

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY



A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
December 17, 2023
10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

100 Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80206
epiphanydenver.org

Rector
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Merry Christmas!

We are so glad you are with us this morning!

Services of Lessons and Carols began in Truro, England in 1880 and was reintroduced at King's College Cambridge in 1918. Now the service is broadcast around the world on Christmas Eve. This special service intertwines the story of Christ's birth with hymns and special seasonal music.

We hope that your time with us will be encouraging and that you visit us again soon. Our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service will be at 4pm.

Blessings in Jesus!
Fr. Stace+
and the community of Epiphany

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist (Rite I)—Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist (Rite II)—Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer via Zoom
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Please be seated during readings and choral singing and stand if you are able during congregational hymns. Congregational responses are in bold.

Processional Hymn

Once In Royal David's City

Hymn 102

Bidding Prayer

Lector Beloved in Christ, as we gather this morning, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Nave and Sanctuary glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build, and especially in our country the United States of America, and the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, and in the city of Denver:

And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we evermore are one.

Lector These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:

All **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.**

Celebrant The Almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

Lector And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, "Where art thou?" And he said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And he said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" And the man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." And the LORD God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." And the LORD God said unto the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

And unto Adam he said, "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till

thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Celebrant With perpetual benediction may the Father Everlasting bless us. **Amen.**

Hymn

Redeemer of the Nations, Come

Hymn 55

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22: 15–18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Lector And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Celebrant God, the Son of God, vouchsafe to bless and aid us. **Amen.**

Hymn

Creator of the Stars of Night

Hymn 60

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Lector The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Celebrant May the grace of the Holy Spirit enlighten us heart and body. **Amen.**

FOURTH LESSON

*Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9**The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

Lector And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord.

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Celebrant The Almighty Lord bless us with his grace. **Amen.**

Solo

Gaudete! Christus est natus

Grace-Ann Westergren

***Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine. Gaudete!***

**Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born
of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!**

*Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus
Carmina laetitiae, devote reddamus*

It is now the time of grace that we have desired.
Let us sing songs of joy, let us give devotion.

*Deus homo factus est, atura mirante
Mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante*

God was made man and nature marvels.
The world was renewed by Christ who is King.

*Ezechielis porta clausa pertransitur
Unde lux est orta, salus invenitur*

The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through.
Whence the light is risen; Salvation has been found.

*Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustro
Benedicat Domino, salus Regi nostro*

Therefore, our assembly sings now in brightness
We bless the Lord: Greetings to our King.

FIFTH LESSON*Luke 1: 26–35; 38**The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Lector And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

Celebrant Christ give us the joys of everlasting life. **Amen.**

Solo*Love Come Down to Bethlehem*

Jen Anderson-Tarver

Love came down to Bethlehem
While the world was sleeping
Love came down to make amends
For all creation's weeping

He that sang the stars to life
He the Word became a cry

Rejoice Rejoice
Glory to God hallelujah, Gloria

King of heaven's high estate
Child in lowly manger
His the priv'lege to forsake
To welcome in the stranger

Born to heal the bonds of men
Born that we'd be born again

Rejoice rejoice
Glory to God hallelujah
Heaven and nature singing together
Glory to God hallelujah
Gloria gloria

Rejoice rejoice
Glory to God hallelujah
Heaven and nature singing together
Glory to God hallelujah
Heaven and nature angels and shepherds
Wise men and beggars praise to the Savior

SIXTH LESSON*Luke 2: 1, 3–7**St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Lector And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Celebrant By the words of God’s Gospel be our sins blotted out. **Amen.**

Solo*Little Drummer Boy*

Mahlon Knight

SEVENTH LESSON*Luke 2: 8–16**The shepherds go to the manger.*

Lector And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Celebrant Creator of all things give us your blessing now and forevermore. **Amen.**

EIGHTH LESSON*Matthew 2: 1–12**The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

Lector Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.” When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, “In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.” Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, “Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.” When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Celebrant Unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

NINTH LESSON*John 1: 1–14**St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

Celebrant In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the

life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
All **And with thy spirit.**

Hymn

He Shall Reign Forevermore

¹ In the bleak mid-winter
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne

He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

² If I were a wise man
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart

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³ Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVE SACRAMENT

Confession

BCP 360

All **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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Communion Music

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymn 82

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymn 112

Collect & Blessing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Christ, Who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Hymn 99

*We are a community of discipleship, healing and worship.
We are committed to God, one another and
the transformation of the world in Jesus Christ.*

News

Stewardship Season—New pledge cards are available for 2024! Every contribution helps Epiphany achieve our mission. Look on the back side for ways to get involved in different ministries at Epiphany. You may also email our bookkeeper directly with your pledge at accountant@epiphanydenver.org

Year-End Giving—Please note: According to IRS rules, contributions are effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the offering in January cannot be deducted in the previous year even if it is backdated. The one exception is for checks that are postmarked in 2023 even if it is not received by the church until 2024.

Epiphany Celebration Coming January 7th!—Check your email for details on how sign up to help with food or set-up for our annual pig roast pot luck lunch.

Advent & Christmas Events

Dec 24 th	4 th Sunday of Advent	(regular services)
Dec 24 th	Christmas Eve Service	4:00pm Candlelight Service
Dec 31 st		(regular services)
Jan 7 th	Epiphany Celebration	Pig Roast at Noon!

VOLUNTEERS	DATE	LECTOR	CHALICE	ACOLYTES
	12/17	multiple	Shirley	Excel, Outshine
	12/24 10:30	Shirley	Don	Rennie girls
	12/24 4:00	Shirley		
	12/31	Grace-Ann	Don	
	1/7	Shirley	Shirley	Luke, Jacob, Pascal