



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022**

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

Vorspiel zu "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"
(Prelude on "Savior of the nations, come")

MORITZ BROSIG (1815-1887)

The Word of God

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Catechist: Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever! Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Savior of all.

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

Catechist: Holy God, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world.

All: **Lord Jesus, Light of the world, blessed is Gabriel who brought good news; blessed is Mary your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children who long for your coming. Amen.**

At the sound of the bell, all stand and sing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymn 497

How bright appears the Morning Star

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

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 -

All
 e e - le - i - son. _____

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Remain seated.

¹**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³**Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
⁴**O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**
⁵**You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
⁷**Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
¹⁶**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
¹⁷**And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
¹⁸**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

The people sit.

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

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN

All stand.

Hymn 56, verses 7-8 only O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

All stand.

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

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jamie Barnett

THE CREED

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:**

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

As we wait for the birth of the Lord, we pray for the Church and for the Church and for the world he came to save.

Lord God, gude your Church into the way of truth and keep her free from false doctrine and all error . . . Give grace to her ministers, so that your purposes may be clearly known and faithfully proclaimed, to the glory of your name.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Come to the world where the truth is so often unknown, and the message of hope not understood . . . Teach those who hold authority over others to govern without fear and suspicion and to seek the way of peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bring into our homes the joy of those who trust in your love, and share that love with one another . . . Give light to families where love has turned to bitterness and jealousy. May the tender protection of Joseph and the gentleness of Mary be with them.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Have pity on all whose sleep is troubled, who lie awake in darkness or are tormented in their dreams . . . In the night hours, may the sick and those who watch with them know your calming presence and the assurance of your love.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Debbi, Faith, the Ponticelli family, the Bosten family, and Homer. We pray also for those who have asked for our prayers but prefer to remain anonymous, as well as those on our long-term prayer list.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Give rest to the departed and an awakening to heavenly joy . . . As you were with them in this life, so let them now be with you forever, no longer afflicted by the doubts and fears that they once knew.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus our Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant 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 Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and the People may then greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer for Birthdays

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 when *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Ecce virgo concipiet

(sung by the Schola)

Ecce virgo concipiet
et pariet filium,
et vocabitur nomen ejus
Emmanuel.
Alleluia.

*Behold, a virgin will conceive
and bear a son,
and his name shall be called
Emmanuel.
Alleluia.*

TEXT: ISAIAH 7:14

MUSIC JAN PIETERSZOOM SWEELINCK (1562-1621)

PRESENTATION HYMN

Hymn 54

Savior of the nations, come!

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

Celebrant

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:

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 Celebrant 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 [_____ 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**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

The Breaking of the Bread

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

PICARDY

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: 'I 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.'

The Celebrant 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.

Celebrant This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

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

You may then consume the wafer (if you do not wish to have it intincted in the wine) or leave the wafer on your palm and the chalice bearer will dip it for you into the wine and place it in your hand. If you aren't sure, or if you'd rather not receive the actual Sacrament, come up and cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. You may also cross your arms over your chest or touch the bottom of the chalice if you wish not to receive wine. Finally, if you'd like to receive Communion but mobility is an issue, alert an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray

Celebrant and People

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

BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Hymn 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

STUTTGART

DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Vorspiel und Satz "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"

HUGO DISTLER (1908-1942)

The fourth candle of the Advent Wreath is lit
today by:
Jacob, Chase and Remy

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“Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy Lord)” by Robert Powell. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. Reproduced under OneLicense.net license # A-717483. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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

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THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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Connect to the Staff

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Maria Aguilar, Sexton
Arturo Morales, Maintenance

Concerns? Questions? Suggestions? Let us know! Please do not hesitate to contact any of our staff or The Rev. Jamie Barnett. We look forward to hearing from you.

THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bishop's Warden – Steve Stephens
People's Warden – Kerrie Sadler
Treasurer – Keith Krantz
Clerk – Eileen Hannemann

Linda Loomis '22
Kerrie Sadler '22
Guy Walker '22

John Brunson '23
Shay Hass '23
Katie Roberts '23

Susan Halligan '24
Gabriel Rueda '24
Bob Thomson '24

EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- 12/18 9:45 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children's formation in Atrium
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at www.tcote.org)
- 11:30 a.m. Epiphany Youth Group
- 12/20 6:30 p.m. Advent Book Study Group in the chapel
- 12/21 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina
- 12/24 4:00 p.m. Family Eucharist with the Nativity Narrative
- 8:30 p.m. Carol Sing
- 9:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at www.tcote.org)
- 12/25 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at www.tcote.org)

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

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

Rev. Jamie Barnett preaches.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Karen James preaches.

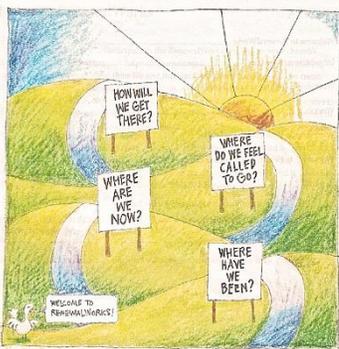
NEW YEAR'S DAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, JANUARY 8

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Epiphany Pageant
There is no homily at this service. Our youth will do the readings and participate in the telling of the coming of the Magi.

SPIRITUAL LIFE INVENTORY NEWS



After the Spiritual Life Inventory ended, a team of Epiphany's leaders met for four workshops over six weeks to learn, read, discuss, and pray about our church's spiritual life and growth. Their report is finally complete! Although the next few weeks are filled with

Christmas preparations and celebrations, the Bishop's Committee is excited to share the results of the inventory with everyone. Good news: the inventory results on *where we have been* and *where we are now* on our spiritual journey will be sent via e-mail and will be available in the church office on **Tuesday, January 3**. There will be a 15-minute presentation after church on **January 22** and a follow up after church on **February 26** on *where we feel called to go* and *how we will get there*. What a joyful journey we are on!

SELAH GOSPEL CHOIR



We're so excited that the Selah Gospel Choir will be at Epiphany for a concert on **Sunday, January 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.** Save the date!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



As in the past, our church will be magnificently decorated for Christmas. Please consider contributing to the Flower Fund to help beautify the church. Contributions can be made in thanksgiving

for or in memory of a loved one in your life. Please fill out the form in the church pews and mail it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings with your check with "Flower Fund" in the memo field. You can donate online at www.tcote.org.

Contributions received by December 18 will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletin. Any donations received after December 18 will be acknowledged in the new year.

FLOWER TRAINING WORKSHOP



The Flower Guild will hold its annual **Flower Training Workshop on Saturday, January 14**, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Bishop's Hall. All are welcome! Current members and new

trainees are encouraged to attend. Additional information to follow.

EXPLORE!

Want to learn more about The Church of the Epiphany, our latest news, or what it means to be an Episcopalian? Explore our website! Explore our worship, explore our programs, explore our community! Go to www.tcote.org.

SUBSCRIBE TO CONNECTIONS

Do you want to keep updated on happenings at The Church of the Epiphany? Subscribe to our twice-weekly Connections Newsletter at www.tcote.org or at coffee hour on Sundays. Questions or problems: contact Susan Halligan at tohalligan@aol.com or 805-559-7449.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



The Church of the Epiphany is part of the Women's Interfaith Network Conejo Valley (WIN). WIN will be putting together first aid kits for the 49 families who have moved into Many Mansions' newest

property Summit View in Sylmar.

How do you help? Collect a box from the back of church. Every day, put in an item towards a first aid kit. Pray for the families who will receive the kits. Return the box on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day! There will be an Interfaith packing event at Many Mansions on Tuesday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m.

ITEM	SIZE	#
Band-Aids 10/box	1" x 3"	3 boxes
Fingertip Band-Aids		1 box
Band-Aids 10/box	2" x 4"	2 boxes
First aid ointment	1 oz tube	1 tube
Alcohol wipes	100 singles	1 box
Gauze pads 25/box	3" x 3"	1 box
Gauze roll		1 roll
Medical tape	1" x 10"	2 rolls
Non-latex gloves		1 box
Small scissors		1 pair
Tweezers		1 pair

PRAYERS

Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer

List: Debbi, and Faith

Please pray for those on our Long-Term

Parish Prayer list: Caity, Charlie, Dave, Donna, Kristi, Neil, Sarah, Olivia and Byron, Laila, Steven, Susan, Fredi, and Arturo

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.