

**The Feast of All Saints
November 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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

The Rev. Jamie Barnett, Vicar

WELCOME

Visitors: We are delighted you have come to worship with us today! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please fill out the purple information card found in the slot in front of your seat and place it on the collection plate. We are excited to meet you and would love to get to know you! Please join us for coffee, donuts, and fellowship in the Bishop's Hall directly after the service.

This booklet contains the full order of service. If you are unfamiliar with our rituals and customs, just be present with us in this ancient liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. The bold type indicates where the people are invited to respond or pray.

Restrooms: Proceed through the office door to the right of the church and go straight down the hall and to the left. Both restrooms have baby changing tables.

Assisted listening devices: Available from the ushers in the back of the church.

Children: We welcome children in our worship. Their sounds are a gift from God – no need to subdue them! Our *pray ground* is located in the side chapel and has quiet activities for parents and younger children to use while still in worship. Children ages 3-11 are welcome to join the atrium for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School program located in Mitchel Hall. Ask the ushers for directions. Children return to the service for communion.

Contact: Office hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and the sanctuary is open during these hours for private prayer or meditation. To speak with The Rev. Jamie Barnett, please call the office and make an appointment. Her office hours are Tuesday through Thursday.

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village
5450 Churchwood Drive, Oak Park, California 91377
(818) 991-4797 · tcote.org

Connect to the Staff

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THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bishop's Warden – Steve Stephens
People's Warden – Susan Halligan
Co-Treasurers – Eileen Hannemann and Shay Hass
Clerk – Laura Paden

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

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

Claudia Dempster '25
Laura Paden '25
Bob Schneider '25

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

BLESSING OF THE COLUMBARIUM AND OFRENDIA

The people are invited to join the ministers in the Columbarium and the Ofrenda for the blessing.

PRELUDE

Fugue in A major, BWV 536 (ii)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

During the prelude, the solemn procession will enter, and the presider will cense the altar.

READING OF THE NECROLOGY FOR THE YEAR 2023

The Word of God

At the sound of the bell. all stand as able and sing.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Hymn 287

For all the saints, who from their labors rest

SINE NOMINE

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE S 278 *Glory to God (Canticle 20) (Mathias)*

The following is sung, all standing

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The people sit.

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

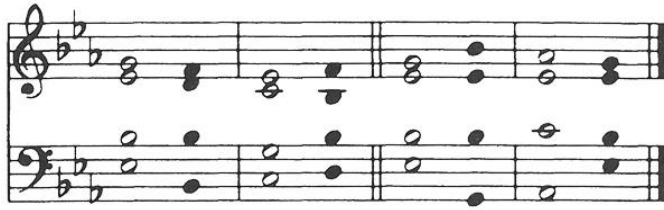
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (*sung by all*)

Remain seated.



S-411 | © 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all | times; *
his praise shall ever be in my | mouth.
 - 2 I will glory in the | LORD; *
let the humble hear and re|joice.
 - 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the | LORD; *
let us exalt his Name to|gether.
 - 4 I sought the LORD, and he | answered me *
and delivered me out of all my | terror.
 - 5 Look upon him and be | radiant, *
and let not your faces be a|shamed.
 - 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD | heard me *
and saved me from all my | troubles.
 - 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who | fear him, *
and he will de|liver them.
 - 8 Taste and see that the LORD is | good; *
happy are they who | trust in him!
 - 9 Fear the LORD, you that are his | saints, *
for those who fear him lack | nothing.
 - 10 The young lions lack and suffer | hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is | good.
- †22 The LORD ransoms the life of his | servants, *
and none will be punished who | trust in him.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A Reading from the First letter of John.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE

All stand as able.

Hymn 656

Blessed are the pure in heart

FRANCONIA

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jamie Barnett

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

Presider: Dear Siblings in Christ, I present to you the following persons who have been grafted into the body of Christ through their baptism and whose names will now be recorded in this parish register.

Each new member stands as his or her name is announced.

When all names have been announced, the minister continues:

Presider: We welcome them into The Church of the Epiphany so that they may continue their journey of faith in this community.

Congregation: **What do you seek?**

Answer: Renewal of my life in Christ.

Congregation: **Will you worship faithfully with us to hear God's holy word and to share in God's sacraments?**

Answer: I will, with God's help.

Congregation: **Will you join with us in our life of service to all who are in need.**

Answer: I will, with God's help.

Congregation: **Will you strive to recognize the gifts God has given you and to discern how to use them in the spreading of God's kingdom?**

Answer: I will, with God's help.

The congregation stands - all who are able. The Presider addresses the congregation:

Presider: Will all of you who witness this new beginning pray for these persons, share their ministry, bear their burdens, forgive, and encourage them?

People: **We will, with God's help.**

Presider and People:

Blessed are you, our God, our Maker, for you form us in your image and restore us in Jesus Christ. In baptism, these your servants have been buried with Christ and have risen to new life in Christ. Renew them in your Holy Spirit, that they may grow to the fullness of the stature of Christ. Strengthen them as they join in our life of praise and service; through our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Presider: Please welcome home these new members of our community.

People: **We recognize you as members of the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim Christ's resurrection, and share with us in Christ's eternal priesthood.**

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Presider

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People

I do.

Presider

Do you believe in God the Father?

People

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Presider

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Presider

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People

I will, with God's help.

Presider

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People

I will, with God's help.

Presider

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People

I will, with God's help.

Presider

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People

I will, with God's help.

Presider

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People

I will, with God's help.

The Great Thanksgiving

Remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

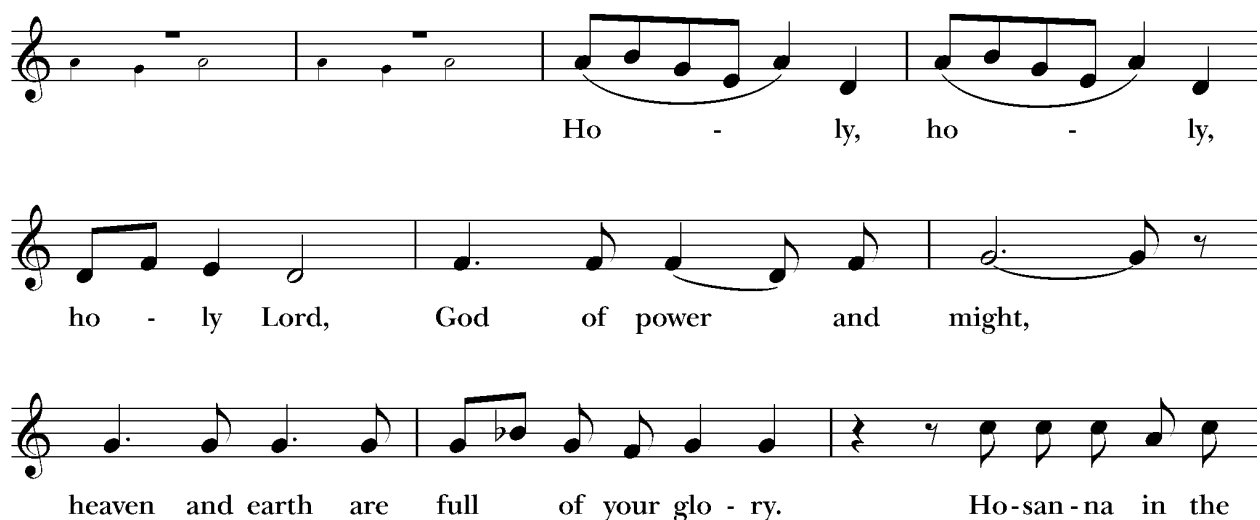
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

All thanks and praise
are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God;
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS S 128 *Holy, holy, holy (Mathias)*

Presider and People



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

The Presider continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us
the Body and Blood of your Christ.
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.
Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,
and in the fullness of time gather us
with all your people
into the joy of our true eternal home.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

All: Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, in the language of our hearts,

People and Presider

**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.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día,
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en la tentación,
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It consists of three lines of music. The first line ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'. The second line begins with a measure rest marked '5'. The third line ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.C. al Fine'. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Fine

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break-ing of the bread.

5

1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, is the com -
2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though

10 *D.C. al Fine*

mu - nion of the bo - dy of Christ.
ma - ny we share one bread.

The Presider 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.

Presider 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 gotten lost. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

During the distribution of Communion, we welcome you to receive the sacrament or a prayer of blessing. If receiving a blessing, please come forward and simply cross your hands over your chest as you walk up to the presider. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the presider when you reach the front.

Put your hands out one on top of the other, and the wafer will be placed in your hand. Leave the wafer in place and move to the chalice bearer, who will then take it, dip it in the wine, and hand it back to you. If you do not wish to receive the wine, simply consume the wafer and then you may place your hands on the base of the chalice and the chalice bearer will say the words of administration.

COMMUNION HYMN



In the Lord, I'll be ev - er thank-ful, in the Lord, I will re-



joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid; lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is



near; lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near.

After Communion, the Presider says
Let us pray.

Presider 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.**

THE BLESSING

The Presider blesses the people.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Hymn 618

Ye watchers and ye holy ones

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

DISMISSAL

Presider Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in A major, BWV 536 (i)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

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For the Week of Sunday, November 5, 2023

EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

www.tcote.org

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- | | | |
|-------|------------|--|
| 11/5 | 10:00 a.m. | Children in church |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist; in-person and live-streaming: www.tcote.org |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Epiphany Youth Group |
| 11/6 | 6:30 p.m. | RDV Monday Night Fellowship |
| | 7:00 p.m. | EfM meeting |
| 11/8 | 12:00 p.m. | Feeding the Spirit bible study |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Lectio Divina |
| 11/9 | 12:00 p.m. | OWLs lunch/event |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Schola Rehearsal |
| | 7:45 p.m. | Parish Choir Rehearsal |
| 11/12 | 10:00 a.m. | Catechesis of the Good Shepherd |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist; in-person and live-streaming: www.tcote.org |
| | | Guest: The Rev. Mike Kinman |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Epiphany Youth Group |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Outreach Committee meeting |

FLOWER GIFTS FOR SUNDAYS



Sponsoring altar flowers on Sunday is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, honor loved ones, or give thanks. If you would like to give, please fill out the card found in the church pews or visit

www.tcote.org/epiphany-flower-guild/

RDV MONDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP



Who surrounds us as we worship? Gather together to delve into a Bible verse, barrel taste RDV wine (optional) and explore the connections we have with one another at **6:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 6.**

CREATION CARE



Last Saturday we spent time at Charmlee Wilderness Park. The Ventureño Chumash used to occupy these lands stretching 200 miles from San Luis Obispo to Malibu

Canyon. On this beautiful Autumn day we reflected on the natural world around us through intentional spiritual practice, guided mindfulness, and reflection. So many smiling faces and open hearts - A Good Day

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month and the First People of Ventura County
at the

Chumash Indian Museum, 3290 Lang Ranch Parkway,
Thousand Oaks, California 91362

Sunday, November 12, at 1:00 p.m.

There will be a discussion and book signing of the newly published book, Know We Are Here. This will be followed by a screening of the film “Saging the World”, a short documentary.

Also, on **Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 to 4:00** join in for a Winter Solstice celebration and holiday market.



Subscribe to our *Connections* Newsletter at www.tcote.org/newsletter/

ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE



Gather us together, O God, that we might share the prayers, intentions, and thanksgivings of our community. May we be generous with our gifts because

we are rooted in abundance.

Our operating budget varies from year to year and is determined by our income. Please look at the budgeting flyer and the ministry opportunities on the back to see how you can share your wealth, work, and wisdom.

You will find a pledge card in the back of the pew in front of you. Please prayerfully consider filling it out and turning it in today. You may also pledge online at www.tcote.org/stewardship-2024/ All pledge cards will be blessed on Sunday, November 19.

THE LUNCH BUNCH



This month, Harbor House has asked us for 80 lunches on November 15. Details are at www.tcote.org. Please let me know if you are able to help. Thank you! yvonnlux@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER OWLS EVENT



Please join us on **Thursday, November 9 from noon - 2:00 p.m.** for lunch. In honor of the Thanksgiving season, we will celebrate fall by making a succulent arrangement. Space will be limited so please let us know if you can come. We ask for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of lunch. Please **RSVP by November 6** to Michelle Ponticelli at 805-320-5003 or email her at mponticelli@tcote.org.

Don't forget to bring a **new** pair of (adult size) colorful socks (anything but white) that we are collecting to be "gifted" to needy guests who attend the Annual Community Free Christmas Dinner hosted at Temple Adat Elohim. Aggie Winston will deliver them. Call or e-mail her if you need her to pick up your sock gift: 805-807-5001 or aggiew53@gmail.com.

MINISTRIES – FIND YOUR CONNECTION

For more information on these and other ministries, please visit www.tcote.org



Meeting weekly for one-hour at noon on Wednesdays in Bishop's Hall, **Feeding the Spirit** bible study is focused on upcoming lessons for the week and the themes found within. Bring a lunch! Upcoming readings will be found in our weekly *Connections* newsletter or <https://lectionarypage.net>



Want to help on Sundays during the service? If you are interested in being an **usher, reader, oblationer, or LEM**, please contact the church at info@tcote.org

Red Door Vineyard's vision is to be a source of congregational growth, strength and spirituality as we share in the journey of crafting wine in God's name. In addition to ongoing vineyard activities, we gather monthly for Monday Night Fellowship and Friday Evening Happy Hour and arrange a variety of social and cultural experiences. Contact: Stacey Stephens reddoorvineyard@tcote.org



Members of the **Altar Guild** prepare all that is necessary for the celebration of all of the sacraments of the church. Contact: Leigh Wallace mizeinla@gmail.com

Coffee hour is a tradition of hospitality and fellowship, a time to catch up with friends and acquaint yourself with new people of the congregation. Interested in being a **Coffee Host**? Contact: info@tcote.org



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is highly child-centered and allows children to enter into a relationship with God in their own ways, and in their own time. All children are welcome. Contact: Laurie Burns lburns@tcote.org



At Epiphany, we embrace and appreciate the capacity and insight of our teen parishioners. **EYG** is a safe, encouraging space for spiritual exploration and the asking of important questions. We meet **every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Contact: Laurie Burns lburns@tcote.org

The Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) has many opportunities to serve those in need in our community. Please check their page at www.tcote.org. Contact: Aggie Winston (805) 807-5001.



PFLAG PFLAG's vision is to create a world where difference is celebrated, and all people are valued inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We meet on the *second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.* Contact: info@tcote.org



Laundry Love is a nationwide program that assists low-income families and individuals in doing their laundry. We meet on the *last Tuesday of each month from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.* Contact: Karen James kjames@tcote.org



The Lunch Bunch prepares and delivers 70-80 brown bag lunches to Harbor House once a month for low income and homeless families and individuals. Join us! Contact: Yvonne Lux yvonnlux@gmail.com



Creation Care at The Church of the Epiphany is about helping each other to grow in care for God's Creation. Seasonal Sacred Hikes help to create a personal bond and connection. Contact: Mari Mendenhall mmidsgn@sbcglobal.net

Lectio Divina is a practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer opening to a deeper communion with God. We meet via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Link at www.tcote.org/lectio-divina/ or contact: Barry Burns burnscreative@gmail.com.



A grief shared meets *on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Ascension Chapel*. Wherever and however you are experiencing grief, we invite you to come and share your story in a safe and supportive space. Contact: Laurie Burns lburns@tcote.org



The Epiphany Music Guild furthers the church's outreach mission to the community by providing a regular series of musical and other artistic events, enriching people's lives and giving them opportunities to encounter beauty in a sacred space. www.tcote.org/music/



The Pastoral Care Team cares for parishioners who may be sick, recovering from surgery or experiencing other life changes. We make phone calls, visit hospitals and homes, and help with the unmet needs they may have, such as providing an occasional meal following surgery or illness. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry, contact Sharon Schneider: sschneider@tcote.org

OWLS (Older Wiser Laity) strives to create community and fellowship opportunities among the more senior members of our church and the greater area, meeting monthly for lunch and a variety of enriching



programs from October-May. Contact Michelle Ponticelli: mponticelli@tcote.org



"Just the noise you make, and the camaraderie...it is the most life-affirming experience, singing in a choir." Sir Elton John. The

Music Ministry at The Church of the Epiphany offers a variety of opportunities for participation and welcomes all. You may join the choir at any time. Contact: Jay Wilcox jwilcox@tcote.org

To access the bulletin from either your tablet or your cell phone, please scan the QR code:



PRAYERS

Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer List: Madden, Tom, Anahid, Glenn and family, Liam, John, Maria, and Doug

Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list: Boyd, Kay, Neil and Sarah, Tom, Donna, Arturo, Tommy, Judith, Matthew, Kathy, the Rowe family and baby Noah, Curt, Jana, Dave C, Steve, Joe, Rhonda, Catherine, Lynn, Dan, Amanda, Laura, Tabitha, Debbi, Judie, Viola Cleo, Cordelia, the Barsoum family, Georgia, Bishop Michael Curry, Steve, Paul, Carol, and Peter

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/.

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 told otherwise.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EpiphanyOakpark/ and Instagram at www.instagram.com/tcoteoakpark



I am the daughter of the longtime stewardship chair of the church I grew up in. My home parish of St. James, Roanoke, is like a taproot for me. It's where I went to Sunday school, youth group, and served as an acolyte. People invested in me and gave me leadership opportunities. As an Asian American queer from the south, I never thought of God as judging me. I have been watered by living waters of people who've nurtured me. I pledge every year to my church because I want to tend and water others.

The legacy of family roots me in abundance. I was raised on stories of woman in my (Japanese & Korean) family who were boundary crossers. My ancestors crossed oceans because they had to. My parents were married not long after the Loving v. The State of Virginia case, so that was a boundary crossing too. They taught me that love is more powerful than racism: they showed me that you do what you think is right even when it's hard.

I'm so motivated by wanting to do right by my ancestors. Both my family, and also my chosen/queer ancestors, some of whom died just so that I could live. Right now I work for Showing Up for Racial Justice to mobilize white communities for racial and economic justice. We don't have to be divided by racism. Like tree roots, we can be a network of solidarity.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds me "blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream." (Jeremiah 17:7). I am rooted in God, and in the belief in an abundant creator. I would stake my life on that. |



Questions for Reflection:

How do your practices of generosity come from and through your family heritage? What habits were ingrained in you?



Grace Aheron is the Communications Director, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), former ESC intern, and cradle Episcopalian.