



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m.

December 21, 2025

Church of the Epiphany

Vacaville, CA

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

Holy Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Entrance Hymn

Hymnal 66, vs. 1-4

"Come, thou long-expected Jesus..."

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

Celebrant: On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we eagerly anticipate that holy moment when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus. His birth in a lowly stable reminds us of the lofty LOVE of God for us. May He find in us a place prepared to receive His boundless love.

People: **We light these four Advent candles to announce the coming of the light of Christ into our darkness. The first candle symbolizes the HOPE Christ's birth brings to us. The second candle reminds us of our need for his PEACE in our lives and in our world. The third candle is a sign of the JOY that is His gift to all who trust in Him. The fourth candle shines as a beacon of the LOVE made known to us in the birth of Jesus, not only in Bethlehem, but also in our hearts.**

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie Eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey

by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 56 vs. 5

"O come, O come, Emmanuel..."

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together,

she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

After the Gospel is read, the people respond as follows:

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Rev. John Heide

Nicene Creed

BCP 326

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

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Celebrant: The prophet John the Baptist preached a repentance which would bear fruit in the lives of those who heard him. In penitence and faith let us offer to God our prayers for all people.

Reader: We pray for all ministers, clergy, and people:

People: **For Megan, our bishop, Celebrant John, and for our parish community.**

Reader: We pray for peace in the world, and for the loving kindness of God:

People: **For the welfare of your holy church, for the unity of all peoples and for all the faithful who may live in danger or distress.**

Reader: We pray for the leaders of this nation and of all nations, and for all who govern and hold authority:

People: **That they may be just, compassionate, and work for peace between all nations and the well-being of all people.**

Reader: We pray for the poor and those in prison, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those suffering from fires and floods, and all those who remember and care for them:

People: **That you may give us grace and compassion to do your will to deliver them from their distress.**

Reader: We pray for comfort and healing for all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit (*read prayer list here*). We remember our dearly departed, and we pray for those whose needs are known only to you.

People: **That you may bless them and grant that we may serve Christ in them, loving one another as he loves us.**

Celebrant: Celebrant: We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen. *BCP 840*

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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.*

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Offerings: *Marilyn Powell (12/25), Carl Butters (12/25), Garret Krystek (12/27)*

The Holy Communion

Offertory sentence: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

Offertory Ensemble Anthem

"Emmanuel, God with us: Can it be?"

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Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Celebrant or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Doxology

Hymnal 380 v.3

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.

Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks
to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to
make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in
power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear
rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and
with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the
glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-124



Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. 🛎

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." 🛎

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." 🛎

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Then the Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

People and Celebrant

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]**

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S-164

"Jesus, Lamb of God..."

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

At Church of the Epiphany, we welcome everyone equally as children of God created in the image of God. Whether you are visiting from out of town, "shopping for a church," seeking God, or hoping to learn more about Jesus Christ, we welcome you to our worship services. Whatever your religious background, age race, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status, we welcome you. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, please join us at the altar for Communion.

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 671

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound!..."

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found;
Was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.
3. The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

4. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Hymnal 265, vv. 1-3

"The angel Gabriel from heaven came..."

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud an honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the lives and faithfulness of the George Clewlow.

TODAY'S SERVERS:

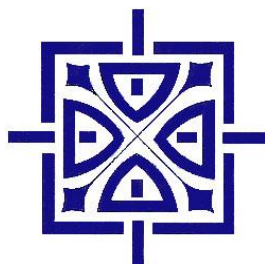
Altar Guild: Maxine Wakefield, Lector: Dotty Schenk, Prayers: Kathleen Cocuzza, LEM/Acolyte: Kathleen Moran; Usher: Emma Green

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Today at Epiphany

Coffee Hour: After the service in the Parish Hall, provided this week by Epiphany's Music Ensemble. Please join us!



Church of the Epiphany

Epiphany exists to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the community as we share God's love by feeding ALL.

Celebrating our 130th year in Vacaville

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The Rt. Rev. Megan M. Traquair, Bishop

The Rev. John Heidel, Priest in Charge

Vestry

Karen Nolan, Senior Warden (707) 321-5103

Eric Jones, Junior Warden

James Manuel, Kathleen Moran

Marilyn Powell, Tony Yang

Emma Green, Treasurer

D.J. Bowen, Clerk

The Members of the Congregation are the Ministers of the Church