



The First Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m.

November 30, 2025

Church of the Epiphany
Vacaville, CA

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

Holy Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Entrance Hymn

Hymnal 58

"Lo! He comes, with clouds descending..."

1. Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,
Once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him,
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers;
With what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

All standing, the Celebrant says

Lighting the First Advent Candle

Celebrant: On this first Sunday of Advent, we begin our preparations for celebrating Christ's birth. We are part of the community of faith that began with God's relationship with the Hebrew people. This bond of love continues in the fellowship of Christ's Church.

People: **We light this candle to announce the coming of the light of Christ into our darkness. With the coming of this light there is HOPE. The light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Bidding Prayer

The Celebrant says:

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word

made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, gathering together all these petitions, let us pray:

The Prayer of St. John of Chrysostom

Said by all: **Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto you; and has promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of your servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.**

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

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122 *Laetatus sum*

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you."

7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Epistle

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires

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

All stand.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 56, Verse 1

"O come, Emmanuel..."

O come, o come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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 Heidel

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Celebrant or Celebrant: In anticipation of your coming, O Lord, we pray for the church and for the world.

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.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord.

People: **In the midst of your temple.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: **Let us pray.**

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.*

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: *Jessica Graham (12/1),
Michael Maloney (12/4), David Deerfeeder (12/4)*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

"Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!..."

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

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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 B

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



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 in which 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.

The Celebrant continues

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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.

Organ Voluntary

Communion Hymn

"Lord, be glorified!"

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In my heart, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my heart, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In our praise, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In our praise, Lord, be glorified today.

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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.*

Priest's 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

"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 watchman singing;
Her heart with joyful hope is
springing,
She wakes and hurries through the
night.
Forth he comes, her Bridegroom
glorious

Dismissal

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

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

Hymnal 61

- In strength of grace, in truth
victorious:
Her star is risen, her light glows
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
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;
Forever let our praises ring.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the lives and faithfulness of the Dr Bob Farmer

TODAY’S SERVERS:

Altar Guild: Maxine Wakefield, Kathleen Cocuzza

Lector: David Deerfeeder, Prayers: David Deerfeeder, LEM/Acolyte: Sarah Heidel

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Pick up free book of Advent reflections

Free copies of “Living Well Through Advent 2025” – a book of daily devotionals for the upcoming season of Advent – are available in the Narthex. Be sure to pick one up!

Take part in Merriment on Main

We are seeking volunteers to serve hot chocolate at our Buck Avenue entrance during the annual Merriment on Main celebration, from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2. We are also seeking donations of powdered hot chocolate (tubs or bags, not individual packets) that require only hot water. Donations may be dropped off at the church office.



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 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