throughout the world: especially Michael our Presiding Bishop and Rob our bishop. Lord, in your mercy

## Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness. We pray especially for Joseph our President, Brian our Governor, and Andre our Mayor. Lord, in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer.

Everlasting father, eternal mother, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities. Be the strength among the people of this parish as we seek to live our core values of faith, integrity, inclusiveness, compassion, social justice, and stewardship. Lord, in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer.

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to those who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer.

Celebrant's concluding Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, life of the world; hear our prayer. May we, who like the shepherds have seen in your birth a new kind of love, witness to that love in our lives. **Amen.** 

#### The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

#### The Welcome

## Offertory Anthem—Jubilate

Michael Bedford

Junior Choir

Jubilate Deo omnis terra (Praise the Lord, all the earth). O be joyful, all ye nations, O be joyful in the Lord; serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with a song. Enter now his gates with thanksgiving, go into his courts with praise. O be thankful; call upon the Name of the Lord.



## The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

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.

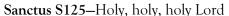
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

#### Celebrant

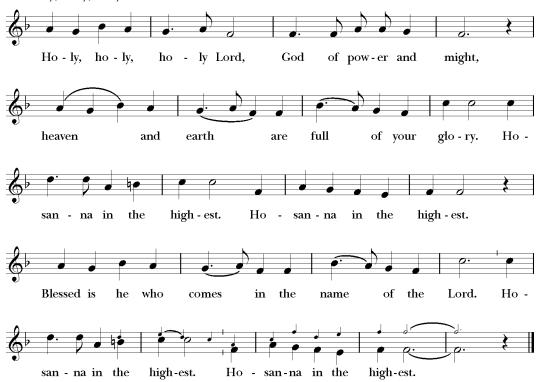
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:



Richard Proulx



The people stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember Christ's death, We proclaim Christ's resurrection, We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 84-Love came down at Christmas love all love di - vine: Love came down at Christ - mas, Wor-ship we God - head, love in - car nate. love di - vine: to - ken: be yours love be mine. gave the sign. was born Christ - mas: star and an gels where-with sa - cred sign? we our Ιe - sus, but neigh - bor, God to and plea and gift and sign.

Gartan

## The Communion of the People

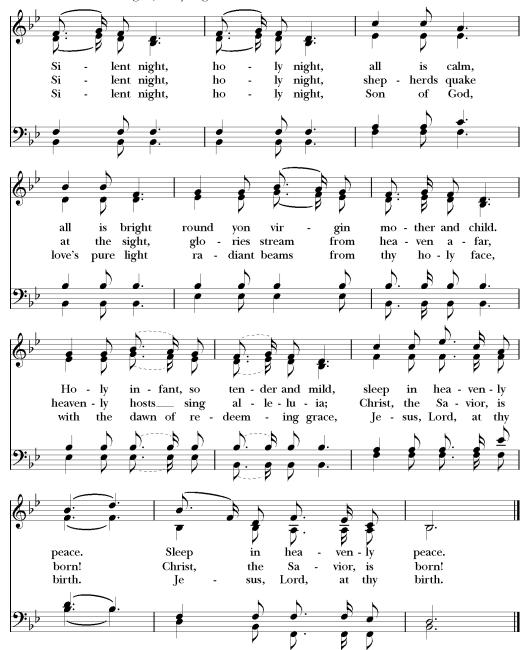
All God's people are welcome to share in the Holy Eucharist. Communion is received either kneeling or standing at the altar rail or at the standing station on the floor level. At the <u>altar rail</u> you have the option to drink from the chalice, to hand your wafer to the Lay Eucharistic Minister to 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 <u>floor station</u>, 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.



Postcommunion Prayer—Celebrant and People

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.



## The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** 

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.** 

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **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 go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary—Carillon on Antioch

Mary Beth Bennett

† † †

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