

**December 22, 2024**  
**Fourth 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

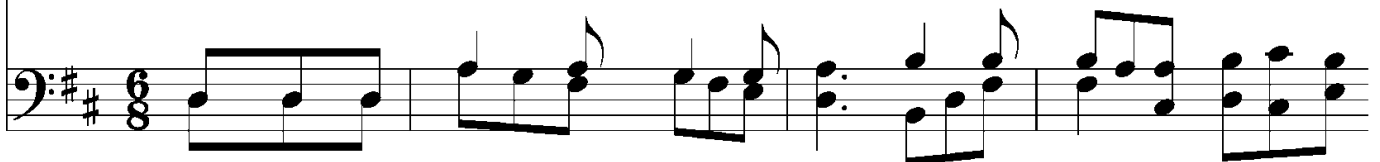
"Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.'  
*Celebrant.* Let us pray.

**God of the ages, like Mary, may our souls reflect your greatness and our spirits rejoice in you, for you have looked with favor on us and done marvelous things. May our lives be a response to the love you have shown us in Jesus, born of Mary, who lives forever and ever. Amen.**

### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN W 724 - People, Look East



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.  
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.  
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.  
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

## 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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE 10:30 SERVICE CONTINUES WITH THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ON PAGE 7.**

### **THE FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

*Lector* A reading from the book of Micah.

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **THE PSALM: Canticle 15 — The Song of Mary**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*Lector* A reading from the book of Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” <sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45**

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

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

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

## **THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* H-79 vs.1

*The First Noel* H-109 vs.1

*We Three Kings* H 128 vs.1

*Away in a Manager* H - 101

*Go Tell it on the Mountain* H - 99

**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

## **EUCCHARISTIC 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





## 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

**H 56 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**LEVAS 154 - Taste and See**

## 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 83** - O Come, All Ye Faithful

**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 Rae Evans.

### **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.

### **Omwabini**

Mary Bunyasi would like to thank you all for your generous donations to Omwabini. To help sponsor their educational needs, donations can be made through Realm or by a check to Epiphany, memo Omwabini. Envelopes for cash donations will be on the table near the bulletins. For further information see the newsletter. Many thanks, The Vernons

### **Adult Bible Study**

Adult Bible Study will resume on January 5 at 9am in the Conboy Center.

**1/5:** Genesis 12:1-5, 13:14-17, 15:1, 5-6, 16:3-4, 15-16, 17:1-27, 18:23-33, 21:1-21, 22:1-19, 24:67

**1/12:** Genesis 25:29-24, 27:1-4, 18-40, 28:12-22, 32:24-31, 37:3-8, 17-28, 41:14-45, 45:1-15, 50:15-26

**1/19:** Canon Randy Calendar presents on Truth & Reconciliation Ministries

**1/26:** Exodus 1:8-22, 2:1-5, 3:1-20, 4:1-31, 7:14-24, 11:4-10, 12:1-32, 50-51

### **Update on Deacon Gail**

Deacon Gail Tucker has been assigned to serve St. Andrew's, Pasadena. She began her ministry with them last Sunday. She sends her thanks to Epiphany for your prayers during her transition.

## Christmas Service Schedule

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.

