

**December 15, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**8:00AM and 10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist, Rite II**



## **Epiphany Episcopal Church**

*Founded 1918*

*1419 Odenton Road, Odenton, Maryland 21113*

*Mailing address: PO Box 110, Odenton, MD 21113*

*Office: 410-482-5500    [rector@epiphany-md.org](mailto:rector@epiphany-md.org)*

*Website: [Epiphany-md.org](http://Epiphany-md.org)*

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

The Rev. Joshua Rodriguez-Hobbs, Rector

Dr. Mark Hardy, Music Director

Debbie Leonard, Director of Christian Education

Maryellen Polvino-Bodnar, Assistant for Pastoral Care

# Welcome to Epiphany Episcopal Church

*If you are a guest today, please sign the register and make yourself known to the people around you.* The Episcopal Church welcomes everyone to the world-wide Anglican Communion, and to this historic WW I Chapel in the Diocese of Maryland. *We are glad you are here* and hope you will return! Please make yourself at home and if you need anything, just ask and someone will be glad to assist you. *The restrooms* are located through either door on the side of the fireplace at the back of the Church. There is a *ramp* for easy access on the side of the Church opposite the road.

Sign up for our weekly “E-News” delivered to your email by Constant Contact:

<https://epiphany-md.org/events/>.

*Children and Youth, Toddlers-Teens, are invited to “Godly Play” on Sundays in the Conboy Center during the 10:30 AM service.* The Mission of Godly Play is: To make meaning through story, wonder, and play and nurture spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children. Children come into Church for Communion.

*All baptized persons of any age are welcome to receive communion at our services.* If you or a family member are not baptized and would like to know more about joining the Church and making a commitment to the Christian way of life, speak to the clergy or call the Church office. Holy Baptism is the initiation by which we become members of Christ’s body, the Church, and are invited to grow in love for God and service to others, supported by a spiritual family.

**At the time of Communion**, you may intinct (“dip”) the consecrated bread in the small intinction bowl of wine offered by the Celebrant, or drink from the chalice of wine.

**Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are offered by the Priest when you come forward to receive Holy Communion.**

**For Pastoral Care, please Contact Rev. Joshua Rodríguez-Hobbs**  
*rector@epiphany-md.org - 443-931-9989 by call or text.*

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## WORSHIP NOTES

*The Liturgy is found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).*

*Hymns are found according to the following: H=Blue Hymnal,*

*S=front portion of the Blue Hymnal,*

*LEVAS = Black cover, Lift every voice and sing. The Hymns are omitted at the 8 AM service.*

# The Word of God

## THE PRELUDE

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"I will rejoice in the Lord greatly; my whole being shall exalt in my God, for he has clothed me with the garment of salvation."

*Celebrant.* Let us pray.

**God of the Good News, the promise of your joy draws us to the manager. As we approach Jesus' birth, let us kneel and adore him. Let us bow down before the mystery of Emmanuel--God with us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN H 66 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

*All* **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.**

### KYRIE LEVAS 235 - Lord, Have Mercy

33

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord\_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy

37

Christ have\_ mer-cy Christ have\_ mer - cy Christ have\_ mer-cy

43

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord\_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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 READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Lector* A reading from the book of Zephaniah.

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>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 <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God!**

## THE PSALM: Canticle 9 — The First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

## **THE SECOND READING:   Philippians 4:4-7**

*Lector*   A reading from the book of Philippians.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Lector*    The Word of the Lord.

*All*        **Thanks be to God!**

## **THE SEQUENCE HYMN    H 56 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs.5)**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL:    Luke 3:7-18**

*Celebrant*   The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Saint Luke.

*All*        **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

<sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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.” <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for

you.” <sup>14</sup>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.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.” <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Celebrant*    The Gospel of the Lord.  
*All*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN    H 56 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 6)**

**THE SERMON    *Rev. Joshua Rodríguez-Hobbs***

**THE NICENE CREED    BCP p. 358**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE    Form V    BCP p. 389**

**THE PRAYER FOR PEACE** (*Written by the Rev. Dr. Phebe McPherson*)  
**Oh God, the Father and Mother of all, guide us into the ways of peace. Lead us from prejudice to truth; deliver us 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 CONFESSION    BCP p. 360**

**THE PEACE**

*Celebrant*    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*All*            **And also with you.**

*You are invited to offer each other a sign of peace as each is comfortable.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

## THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Epiphany Choir

## THE PRESENTATION HYMN H 65 - Prepare the Way, O Zion

# The Holy Communion

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B BCP p. 367

## THE SANCTUS Holy, Holy, Holy

C G/B Amin Gsus Dmin G7  
Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly, God of pow - er and might,

9 C G/B Amin C7/G Dmin/F G7  
heav-en and earth are full are full of your glo - ry

16 Fmaj7 Emin7 Dmin7 C Dmin/A G  
Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est

24 Fmaj7 Emin7 Dmin7 Amin/C G7  
Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est

## THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP p. 364

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us!

*All* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM LEVAS 270 - Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a way the sins of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God you take a way the  
sins of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God you take a  
way the sins of the world; grant us peace.

## THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Said at 10:30 on behalf of those viewing this service online.*

*From the Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces.*

**In Union, O Lord with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. You may receive the consecrated wine by intincting—dipping the host into the vessel held by the priest—or by drinking from the common cup. The intinction vessel contains alcohol-free wine. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. Prayers for healing are offered at the rear of the chapel. If you would like to learn more about baptism, please speak to Rev. Josh following the service.*

## THE COMMUNION HYMNS

**LEVAS 19 - Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**

**LEVAS 20 - When We All Get to Heaven**



## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER    BCP p. 365

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

*If you have a birthday or anniversary during this past or coming week,  
you are invited to come forward as the community offers a prayer.*

### BIRTHDAY PRAYER    BCP p. 830

### ANNIVERSARY BLESSING    *Book of Occasional Services p. 214*

**Grant, O God, in your compassion, that N. and N., having taken each other in marriage, and affirming again the covenant which they have made, may grow in forgiveness, loyalty, and love; and come at last to the eternal joys which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### THE BLESSING

### RECESSIONAL HYMN    H 594 - God of Grace and God of Glory

### THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant*    Go forth in the name of Christ, to live as a diverse community – seeking to embody and share the teachings and love of Jesus Christ for all people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*People*        **Thanks be to God!! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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### Offering Our Gifts



Use the QR Code to link to the “giving” page on the Church website: <https://epiphany-md.org/giving/>. Text Epiphany1918 to 73256 to link to the online giving form. If you include a dollar amount after the word “Epiphany1918” the form will be filled in with that dollar amount for you. See your YTD giving, as well as update or add your Church information by joining REALM, our Church database. Send an email request to [realm.admin@epiphany-md.org](mailto:realm.admin@epiphany-md.org) or [treasurer@epiphany-md.org](mailto:treasurer@epiphany-md.org).

- Pick up a brochure about REALM on the literature table to find out how to join the Church REALM community.

- Use a credit card for online giving and check to make sure the name & address you enter in REALM matches those on your credit card account billing profile.

**Gifts of time and talent are welcome!** Please speak to a Vestry member for areas of need where you can offer your interests and abilities.

## The Shared Life of the Community of Faith

### **The Flower donation chart has plenty of space!**

There is a list of dates on the literature table. Sign up to donate flowers for our Sunday morning worship. You will get a call to remind you when it is your turn to bring flowers to decorate our Sanctuary! You may donate in the name of a loved one or occasion.

The flowers today are given by Rev. Joshua Rodríguez-Hobbs in thanksgiving of the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.

### **Donations for the CAP Food Bank are needed.**

This month and next, CAP is requesting beans - canned beans and dry beans, any flavor, any kind.

Ready-to-eat meals in rip-top cans are especially helpful to those who don't have access to kitchens or can openers.

### **Adult Bible Study**

Join us Sundays at 9am in the Conboy Center for Adult Bible Study. We will be using the Exploring the Bible program developed by Forward Movement. Each week, we will examine a section of the Bible and learn how it connects with the larger story of God's relationship with human beings. On 12/8, we will have an introductory session. On 12/15, we will discuss Genesis 1:1-2:9, 2:15-3:24, and on 12/22, we will discuss Genesis 4:1-16; 5:1b-2; 6:5-8, 13-22; 7:7-10, 17-22; 8:1-3a, 6-22; 9:1, 9-19; and 11:1-9, 27-32.

### **Christmas Tree Decorating**

We will be decorating the Christmas tree in the Conboy Center immediately following the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 15. Each family is invited to donate an ornament to decorate our parish family's tree. Please bring Christmas cookies to share.

## **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**

There will be a rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant on Saturday, December 21 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. If your child cannot attend the rehearsal but would still like to participate, please plan to arrive at 9:45 AM on Sunday, December 22. If your child would like a speaking part, please speak with Debbie Leonard. The pageant will take place during the 10:30 AM Service on Sunday, December 22.

## **Christmas Service Schedule**

Sunday, December 22. Christmas Pageant, 10:30 AM  
Tuesday, December 24. Christmas Eve Caroling, 7:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Service, 8:00 PM  
Wednesday, December 25. Christmas Day Service, 10:30 AM  
Sunday, December 29. Christmas Lessons and Carols, 10:00 AM  
*Please note there will not be an 8:00 AM service on the 29th.*

## **Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest**

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 5. Epiphany celebrates the visit of the wise men to the child Jesus and marks the end of the Christmas season. Help us say goodbye to Christmas by wearing your ugliest Christmas sweater to church. There will be an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest immediately following the 10:30 AM service. We will enjoy cookies and hot chocolate while we learn who among us has the worst taste.

