



# THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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

## **The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 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**

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, BWV 648  
*“My soul magnifies the Lord”*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

### **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 74** Blest be the King whose coming

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

#### **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* 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.*

*All:* **Amen.**

*All sit for the readings.*

### FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

*Bible, p. 853*

*After the reading:*

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*All remain seated and say together*

### CANTICLE 15: THE SONG OF MARY

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered the promise of his mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 10:5-10

*Bible, p. 1365*

*After the reading:*

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN-HYMN 56, vv 7-8** O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

**✠ THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

*Bible, p. 1202*

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

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

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.5a

*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**

Joyful in the presence of the Lord, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Prepare the Church to receive with joy and thanksgiving the coming of the Lord at his Nativity...  
May all Christian people join with Mary his Mother to proclaim his greatness.

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

Raise up the lowly ones of the world and give them fullness of life...  
Be merciful to those who are deceived by power and wealth...  
Do not send the rich empty away.

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

As we prepare again to celebrate this Christmas time, bless us, our families, friends and neighbours,  
with purity of spirit and holiness of desire...  
Shield us from selfish pleasure, make us mindful of the needs of many in our community.

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

We pray for all who are hungry, whether for food to sustain their bodies or faith to nourish their souls...  
Comfort and heal those who through sickness or poverty can feel little joy at this time.

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

We pray for the departed who have magnified their Lord on earth and now praise him in his heavenly  
Kingdom...  
May they find their eternal joy in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints.

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

We pray in the name of Christ, Son of God and son of Mary. **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

Übers Gebirg Maria geht

(sung by the Schola)

*Übers Gebirg Maria geht  
zu ihrer Bas Elisabeth.  
Sie Grüßt die Freundin, die vom Geist  
freudig bewegt Maria preist  
und sie des Herren Mutter nennt;  
Maria ward fröhlich und sang:*

Over the mountains Mary goes  
to her cousin Elizabeth.  
She greets her friend, who, by the Spirit  
joyfully moved, praises Mary,  
and calls her the Mother of the Lord;  
Mary was happy and sang:

#### **Refrain:**

*Mein Seel den Herrn erhebet,  
mein Geist sich Gottes freuet;  
er ist mein Heiland, fürchtet ihn,  
er will allzeit barmherzig sein.*

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God;  
he is my Savior, he is to be feared,  
he will always be merciful.

*Was bleiben immer wir daheim?  
Laßt uns auch aufs Gebirge gehn,  
da eins dem andern spreche zu  
des Geistes Gruß das Herz auftu,  
davon es freudig werd und spring,  
der Mund in wahren Glauben sing:  
**Refrain.***

Why are we yet staying at home?  
Let us also to the mountains go,  
where each to the other speaks  
the Spirit's greeting, to open the heart,  
from it to grow joyful and leap,  
the mouth singing in true faith:

Text: *Geistliche Lieder*, Erfurt, 1575

Music: Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)

**PRESENTATION HYMN-HYMN 268** Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

JULION

### 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.**

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 66**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

STUTTGART

**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**

Valet will ich dir geben

ALEXANDRE GUILMANT (1837-1911)

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

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Week of Sunday, December 19, 2021

# EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

## THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- 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)
- 12/22 7:00 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)
- 12/22 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina (Zoom)
- 12/23 6:30 p.m. Schola rehearsal  
7:45 p.m. Parish Choir rehearsal
- 12/26 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)

## 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/>

## THE FLOWER MINISTRY

The Flower Ministry will be holding its annual meeting and training on January 8 at 10:00 am in the Hall. Anyone who is interested in attending should RSVP with Elizabeth Bryant so that we obtain sufficient supplies. Contact Elizabeth at (805) 498-4499 or [e.vana.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:e.vana.bryant@gmail.com)

## 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 LUNCHESES

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 sandwichturkey 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](mailto: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

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. The Samaritan Center

will come to take everything to those who need it in the community.

your generous contributions is a sign that Santa does exist!

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Thank you Church of the Epiphany! 40 families in the Conejo Valley will no doubt believe in Santa Claus this season thanks to your generosity. Your donations, totaling over \$6000 to date, doubled the goal the Outreach committee had set for this year's Harbor House Adopt-a-Family campaign. Nobody sees Santa Claus, but

## 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:** Donna, 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/](http://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.*