

**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 17, 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 *prayground* 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*  
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#### Connect to the Staff

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Nicholas Ponticelli, Livestream Coordinator  
Maria Aguilar, Sexton  
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**

Fantasia super Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 735

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! Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom. Jesus our Savior and King of the ages.

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

*Catechist:* Holy God, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world.

*All:* **Lord Jesus, Light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

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

### ENTRANCE HYMN

Hymn 74

Blest be the King whose coming

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

### 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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# The Lessons

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

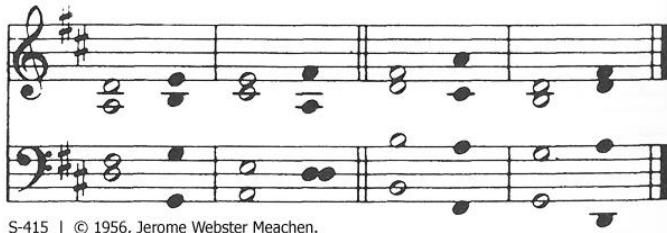
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 126** (*sung by all*)

*Remain seated.*



S-415 | © 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion, \*  
then were we like those who | dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with | laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of | joy.
- 3 Then they said among the | nations, \*  
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great | things for us, \*  
and we are glad in|deed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O | LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the | Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with | tears \*  
will reap with songs of | joy.
- †7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the | seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their | sheaves.

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

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

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*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 5-6 only

O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

## **GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*Remain standing*

*Presider*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*              **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup>He said,  
"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

## **THE SERMON**

The Rev. Jon Fuess

## **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.*

Holy God, you have spoken through your prophets and called us to make straight the way of the Lord: Visit us with your grace to cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations, as we pray: God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

God has done great things for us,  
*and we are glad indeed.*

O God of peace, you have called your people to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances: Sanctify your Church and her members that our spirit and soul and body may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has done great things for us,  
*and we are glad indeed.*

God of Justice and Mercy, you love justice and hate wrongdoing: Guide our leaders and all in authority, that they may bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, repair the ruined cities and cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

God has done great things for us,  
*and we are glad indeed.*

God of Compassion, look upon the needs of the world: Proclaim the year of your favor, and clothe your children with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness.

God has done great things for us,  
*and we are glad indeed.*

Receive our prayers for those for whom we pray, especially for those on our parish prayer list: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Donna. 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.

God has done great things for us,  
*and we are glad indeed.*



Comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, as we remember before you those who have died.

God has done great things for us,  
*and we are glad indeed.*

Loving God, your Advent people look expectantly for the coming of Christ: As the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, nurture our prayers and the thoughts of our hearts, that we may receive with joy the goodness of your strength and live in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest 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

*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 ANTHEM** Rejoice in the Lord always (*sung by the Schola*)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice  
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.  
Be careful for nothing: be in all prayer and supplication  
Let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

MUSIC: ANONYMOUS (16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

## PRESENTATION HYMN

*All stand as able and sing.*

Hymn 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying Zion

ASCENSION

## 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,

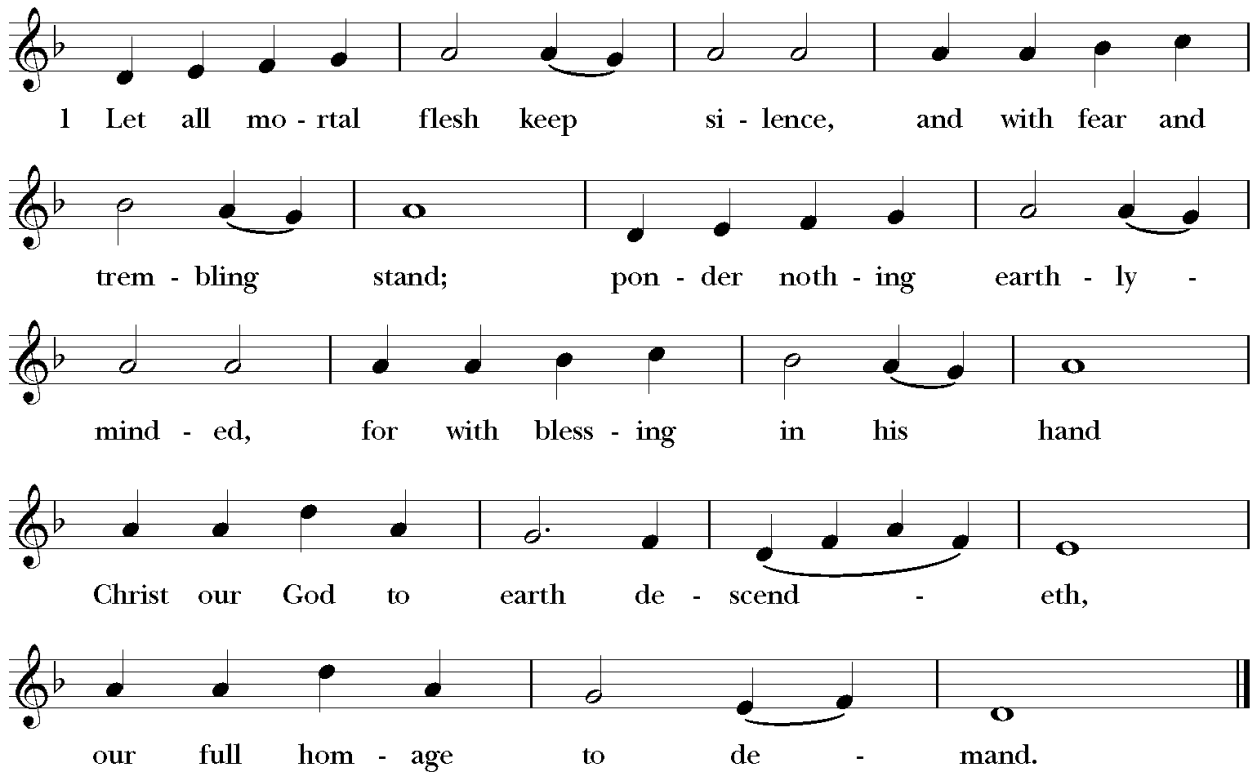
*People and Presider*

**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 de - mand.

*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 444

Blest be the God of Israel

THORNBURY

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

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

**POSTLUDE**

Ricercare pro Tempore Adventus

JOHANN CASPER FERDINAND FISCHER (1656-1746)

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For the Week of Sunday, December 17, 2023

# EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

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

## THIS WEEK IN EPIPHANY

- 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
- 12/18 7:00 p.m. EfM meeting
- 12/19 11:00 a.m. a grief shared
- 5:00 p.m. Laundry Love (off site)
- 12/20 6:30 p.m. Advent Study Group
- 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina
- 12/21 6:30 p.m. Schola Rehearsal
- 7:45 p.m. Parish Choir rehearsal
- 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

## NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY



Subscribe to our *Connections* Newsletter at [www.tcote.org/newsletter/](http://www.tcote.org/newsletter/)

## OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



In 2023, we had a total of 75 pledges for \$316,070, an average of \$4214 per pledge. **So far**, for 2024, we have 51 pledges for \$233,840, an average of \$4585 per pledge.

The Bishop's Committee is working on the budget for 2024. With \$334,000 budgeted for 2024 - we are currently approximately \$100,000 below our 2024 goal.

Although the formal campaign is closed, we are still accepting pledges and will happily accept pledges for any amount, at any time. You may 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/)

## 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 **THIS 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.

## LAUNDRY LOVE



**Tuesday, December 19**, we will meet at the Coin Op Laundry, 1008 E. Avenida de Los Arboles (near the 99

Cents Only Store) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. You don't need to stay the entire time. To volunteer or for more information, contact Karen James at [kjames@tcote.org](mailto:kjames@tcote.org). To learn more about Laundry Love, go to [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org).

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2023



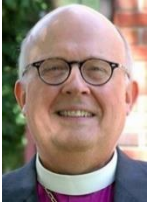
Please consider contributing to the Flower Fund to help beautify the church for Christmas. Contributions can be made in thanksgiving for anyone or anything or in memory of a loved one in your life. Please fill out the form in the church pews or donate at [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org). All donations 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.**

## 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.



## 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](mailto: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.

## DIAPER DRIVE



**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 directly helps provide diapers to families in need. Drop off your diaper donation in the decorated boxes in the narthex or Bishops' Hall from **December 3 - December 26**. Questions?, contact: Aggie [aggiew53@gmail.com](mailto:aggiew53@gmail.com)

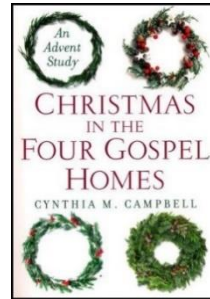
Be sure to follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EpiphanyOakpark/](https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyOakpark/) and Instagram at [www.instagram.com/tcoteoakpark](https://www.instagram.com/tcoteoakpark)

## NEEDED: WARM COATS AND JACKETS



Harbor House has asked us for gently used warm coats and jackets for those they serve. Outreach will have collection boxes in the narthex and the Founders Room.

## ADVENT STUDY GROUP



Whether or not you have the book, it's not too late! Please join us on our last **Wednesday 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 DISPLAY



During Advent we 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).

## 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 rarin' to go!

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



## 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 *Connections* newsletter or [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.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** 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)



**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](mailto:yvonnlux@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)



**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 **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. Contact: Jay [jwilcox@tcote.org](mailto:jwilcox@tcote.org) or [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:** Donna, Pat, and Bishop Michael Curry

**Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list:** Kay and 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, and Robyn

*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/).*

## Christmas Eve Services – Saturday, December 24

### 4:00 p.m. Family Eucharist with the 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. Kate Listick soloist. *This service is not live streamed.*

### 8:30 p.m. Carol Sing-along

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

The Rev. Jamie Barnett preaches. Jay Wilcox organist.

## No Service Christmas Day

## New Year's Eve – Sunday, December 31

### 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist

Mark Hall organist.

## The First Sunday after Epiphany - January 7

### 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Baptism and Epiphany Pageant

Karen James preaches. Our youth will do the readings and participate in the telling of the coming of the Magi.