



ADVENT 2024

THE

WEARY
WORLD

Rejoices

We hope you feel welcomed by our Epiphany community, inspired by the message of Jesus today, and excited to live that out in the coming week

Welcome To Worship



WORSHIP

Worship is a big deal to us. Something happens in us and through us when we gather. Jesus said it this way: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” When we gather together for worship we can experience the presence of God in a way that we can’t on our own. It isn’t just about learning and it certainly isn’t about getting on God’s good side. Worship is a corporate way to personally experience (be in relationship with) God and others. Welcome!

GIVE

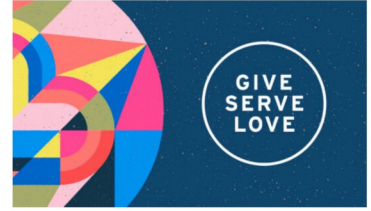
Want an easy way to give digitally? Scan the QR code below and head to the give page of our website for all the info!



CONNECT

The best way to stay connected to Epiphany is to sign up to receive our twice per week emails we call “Connect”. On Tuesday and Friday we send out the latest information about our ministries, worship, events and more.

You can see our most recent emails by scanning this QR Code and following the link. If you wish, you can even sign up to receive Connect for yourself! The sign up form is on the same page. Open your phone's camera and scan the code below to stay connected!



NEW

If you are new to Epiphany we want to tell you a little about our us. We hope to be a church that focuses on the love of Jesus, invites you to follow Jesus in the way you live and seeks to spread that invitation to all people, including those in the LGBTQIA+ community, all family types, ethnicities, ages and social classes. We want to follow Jesus and passionately proclaim that his love is for all. If you wish to know more about our welcome and inclusion statement, visit us here.



We would love to hear a little bit about you. Scan the QR code below for an easy way to let us know what you think or ask us a question.



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 ~ 9:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Inspired by Luke 1:46-55)

P Every notion we have about power, success,
Wealth, and achievement,
God takes and tosses out the window.
God comes to us,
To upset the notion that we have to save ourselves.
God comes to us,
Removing our sin, our failures, our expectations,
So we might have new life.
Please join me as we pray, saying,

C **Advent God, We confess we are not the people you hope us to be.
The very ones you favor, we ignore or ridicule.
The ones you knock off their pedestals,
We admire and emulate.
We are so focused on having more and more,
We risk being sent away empty.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,
And look upon us with grace.
We would seek to love others.
We would seek peace for our world.
We would seek to do your will.
As did Jesus, in whose name we pray.**

(Silence is kept)

P Even now, in this very moment,
God comes to us, bringing hope, forgiveness,
And grace as gifts freely offered to us.
May we open our hearts to the God who is with us,
And receive the gifts that have been offered to us.

P **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

LBW #34

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
- 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
- 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
- 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
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HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW #242 vs. 2

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -

man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is

qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;

mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -

kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to

shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen**

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**What are these candles for?**

- P This is an Advent candle ring. It shows the circle of God's unbroken love. These are five candles. We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas.

What is the point of doing this?

- P Because the old proverb is true:
 "What I hear, I forget.
 What I see, I remember."
 "What I do, I understand."
 As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together in the warm light of God's love.
 The gospel of Luke speaks about the future: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth, distress among the nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding" (Luke 21:25-36).
 Because our world is full of fear and distress, we light our first candle, trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the spirit of Christ lives among us.

(Light the first candle.)

- C **Living Christ, give us faith to trust you. We trust you, we love you, and we praise you. Amen.**

Please sit

READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

A A reading from Jeremiah.

⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

P The Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “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. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ.***Please sit***SERMON**

Pastoral Intern Ian Boden

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #250

Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Please join me in the Advent Affirmation of Faith

C We believe in God,
creator and lover of all of creation.

We believe in Jesus,
God coming to us in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn who will emerge as our herald of hope.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants seeds of faith, brings us to birth
as the body of Christ, and empowers us with the gift of God's love.

We believe in the coming reign of God,
that draws near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated
when God's desire for all of creation is fulfilled.

For the coming of that day
we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

PRAYERS

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people
and places that long for God's presence.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of
our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit

SPECIAL MUSIC

Tiffany Armen, soprano

Prepare Thyself, Zion –Bach

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**LORD'S PRAYER**

C **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.**

*Please sit***JESUS, LAMB OF GOD**

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*. Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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COMMUNION

All are welcome to share in communion this morning! Gluten-free wafers are available if needed. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like to have communion brought to you in the pew, please don't hesitate to raise your hand to catch the traveling server's attention and also let the usher know. If you have questions about communion, contact Pastor Brad at: pastorbrad@epiphany-lutheran.com.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW #253
He Came Down

- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of the bread and wine
that we have shared, strengthen us and unite us in bonds of love and peace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.

C **Amen**

A BLESSING FOR BEGINNING AGAIN IN ADVENT

CLOSING HYMN

ELW #769

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministers	ALL THE MEMBERS OF EPIPHANY
Lead Pastor	Brad Gee
Pastoral Intern	Ian Boden
Director of Education & Technology	Jeff Mitchell
Director of Music	Terry McCandless
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries	Ali Adams
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