

The Feast of the Nativity: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023, 9:00 p.m.



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village

The Rev. Jamie Barnett, Vicar

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany!

On this Holy Night, Jesus, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, comes to us. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. We come together to hear God's word, to sing God's praise and to receive God's Holy Sacrament. May God's grace and peace be yours in abundance and may you come to know this Jesus, born today as a child and yet our Savior.

WELCOME

Visitors: We are delighted you have come to worship with us today! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please fill out the purple information card found in the slot in front of your seat and place it on the collection plate. We are excited to meet you and would love to get to know you! Please join us for coffee, donuts, and fellowship in the Bishop's Hall directly after the service.

This booklet contains the full order of service. If you are unfamiliar with our rituals and customs, just be present with us in this ancient liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. The bold type indicates where the people are invited to respond or pray.

Restrooms: Proceed through the office door to the right of the church and go straight down the hall and to the left. Both restrooms have baby changing tables.

Assisted listening devices: Available from the ushers in the back of the church.

Children: We welcome children in our worship. Their sounds are a gift from God – no need to subdue them! Our *playground* is located in the side chapel and has quiet activities for parents and younger children to use while still in worship. Children ages 3-11 are welcome to join the atrium for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School program located in Mitchel Hall. Ask the ushers for directions. Children return to the service for communion.

Contact: Office hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and the sanctuary is open during these hours for private prayer or meditation. To speak with The Rev. Jamie Barnett, please call the office and make an appointment. Her office hours are Tuesday through Thursday.

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THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bishop's Warden – Steve Stephens
People's Warden – Susan Halligan
Co-Treasurers – Eileen Hannemann and Shay Hass
Clerk – Laura Paden

John Brunson '23
Shay Hass '23
Katie Roberts '23

Susan Halligan '24
Gabriel Rueda '24
Bob Thomson '24

Claudia Dempster '25
Laura Paden '25
Bob Schneider '25

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

PRELUDE WITH CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

Organ Solo Love came down at Christmas CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD (1852-1924)

All sing:

Hymn 81 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming ES IST EIN ROS
Hymn 94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night WINCHESTER OLD

Organ Solo Prelude on "Irby" FLOR PEETERS (1903-1986)

All sing:

Hymn 89 It came upon a midnight clear CAROL
Hymn 93 Angels from the realms of glory REGENT SQUARE

Organ Solo: O Jesulein süß (O little one sweet) GERALD NEAR (B. 1942)

All sing:

Hymn 115 What child is this GREENSLEEVES

Choral Introit: Before the marvel of this night (*sung by the Choirs*)

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,
then tear apart the sky with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!

TEXT: JAROSLAV J. VAJDA (1919-2008)

MUSIC: CARL SCHALK (1929-2021)

All sing:

Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

We will observe a time of silence before the 9:00 service

The Word of God

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Priest Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, King of Peace: to you be praise and glory forever! The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a hopeful presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise. Lord Jesus, Light of light, you come to dwell among us always. Help us who live by your faith to shine as light in your world tonight and always. **Amen.**

At the sound of the bell, all stand and sing.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful (*verses 1, 3, and 6 only*)

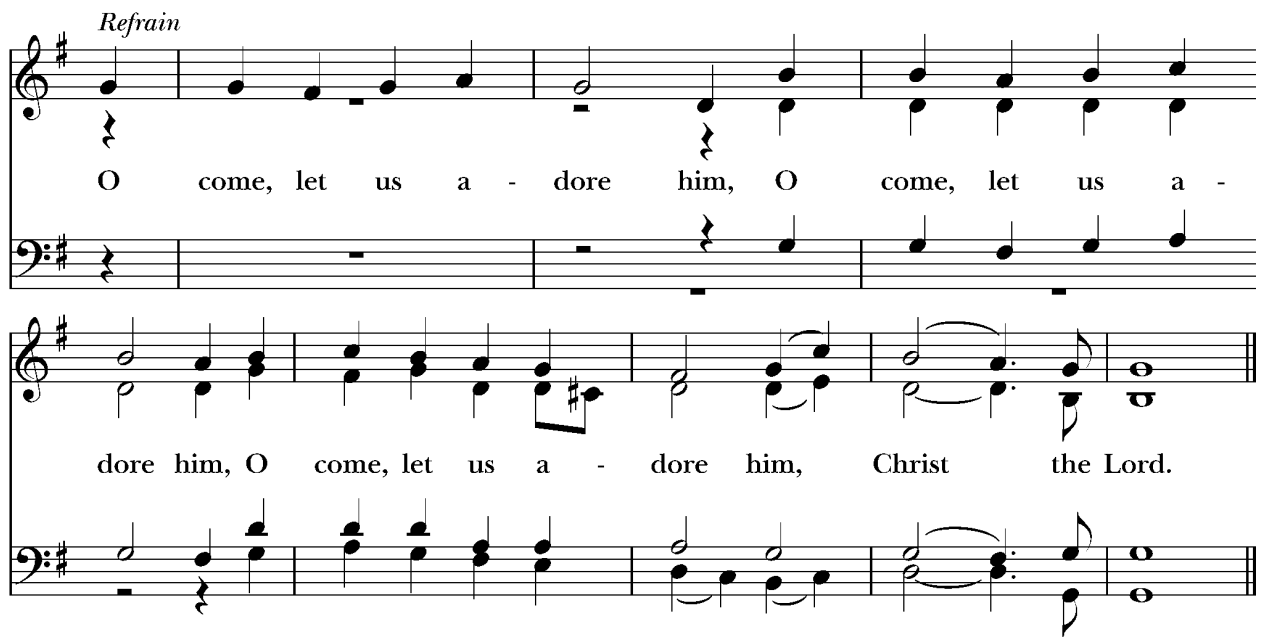
ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

ACCLAMATION

Priest Come to Bethlehem and behold the King of Angels.
People **Shout for joy to the God of our Salvation.**
Priest Proclaim the glory of the Lord who comes to us.
People **Come, let us adore him.**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest 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 upon 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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

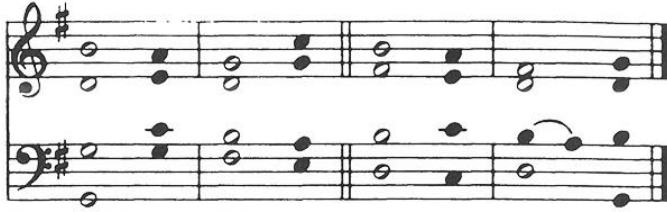
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 96 (*sung by all*)

Remain seated.



S-409 | © 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 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 be|fore 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 there|in.
- 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.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

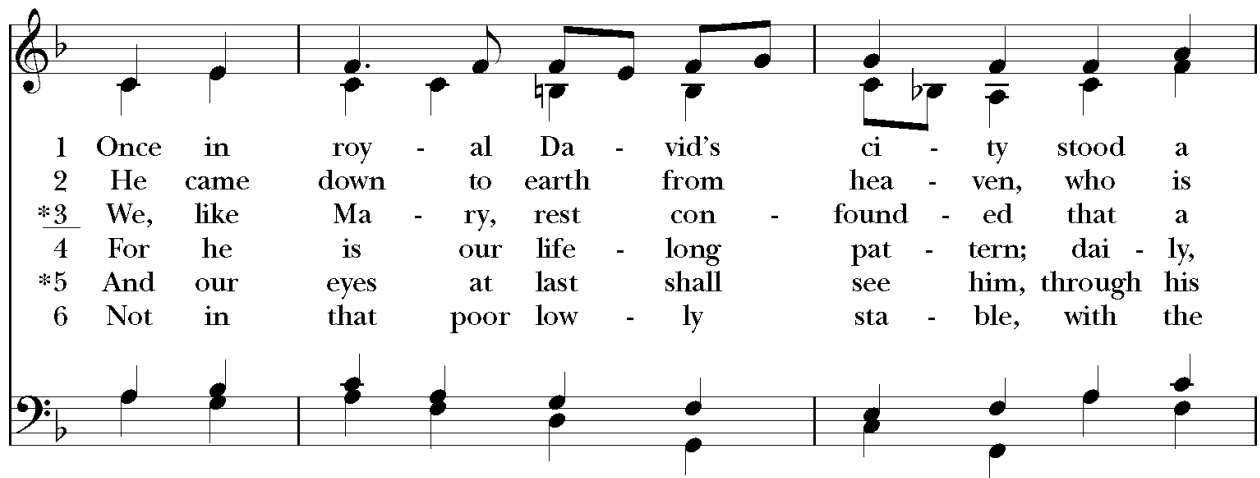
SEQUENCE HYMN

All stand and sing.

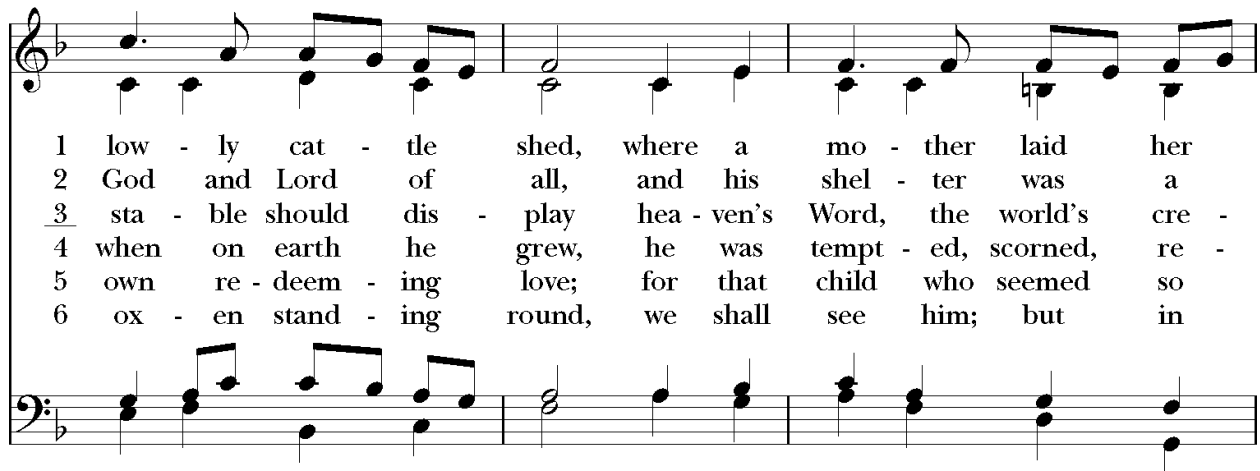
Hymn 102

Once in royal David's city (please omit verses 3 and 5)

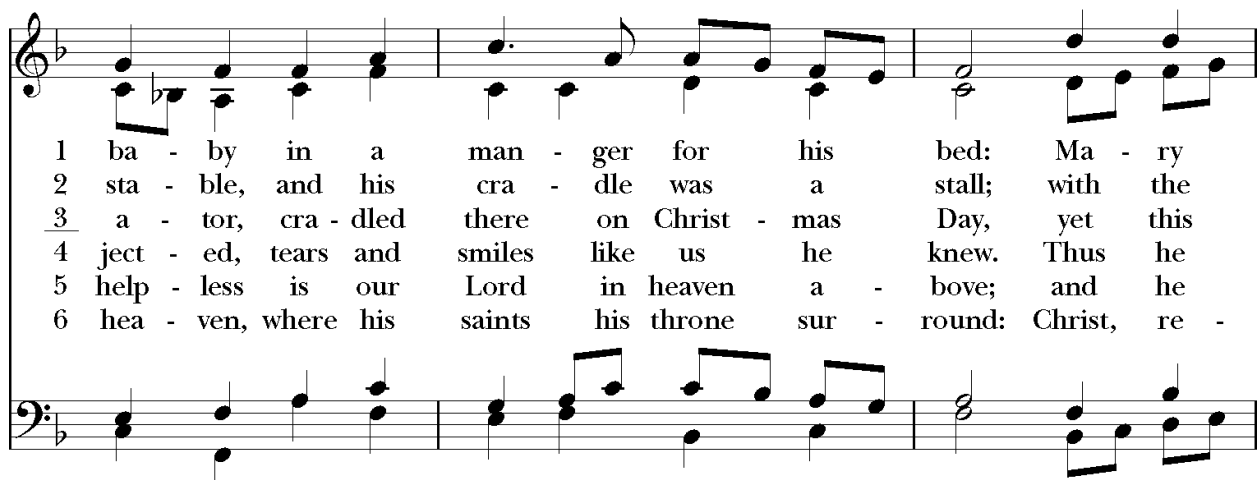
IRBY



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in



1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mother mild, — Jesus Christ her little child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
 3 child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.
 4 feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
 5 leads his children on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 veiled to faithful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The people sit for

SERMON

The Rev. Jamie Barnett

All stand for

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider: Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life: Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.

Litanist: You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Embrace with your eternal protection all who are poor: refugees and the displaced, those threatened by violence, and families with no place to call their home.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth.

We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray, especially those on our parish prayer list: Donna, Pat, Kay, and Charlie. We pray also for those who have requested our prayers and who wish to remain anonymous and for those on our long-term prayer list.

We give thanks for shepherds and all the vigilant who work while others sleep. Hear our grateful thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings in our lives. We entrust into your eternal arms those who have died.

Presider: Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY ANTHEM What child

(sung by the Choirs)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

TEXT: WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX (1837-1898)

MUSIC: PAUL W. LOHMAN (B. 1950)

As the people's offerings are presented and blessed, all stand and sing.

Hymn 100

Joy to the world!

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
 source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
 and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS S 125 Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.
On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.
In the fullness of time bring us,
with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, in the language of our hearts,

People and Presider

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día,
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en la tentación,
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.**

The Breaking of the Bread

All sing.

Fraction Anthem-Hymn 324, v.2

PICARDY

2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
he will give to all the faith - ful
his own self for heaven - ly food.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Presider This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have gotten lost. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

During the distribution of Communion, we welcome you to receive the sacrament or a prayer of blessing. If receiving a blessing, please come forward and simply cross your hands over your chest as you walk up to the presider. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the presider when you reach the front.

Put your hands out one on top of the other, and the wafer will be placed in your hand. Leave the wafer in place and move to the chalice bearer, who will then take it, dip it in the wine, and hand it back to you. If you do not wish to receive the wine, simply consume the wafer and then you may place your hands on the base of the chalice and the chalice bearer will say the words of administration.

COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung by all)*

Hymn 82

Of the Father's Love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have been, and that fu - ture
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Hymn 101

Away in a manger

CRADLE SONG

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

After Communion, all stand or kneel, as able, and sing:

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

After Communion, the Priest says
Let us pray.

Presider and People

**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.**

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

All stand and sing.

Hymn 87

Hark! The herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heav-en a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,
Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleas'd as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her
 (From heaven high to earth I come)

JOHANN PACHELBEL (1653-1706)

When the ministers have departed, all may sit or depart.

Special thanks to the members of the Epiphany Choirs for their faithful and dedicated ministry of music.

Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany at
The Church of the Epiphany

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Family Eucharist with the Nativity Narrative

8:30 p.m. Carol Sing

9:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas! There will be no service this morning.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

One service only at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

The Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 7

10:00 a.m. Holy Baptism with Epiphany Pageant

“O come, all ye faithful”, “Angels we have heard on high”, “What child is this”, “Joy to the world”, “Away in a manger”, “O little town of Bethlehem”, “Silent night”, and “Hark! The herald angels sing” are in the public domain.

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Christmas Flower Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations

The flowers for our Christmas services have been donated by:

The Rev. Jamie Barnett, in thanksgiving for her family and in loving memory of her daughter, Ashley

The Boyiazis Family in loving memory of Yvonne Boyiazis ("Yiayia") and Anne Eubank ("Ahma")

Laurie Burns, in loving memory of Byron and Olivia O'Hara, loving parents and gifts from God

Lynn Cameron, in thanksgiving for Josie and Wyatt

KT Connor, in loving memory of Jere Robings

Christine Fellingner, in loving memory of my husband, David

Karen and Bart Listick, in loving memory of Patricia Cherkas

Catherine Hahn, in loving memory of Charlotte and Bill Hahn

Stephanie and John Harbourne, in thanksgiving for each other and in loving memory of our parents, Shad, and our grandchildren Max and Walker

Karen and Chris James, in thanksgiving for this wonderful, loving, supportive, and nurturing community of faith, and in loving memory of Peggy and Jimmy James and Rose and John Knight

Leslie Loosemore Lancaster, in thanksgiving for Andrew, Lauri, Michael, and Dylan Loosemore

Linda Loomis, in thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren, and in loving memory of Len, Bill, and Mom and Dad

Judith Marshall in thanksgiving for the many blessings of family and friends and in loving memory of my loving husband and parents

The Peck-Detisch Family in loving memory of Donald Detisch

Bob and Sharon Schneider in thanksgiving for our family and friends, and in loving memory of our parents Don and June, and Art and Dee

Guy and Judith Walker in thanksgiving for Alex, Mel, Cora, and Bennett Walker, and godfather Uncle Ron from England

Jim Wilson in thanksgiving for 67 years of wedded bliss and in loving memory of Betty Lorraine Wilson

Aggie and Peter Winston, in loving memory of Helen Marie MacDonald, Lillie Mae Matthews, and Lennie Winston

Many thanks to everyone who so graciously contributed. Any donation received after 12/17 will be acknowledged in the New Year.



For the Week of Sunday, December 24, 2023

EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

www.tcote.org

THIS WEEK IN EPIPHANY

- 12/24 10:00 a.m. Children in church
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Said service
- 4:00 p.m. Family Eucharist with Nativity Narrative
- 8:30 p.m. Carol Sing-along
- 9:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

- 12/27 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina

- 12/31 9:45 a.m. Children in the Atrium
- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols, Holy Eucharist

NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY



Subscribe to our
Connections Newsletter
at
www.tcote.org/newsletter/

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/EpiphanyOakpark/ and Instagram
at www.instagram.com/tcoteoakpark

To access the bulletin from either your tablet or your cell phone, please scan the QR code:



FEEDING THE SPIRIT BIBLE STUDY



Our Feeding the Spirit Bible study will be taking two weeks off. **We will not meet on December 27 or January 3** but will begin again on January

10. Time to be determined.

A VISIT FROM OUR ASSISTING BISHOP



The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Jr. will be leading our service on **Sunday, January 21.**

This will be a celebratory day, and we hope everyone will be in attendance!

If you would like to be *confirmed or received* at that time, please let us know ASAP at info@tcote.org or call The Rev. Jamie Barnett at 818-991-4797. (Alternatively, there will be a confirmation at St. John's Cathedral in Los Angeles with The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor on May 4.)

Bishop Brookhart retired in 2018 after 15 years as ninth bishop of the Diocese of Montana. Born in West Virginia and raised in West Virginia and Ohio, Brookhart graduated from Ohio's Wittenberg University and attended divinity school at Vanderbilt University. He received his master of divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary; his doctorate in homiletics was conferred by United Theological Seminary.

Before his election as bishop of Montana, he was a parish priest in West Virginia, where he also was the bishop's deputy for ecumenism. He helped to prepare the "Call to Common Mission" statement that established full communion between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Brookhart is the author of several books, most recently *Washing and Well-Fed: How the Sacraments Change Everything*. He and his wife, Susan Moyer Brookhart, a private educational consultant, now live in Los Angeles. They have two adult daughters.

DIAPERS AND WARM COATS & JACKETS



There is great need in the low income and homeless community for both **diapers for infants** (#s 4, 5, 6 and 7) and gently used **warm coats and jackets for adults**.

There are boxes in the Narthex and the Bishop's Hall through January 14.

COOKIE CRUMBS



The Cookie Exchange was a treat, and we raised \$560 for Holy Family Adoption and Family

Service. Thanks to all who made cookies, bought cookies, and made it work.

A NOTE FROM OUR BOOKKEEPER

✓ Please note that any monies toward your pledge for this year must be **postmarked or received by December 31** in order to be counted towards your pledge and for you to receive your 2023 tax benefit.

MINISTRIES – FIND YOUR CONNECTION

For more information on these and other ministries, please visit www.tcote.org



Want to help on Sundays during the service? If you are interested in being an **usher, reader, or LEM**, please contact the church at info@tcote.org



Members of the **Altar Guild** prepare all that is necessary for the celebration of all of the sacraments of the church.

Contact: Leigh Wallace mizeinla@gmail.com



The **Music Ministry** at The Church of the Epiphany offers a variety of opportunities for participation and welcomes all. You may join the choir at any time. Contact: Jay jwilcox@tcote.org



Coffee hour is a tradition of hospitality and fellowship, a time to catch up with friends and acquaint yourself with new people of the congregation.

Interested in being a **Coffee Host**? Contact: info@tcote.org



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is highly child-centered and allows children to enter into a relationship with God in their

own ways, and in their own time. All children are welcome. Contact: Laurie Burns lburns@tcote.org



At Epiphany, we embrace and appreciate the capacity and insight of our teen parishioners. **EYG** is a safe, encouraging space for spiritual exploration and the asking of important questions.

We meet *every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.* Contact: Laurie Burns lburns@tcote.org



Meeting *weekly for one-hour on Wednesday*, **Feeding the Spirit** Bible study is focused on upcoming lessons for the week and the themes found

within. Bring a lunch! Upcoming readings will be found in our *Connections* newsletter or www.lectionarypage.net



Creation Care at The Church of the Epiphany is about helping each other to grow in care for God's Creation.

Seasonal Sacred Hikes help to create a personal bond and connection. Contact: Mari Mendenhall mmidsgn@sbcglobal.net



Lectio Divina is a practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer opening to a deeper communion with God. We meet via Zoom *every*

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Link at www.tcote.org/lectio-divina/ or contact: Barry Burns burnscreative@gmail.com.



A grief shared meets *on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Ascension Chapel.* Wherever and however

you are experiencing grief, we invite you to come and share your story in a safe and supportive space. Contact: Laurie Burns lburns@tcote.org



The Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) has many opportunities to serve those in need in our community. Please check their page at www.tcote.org.

Contact: Aggie Winston (805) 807-5001.



PFLAG's vision is to create a world where difference is celebrated, and all people are valued inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We meet on the *second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.*

Contact: info@tcote.org



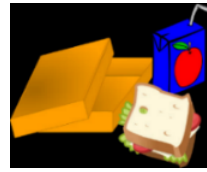
Laundry Love is a nationwide program that assists low-income families and individuals in doing their laundry. We meet on the *last Tuesday of each month from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.*

Contact: Karen James kjames@tcote.org



The Pastoral Care Team cares for parishioners who may be sick, recovering from surgery or experiencing other life changes. We

make phone calls, visit hospitals and homes, and help with their unmet needs, such as providing an occasional meal following surgery or illness. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry, contact Sharon Schneider: sschneider@tcote.org



The Lunch Bunch prepares and delivers 70-80 brown bag lunches to Harbor House once a month for low income and homeless families and

individuals. Join us! Contact: Yvonne Lux yvonnlux@gmail.com



OWLS (Older Wiser Laity) strives to create community and fellowship opportunities among the more senior members of our church and the greater area, meeting monthly for

lunch and a variety of enriching programs from October-May. Contact Michelle Ponticelli:

mponticelli@tcote.org



Red Door Vineyard's vision is to be a source of congregational

growth, strength and spirituality as we share in the journey of crafting wine in God's name. In addition to ongoing vineyard activities, we gather monthly for Monday Night Fellowship and Friday Evening Happy Hour and arrange a variety of social and cultural experiences. Contact: Stacey Stephens

reddoorvineyard@tcote.org



The Epiphany Music Guild

further the church's outreach mission to the community by providing a regular series of musical and other artistic events, enriching people's lives, and giving them opportunities to encounter beauty in a sacred space. Contact: Jay jwilcox@tcote.org or

www.tcote.org/music/

PRAYERS

Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer List: Pat, Kay and Charlie

Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list: Boyd, Neil and Sarah, Tom, Arturo, Judith, Kathy, Curt, Steve, Joe, Rhonda, Lynn, Dan, Amanda, Tabitha, Judie, Georgia, Steve, Paul, Peter, Glenn and Family, Madden, Norma, Hailey, baby Noah, Benny, and Carol, John, George, Holly, Debbi, Robyn, Donna, and Bishop Michael Curry

To add yourself, family, or friends to the prayer list, please fill out a prayer card or submit your prayer request online at www.tcote.org/prayer-request/.

MISSION AND VISION

At their December meeting, our Bishop's Committee approved a new mission and vision statement for The Church of the Epiphany. We hope it rings true and inspires you.

Mission

We seek to ensure that all who enter our doors know that they are loved, welcomed, and celebrated unconditionally, that we serve the world with gratitude, humility, and courage, and that we continue to grow in faith, recognizing reason and exploring the profound mystery that is God's creation.

Vision

To live and love as true followers of Jesus, not just fans.

Core Values

RADICAL LOVE

JOYFUL SERVICE

FAITHFUL LEARNING

Core Values guide us in carrying out our mission and realizing our vision.

By their nature, core values are touchstones for prayer, discernment, ongoing conversation, and action. We seek a deep understanding and ongoing engagement with Epiphany's Core Values. Over the years, we will continue reflecting on what they mean in their application; how they challenge and inform decisions and actions in Epiphany's ministries, and how they help our ministries be aligned with our mission and vision.