



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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

The Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 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

Auf meinen lieben Gott
"In my beloved God I trust"

JOHANN NICOLAUS HANFF (1663-1711)

The Word of God

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Priest: 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.**

Priest: 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 and sing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN-HYMN 640 Watchman, tell us of the night

ABERYSTWYTH

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 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.

All: **Amen.**

All sit for the readings.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Bible, p. 865

After the reading:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

All remain seated and say together

CANTICLE 9: THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Bible, p. 1341

After the reading:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN-HYMN 56, VV. 5-6 O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

✠ THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

Bible, p. 1205

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 the way of the Lord may be followed in the Church and in the world.

We pray that the Church shall never rest complacently on past blessings but shall for ever desire to know and to fulfill her present calling...Give her ministers wisdom to instruct all who come for guidance.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Bring harmony in the disputes and jealousies that keep people apart...Bless with the spirit of justice those who have power over others, and help them to do their duty according to what is right.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Guide us in our daily work and in all our relationships, so that the faith we profess shall be seen in our lives...
Make us thankful for what we possess and generous to share with those in need.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on all who are oppressed and unjustly treated...Relieve all who are crushed by heavy taxation and kept poor by the greed of those who rule them.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Receive the souls of the departed who in this life sought to bear good fruit in the name of their Master...
Gather them into the harvest of heaven where all doubts are ended and all truth made plain.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers in the name of Christ who baptizes with the Spirit and with fire. **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

Hark! A herald voice is calling

Hark! a herald voice is calling: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning, let her earthbound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven.

So when next he comes in glory, wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then as our defender on the clouds of heaven appear
and with words of love draw near.

TEXT: LATIN, C. 6TH CENTURY, TRANSLATED
EDWARD CASWALL (1814-1878)
MUSIC: RICHARD SHEPHARD (1949-2021)

PRESENTATION HYMN-HYMN 678 Surely it is God who saves me

COLLEGE OF PREACHERS

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.

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.**

1 Let all mo - rtal flesh keep si - lence, 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.

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 76

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry

WINCHESTER NEW

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

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661
Come, now, Savior of the nations

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

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“Let all mortal flesh keep silence.” Public domain.

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Week of Sunday, December 12, 2021

EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- 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)
- 12/15 7:00 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)
- 12/15 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina (Zoom)
6:30 p.m. Schola rehearsal
7:45 p.m. Parish Choir rehearsal
- 12/19 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)

2022 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE - PLEDGE ONE, PLEDGE ALL!

Today our Bishop's Warden Steve Stephens will give us a brief update during the service on where we currently stand with our 2022 Stewardship Campaign, and how the results may impact us in the coming year. If you have already pledged, THANK YOU. If you have yet to take that step, there's no time like the present! There are pledge cards and envelopes available right in the pews. Please know that by pledging now, you will help your Bishop's Committee immensely with its planning. We want to move forward in 2022 to continue reenergizing and revitalizing our wonderful church, but *all of us* are needed to help make it possible!

Kerrie Sadler
2022 Stewardship Chair

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas flowers have been a tried and true tradition at Epiphany. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in gratitude for loved ones, please use the card in pocket in the pew. There are two ways you may contribute:

- The Flower Donation Button provided below
- Mail a check to the church,
5450 Churchwood Dr. Oak Park, CA 91377

(don't forget to write Christmas Flowers in the memo line)

<https://www.tcote.org/give/>

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.

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.

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: Jacky and Harris

Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list: Maria and the Blackwood Family, Ken, Pam, Donna, Neil, Olivia, 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.