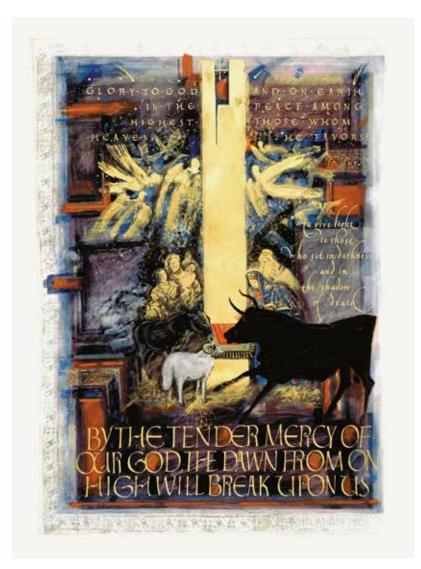
EPIPHANY Seattle



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

HOLY EUCHARIST DECEMBER 24, 2020 AT 4:00 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+

THE GATHERING

Prelude	What is this lovely fragrance	Healey Willan (1880-1968)
	What is this lovely fragrance wafting Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring? Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty Hear you not heav'nly caroling? What is this lovely fragrance wafting Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?	
	What is this light so fair, so tender Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes? Never the Morning Star so radiant Followed his course o'er eastern skies. What is this light so fair, so tender Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?	
	Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Savior, born today. Low at His feet we lay our treasure, Heart's adoration, love for aye. Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Savior, born today.	

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

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

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

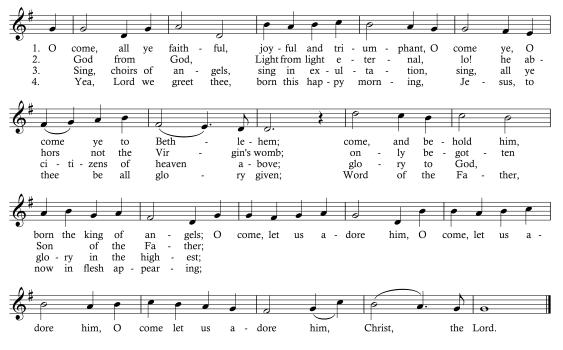
Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Procession

Hymn sung by all

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles



words and music: John Francis Wade (1711-86)

PresiderThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PresiderLet us pray.

Collect of the Day said by all

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people sit for **The Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

The people stand to sing **Hymn**

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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!"

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.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Doyt L. Conn, Jr.

Reflective silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

Luke 2:8-20

Gloria

The people rise to say **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.

The intercessor and people pray responsively. **The Prayers of the People**

On this holy night, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

The people stand or kneel.

Grant, O Lord, that your Church may be a sign of truth and hope. May our unity give you glory throughout the world and serve as a sign of your faithful love.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide the leaders of all nations and those whom they govern that justice and peace may increase. May we experience the fruits of righteousness and the blessings of your reign of love. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

May this good earth and its creatures, blessed through the birth of the Christ child, reveal your glory. Give us grace to guard its riches wisely and to share its bounty justly. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless this community and this congregation and all who are dear to us. May we embrace the good news of your birth and share it generously with all those seeking your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer. May the light of your Son bring healing and may we be agents of hope in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, grant them rest and the sure knowledge of your peace. Remind us, Lord, that neither death nor life will separate us from your love. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people stand forThe PeacePresiderThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.The ministers and people greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Presider To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and he shall be called the Prince of Peace.

At the Offertory, Anthem

A Sussex Carol

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad, When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place. Angels and men with joy may sing All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore, Amen!" Although we are not able to pass the offering plate you may make a contribution online by using the following link:

https://onrealm.org/EpiphanySeattle/give/Sunday

You may also text to give: Send a text to the number **73256** and type "**EP1805**" in the message, send the message and follow the link and prompts in the message reply.

You may select one fund from the drop down, or you have the option to give to multiple funds by pressing **+Another Fund**, entering the amount and selecting the additional fund to which you would like to give.

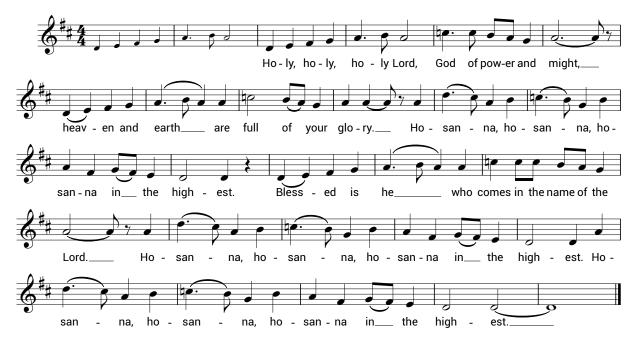
The people stand.Eucharistic Prayer APresiderThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PresiderLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.PresiderLet us give thanks to the Lord our God.PeopleIt is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 sung by all

Proulx Mass for the City



The people stand or kneel. Then the Presider 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:

Presider and people

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Presider

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.

Presider and people

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.

Presider

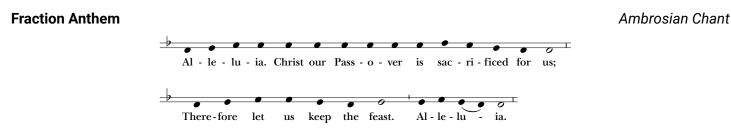
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

People My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

-St. Alphonsus Liguori

Music during the Spiritual Communion In the Bleak Midwinter Harold Darke (1888-1976) In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone: Snow had fallen, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day A breast full of milk and a manger full of hay. Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, The ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him – give my heart.

The people stand or kneel.

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

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 people kneel as the lights are dimmed.

Hymn sung by all

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The people remain kneeling for

Christmas 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 good 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.**

Stille Nacht

Mendelssohn



Dismissal

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. **People** Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Voluntary

Music reprinted by permission, OneLicence #A-706859

Serving this evening

Rector The Reverend Doyt L. Conn, Jr. Vicar The Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia Director of Music Zachary Hemenway Head Verger Diane Carlisle The Epiphany Choir Flowers Sandra Darling Lector Laura Rodde

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 Sweeny from Diana Bender, Louis Sweeny, 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

PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL BETWEEN DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 2

Rosalie Walker, James Senseney, Elizabeth Walker, Claire Anderson, Eleanor Anderson, Terry Carlisle, Laura Sargent, Jack Miller, Robert Farrell, Nancy Emerson, Meredith Lippman, Genevieve Potts, Margie Kates,

WE PRAY FOR THOSE ON THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Grace, Lopez Island Emmanuel, Eastsound St. David, Friday Harbor

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE ILL OR GRIEVING

Cheryl Morgan, Eileen Riley, Patty Chemnick, Marylyn Vincent, Alex Polson, Susan Pitchford, Caroline Houser, Atty Cleworth, Marj Baker, Olga Stewart, Chuck Osterlind, Linda Bender, Charlotte Williamson, Steve, Anne B., Jenny Terjeson, Michelle, Trish Stone, Giustin, Francesca, Jenny Cummins, Noelle, Jim Giger, Joan, Sarah, Priscilla Norling, Beth, Ken Roberts, Laura Muglia, John, Ben Burkhalter, Wayne Schuh, Rose Chimo, Michael Clarke, Kathy Yu, Jennifer Albanese, Janet Ketcham, Jean, Yanessa Arebalo, Martha Sampson, Pauline, Sally Clarke, Mark Little, Maggie Taylor, Malitha Ramiah, Wayne Gribble, Alice Foreman, Nabih Baaklini, George Vos, Randy Robinson

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Maria Ross

From time to time we edit this list. If a name was inadvertently removed, and you would like it to be re-added, or if you would like to add a name to the parish prayer list, please contact Diane Carlisle at **verger@epiphanyseattle.org.**

Are you or a loved one in need of some extra, tender loving care? Pastoral Care Ministries at Epiphany can reach out through a written prayer, a Eucharistic visit, a phone call, a greeting card, a bouquet of Epiphany flowers, a prayer shawl, and/or a meal delivered. Please contact *Robin Mondares rmondares@gmail.com* or The Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia *rgarcia@epiphanyseattle.org*.

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. The Rev. Ruth Anne García The Rev. Dr. Peter Strimer Jad Baaklini Diane Carlisle

Pam Demian Amanda Eap

Zachary Hemenway Gieth Phou Laura Rodde Laura Sargent Wyatt Smith

Linzi Stahlecker Naomi Woodrum

Kenzie Beard Sabrina Lee Anna Seng Kim Tran Rochelle Yuen

Margie Einstein

Thomas Foster

Ed Emerson

Bill Forbes

Doug Oles

Carole Terry

Volunteer Professionals

Rector Vicar Assisting Priest **Communications Minister** Director of Administration & Head Verger Senior Accountant Hospitality and Security Minister Director of Music Sexton Chief of Staff **Engagement Minister** Associate Director of Music & Music Academy Director Seminary Intern Director of Children and Youth Formation Children's Ministry Staff Children's Ministry Staff Children's Ministry Staff Children's Ministry Staff Children's Ministry Staff

Stewardship Coordinator Treasurer Buildings and Grounds Chancellor Director of Music Emeritus Artist-in-Residence in Music

Volunteer Ministry Leaders

Ann Beck Diana Bender Ben Bradstreet **Terry Carlisle** Sally Clarke Susannah Dhamdhere Sue Draper **Pieter Drummond** Mike Evans Karen Forbes Alice Foreman Michael Fraas Michael Glass Julie Hay Julie Moberly Robin Mondares Laurel Nesholm **Eileen Riley** Jonathan Roberts Mark Rossow Mike Simmons Trish Stone Mary Anne Ward

YWCA Cleanup & Teen Feed Discernment Minyan **Operation Nightwatch** Altar Guild Meals Ministry Book Study Meditation Service & Outreach Women of Epiphany Flower Ministry Visitation Ministry Yoga **Eucharistic Visiting** The Saint John's Bible Pastoral Care Art Guild Service & Outreach C. S. Lewis Minyan Camping Ministry Ushers All Threads Together Raise Your Voice

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.