

The Fourth Sunday *after* Pentecost

Proper 7



Our Mission: *“We welcome all for Christian worship, fellowship, and service, trusting God to transform our lives and the world.”*

*** June 25, 2023 ~ 10 a.m.***

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY!

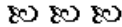
WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY!
“Welcome the stranger as Christ” ~*St. Benedict* Please fill out a welcome card on the entrance hall table if you are visiting with us today. Give it to an usher so we may add you to our newsletter and stay in touch.

Please join us again as we encounter the Living God every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the celebration of Eucharist and fellowship with one another.

Some helpful notes on worship at Epiphany:

- ❖ We welcome children in our worship. Generally, they are happier and quieter if they sit near the front and can watch the rituals and see faces. If your child needs more “wobble room” please feel free to stand or walk in the back. If they need a break, diaper change or feeding, you may wish to continue worship down the hall in the Parish Hall which is equipped with audio; please return for Communion or as soon as you’re able. We hope you will experience God’s own welcome in this place.
- ❖ Text written in **bold** in this bulletin is to be spoken by all. The ✠, when printed here, indicates an appropriate time to sign yourself with the cross.
- ❖ Hymns are found in the **blue hymnals** underneath the seat in front of you. “WLP” indicates hymns in the **green, paperback hymnals**.

Today while Rev'd Jen is away on vacation, we will celebrate the tradition of Morning Prayer found in Book of Common Prayer. Our thanks to Phil Campbell for leading our prayers this morning. Blessings and gratitude to Kay Standifer as she marks her last Sunday as our Interim Music Director while Mary Therese has been on sabbatical.



PRELUDE

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

All stand.

Hymn 8

Morning Has Broken

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Officiant I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
O Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

JUBILATE (*Psalms 100*)

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

READING: Genesis 21: 8-21

The child grew and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 86: 1-10, 16-17

Said responsively between reader and congregation.

Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, *

for I am poor and in misery.

Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *

save your servant who puts his trust in you.

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; *

I call upon you all the day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant, *

for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, *

and great is your love toward all who call upon you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, *

and attend to the voice of my supplications.

In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *

for you will answer me.

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, *

nor anything like your works.

All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, *

and glorify your Name.

For you are great; you do wondrous things; *

and you alone are God.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *

give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a sign of your favor,

so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *

because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

All stand and sing.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Open the Eyes of My Heart

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you, I want to see you.** (*repeat x2*)

**To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love as we sing
“Holy, holy, holy;”** (*sing line x4*)
I want to see you.

All stand for the Holy Gospel

READING FROM THE GOSPEL: Matthew 10: 24-34

Phil Campbell

Officiant A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

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

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Officiant The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

SERMON REFLECTION: “Transformed by the dog I never wanted”

by Brian Bantum, in *The Christian Century* magazine, June 2023

Read by Phil Campbell

Today’s reflection does not directly address the lectionary’s scheduled Scripture readings. However, it is a meaningful meditation on God’s often-surprising presence in ordinary life. The author repeats the question over and over, “Why does a life with God matter?” Turns out, his bernedoodle pandemic puppy has a lot to teach him, and us, about the answer. The author, Brian Bantum, is a professor of theology at Garrett- Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago.

APOSTLES CREED

Please stand.

This statement of faith is more commonly used at Morning Prayer.

The Nicene Creed is generally reserved for Holy Eucharist.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form VI

Reader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Nicholas our Bishop, and Jennifer our Rector;
and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence - The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence - The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, remembering especially George Tarpey in whose memory a donation has been made to Epiphany; that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence - The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The congregation may kneel or remain standing for the confession.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown, things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

In the absence of clergy, a lay person may lead the congregation in a joint prayer for absolution.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us,

People **forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

strengthen us in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

If kneeling, all should stand.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now, let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

**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.**

PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another. Then you may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week our community is praying for:

*Mike, Manny, William, Ron, Bethany, Amy, Stephanie, Zach, Jenn, Beth, J,
Jeff, Gary, Margaret, Mark, Sully, Lisa, Alison, Geri, Arthur, & Vicky.*

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If you have a particular need for which you'd like to request prayers from the Healing Prayer Team, please email Carol ([marstarich@gmail.com](mailto:marstarich@gmail.com)) or Denise ([dmessier14@gmail.com](mailto:dmessier14@gmail.com))

OFFERTORY HYMN

*Officiant* Let us with joyful hearts present the first fruits of our life and labor to our God.

Hymn 377

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

**\*\*The offering will be taken during the hymn today.**

**We are grateful for your generosity in support of the ministries of Epiphany.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Prayer of St. Chrysostom*)

*Please stand as the collection is presented by the ushers and placed on the altar.*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have 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, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

*Officiant* Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

CLOSING HYMN & RECESSIONAL

Hymn 657

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

DISMISSAL

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



### Liturgical ministers at 10 a.m.

Altar Server & Crucifer  
Reading & Psalm  
Prayers of the People  
Usher  
Coffee Hour Hosts  
Counters  
Vestry Host  
Mowing Team  
Thrift Shop

Rhoda Bucci  
Richard Marsland  
Bill Dench  
John Eastwood  
Beth & Bill Dench  
Dawn Campbell & Theresa Mello  
Erin McNeill  
Phil Campbell & Bill Dench (6/24)  
Michelle Callahan & Barbara Plante (6/24)



*Today a donation has been made to Epiphany in loving memory of George Tarpey.*



### - NEXT Sunday, July 2

Join us in the labyrinth garden for Sunday Holy Eucharist worship outside during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend. We'll have summer refreshments outside after the service. Bring a folding chair of your choice and perhaps a hat or small umbrella. There will be some shade in only a part of the garden. (Chairs and benches will be provided for seating if you do not have a folding chair. In case of rain, worship will return to the sanctuary).

### Summer Outreach Project: Supply Books to Young Children -

The Free Lunch Program at the East Providence Summer Camp at Pierce Field is looking for any new or gently used books for campers ages 6-12 yrs old. Beginning reader books up to young adult chapter books are welcome! Beginning June 3 through August 10, bring them to church and deposit them in the basket in the back

designated for this outreach. If you are interested in volunteering to hand out books or if you have questions, please see Maggie Holmes, or email [magholm@aol.com](mailto:magholm@aol.com).

(In addition, Maggie gives away books at Amos House throughout the year and is always looking for nonfiction books, especially religious books and bibles, books in Spanish, and popar authors such as James Patterson. These are given out at the free lunch on Saturdays.)



**Community Coffee Hours** – Please remember to bring a snack to share at coffee hour now and again. Our hosts prepare and serve the coffee and drinks, but we ALL share in offering the food. Interested in becoming a Host? Contact Julie Trudeau; (774) 526-4662; [cjpls@hotmail.com](mailto:cjpls@hotmail.com), she'll be happy to give you more info and add you to the schedule.



## Food Pantry Seeks Items not included with SNAP benefits

You are invited to donate:

**Paper products** (ie: tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, dinner napkins)

**Soap:** hand & dish

**Personal items:** Feminine hygiene, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, shampoo, brushes/combs

**Vitamins and medicines:** Tylenol, baby aspirin, daily multivitamins

**Pet Food:** Dog & Cat

*Collection boxes will be in the Parish Hall throughout July – thank you!*

### **This week we Celebrate...**

#### **... the June Birthdays of:**

26- Gretchen Gammons, Janice Johnson

28- Barbara McGrath (97 in '23!)

4 Prudence Lane  
Warren, RI 02885

30- Ned Gammons

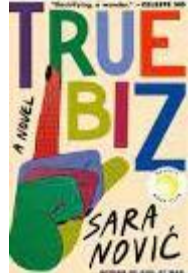
#### **...the Anniversary of:**

26-Gretchen & Ned Gammons

### ***True Biz* by Sara Novic, Pot Luck/Book Discussion**

**Wednesday, July 5 @ 6 p.m.**

We will be having our pot luck and book discussion of *True Biz* on July 5. If you got the book from somewhere other than me, please let me know so that you can be included in our pot luck. I will be contacting people the week before about what to bring. Please begin arriving at 5:30 so that we can start eating at 6 with the discussion to follow. Donna Lancaster, 726-1757



### **Vestry Leadership**

*Warden* Linda Mendonca *Treasurer* Kristen Dee

*Clerk* Karen Virtue

*Vestry Members* Erin McNeill, Jaime Davin, Karen Virtue

### **Staff**

*Parish Administrator* Beth Dench

*Interim Music Director* Kay Standifer

*Rector* The Rev'd Jennifer Zogg, [revjen@epiphanyep.org](mailto:revjen@epiphanyep.org)

✦ Church of the Epiphany

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### **Ministers**

The People of Church of the Epiphany