

EPIPHANY†

Seattle



Thursday, December 24, 2020
4:00, 6:00, and 7:30 pm

AN INTIMATE CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS

Merry Christmas,

This is a Christmas we will never forget. It is the Christmas of COVID-19. Many of the patterns and traditions we are used to have changed or even been called off. Zoom screens have become our proxy, and yet, as you know, that is not quite the same. But even as it is not quite the same, this is still a season of connection: because Christmas is a celebration of incarnation.

The birth of Jesus IS God coming into the world. I know, it sounds weird to say because this is already God's world. God has always been in the world. And yet, God chose to come into the world in a particular way, a personal way. God chose to come into the world so as to mark in the mind of humanity the reality of who we are and how we are called to be. Jesus is this word of God made flesh, made as you and I are flesh, to reveal to us two things: 1) how to live in God's world, and 2) to know firsthand how much God loves us.

Typically, the celebration of Christmas involves sharing the good news of God's love far and wide, with big meals and hugs and games and songs and giving thanks to God through worship. But not this year. This is the COVID-19 Christmas. And yet still, I know that God never puts before us anything that isn't good for the formation of our hearts, and so, even this year I am optimistic. Even this year I am hopeful that though we can't hug, or sing, or feast with our friends and family and neighbors, we can still do these things with God, because nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:39) – not even a deadly virus.

Jesus is born. We have a friend and role model and Savior. He is living Gospel (which means good news) that has saved our souls by showing us how our souls belong to God, singularly. He punctuated this point through resurrection, which was God's way of saying to us that no matter what we say or do or believe or think, God will not leave us. God is right here, and that reality is indelibly inscribed upon all of creation by resurrection. But to get to resurrection, there must be incarnation. There must be birth for death to be heeded and then discarded to prove the bigger point of God's presence and God's love.

I pray that this Christmas brings to you a renewed intimacy with Jesus. My invitation is that where the feast had been, you will feast upon the story of Jesus's birth. Read Luke chapters 1 and 2, John chapter 1, and Matthew chapters 1 and 2. Marinate your mind in these words. Let your imagination run wild. Set aside the analytic assessment and put on the mind of your childhood. Let the story dance in your heart as your Christmas dance partner.

And so, while COVID-19 Christmas will be different, and in so many ways disappointing, do not miss the chance to mark it as significant, nonetheless. Let this be the year you and Jesus celebrate together – and in this intimate connection, give thanks to God.

Merry Christmas to you.

Peace upon your soul.

Doyt+

Voluntary

At the sound of the bell, all rise as able.

Presider Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Presider It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

—2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Presider Let us pray.

People O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The people are seated.

Hymn sung by the cantor

A stable lamp is lighted

During the hymn the candles are lit.

The congregation remains seated as the presider stands and says

Presider Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God, the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with carols of praise.

The First Lesson

John1:1-5, 14

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.

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.

Hymn sung by the cantor

Of the father's love begotten
(verse1)

The people stand.

Presider As we in heart and mind go unto Bethlehem, let us offer prayer to God.

People O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

The Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-40

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Hymn *sung by the cantor*

The Angel Gabriel
(verse 1)

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Hymn *sung by the cantor*

Lo, how a rose
(verses 1 & 2)

The people stand.

Presider As we in heart and mind go unto Bethlehem, let us offer prayer to God.

People **Father in heaven, by your grace the virgin mother of your incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping your word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The people are seated.

The Third Lesson

Luke 1:41-45

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Hymn *sung by the cantor*

Magnificat
(verses 1 & 2)

Plainchant

The people stand.

Presider As we in heart and mind go unto Bethlehem, let us offer prayer to God.

People **O Lord, our God, who through your only-begotten Son, revealed heavenly secrets to blessed Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, grant us, your servants, by her kind intercession, to rejoice and be glad in the revelation of your eternal glory. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

The people are seated.

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

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 fulfil 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.

Hymn *sung by the cantor*

Joseph lieber, Joseph mein

The people stand.

Presider As we in heart and mind go unto Bethlehem, let us offer prayer to God.

People **O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The people are seated.

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

Hymn *sung by the cantor*

Once in royal David's city
(verse1)

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn *sung by the cantor*

What child is this
(verse1)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Hymn sung by the cantor

Angels we have heard on high
(verse 1)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn sung by the cantor

Of the Father's love begotten
(verse 3)

The people stand.

Presider As we in heart and mind go unto Bethlehem, let us offer prayer to God.

People Almighty God, who opens the minds of those with ears to hear and eyes to see, let us follow the example of the shepherds of the fields and be watchful, other-focused, joyful, and faithful in all that we do and say in response to our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Sermon

The Reverend Doyt L. Conn, Jr.

Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

Hymn sung by the cantor

O Holy Night

The people stand for the prayers.

Priest In the words our Savior taught us we now pray:

The Lord's Prayer *said by all*

**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.**

Priest Gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Help us to trust you with all our hearts like Joseph, Mary, and Elizabeth. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. **Amen.**

Priest On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, they may experience the hope of this holy night

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill, especially that those we now name either silently or aloud may feel the comfort of this holy night.

People may add their own intercessions, either silently or aloud.

Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Let us pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may we join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Priest Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow in Jesus Christ, who unites our lives to yours and who is Lord for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The lights are dimmed and the people kneel.

Hymn *sung by the cantor*

Silent Night

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The people stand.

Dismissal

Presider Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Voluntary

The people remain standing as the procession exits the church.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated.
If you wish to donate to Epiphany Parish, please place your offering
in one of the offering plates as you exit.

Serving this evening

Rector The Reverend Doyt L. Conn, Jr.

Vicar The Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia

Director of Music Zachary Hemenway

Associate Director of Music Dr. Wyatt Smith

Head Verger & Reader 4:00 Diane Carlisle

Reader 6:00 & 7:30 Jessica French

Acolyte 4:00 Tieran Sweeny-Bender

Soloist 4:00 & 6:00 Kathea Yarnell

Soloist 7:30 Emily Herivel

Flowers Sandra Darling

**THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE
GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF . . .

HARRY STRONG FROM HIS LOVING FAMILY;

JACK MAYOTTE FROM JUDITH MAYOTTE;

CAROL A. WURTS FROM WM. W. WURTS;

LOIS & WALTER CARLISLE FROM TERRY AND DIANE CARLISLE;

ESTHER & ELMER BEAMER AND RICHARD SWEENEY

FROM DIANA BENDER, LOUIS SWEENEY, AND TIERAN SWENNY-BENDER;

MARY HOUSER ADAMS CADITZ FROM CAROLINE HOUSER;

KATIE PEGLER AND ROBERT PEGLER FROM JILL MARSDEN & ROS BOND;

LUCY VANBOSKERCK MITCHELL FROM CAROLINE NORMANN

OUR MOTHERS, ANNIE MARTIN CLIFT AND VIRGINIA WALTERS CHESNUT

FROM ANNA AND CHARLES CHESNUT;

ALL THE DEPARTED MEMBERS OF THE ALSTON, GLOVER, AND LEES FAMILIES

FROM THAD ALSTON AND KARI GLOVER;

ARTHUR POISTER AND WILL HEADLEE FROM CAROL AND TOM FOSTER

AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR . . .

KARL & LISA MOLDREM FROM ANNE MOLDREM;

MY DAUGHTER, MOIRA FROM BRAD NEARY;

OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND OUR EPIPHANY FAMILY;

FROM MARGIE AND AL EINSTEIN;

OUR FAMILY - EPIPHANY CLERGY, STAFF, AND ALTAR GUILD

FROM TOM AND LYN WHITE;

MY SONS, ALEXANDER AND CHRISTOPHER

FROM SOPHIE HAGER HUME;

OUR PARENTS, MARGARET & JOHN CRUTCHER AND RUTH & HOWARD LEASE

FROM BARBEE AND JIM CRUTCHER;

OUR LOVING FAMILIES FROM BILL AND SUZANNE WHITAKER;

MY MANY BLESSINGS FROM ALICE CUNNINGHAM

Weekly Activities at Epiphany

Morning Prayer | Monday through Friday | 7:30 am | Zoom

The Daily Office is based on the ancient practice of prescribed daily times of prayer. The stability of Morning Prayer is a spiritual gift. Begin each day with the Word of God in your ears and the praise of God on your lips; breathe, rest, and renew your soul in the shared silences of the liturgy. Email Diane Carlisle at verger@epiphanyseattle.org for the link.

Chapel Open | Monday through Friday | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm | Chapel

We are reopening the chapel as a place for prayer during the week. Come by and sit in this sacred space. Occasionally the chapel will be closed for other events; during these times we will open the church. Look for signs at the door. *Open Chapel resumes January 4.*

Music at Epiphany | Tuesdays | 5:30 pm | on YouTube

Music from our community will be featured every Tuesday. Dr. Wyatt Smith, the Director of the Epiphany Music Academy, will curate this evening, highlighting the most extraordinary talent swirling through the Epiphany galaxy. This will be a fun, eclectic offering each week that you won't want to miss. Note: Evensong will return in this time when it is safe to sing together again. *Music at Epiphany resumes January 5.*

Hatha Yoga | Wednesdays | 10:00 am | on Zoom

Michael Glass

This is a free class with an all-levels approach. Beginners are welcome. Be sure to get out your yoga mat and to wear loose comfortable clothing. The class will meet every Wednesday. Contact Michael Glass at glass.michael@comcast.net for more information and the Zoom link.

Worship: How it Works, Why it Works, and Why Space Matters | Thursdays | 5:30 pm | on YouTube

Doyt Conn

Every Thursday evening there will be short talk from the church about how worship works. There will be short, yet detailed explication of the liturgy and how it works, specifically in the spaces of Epiphany. The goal is that when you return, finally, to worshipping full bore in the church, you will have a new understanding of how worship works, what it does to the human soul, and how the space in which we worship facilitates the slow, steady, incremental unveiling of our goodness. Our hope is to return to Evensong when it is safe to do so.

Evensong | Sundays | 5:00 pm | Live-streamed on YouTube

Choral Evensong is a service of Evening Prayer, derived from the ancient offices of Vespers and Compline. The choir sings the traditional evening prayers of the church that have been offered for centuries, while the congregation listens, joins in the hymns, and adds their own prayers to those of the choir. *Evensong resumes January 3.*

Bible Study with the Rector | Fridays | 10:30 - 11:30 am | on Zoom

Doyt Conn

The Bible is the core document that defines the framework in which followers of Jesus live. And so, this class is not just about becoming familiar with the Bible, it is about unpacking it and pulling it apart, and seeking out links and allusions and associations between one part of the Bible and another part of the Bible. This Bible study is a journey into words and meaning and characters, and the context behind them. We do not rush things in this class, and furthermore, because of the slow pace and our theological orientation, you can drop in and quickly find your way, even if you haven't been attending the class. Come be part of this Biblical quest of Christian meaning, understanding, and relevance. All are welcome. Contact Diane Carlisle at verger@epiphanyseattle.org for the Zoom link. *Bible Study resumes January 8.*

The Feast of Epiphany
January 6, 2020

Epiphany is our eponymous Feast Day. We will celebrate the visit of the magi in two ways.

1. You may join your Epiphany family for an in person service of Holy Eucharist in the church at 7:30 pm. Registration is necessary, masks are required, and all COVID safety protocols will be followed.
2. We will also have a service on our YouTube station which will be a beautiful service with chant, incense, a visit from the magi, and a retelling of the story of the visit to Jesus by the three wisemen.



Four Hands, Four Feet

January 10 | 6: 15 pm | YouTube



Back by popular demand Epiphany's own dynamic duo will offer a recital on both the Pasi Organ in the Chapel and the Noack Organ in the Church. Zachary Hemenway and Wyatt Smith will each perform on both instruments, separately and together! They will play a progressive recital, moving from the Chapel to the Church, featuring both of Epiphany's pipe organs and harpsichord.

Parish Staff

The Rev. Doyt L. Conn, Jr.	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Ruth Anne García	<i>Vicar</i>
The Rev. Dr. Peter Strimer	<i>Assisting Priest</i>
Jad Baaklini	<i>Communications Minister</i>
Diane Carlisle	<i>Director of Administration & Head Verger</i>
Pam Demian	<i>Senior Accountant</i>
Amanda Eap	<i>Hospitality and Security Minister</i>
Zachary Hemenway	<i>Director of Music</i>
Gieth Phou	<i>Sexton</i>
Laura Rodde	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Laura Sargent	<i>Engagement Minister</i>
Wyatt Smith	<i>Associate Director of Music & Music Academy Director</i>
Linzi Stahlecker	<i>Seminary Intern</i>
Naomi Woodrum	<i>Director of Children and Youth Formation</i>
Kenzie Beard	<i>Children's Ministry Staff</i>
Sabrina Lee	<i>Children's Ministry Staff</i>
Anna Seng	<i>Children's Ministry Staff</i>
Kim Tran	<i>Children's Ministry Staff</i>
Rochelle Yuen	<i>Children's Ministry Staff</i>

Volunteer Ministry Leaders

Ann Beck	<i>YWCA Cleanup & Teen Feed</i>
Diana Bender	<i>Discernment</i>
Ben Bradstreet	<i>Minyan</i>
Terry Carlisle	<i>Operation Nightwatch</i>
Sally Clarke	<i>Altar Guild</i>
Susannah Dhamdhare	<i>Meals Ministry</i>
Sue Draper	<i>Book Study</i>
Pieter Drummond	<i>Meditation</i>
Mike Evans	<i>Service & Outreach</i>
Karen Forbes	<i>Women of Epiphany</i>
Alice Foreman	<i>Flower Ministry</i>
Michael Fraas	<i>Visitation Ministry</i>
Michael Glass	<i>Yoga</i>
Julie Hay	<i>Eucharistic Visiting</i>
Julie Moberly	<i>The Saint John's Bible</i>
Robin Mondares	<i>Pastoral Care</i>
Laurel Nesholm	<i>Art Guild</i>
Eileen Riley	<i>Service & Outreach</i>
Jonathan Roberts	<i>C. S. Lewis Minyan</i>
Mark Rossow	<i>Camping Ministry</i>
Mike Simmons	<i>Ushers</i>
Trish Stone	<i>All Threads Together</i>
Mary Anne Ward	<i>Raise Your Voice</i>

Volunteer Professionals

Margie Einstein	<i>Stewardship Coordinator</i>
Ed Emerson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Bill Forbes	<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>
Doug Oles	<i>Chancellor</i>
Thomas Foster	<i>Director of Music Emeritus</i>
Carole Terry	<i>Artist-in-Residence in Music</i>

Vestry

Sherilyn Peterson - Senior Warden	
Doug Marshall - Junior Warden	
Warren Morrow - Member at Large	
Brooke Bascom	Brian Boyle
Phil Carter	Scott Hitch
Andrea King	Judith Mayotte
Zach Miller	Julie Moberly
Lauren Wearsch	



*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
you have a place at Epiphany.*