

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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

The Second Sunday of Advent December 5th, 2021

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany! We are delighted you have come to worship with us today. We are part of the Episcopal Church; if you are unfamiliar with our rituals and customs, just be present with this ancient liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. Thanks for joining us today!

If you are interested in learning more about our church, please fill out the information card and place it in 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!

In case you need one, Assisted Listening Devices are available from the ushers in the back of the Church.

The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

PRELUDE

Freu dich sehr (Psalm 42)

JOHANN GOTTFRIED WALTHER (1684-1748)

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 judgment; for you are our light and our salvation.

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

Catechist: Holy God, 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 and sing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN-HYMN 59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

MERTON

ACCLAMATION

Priest In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

People **Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

KYRIE (S-96)

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828),
ARR. RICHARD PROULX (1937-2010)

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy, have mer - cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest 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.

All: **Amen.**

All sit for the readings.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Bible, p. 877

After the reading:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

All remain seated and say together

CANTICLE 16: THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophecies he spoke of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins,
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

Bible, p. 1338

After the reading:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN-HYMN 56, vv. 3-4 O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

✠ THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

Bible, p. 1204

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

All: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

All sit for

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Jamie Barnett

We observe a time of silence after the homily.

All stand and say together

THE NICENE CREED

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 sin. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray that God will grant us true repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Empower your Church to speak with the prophetic voice that proclaims the way of salvation...Fill all her people, in their different callings, with zeal to be ministers of the gospel.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Grant to the rulers of this world the spirit of humility and the gift of discernment, that their power may be exercised for the good of all... Make straight the crooked ways in which so many walk astray, and make smooth the rough places of bitter strife.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer**

Help us to use this Advent time well, to hear again the call to repentance and the message of salvation... Lead all who live and work in this community into the paths of peace.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the sick and injured, for the lonely and neglected, for those who mourn, known to us or unknown... Bring them comfort in their afflictions and guide the efforts of those who work for their relief.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who in the flesh saw the salvation of God and have entered into its perfection...Give us grace to follow them in the way prepared for those who seek the Kingdom.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer**

May our prayers be accepted through Christ who has united us with himself in baptism. **Amen**

All: **Amen.**

The celebrant may add a concluding collect here, after which all respond: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Priest Let us confess our sins against God

Silence

All **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;**

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The priest concludes with an absolution, after which all respond: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All are invited to 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

Freu dich sehr (Psalm 42)

GERALD NEAR (b. 1942)

PRESENTATION HYMN-HYMN 67 Comfort, comfort ye, my people

PSALM 42

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Book of Common Prayer, p. 361

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The priest continues with the prayer.

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 people remain standing or may kneel, as the priest continues the prayer.

Priest Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The priest continues with the prayer, at the end of which all respond: AMEN.

All say together

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

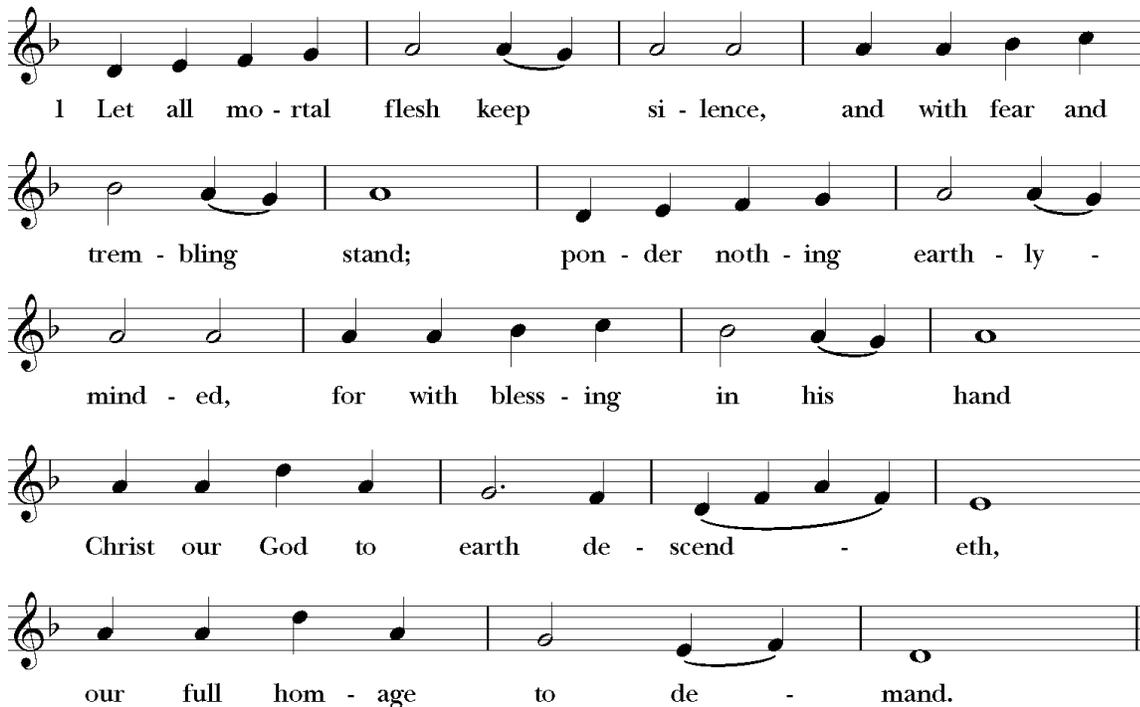
**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

PICARDY



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
our full hom - age to de - mand.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest 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.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome and encouraged to come forward to receive the holy food of new and everlasting life in Jesus Christ. As you come forward, the bread will be placed in your hand for you to consume. Those who prefer not to receive the Sacrament may receive a blessing or prayer (please cross your arms across your chest). If you would like to receive the Sacrament and mobility is an issue, please let an usher know so that Communion may be brought to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

All are invited to sing:

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord, his day is near.' The second staff, starting with a measure rest marked '5', contains the melody for the second line: 'Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.' The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes with rests.

All stand for the

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Priest Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The priest gives a blessing

All sing

CLOSING HYMN- HYMN 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Bereden väg för Herran

PAUL MANZ (1919-2009)

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Week of Sunday, December 5, 2021

EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- 12/5 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Zoom)
 9:45 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium – Room 2 Mitchel Hall)
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave and tcote.org)
 11:30 a.m. Epiphany Youth Group (EYG)
 4:00 p.m. An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols (Nave)
- 12/6 7:00 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)
- 12/8 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina (Zoom)
- 12/9 6:30 p.m. Schola rehearsal
 7:45 p.m. Parish Choir rehearsal
- 12/12 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Zoom)
 9:45 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium – Room 2 Mitchel Hall)
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave and tcote.org)
 11:30 a.m. Epiphany Youth Group (EYG)

ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Please join us today at 4 p.m., as we acknowledge the season of Advent in our annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols. The service tells in scripture and song of the saving work of God. It begins with the story of the fall of humanity, continues with prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, tells of God's great love for God's people, and concludes with the Annunciation and Mary's visit to Elizabeth, when Mary proclaims God's greatness and glory. Each lesson will be followed by a musical response in the form of either a congregational hymn or a choral anthem. This service helps us to look forward to Christmas with expectation and hope.

OUR 2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN STILL NEEDS YOU!

First, thank you for the generous support that many of you have already shown by pledging; it represents your belief in Epiphany's future and your desire to play an integral part in the important work of our church. At this time we have 64 pledges. We are about 2/3 of the way toward our budget goal of \$390,600. Yes, we're getting there but **we do still need the commitment of you who haven't yet pledged in order to know whether we can continue at the same operational capacity for the coming year!**

If you've misplaced your pledge card, either stop by or call the church office (818-991-4797) or take one from the pockets of the church pews. Simply fill it out, and either mail it back or drop it in the Sunday collection basket. If you have any general questions or concerns at all, please don't hesitate to share them with me, or with Rev. Jamie or our Bishop's Warden, Steve Stephens. Thank you!

WARM CLOTHING DRIVE

Last year during Advent, The Church of the Epiphany generously donated 8 large bags of new or nearly new coats and jackets for our neighbors in the Conejo Valley who are struggling. Church of the Epiphany family, we ask that as you go through closets and drawers to clean out before Christmas, you look for the following items that are in good condition:

Long Sleeved T-shirts, size adult XI or XXL preferred
Warm hats & scarves for the neck, Gloves, Vests

The same items for children are welcome! New items are more than welcome and there are currently some great sales at stores like Costco. We will collect the items at the same time the Advent Boxes are collected (**Christmas weekend services and Thursday December 30th before 11:00 am**) and they will be delivered to Harbor House in early January.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2021

Help Harbor House fulfill the Christmas dream of families and others in the Conejo Valley who might otherwise go without by donating to the Adopt-a-Family program. We at Epiphany have pledged to donate \$3,000 to adopt 20 families that have four children in each family. Our pledge will cover the *(cont'd on back)*

cost of a \$50.00 grocery gift card for each family, and a \$25 Target gift card for each child. (Harbor House will purchase the cards with our donation.) Please make your check payable to The Church of the Epiphany and write Adopt-a-Family on the memo line. Donations will be accepted through **Sunday, December 5, 2021**. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Olson, Yvonne Lux, Karen Dyer, or the church office

CHRISTMAS OWLS EVENT – DECEMBER 9

Please join us on December 9, 2021, at noon for a festive event that will include a catered lunch, gift exchange game, and a sing-along of favorite Christmas songs. Please bring along a \$10 wrapped gift with your cheery selves for an afternoon of fun!! Please RSVP by December 6, either by calling the office at (818) 991-4797 or emailing Michelle at mpontielli@tcote.org.



*** LOCATION CHANGE ***

**Oak Park Community Center
1000 Kanan Rd.
Oak Park, CA 91377**

HARBOR HOUSE LUNCHES

In the busy prep for Christmas don't forget to help Harbor House serve bag lunches to senior citizens, homeless individuals, and very low-income families. To Help: Prepare lunch for 10 people. Include sandwich-turkey or ham appreciated or pb&j, granola bar, chips, fruit/raisins, cookies and a drink. Drinks and fruit should be separate. If you can add more snacks to the lunch even better. Drop off is between 4:00 and 4:30 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at Avenida de las Flores and Mt.Clef. Sign up with Yvonne Lux, yvonnlux@gmail.com. Your help is greatly appreciated!!!

SPIRITUAL RESOURCE FOR ADVENT

Advent Word, a global Advent Calendar, offers daily meditations and images during this holy season. In addition to meditations and images, Advent Word invites your personal reflections via social media to share your own Advent journey. Thousands participate each year, responding to the day's prompt words with photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, found art, and Holy Spirit-filled posts. The website, where you can sign up for daily notifications, is: <https://adventword.org/en/home/>.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS

Thank you to all who took boxes for the Reverse Advent Calendar project. Please return your box at any Christmas Service or at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 30, when they will be collected.

ACCESSING OUR LIVESTREAM

The easiest way to access our livestream is by going to www.tcote.org/live-stream-service. That page has the service stream for Sunday and most of the week after, and a link to the bulletin. It also has a link to Epiphany's YouTube channel for past services (or the immediate past service if that is no longer available through the website). You can also get there by going to www.tcote.org and scrolling down to the rectangular box below "Latest Sermons." Click on that box, and you will be on the page described above.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Live and in-person Confirmation classes are forming! Recommended age is 14 years or over. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Rev. Jamie.

PRAYERS

Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer List: Kathy

Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list: Maria and the Blackwood Family, Ken, Pam, Donna, Neil, Olivia and Byron, Jan Barnes, Bob, Meg, Stella

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died from COVID-19.

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/.

Please note: After two weeks on the Parish Prayer List, the names of those for whom we have prayed are moved to the Long-Term Prayer List for two more months, unless stated otherwise.

