

**The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 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

**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.

### THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

*The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village*  
5450 Churchwood Drive, Oak Park, California 91377  
(818) 991-4797 · [tcote.org](http://tcote.org)

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Arturo Morales, Maintenance

#### 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

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland  
(Come, O Savior of the nations)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

## The Word of God

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Catechist:* Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true, to you be praise and glory for ever! Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets but in our days you speak through your Son, Jesus. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement, for you are our light and our salvation.

*All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*Catechist:* God our Father you spoke to the prophets of old of a Savior who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world.

*All:* **Lord Jesus, Light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide and show all the world God's love. Amen.**

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

### ENTRANCE HYMN

Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye, my people

PSALM 42

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Presider says*

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Presider may say*

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.**

**OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE S 88 Kyrie eleison (Greek) (Robinson)**

*The following is sung, all standing*

*Cantor or Choir*



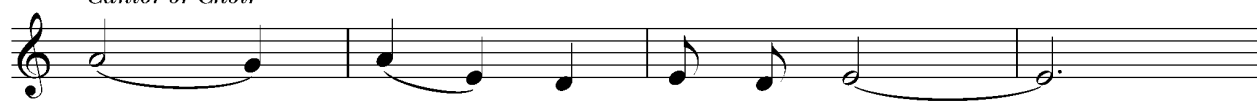
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*All*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*Cantor or Choir*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*All*

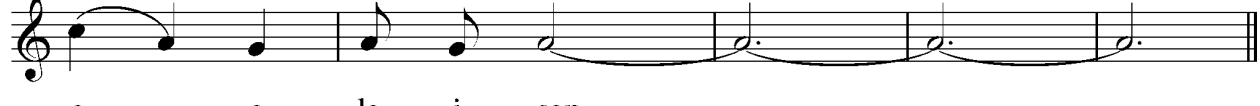


Chri - ste e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*Cantor or Choir* *All*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_ Ky - ri -



e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***Amen.***

# The Lessons

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>“Comfort, O comfort my people,”  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD’s hand  
double for all her sins.”

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** (*sung by all*)

*Remain seated.*



S-415 | © 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- 1     You have been gracious to your land, O | LORD, \*  
      you have restored the good fortune of | Jacob.
- 2     You have forgiven the iniquity of your | people \*  
      and blotted out all their | sins.
- 8     I will listen to what the LORD God is | saying, \*  
      for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
      and to those who turn their | hearts to him.
- 9     Truly, his salvation is very near to those who | fear him, \*  
      that his glory may dwell in our | land.
- 10    Mercy and truth have | met together; \*  
      righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- 11    Truth shall spring up from the | earth, \*  
      and righteousness shall look down from | heaven.
- 12    The LORD will indeed grant pros|perity, \*  
      and our land will yield its | increase.
- 13    Righteousness shall go be|fore him, \*  
      and peace shall be a pathway for his | feet.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

A Reading from the Second letter of Peter.

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

*Silence may follow.*

### **SEQUENCE HYMN**

*All stand as able and sing.*

Hymn 56, verses 3-4 only

O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

### **GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

*All stand.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

### **THE SERMON**

The Rev. Jamie Barnett

### **THE NICENE CREED**

*All stand as able.*

**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.*

Let us lift up our voices to God in strength, saying, "Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord."

Together as your Church, we long to see your face. Speak to us, Lord, as we walk through the wilderness listening for the sound of your voice. Give our leaders patience, wisdom, and a heart for your will: for Michael, our presiding bishop; John, our bishop; and Jamie, our priest.

In your mercy,

*be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.*

We pray for all who govern, especially Joe, our president, and for the Congress and courts of this land. Guide the leaders of the nations as they work for the welfare of their people and the good of all.

In your mercy,

*be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.*

Awaken us to the suffering of people near us and those far from us. Call forth in us a spirit of generosity and kindness. Equip us to respond to their needs. Arouse in us a sense of urgency to demonstrate your Good News in our lives and voice it, that all may hear. Make us messengers of your love.

In your mercy,

*be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.*

We ask you to comfort those who have lost hope, who struggle with anxiety about the future, who live in fear. We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Presiding Bishop Michael Currie, Robyn, and Debbi. 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.



In your mercy,

*be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.*

We pray for those who have died, especially Maggie Crites and Nikolai, that their memories be blessings in our lives.

In your mercy,

*be patient with us and prepare us, Lord. Amen.*

*The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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 the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers 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 MUSIC**      What is the crying at Jordan?      *(sung by the Parish Choir)*

What is the crying at Jordan? Who hears, O God, the prophecy?  
Dark is the season, dark our hearts and shut to mystery.

Who then shall stir in this darkness, prepare for joy in the winter night?  
Mortal in darkness we lie down, blindhearted seeing no light.

Lord, give us grace to awake us, to see the branch that begins to bloom;  
In great humility is hid all heaven in a little room.

Now comes the day of salvation, in joy and terror the Word is born!  
God comes as gift into our lives; O let salvation dawn!

TEXT: CAROL CHRISTOPHER CRAKE (CAROL C. STONE) (1933-2022)  
MUSIC: JAY WILCOX (B. 1954)

### PRESENTATION HYMN

*All stand as able and sing.*

Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

## 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*

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:

*Presider and People*

**SANCTUS S-129**

ROBERT POWELL (b. 1932)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*The Presider 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*

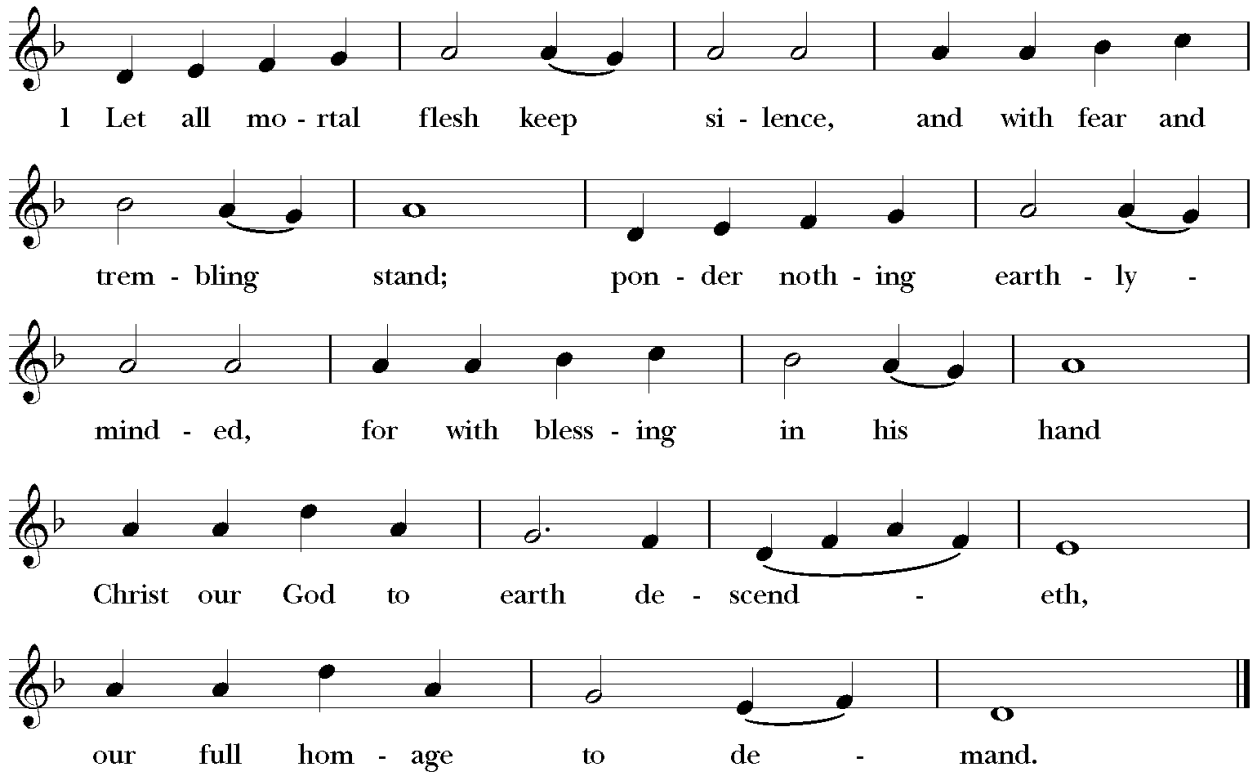
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from 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

FRACTION ANTHEM-HYMN 324, v.1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

PICARDY



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and  
trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly -  
mind - ed, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descend - eth,  
our full homage to demand.

*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 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 HYMN

*(All are invited to sing)*

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

5  
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.

*After Communion, the Presider says*  
Let us pray.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Presider 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.**

### THE BLESSING

*The Presider blesses the people.*

### POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Hymn 57                      Lo! he comes with clouds descending

HELMSLEY

### DISMISSAL

*During Advent, "Alleluia" is omitted from the dismissal.*

*Presider*              As we await our coming Savior, go in the peace of Christ.

*People*                **Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

Epilogue on "Winchester New"

ERIC THIMAN (1900-1975)

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For the Week of Sunday, December 10, 2023

# EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

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

## THIS WEEK IN EPIPHANY

12/10	9:45 a.m.	Children in the Atrium
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	11:30 a.m.	Epiphany Youth Group
	11:30 a.m.	Outreach meeting
12/11	7:00 p.m.	PFLAG meeting
12/13	5:00 p.m.	Bishop's Committee Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Study Group
	7:00 p.m.	Lectio Divina
12/14	12:00 p.m.	OWLs event
	6:30 p.m.	Schola Rehearsal
	7:45 p.m.	Parish Choir rehearsal
12/15	6:00 p.m.	RDV Happy Hour
12/17	9:45 a.m.	Children in the Atrium
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	11:30 a.m.	Epiphany Youth Group
	11:30 a.m.	Cookie Exchange

## A GRIEF SHARED DATE CHANGE



Wherever and however you are experiencing grief - the death of a loved one, the loss of hope, the fear of the unknown - we invite you to come and share your story in a safe and supportive space. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, December 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Ascension Chapel. This is a date change because of the holidays.** At the same time, there will be a shared Blue Christmas liturgy. Please contact Laurie Burns at [lburns@tcote.org](mailto:lburns@tcote.org) if you need further information.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE



### December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. - Children in the Atrium  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Children in Church  
This is a **said service**. No choir.  
*This service is not livestreamed.*

### Christmas Eve Services – Sunday, December 24

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

In place of a homily, the children will be invited to join Karen James to share in experiencing the joy of the Christmas story. Jay Wilcox organist.  
*This service is not livestreamed.*

#### 8:30 p.m. Carol Sing-a-long

#### 9:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist with the Parish Choir and Schola

The Rev. Jamie Barnett preaches. Jay Wilcox organist.

### NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY

## GIVE



Your ongoing financial support allows us to embrace and engage in the mission and ministry of The Church of the Epiphany. Visit [www.tcote.org/give](http://www.tcote.org/give) or scan the QR code to the left. **It's not too late to pledge!** Either fill out one of the cards in the back of the pews or go to [www.tcote.org/stewardship-2024/](http://www.tcote.org/stewardship-2024/)

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE



On **December 17**, Outreach will hold the beloved Christmas Cookie Exchange once again! We will be asking for donations of 3 dozen Christmas cookies that day.

You can sign up to bring cookies at [yvonnlux@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnlux@gmail.com).



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2023



Please consider contributing to the Flower Fund to help beautify the church for Christmas.

Contributions can be made in thanksgiving for anyone or anything or in memory of a loved one in your life. Please fill out the form in the church pews donate at [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org). All donations received by December 17 will be acknowledged in our special Christmas bulletin. Any donations received after December 17 will be acknowledged in the new year.

## DECEMBER OWLS EVENT



Please join us **Thursday, December 14 from noon – 2:00 p.m.** for our traditional Christmas lunch and fun... **Please bring a \$10 wrapped gift for our gift exchange. Please bring a friend!** We will be singing songs and

having lots of holiday cheer!! Please *RSVP by December 11* to Michelle Ponticelli at 805-320-5003 or email her at [mponticelli@tcote.org](mailto:mponticelli@tcote.org)

## HARBOR HOUSE LUNCHES FOR DINNER



This month Harbor House has asked us for 60 lunches on **December 13**. Please let me know if you are able to help. Thanks so much!  
[yvonnlux@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnlux@gmail.com).

**Lunches for 10 people** - Include sandwich- turkey, egg salad, lunch meat, or pb & j, three snacks, fruit, and a drink. Drinks and fruit should be separate. 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.

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNER

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY

We invite you to spend December 25th with good food, music, laughter and a chance to make new friends. We have the perfect place for you. **It's free and all are welcome.**

Date: December 25th  
Time: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM  
Location: Temple Adat Elohim - Social Hall  
2420 E. Hillcrest Dr.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

**Annual Community Holiday Dinner**  
Sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim  
Non-Sectarian, Everyone Welcome

 Temple  
Adat Elohim  
Learn. Grow. Connect.

805.497.7101 [www.adatelohim.org](http://www.adatelohim.org)

## HONOR THE GIFT

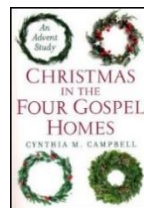


Our faith calls us to care for creation because the earth, our common home, is God's gift to all. As I ponder on how to write about **Creation Care** during this Christmas season, I am mindful that we are here to encourage and uplift one another. We don't need reminders of what we "should" be doing. It is so easy to place needless expectation upon ourselves and those we love. With this in mind, how can we celebrate the season in harmony with God's gift of creation? Take some time to pray. Invite Christ who became human just like us to replace our longing for stuff with a longing for a simple and sustainable life, and for a commitment to caring for our common home.

Here are a few ideas.

- Purchase cards from eco-friendly vendors or creatively recycle old cards.
- Try brown paper bags or newspaper for wrapping.
- Shop for gifts that are useful and sustainable gifts of experience or gifts of service gifts of food - are they healthy and sustainable?
- Eat less, some estimates suggest that as much as 40% of Christmas food is thrown away.

## ADVENT STUDY GROUP



Whether or not you have the book, please join us on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** in the chapel when we will gather to discuss and share our thoughts and any questions that arise from our study of the book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study*. **Please join us as we wait and prepare for the coming of God!**

## NATIVITY SET DISPLAY



During Advent we will have a display of various nativity sets in Ascension Chapel. If you have a small set that is either handmade, an unusual medium, or from a different part of the world, and would be willing to lend it to us please leave it at the church office in a box/container clearly labeled with your name and contact info and where the set originated. You can also provide a clear photo if your set is a family heirloom and better kept at home. Any questions? Please email Karen James at [kjames@tcote.org](mailto:kjames@tcote.org).

## DIAPER DRIVE



The Church of the Epiphany Interfaith Ministry and other congregations who are members of (WIN) Women's Interfaith

Network are sponsoring an Advent Diaper Collection for the nonprofit Thousand Oaks based, "Conejo Community Outreach" throughout the month of December - this all volunteer-run, local non-profit group is located in Thousand Oaks, and directly helps provide baby diapers to people in need. They currently serve low-income families providing diapers and wipes for 300-400 children per month (and there is a waiting list.) They have operated since 2018 and have provided 830,000 diapers to families.

Drop off your donation of diapers (size 4, 5, 6 and 7) in the decorated boxes located in the Narthex or Bishops Hall from Sunday, December 3 - December 26 and bring some needed financial relief to families with small children during the Holidays! For questions or assistance, email Interfaith Ministry contact: Aggie Winston ([aggiew53@gmail.com](mailto:aggiew53@gmail.com))

## RDV HAPPY HOUR



All are invited to the Red Door Vineyard Happy Hour on **Friday, December 15, 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!

## MINISTRIES – FIND YOUR CONNECTION

For more information on these and other ministries, please visit [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org)



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

[info@tcote.org](mailto: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](mailto:mizeinla@gmail.com)



Meeting weekly for one-hour at noon on Wednesdays in Bishop's Hall, **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 weekly *Connections* newsletter or <https://lectionarypage.net>



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lburns@tcote.org)



**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](mailto: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](mailto:kjames@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 [yvonnellux@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnellux@gmail.com)



**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](mailto:mmidsgn@sbcglobal.net)



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](http://www.tcote.org). Contact: Aggie Winston (805) 807-5001.



**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](mailto:reddoorvineyard@tcote.org)



**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/](http://www.tcote.org/lectio-divina/) or contact: Barry Burns [burnscreative@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lburns@tcote.org)



The **Epiphany Music Guild** furthers 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.

[www.tcote.org/music/](http://www.tcote.org/music/)



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 the unmet needs they may have, 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](mailto:sschneider@tcote.org)



**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](mailto:mponticelli@tcote.org)



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](mailto:jwilcox@tcote.org)

## PRAYERS

**Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer List:** Debbi, Robyn, and Bishop Michael Curry

**Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list:** Kay and Boyd, Neil and Sarah, Tom and Donna, 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

**Please pray for the souls of the departed:** especially Maggie Crites

*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/](http://www.tcote.org/prayer-request/).*

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



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