



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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

**Christmas Day
December 25, 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

At the sound of the bell, all stand, as able.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant 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

The following is said, all standing

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:**

have mercy on us;

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,**

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born *this day* of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 98

Remain seated.

¹**Sing to the LORD a new song, ***
for he has done marvelous things.
²**With his right hand and his holy arm ***
has he won for himself the victory.
³**The LORD has made known his victory; ***

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

**⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

**⁶Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.**

**⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.**

**⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

**⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.**

**¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

Remain seated.

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

THE SERMON

Karen James

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.

Rejoicing in the precious gift of the Son, let us pray to the Lord.

Grant to the church, illumined by the eternal light, the grace to shine as the servant of Incarnate God...May the simple faith of the shepherds, the adoration of the angels, and the love of the Holy Family be the ground of our worship and witness now and at all times.

Leader: We pray to you, O Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Son of God, taking our human nature so that all broken humanity might be made new, look with mercy on a world which has not heeded the angelic message of peace...Bring to all knowledge of the love which has been from the beginning and which no offense can extinguish, or folly destroy.

Leader: We pray to you, O Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the love that shone from the blessed manger bed be ours today...in every heart, every home, every place where people must work, may the grace and truth of God dwell with us and draw us into his holiness and empower us to tell out the tidings of great joy.

Leader: We pray to you, O Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Light of God, come into the darkness of pain and suffering...In the new day that has dawned, may the sick find healing, the sorrowful comfort, the despairing hope and the dying assurance...Bring the wanderers and the homeless to shelter...Shield the newly born and the mothers waiting for the time of birth.

Leader: We pray to you, O Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Marilyn, Sharon, Nancy, Susie, Margaret, Bill, and Jean. 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.

Leader: We pray to you, O Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant the departed the peace that unites earth and heaven...May the life that was in Christ, and the life of all that was made, be theirs in the greater light of his eternal glory.

Leader: We pray to you, O Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers through Christ, the Word made flesh for our salvation. **Amen.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant 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 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.**

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

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and

serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant 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.**

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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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



Christmas Flower Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations

The flowers for our Christmas services were donated by:

The Rev. Jamie Barnett in thanksgiving for her family and in loving memory of her daughter,
Ashley

Claudia Dempster

Tim and Susan Halligan in thanksgiving for their family, those still with them and those who remain
in their hearts

Eileen Hannemann in loving memory of Jerry, Virginia, Joan, Ray, Dave, Susan, Walt, Chris, Carol,
and Karen.

The Hribal Family in thanksgiving for our Epiphany family

Chris and Karen James in thanksgiving for the community of Epiphany and in loving memory of
Rose Knight, John Knight, Peggy James, Jimmy James, loving parents and grandparents

Karen and Bart Listick

Judith Marshall in thanksgiving for all those who bring the light and love of Christ into the world
and in loving memory of my beloved husband, John, and my loving parents Judy and George
Harrison

Cynthia Perry in thanksgiving for her family

Ian and Katie Roberts in loving memory of Betty Mahaffey and Penny Roberts

Stacey and Steve Stephens in thanksgiving for family, past, present, and future

Joseph Vana in loving memory of Charlotte Vana

Guy Walker in thanksgiving for Alex and Melody Walker and their young family, Cora and Bennett

***Many thanks to everyone who so graciously contributed. Any donation received after 12/18 will be
acknowledged in the New Year.***



EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- 12/25 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at www.tcote.org)
Children in church
- 12/28 7:00 p.m. Lectio Divina
- 1/1 9:45 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children's formation in Atrium
- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at www.tcote.org)

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

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.

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

Stay in the know! 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.

STAY CONNECTED

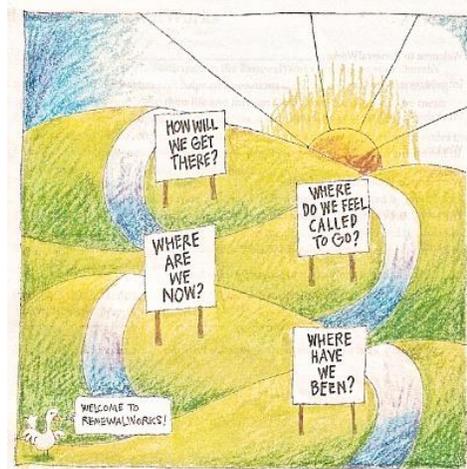
Keep up to date on all the happenings here at The Church of the Epiphany. Find us on Facebook at @EpiphanyOakPark and on Instagram at tcoteoakpark.

WARM CLOTHING DRIVE THANKS



Harbor House was very appreciative of the more than 40 warm coats and jackets as well as the sweaters, hats and gloves that were donated by Epiphany. There are some happy folks who will be warm this Christmas!

SPIRITUAL LIFE INVENTORY NEWS



After the Spiritual Life Inventory ended, a team of Epiphany 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!

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.

PRAYERS

Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer List: Marilyn, Sharon, Nancy, Susie, Margaret, Bill and Jean

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, Arturo, Debbie and Faith

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.



**SHARING WITH YOU
THE GLORY, THE
WONDER, THE
MIRACLE OF THIS
HOLY SEASON.
HAVE A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS.**