

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
December 31, 2023—10:30 am

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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Rector
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A Note To Our Guests:

Welcome to Epiphany, we are glad to have you join us this morning as we celebrate Holy Eucharist!

Guests sometimes worry about what to do next...where to turn in the book and whether to stand, sit or kneel. From time to time you will receive page number guidance from the clergy, and you may watch to see what others do. The “BCP” page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer, the black book. The “S” numbers refer to the Service Music in the front of the blue Hymnal 1982. But we invite you into worship and just to enjoy the service. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion at the Lord’s Table. If you prefer not to receive, but wish to come forward for a blessing, please do so, crossing your arms against your chest.

We are blessed to have you with us! So, sing the hymns, join in, and celebrate the joy of our Lord’s life, death, and resurrection!

Again, welcome ...We wish you God’s peace and joy!

Faithfully,
The People of Church of the Epiphany

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

December 31, 2023

Holy Eucharist - Rite II - 10:30 am

A time of quiet reflection or personal prayer is requested prior to the service.

PROCESSIONAL *Unto Us a Boy is Born* Hymn 98

OPENING ACCLAMATION BCP 355

GLORIA *Angels We Have Heard on High* Hymn 96

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 147

- ¹ Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- ² The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- ³ He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- ⁴ He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- ⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- ⁶ The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- ⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- ⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- ⁹ He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- ¹⁰ He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

- ¹¹ He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- ¹² But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- ¹³ Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- ¹⁴ For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- ¹⁵ He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁶ He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁷ He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- ¹⁸ He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- ¹⁹ He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- ²⁰ He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- ²¹ He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

**All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that

we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

GOSPEL HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

Hymn 84

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

Lector The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

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

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

And 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. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

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

SERMON	Deacon Gary Stoddard	
NICENE CREED		BCP 358
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		BCP 387
OFFERTORY	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	Hymn 90
DOXOLOGY		
GREAT THANKSGIVING		BCP 361
SANCTUS		Hymn S-124
GREAT AMEN		Hymn S-143
FRACTION ANTHEM		Hymn S-154
	Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia	
COMMUNION MUSIC	<i>'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime</i>	Hymn 114
	<i>A Stable Lamp is Lighted</i>	Hymn 104
POST COMMUNION PRAYER		BCP 365
RECESSIONAL	<i>The Snow Lay on the Ground</i>	Hymn 110

*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

NOTE: There will be no 8:00 service next week, December 7th

Come at 10:30 for an Epiphany service, visiting choir, and pot-luck lunch!

Epiphany Celebration—We will celebrate our church’s feast day on January 7th. Our traditional pig roast is back! Please see the sign-up link in the newsletter for side-dishes and other ways to help out.

2024 Pledge Cards Available—Look for the blue pledge cards in the commons to help the vestry plan Epiphany’s operating budget for next year. Please return to the collection box or the church office. 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.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE	DATE	LECTOR	CHALICE	ACOLYTES
	12/31		Don	Excel, Outshine
	1/7	Shirley	Shirley	Luke, Jacob, Pascal
	1/14		John	Martin, Amalia, Maddie
	1/21	** Please use the link in the newsletter to sign up for volunteer dates **		