



# CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 27

January 2023

## The Season of Epiphany



Epiphany is the day and the season of the church year when we patiently watch and listen as God is quietly revealed before us once again. Sometimes, even when we try hard to do so, we just don't see God in our everyday lives or in the events of our troubled world. Epiphany gives us the time and the resources to watch, wait, listen, look, anticipate, and discern the light, life, and truth of the Lord's presence in our midst.

Contemporary observances of Epiphany include the coming of the wise men with gifts for the Christ child and the baptism of Jesus. The season concludes with Transfiguration Sunday, when the church remembers the radiant vision of the disciples who saw Jesus' garments turn bright and they heard a voice from a cloud that overshadowed them saying, "This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!" (Mark 9:7).

Epiphany is the time when the church gathers to remember and reflect on the mighty acts

of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. As we watch and wait for the light of Christ to overcome the darkness, we see the Christ child who will become prophet, healer, teacher, and savior. Much of the story remains to be told, but the biblical readings for Epiphany remind us of the direction in which this one sacred life is moving. Here was life at its purest and best. Life lived as it should be lived. Life that came from God, walked with God in the world, and would one day be fully with God in the world to come (John 13:3). The life of Jesus is our light and model for how we too may live. As we recognize the image of our true humanity in the life of Jesus Christ, we also begin to understand that we have come from God, are invited to walk in faithfulness with God in this world, and one day will be welcomed to our eternal home. There we will still be with the God who loves us beyond our capacity to fully understand.

From [\*A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God\*](#) by Rueben P. Job, Norman Shawchuck and John S. Mogabgab. Copyright © 2013 by Upper Room Books. All rights reserved.



## Upcoming Events

**Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,** Sunday Service in-person and via Zoom

**Sunday, January 15, 10:30 a.m.,** Vestry

**Sunday, January 29, 10:30 a.m.,** Annual Parish Meeting

**Thursday, February 2,** Candlemas (see Christian Tradition below)

*(Zoom connection information at end of newsletter.)*

Annual Parish Meeting  
Sunday, January 29  
following the 9:00 service,  
in the Great Hall and on  
Zoom

## Clergy Schedule

**Jan. 1** - Rev. Andrew G. Osmun

**Jan. 8** - Rev. Martha Rogers

**Jan. 15** - Rev. Andrew G. Osmun

**Jan. 22** - Rev. Martha Rogers

**Jan. 29** - Rev. Andrew G. Osmun

## Vestry Meeting

**Next Meeting** - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, January 15th in the Library and via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

“Matthew loved the magi. He gave their story more square inches of text than he gave the narrative of the birth of Jesus. He never mentions the shepherds or the manger, but he didn’t want us to miss the star and the seekers. Its easy to see why. Their story is our story.” - Max Lucado

## Annual Parish Meeting

Don’t forget our annual parish meeting open to all on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall following the 9:00 a.m. service. The meeting will also be available via our Zoom link.

We strongly encourage everyone to attend to hear the year-end summary of our church’s status, participate in elections for next year, and approve the 2023 budget.

The Vestry meets the third Sunday each month after the 9:00 a.m. service and is comprised of four officers elected for one-year terms - Senior Warden (Worship), Junior Warden (Building & Grounds), Treasurer, and Clerk. And five at-large positions elected for three-year terms (with one or two coming off each year).

### Vestry slate for 2023:

- \* **Senior Warden** - George Coulombe
- \* **Junior Warden** - Barbara Parsons
- \* **Treasurer** - Susan Shultz
- \* **Clerk** - Gail Beck
- \* **At-Large** - Carol Link-Ude

\* **At-Large** (1 year remaining of *Richard Mead’s term*) - Diane Villano

(Nominations can also be made on the meeting floor.)

### Continuing Vestry:

Ray Clearwater, Audrey Sundwall, Astrid Swanson

## December Vestry Summary

**Building & Grounds** - Another circulator for the furnace was replaced. An energy audit from ECCT has been requested. The Food Pantry gave us some extra money to help with the heating costs.

**Finance** - A proposed budget for 2023 was presented. A final version for the Annual Meeting will be approved at the January Vestry meeting.

**Communications** - Diane Villano will be taking over as editor of the newsletter to give Susan a break for a bit.

**General** - The 2023 Vestry slate and Annual Meeting voting member list were approved.

## Encouraging Words Audrey Sundwall

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

*Matthew 2:11*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

*Matthew 2:1-2*

In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

*Psalms 72:7-8*

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus had also been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

*Luke 3:21-22*

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

*Matthew 7:7*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

*Isaiah 60:1*

For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

*Habakkuk 2:14*

## Farewell our brother, Richard Mead



Richard Mead, husband of Lynn and brother of Barbara Coulombe, died peacefully on December 7. Dick was a loving husband, dad, grandpa, friend, mentor and coach. He loved his family and spending time with them. He had a life-long passion for golf and loved being a mentor at First Tee of CT. At any given chance, he was making us laugh as anyone who met him would attest.

As with everything he did, Dick also gave of himself wholeheartedly in his spiritual life. He was a Senior Warden at almost every church he attended. Even at C&E, after only being with us a short time, he had already joined the Vestry and become a Lay Reader.

Our condolences to his family and may our prayers give all of us who knew him peace. Read his full obituary [here](#).

*“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”*  
- Corinthians 13:13

May Richard’s soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace+

## Christian Tradition Diane Villano

What is Candlemas? It is also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, or the Feast of the Holy Encounter. It is a Christian holiday that commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, based on the account in Luke 2:22-40, 33 days after the circumcision and falls on February 2.

*From Wikipedia -*

On Candlemas, many Christians bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year; for Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.



## Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT)

December 14, 2022  
Bishop’s Statement on 10<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Sandy Hook

10 years ago, today in Sandy Hook, CT, we stopped. Silence. A breath. Confusion. Tears. As the news came across the airwaves, slowly, piece by piece, the story came together, and we fell apart. So many emotions and the reality that no words made any sense.

And we knew we needed each other. We gathered in our community churches and prayed, wept, and held one

another as tightly as we could. Holding on. Holding tight.

Twenty-six lives taken by gun violence: 20 children and 6 educators, looking forward to the holidays and vacations, killed in an elementary school grounded in love, safety, and hope.

As then, we continue to offer prayers for those who died, their family members, friends, and community. We pray they will feel the Lord’s love and comfort holding them and offering God’s peace.

And we pray for ourselves; that we will continue to hold onto what we knew that day - we need one another, and we need our communities. Relationships matter, and we need to share the truth of God’s love with one another every day, not missing the opportunity to say I love you and thank you and you matter.

And we pray that God will give us the strength and courage to continue to be about the work of addressing gun violence in our communities and in this county; to commit ourselves to the work of changing our culture which settles too easily into violence and disregard for the other.

We have so much work to do. And we do it together and we do it with God’s love and courage holding us and calling us forward.

Silence, A breath, Confusion, Tears. Action. Let us be about the action of sharing God’s love and seeking to do so with boldness and joy; proclaiming in word and action the grace

filled message of hope to each other, our communities, and the world.

Yours in Christ,  
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello,  
Bishop Diocesan  
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens,  
Bishop Suffragan



Pathways for Baptismal Living is excited to announce the course schedule for January-June of 2023.

<https://www.bexleyseabury.edu/pathways/>

Once registered, you will join a learning community for 4-8 weeks, depending on the course. Together you will engage 3-4 hours/week of reading, watching videos, and interacting with peers and your instructor in online text-based discussions that you can schedule to do when you want (asynchronous) each week as well as through live conversations via Zoom (synchronous).

## A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our

search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



January 25 - Judy Herzman



Are we missing your birthday or wedding anniversary dates? Please call the church office or email [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com). We'd love to celebrate the important milestones in your life!

## Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bohdan & Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, Coulombe and Mead Families, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Dick, Ed, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, Jay

Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, Joyce Aurelius, Leah S., Lee Hubbard, Linda Lonardo, Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Mike, Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Sallie Alexander, Stanley Rogalski, Susan, Susan Diaz, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

## Next issue

The deadline for the February issue is **January 17**. Submissions can be sent to [newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com). For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com)



## Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	NOV	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$5,918.10	(\$3,762.90)	\$88,397.34	(\$612.16)
EXPENSES	\$6,240.34	(\$1,089.16)	\$97,056.94	\$5,720.44
NET	(\$322.24)	(\$2,673.74)	(\$8,659.60)	(\$6,332.60)

Notes: Pledges are on track for the year. On the expense side, we have had unbudgeted expensive furnace repairs (and more to come). I am currently estimating that we will end the year with around a \$10,000 to \$12,000 deficit. Which we can take from our savings but we shouldn't plan to run this way for too long. Come to the Annual Meeting to see our final numbers and the budget for 2023.

## Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m.)

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Presider Officiant	Andrew Osmun	Martha Rogers	Andrew Osmun	Martha Rogers	Andrew Osmun
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall
Lay Reader	Pat Walters	Judy Herzman	Terry Osmun	Audrey Sundwall	Gail Beck
Usher	Wendy Bellmore	Audrey Sundwall	Astrid Swanson	Barbara Parsons	Diane Villano
Lead Counter	Pat Walters	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz	George Coulombe
Assistant Counter	Audrey Sundwall	Fred Bowden	Barbara Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	Melanie Miller

## Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9933030663?pwd=VnU2RjAxZDg0WWcvbVA4RHdOd3ZUUT09>

To join by phone call:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID = 763 909 4733

Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin please contact Diane in the office at 203-467-2310 or [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or [sbshultz@gmail.com](mailto:sbshultz@gmail.com).

# **Christ and The Epiphany Church**

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## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship  
*In-person with social distancing and optional masking*

*(See the newsletter, our website, or Facebook page for  
Zoom connection information details.)*