

**The Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 11, 2023, 10:00 a.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

**For our Visitors:** We are delighted you have come to worship with us today. There is coffee and fellowship in the Bishop's Hall directly after the service. Please join us!

**Worshiping with us:** 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.

During the distribution of Communion, we welcome you to receive the sacrament or a prayer of blessing. Additional information about communion is in that section of this booklet. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to an usher or other congregants.

**Additional assistance:** To locate the 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** are available from the ushers in the back of the church.

**Children in the church:** We welcome children at all our worship services. The sounds of children are a gift from God. Please do not feel you have to subdue them! In the chapel to the left of the altar, we have our *pray ground*. This space is for parents and younger children to use quiet activities such as books, coloring, soft blocks etc., while still participating in worship. We offer activity bags for older children. Children aged 3-11 are welcome to join us in the atrium for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday school program.

**Making Epiphany your spiritual home:** 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. Start by joining us for coffee after the service!

**When we are open:** The church is open Monday-Thursday for private prayer and meditation from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Our office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Our phone number is (818) 991-4797. The Rev. Jamie Barnett has office hours Tuesday through Thursday by appointment.

### THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

*The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village*  
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(818) 991-4797 · [tcote.org](http://tcote.org)

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#### THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bishop's Warden – Steve Stephens  
People's Warden – Susan Halligan  
Treasurer – Keith Krantz  
Clerk – Eileen Hannemann

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

Cantabile in F, Op. 41, No. 4

ALEXANDRE GUilmANT (1837-1911)

## The Word of God

*At the sound of the bell. all stand, as able, and sing*

### ENTRANCE HYMN

Hymn 567

Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old

ST. MATTHEW

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

### FIRST READING: Hosea 5:15--6:6

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

[Thus says the LORD:] <sup>15</sup>“I will return again to my place  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will beg my favor:

<sup>6:1</sup>“Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

<sup>2</sup>After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.

<sup>3</sup>Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.’

<sup>4</sup>What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.  
<sup>5</sup>Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,  
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the light.  
<sup>6</sup>For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 50:7-15**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>7</sup>**Hear, O my people, and I will speak:**  
**“O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \***  
**for I am God, your God.**  
<sup>8</sup>**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \***  
**your offerings are always before me.**  
<sup>9</sup>**I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, \***  
**nor he-goats out of your pens;**  
<sup>10</sup>**For all the beasts of the forest are mine, \***  
**the herds in their thousands upon the hills.**  
<sup>11</sup>**I know every bird in the sky, \***  
**and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.**  
<sup>12</sup>**If I were hungry, I would not tell you, \***  
**for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**  
<sup>13</sup>**Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, \***  
**or drink the blood of goats?**  
<sup>14</sup>**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving \***  
**and make good your vows to the Most High.**  
<sup>15</sup>**Call upon me in the day of trouble; \***  
**I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.”**

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave

glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## **SEQUENCE HYMN**

*All stand.*

Hymn 676

There is a balm in Gilead

BALM IN GILEAD

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]**

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

<sup>10:1</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [<sup>9</sup>Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup>Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup>“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup>and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; <sup>20</sup>for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup>Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; <sup>22</sup>and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

*Presider*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*         **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

The Rev. Susan Klein

## **THE CREED**

*All stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*All remain standing.*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call on the Lord, saying, "O God, we long to see your face; *show us your favor.*"

Forgive us, O God. You desire steadfast love and yet too often our hearts are fickle. You long for us to be people of mercy and yet it is much easier to simply go through the motions. Help your Church, O God.

*Silence*

O God, we long to see your face;  
*Show us your favor.*

God of Abraham, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth. Restore us to unity. Help your people,  
O God.  
*Silence*

O God, we long to see your face;  
*Show us your favor.*

Most High, every wild animal of the forest is yours; all that moves in the field is yours. The world and all that is in it is yours. Make us good stewards of your creation. Help us, O God.  
*Silence*

O God, we long to see your face;  
*Show us your favor.*

Mighty God, come to us like the spring rains that water the earth. Restore this community; refresh its people. Help our city, O God.  
*Silence*

O God, we long to see your face;  
*Show us your favor.*

Holy Jesus, you have come to heal the sick. Heal us. Bind us up. Help those who are suffering, O God. We pray especially for those on our prayer list: Dave. We pray also for those who have asked for our prayers but who prefer to remain anonymous, as well as those on our long-term prayer list.  
*Silence*

O God, we long to see your face;  
*Show us your favor.*

Living God, your Holy Child was raised for our justification. We pray for the dead. Raise them up on the last day, that they may live before you in eternity. Help the dying and the dead, O God.  
*Silence*

O God, we long to see your face;  
*Show us your favor. Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Presider says*  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Presider and People*  
**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*The Presider stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*All stand.*

*Presider*           The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*             **And also with you.**

*Then the Presider and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS**

*All*                   **Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# The Holy Communion

## **OFFERTORY**

Prayer

ALFRED HOLLINS (1865-1942)

## **PRESENTATION HYMN**

*All stand, as able, and sing*

Hymn 393

Praise our great and gracious Lord

MAOZ ZUR

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The People remain standing.*

*Presider*           The Lord be with you.  
*People*             **And also with you.**  
*Presider*           Lift up your hearts.  
*People*             **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider*           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*             **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



*Presider*

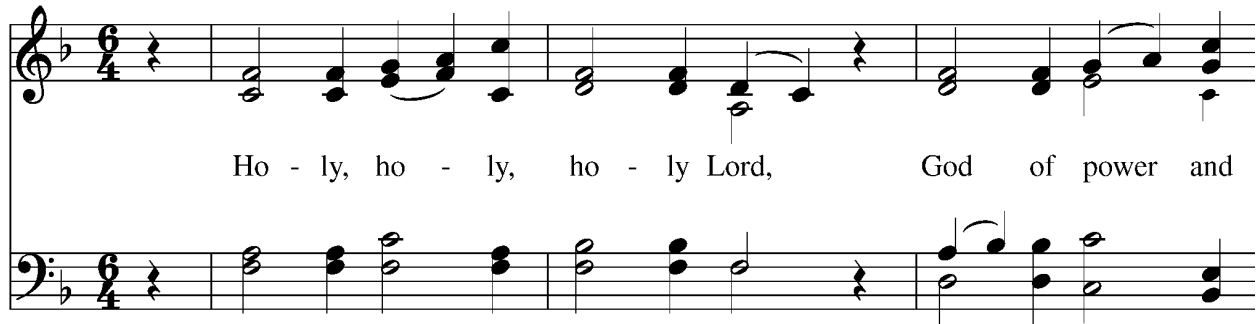
All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God;  
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,  
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;  
You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

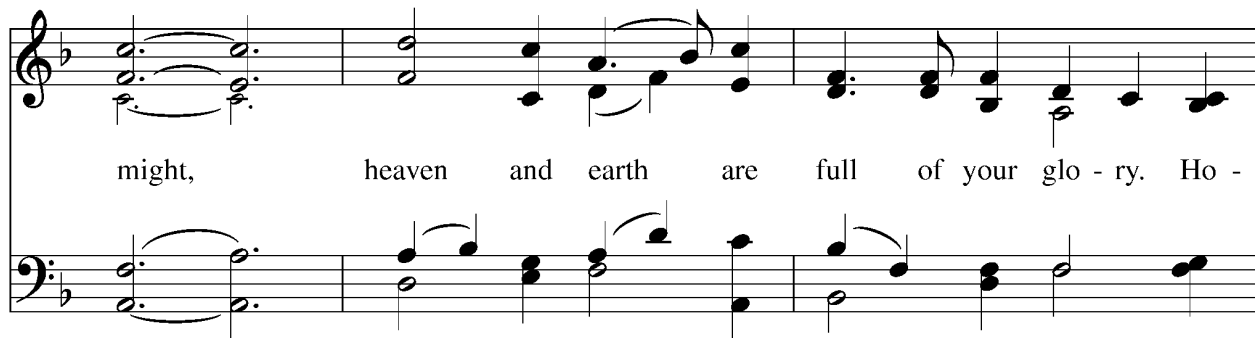
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;  
And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation  
as we shout with joy:

**SANCTUS WLP 858** *Holy, holy, holy (Folk/Pruner) (American folk melody)*

*Presider and People*



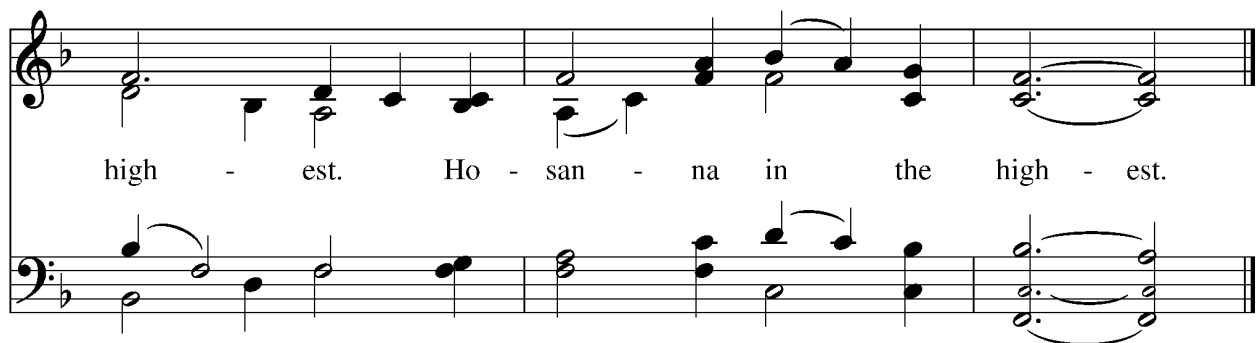
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. \* Bless - ed is he who comes



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presider continues*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,  
your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage  
and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus  
to be human, to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign  
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life,  
reconciled us to you,  
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us  
Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,  
gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,  
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you:  
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,  
longing for Christ’s coming in glory,  
and presenting to you these gifts  
your earth has formed and human hands have made,  
we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*The Presider continues*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us  
the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power,  
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,  
and in the fullness of time gather us  
with [blessed \_\_\_\_\_, and] all your people  
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator  
in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

### **INVITATION**

*The Presider 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 failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

*During Communion, all are welcome – even encouraged! – to come forward to receive the holy food of new and everlasting life in Jesus Christ. Simply put your hands out (one on top of the other), and the bread will be placed in your hand. (If needed, gluten-free wafers are available.)*

*You may then consume the wafer (if you do not wish to have it intincted in the wine) or leave the wafer on your palm and the chalice bearer will dip it into the wine for you and place it in your hand. If you aren't sure, or if you'd rather not receive the actual Sacrament, come up and cross your arms across your chest to receive a*

*blessing. You may also cross your arms over your chest or touch the bottom of the chalice if you wish not to receive wine. Finally, if you'd like to receive Communion but mobility is an issue, alert an usher and Communion will be brought to you.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**God of abundance,  
you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us  
with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### BLESSING

*The Presider blesses the people*

### POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Hymn 493 O for a thousand tongues to sing

AZMON

### DISMISSAL

*Presider* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Praeludium septimum

JOHANN CASPAR FERDINAND FISCHER (c. 1656-1746)

*Our guest organist this morning is Mark Hall.*

“Holy, holy, holy Lord” (Sanctus), American folk melody, arr. Marcia Pruner, harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983), © 1985, Church Publishing, Inc. Reproduced under OneLicense.net License No. A-717483. All rights reserved.

“Be known to us, Lord Jesus” by Jay Wilcox, © 2003 Jay Wilcox. Reproduced by permission. All rights reserved.

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# EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

## THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- 6/11 9:45 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Children in the Atrium
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org))
- 11:30 a.m. Epiphany Youth Group meeting
- 6/12 7:00 p.m. PFLAG meeting
- 6/14 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina
- 6/16 5:00 p.m. RDV Happy Hour
- 6/18 9:45 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Children in the Atrium
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org))
- 11:30 a.m. Epiphany Youth Group meeting

## STAY CONNECTED



Visit [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org) to explore all things Epiphany, follow links to our greater Episcopal family, check out the calendar, donate flowers, listen to sermons, learn about our organ, stained-glass windows, or our sacraments. Subscribe to our bi-weekly e-mailed *Connections Newsletter* under Connect. Find us on Facebook at @EpiphanyOakPark and on Instagram at tcoteoakpark.

## SUMMER HOURS



Our Summer Hours  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday - Thursday

## BEGINNING IN JULY



To help you and your mailbox, beginning in July, our Connections Newsletter delivery will change to once a week. It will have all the information you have come to look forward to on Wednesdays and Fridays - consolidated and improved. It will include the weekly calendar, the readings for the next two weeks, more links to our diocese and the greater Episcopal community, links to commonly used pages on our website and an easy way to Give. Look for changes in this issue and the next few weeks!

## SAVE THE DATE

**Save Saturday, September 16  
for our Annual Epiphany Party!**  
It will be a **fiesta!**

## SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY – LECTIO DIVINA



If you have ever been curious, below are a few comments from our Lectio community.

- Lectio Divina is an ancient practice that comes alive when we read, reflect, and share the resonance within as it is today.
- The Holy Spirit speaks to me through the gathered members. Each week I receive a short message that directs me on the spiritual journey.
- The Epiphany Lectio meetings are a perfect place for centering and sharing prayer on Wednesdays. The entire experience is centered on the divine.

*Come as you are*, and you will leave transformed knowing a little more about how it is to be blessed and be a blessing.

It's an *opportunity to fully express spiritual thoughts without judgment*. Sharing Christ's love together brings a sense of His perfection to all our hearts.

*Come Share the Joy and the Journey*

~ Want to know more? Contact Mary Mendenhall (818) 585-5068 or [mmidsgn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmidsgn@sbcglobal.net)

~ We meet by Zoom every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. For zoom link email Bob Brown at [oneoutofmany@live.com](mailto:oneoutofmany@live.com)

## FLOWER GIFTS



Giving altar flowers on Sunday is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, honor our loved ones, or give thanks. If you would like to sponsor flowers, please fill out the card found in the church pews or go to [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org) and indicate your dedication, thanksgiving, or memorial. The date must be reserved at least 7 days prior. Your gift will be acknowledged in our worship bulletin and newsletter.

## RED DOOR VINEYARD HAPPY HOUR



All are invited to the **Red Door Vineyard Happy Hour on Friday, June 16, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

BYO Beverage {hopefully wine} to share (or not)  
Bring an appetizer (or not) to share (or not)  
Barrel tastings upon request

Drop in any time - stay as long as you'd like - no RSVP required. Hoping to provide a loose and lively end to your busy week!

## PRIDE MONTH



What does the Bible say about gay people? Is being gay a sin? What is LGBTQIA+ anyway? Learn the FAQs.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD?



Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year program of theological education that can help answer that question. EfM

is designed for lay people who are interested in deepening their understanding of the Christian faith and exploring their ministry.

Through EfM, you will:

- Study the Bible, church history, and theology.
- Engage in theological reflection and discussion.
- Build deep relationships with other people of faith.

Epiphany's EfM group meets on Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., both in-person and online. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Elizabeth Bryant at (805) 469-8897 or [e.vana.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:e.vana.bryant@gmail.com) or visit [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org) (Want a group that meets at another time? Elizabeth can help you to find an EfM group that suits your needs.)

## HARBOR HOUSE LUNCHES FOR DINNER



Thanks to all the generous folks who have been providing lunches for the homeless, and low-income families and seniors. Our **June date is Tuesday, June 20**, and this month we need 7 people who will each provide 10 lunches. If you can help this

month e-mail: [yvonnelix@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnelix@gmail.com).

Include sandwich - turkey or ham appreciated or pb&j, granola bar, chips, raisins, cookies, fruit, and a drink. Drinks and fruit should be separate. The more snacks you can add to the lunch the better. **Drop-off is between 4:00 and 4:30** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at Avenida de las Flores and Mt. Clef. The parking lot is in the back.

## PFLAG



**PFLAG** is the nation's first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. 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. Our mission of **support, education, and advocacy** guides our work in this important goal. The PFLAG Oak Park/Conejo Valley chapter has been meeting at The Church of the Epiphany since April 2008. We look forward to getting to know you and answering any questions you have.

**Please join us in person on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.** *This meeting is for people who are LGBTQ and for parents, family, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ community.* Questions? Email [info@tcote.org](mailto:info@tcote.org).

## PRAYERS

**Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer List:** Dave

**Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list:** Kay, Boyd, Kristi, Neil and Sarah, Donna, Byron and Olivia, Susan, Arturo, Tommy, Judith, Matthew, Joann, Kathy, Ronnie, Mario, Curt, Claudia, Jana, Davis, Carol, Cynthia, Lynn, Kim, Juan Carlos, the Rowe family and baby Noah, Shirley, Jasmine

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of David Fellingner and Wyatt Scott Bonus.**

*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](http://www.tcote.org)*

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







# FAQs

## About Jesus, the Bible & LGBTQ+ People

### **1. Is being gay a sin?**

No. Sins are acts that separate us from God and keep us from loving our neighbors as ourselves. Being gay is not a sin. Bullying is a sin. Being hateful to other people is a sin. Putting yourself in the place of God to judge others is a sin. Being gay is not.

### **2. What did Jesus say about gay people?**

Jesus said the same thing about gay people that he said about all people: God loves you beyond your wildest imagining and calls you to walk in love with God and with each other. He also said a whole lot about welcoming the stranger, embracing the outcast, ministering to the marginalized and loving – not judging – your neighbor.

### **3. Does the Bible really condemn homosexuality?**

The short answer is no, it does not. The handful of passages in the Old and New Testaments that talk about God condemning specific sexual acts have nothing whatsoever to do with sexual orientation and everything to do with contexts such as cultic prostitution or gang rape. To put it another way, using the Bible as a handbook on human sexuality makes as much sense in the 21st century as using it as a handbook on astronomy did in the 16th. The church got it wrong when it misused the Bible to condemn Galileo and it gets it wrong when it misuses the Bible to condemn LGBTQ+ people.

### **4. How do I respond when people say "God hates f-s"?**

First of all, God's nature is to love, not to hate. We believe that what God cares about is not our sexual orientation but our theological orientation — and that the question that matters is not "who do you love?" but "do you love?" Recognizing that homophobia causes some folks to project onto God their own fears, prejudices and biases against LGBTQ+ people, sometimes the best response is simply no response. It can be a challenge, but getting triggered by hate-mongers prevents us from being the change we want to see.

### **5. How about transgender and non-binary people? Where do they fit in?**

The same place all God's beloved children fit in: smack dab in the center of God's care, love and desire for health and wholeness for every single human being.

**6. What do I tell people when they say being gay is a sin and a choice?**

Tell them that Jesus said absolutely nothing about being gay, but he said a lot of things about judging other people. Then tell them that while there is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay, or lesbian orientation, there is consensus that sexuality is a continuum. So the "choice" is not to be gay, straight or somewhere in between; the "choice" is to build our own healthy relationships — and give other people the grace to build theirs.

**7. How do I respond when politicians condemn my sexuality, citing their belief in the Bible?**

Remind them that the First Amendment protects them in believing whatever they want to about what God does or does not bless, but it also prohibits them from using those beliefs to decide who the Constitution protects or doesn't protect. Tell them to stop confusing their theology with our democracy. And then campaign for and donate to their opponent in the next election cycle.

**8. What about those who say they need "religious freedom laws" to protect their right to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people because of their religion?**

They are wrong. The Constitution already protects their right to exercise their religion. It does not protect their right to impose their religion. Just as using the Bible to justify racial segregation was wrong in the 1960's, using it to justify LGBTQ+ discrimination is wrong today.

**9. So I get LGBT – but I don't understand the Q. I've heard it stands for "questioning" and I've also heard it stands for "queer." So which one is it?**

Both. **Questioning** means someone who is figuring out their gender identity and/or figuring out how they want to identify their sexual orientation. **Queer** is not specific to sexual orientation or to gender identity but is more of an umbrella term for anything that exists outside of the dominant heterocentric narrative. Originally pejorative for gay, it is now being reclaimed by some gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons as self-affirming language.

You may also see the acronym **LGBTQIA**. The additional 'IA' is added to include those who identify as intersex/intergender and asexual. Some iterations of the acronym also add a '+' sign at the end, symbolizing the inclusion of all other identities.

Yes, it's complicated. It is also not at all surprising that as we grow in both our understanding and experience of the complicated continuum of sexual orientation and fluidity of gender identity/expression our language will grow and change as well.

Ultimately, the most important message we have to offer is that whoever you are and wherever you find yourself in the alphabet there is a place for you here.

**10. Should I try to "pray away the gay"?**

No. If you need to pray away something, pray away homophobia. Homosexuality doesn't need healing. Homophobia does.

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*Pride 2019 version*

*Written by the Reverend Canon Susan Russell, All Saints Church, Pasadena*

For more information contact us at [lgbtq@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:lgbtq@allsaints-pas.org)  
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