

# Church of the Epiphany

## The First Sunday of Advent

28 November 2021 ~ 8AM in church ~ 11:00AM in the sanctuary & via Zoom

Join Zoom Worship on computer/smartdevice: <https://zoom.us/j/99005230944>

Call-in to Zoom Worship: 1-646-876-9923, Enter Meeting ID: 990 0523 0944 #

Hello & good day! We are glad indeed that you are here indeed.  
This is a place where we nurture souls with prayerful worship.  
If we can help you in any way, please let us know!

Office: 570-563-1564 Rev. Lou Divis: 570-878-4670 Rev. John Davis: 570-575-8689

### Processional: Hymnal #61 “Sleepers, Wake!”

1 “Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us, the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us: “Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”  
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken, their urgent summons clearly spoken:

“The time has come, O maidens wise! Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia! Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share.”

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing; her heart with joyful hope is springing, she wakes and hurries through the night. Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious in strength and grace, in truth victorious: her star is risen, her light grows bright. Now come, most worthy Lord, God’s Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia! We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.

3 Lamb of God, the heavens adore you; let saints and angels sing before you, as harps and cymbals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals: through them we stream to join the immortals as we with joy your throne surround. No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such delight: Alleluia! Therefore we sing to greet our King; for ever let our praises ring.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath:** Light the Advent candle one, Now the waiting has begun, We have started on our way, Time to think of Christmas Day, Candle, candle burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night. Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

### Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought 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.**

### Song of Praise: LEVAS #237

*Lord, Have Mercy*

[Tune at end of bulletin]

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy, have mercy, O Lord.

**Salutati** God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebra* Let us pray.

**Collect: BCP p.211** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah, Chapter 33 verses 14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **[The People keep silence.]**

**The Psalm is 25:1-9, prayed by the lector, BCP p.614-615.**

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \* let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \* let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \* and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \* for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \* for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \* remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \* therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right \* and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \* to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, Chapter 3 verses 9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **[The People keep silence.]**

**Gradual: Hymnal #73**

***The King Shall Come***

1 The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks; when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

2 Not, as of old, a little child, to bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

3 The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past; O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;

4 and let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold, when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, come quickly, King of kings.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (21:25-36) Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a

cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## **Sermon**

### **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 sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of the People** Please kneel, sit or stand. The People respond: *Shine in our hearts.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

You who dwell in darkness and light, in silence and sound, dwell in the hearts of your people. In hope, peace, and joy may we await with anticipation the coming of Christ the Morning Star.

*Silence.*

Christ, be our light *Shine in our hearts.*

You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation, dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatter the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth.

*Silence*

Christ, be our light *Shine in our hearts.*

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

*Silence*

Christ, be our light *Shine in our hearts.*

You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

We pray for Epiphany School in Uganda, its primary class Seven; and in our Diocese for St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral and Holy Cross, Wilkes-Barre.

We give thanks for Elizabeth and Amil Loch - in whose memory the Narthex Door Wreath is given.

*Silence*

Christ, be our light *Shine in our hearts.*

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering especially

Canon Bill & Fran; Rev. Tom; Maureen; Mary-Jo & the Cliff family; Mason; Jim; Jackie; Bill; Arja; Addie; Wendy; Gail; David D.; Robert; David; the Johnson family; Tristan; Nancy & Derry; Joyce; Michael, Mikey, Allie; Rick; Carol; Luke; Wilmer; Pat; Mason; Beth; James, Laura & Cristina; Ryan & Michelle; Mel; Donna; Paula; Mike and the residents & staff at Abington Manor; Jimmy; Adele; Molly; Judy; John; Amy and Jim; Beth; Jack; Susan; Scott; Lynn; Richelle; Kim; Ceil; Jim; Don; Eleanore & George; Amy & Todd; Sandi; Bob; Betsy & Ed; for Jane; Louise; Daryl; Addiction Sufferers & their families; all whose lives are touched by COVID-19.

Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

*Silence*

Christ, be our light ***Shine in our hearts.***

You have welcomed into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died--especially Wally Swiatek in whose memory the Altar Flowers are given--welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife. Shine the light of hope.

*Silence*

Christ, be our light ***Shine in our hearts.***

You who delight in the complexity and splendor of creation, help us to delight in the diversity of this earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for all you have made.

*Silence*

Christ, be our light ***Shine in our hearts.***

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. ***Amen.***

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says:* Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People:* **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

**Absolution:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace:** The peace of Christ be always with you.

*The People* **And also with you.**

### **Announcements & Opportunities**

#### **Prayer For a Birthday (#50 BCP page 830)**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on you servants & N. as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Prayer For those we Love (for Anniversary, #54 BCP page 831)**

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Deacon: **Offertory sentence**

Please remember that you can give on-line at [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org) or by texting BREAD to 73256

**Thank you for your financial support!**

**Offertory: Hymnal 454**

*Jesus Came*

1 Jesus came, adored by angels, came with peace from realms on high; Jesus came for our redemption, lowly came on earth to die: Alleluia, alleluia! came in deep humility.

2 Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care: Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heart-felt prayer; Alleluia, alleluia! comes to save us from despair.

3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiven: Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls redeemed to heaven; Alleluia, alleluia! now the gate of death is riven.

4 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the heavens shall pass away; Jesus comes again in glory; let us then our homage pay; Alleluia, alleluia! till the dawn of endless day.

**Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him , all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Eucharistic Prayer 2**

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*Celebrant and People Hymnal #S 124: Sanctus*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. The Celebrant continues** Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace,

you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with [            and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray: **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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **Hymnal #S 161**

**Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God *Agnus Dei***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer for Spiritual Reception of Communion: **In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our soul and body with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our heart. We unite ourselves to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our soul. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live and die in your love. Amen.** *Adapted: The Armed Forces PBk 1951*

#### **Communion: Hymnal #72 *Hark! the Glad Sound***

1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long: let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure; and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved Name.

#### **Postcommunion Prayer**

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Blessing

God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you,  
the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always.

**Amen.**

(source: Celtic)

## Recessional: Hymnal #680 v.1-3

## *O God Our Help in Ages Past*

1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

2 under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

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Officiant: Mo. Lou Divis

Assistant: Deacon John Davis

Organist: Mary-Jo Cliff

Choir Director: Melissa Driscoll

Broadcast Media: Rick Little

First Lesson & Psalm: Bruce Rivera

Second Lesson: Mary-Jo Cliff

Intercessor: Letha Reinheimer

Ushers: Joe Skinner (8) – Maureen Wezmar (11)

Altar Guild: Lori Moran, Maureen Wezmar

Social Media Director: Barbara Little

Sexton: Jeff Napierala

Admin: Adrien Lambert

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: "Lord, have \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy, Christ, have \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy." for the first system, and "Lord, have \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy, have mer - cy, O, Lord." for the second system. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Music: Avon Gillespie (1937-1989), *Mass No. 1 in G*

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