



EPIPHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1419 ODENTON ROAD, ODENTON MARYLAND

[www.epiphany-md.org](http://www.epiphany-md.org)

## Feast of the Incarnation December 24, 2021



*We are a diverse community seeking to embody and share  
the teachings and love of Jesus Christ for all people.*

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;  
for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:10-11

**Introit**

*Bring a torch Jeanette, Isabella*  
French Provençal carol by Émile Blémont

**Catherine Clair**

**Celebrant** Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Processional Hymn**

*O Come, All Ye*

**1982 Hymnal - 83**

**Opening Prayer** 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.

**Song of Praise**

*Angels We Have Heard*

**1982 Hymnal - 96**

**The Collect of the Day** 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 Lessons & Psalm**

### **The Hebrew Scripture**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### **Psalm 96**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
\*let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*and the peoples with his truth.

**The Christian Scripture**

*Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**The Gospel Hymn**

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

**LEVAS Hymnal - 194**

**The Gospel**

*Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**The Sermon**

**The Rector**

**The Prayers of the People**

**Book of Common Prayer - 392, Form 6**

**Leader** In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

**People:** For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

**Leader** For this community, the nation, and the world;

**People:** For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

**Leader** For the just and proper use of your creation;

**People:** For victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

**Leader** For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**People:** For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

**Leader** For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Eugene and Robert, our bishops; for all clergy and laity;

**People** For all who serve God in his Church.

**Leader** For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially for all those effected by the Coronavirus and for those working for racial justice. And also those for whom we offer our prayers, aloud or silently \_\_\_\_\_.

(Silence) Hear us, Lord;

**People** For your mercy is great.

**Leader** We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, we offer our prayers aloud or silently \_\_\_\_\_. (Silence) We will exalt you, O God our King;

**People** And praise your Name for ever and ever.

**Leader** We pray for all who have died, remembering especially\_\_\_\_\_, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (Silence) Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

**People** Who put their trust in you.

**Celebrant** O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**The Peace**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Bread and Wine.*

**Offertory Anthem**

*Deep Peace*

**Lori Hultgren & Catherine Clair**  
**Composer: Mark Hardy**

**Presentation***Diverse in Culture* (Tallis Canon)

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.  
God help us be a meeting ground where hope and healing can be found.  
God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people everywhere.  
Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for pow'r that separate.  
When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.  
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.  
God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread,  
Where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

**Communion Hymns****1982 Hymnal - 79, 109, 89, 110, 115****Communion Meditation***O Holy Night***Lori Hultgren, Soloist****Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for Peace**

O God, the Father of all, guide us into the ways of peace. Lead us from prejudice to truth; deliver us all from hatred, cruelty, violence, and mean spiritedness; fill us with generosity, hospitality and love, and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Final Blessing**

**People** Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one, evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in power of the Holy Spirit.

**Celebrant** And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you, this night and forever. Amen.

**Meditation***Silent Night***1982 Hymnal - 111****Recessional***Joy to the World!***1982 Hymnal - 100****Postlude***God rest Ye* Traditional English Carol, ca. 1760

**A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR  
THANK YOU!**

**Guest Lori Hultgren** has graced Epiphany Church for many years on Christmas Eve. She is an American Soprano who has many career highlights nationally and internationally.

**Epiphany Church has been blessed with Soloist Catherine Clair** since she joined the choir a few years ago. We are especially grateful for her lovely, clear voice throughout the past two years when Covid hampered our singing but could not silence our song.

**Director of Music Mark Hardy** is not only a dedicated teacher at the Baltimore School for the Arts for almost two decades but also is an accomplished composer. Epiphany has been blessed with Mark's choral leadership and his versatile style on the piano. He dedicated the original composition "Deep Peace" for Phebe which is sung tonight as the Offertory Anthem.

**Tonight's Christmas Decorations are the creation of Liz Gorham** whose skills and sense of sacred beauty have been a blessing for many celebrations over many years.

**There's a Team of Liturgical Leaders who serve at the Altar.** Most recently, we are grateful to Maryellen, Bert, Mabel, Charlotte, Jaeden, Donald, Anna, Ann, Donna, and Coral. It's been a challenging few years, but together we have weathered the storm called COVID in the Outdoor Centennial Memorial Gardens and now as we return to the Chapel.

**The Vestry & Officers.** Keep the faith! Keep up the good work! All things work for good for those who love God.

**The Epiphany Congregation.** You're the best! May God bless and keep you, now and always.

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions rock of faith and vault of grace  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions— All are welcome, all are welcome  
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true  
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and a symbol of God's grace  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus— All are welcome, all are welcome  
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat  
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet  
Here the love of God, through Jesus is revealed in time and space  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us— All are welcome, all are welcome  
All are welcome in this place (M. Haughen)

**Faithfully yours,**  
*Phebe+*