



The Anchor Line

The newsletter of
Grace Episcopal Church

January 2025

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Inside this Issue

Pg. 1 A word from Father Justin

Pg. 2 Father Justin Continued

Pg. 3 Volunteers needed

Pg. 4 Announcements

Pg. 5 Church News

Pg. 6 Lay Ministry Schedule,

A word from the Vestry

Pg. 7 Birthdays, Editor news

A Word from Father Justin

The Season of Epiphany



In the Episcopal Church, the season of **Epiphany** begins on **January 6**, following the twelve days of Christmas, and continues until **Ash Wednesday**, marking the start of Lent. It is a time of celebration and reflection on the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world, particularly to the Gentiles, as symbolized by the visit of the Magi.

There are four key themes of the season: 1. **The Manifestation of Christ:** Epiphany emphasizes Jesus as the light of the world, revealed to all people, not just to Israel. This is highlighted through the readings and themes of the season. 2. **The Visit of the Magi:** January 6 specifically commemorates the Magi's journey to Bethlehem, symbolizing Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles. 3. **Jesus' Baptism:** The first Sunday after Epiphany focuses on Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, where the Holy Spirit descended upon him and God proclaimed him as His beloved Son. 4. **Christ's Ministry and Miracles:** The Sundays following Epiphany explore stories of Jesus' early ministry, including the Wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and other events where his divinity and mission were revealed.

The **Theological Significance** of the season of Epiphany is a time for reflecting on the universal nature of Christ's mission and the call for Christians to spread his light to the world. It emphasizes mission, outreach, and the transformative power of Christ's presence in both personal and communal life. Each week reveals a different aspect of Jesus' divinity and his purpose on Earth. Themes include: **Light in Darkness:** Jesus as the light overcoming spiritual darkness, inviting the church to reflect on its role in sharing that light. **Inclusivity and Mission:** The Magi symbolize the Gentiles, showing that salvation is for all people, not just Israel. **Baptismal Renewal:** The celebration of Jesus' baptism inspires Christians to remember their own baptismal covenant.

There are three main points that I would like to focus on, as we move in this new season.

1. **The Feast of the Epiphany** (January 6): This marks the beginning of the season and commemorates the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). Churches often include a procession symbolizing the journey of the wise men. The story highlights Jesus being revealed as the Savior to the Gentiles, emphasizing the universality of his mission.

2. **The Baptism of Our Lord** (First Sunday after Epiphany): Celebrates Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:4-11, or Luke 3:15-17, 21-22).

The day affirms Jesus as the Son of God and often inspires reflection on the meaning of baptism and renewal of baptis-

Continued on pg.2

A Word from Father Justin, Continued

mal vows.

3. Blessing of Chalk and Home Blessings: A longstanding tradition in some Episcopal parishes is the blessing of chalk. Congregants take the chalk home to inscribe a blessing above their doorways, such as “20+C+M+B+24” (for the year and the traditional initials of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Scripture Readings for the Season:

The Revised Common Lectionary guides the readings for Sundays during Epiphany. Below are key readings that may appear during this time:

1. The Visit of the Magi (Epiphany Day):

- Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-6 — “Arise, shine; for your light has come.”
- Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12 — Paul speaks of the mystery of Christ being revealed to the Gentiles.
- Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 — The Magi follow the star to Jesus.

2. The Baptism of Our Lord (First Sunday):

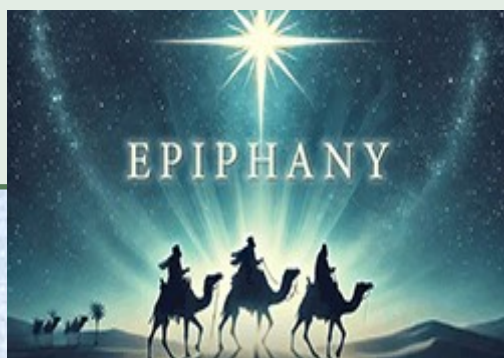
- Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1-9 — The servant of the Lord is alight to the nations.
- Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:4-11, or Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 — The baptism of Jesus and God’s proclamation.

3. Other Sundays in Epiphany:

- The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11): Jesus’ first miracle, revealing his glory.
- Calling of the Disciples (John 1:43-51, Mark 1:14-20): Jesus gathers followers to begin his ministry

Fr. Justin+

918-704-1665



Dear God, at the start of this new year, and the Epiphany season, shine your light on my path. Amen.



In the First Light Song by GLAD

In the first light of a new day
No one knew He had arrived
Things continued as they had been
While a new born softly cried.
But the heavens wrapped in wonder
Knew the meaning of His birth
In the weakness of a baby
They knew God had come to earth.
As His mother held him closely,
It was hard to understand
That this baby not yet speaking
Was the Word of God to man.
He would tell them of His kingdom,
But their hearts would not believe
They would hate Him and in anger
They would nail Him to a tree.
But the sadness would be broken
As the song of life arose
And the First born of creation
Would ascend and take his throne.
He had left it to redeem us,
But before His life began
He knew He'd come back not as a baby
But as The Lord of ev'ry man.
Hear the angels as they're singing
On the morning of His birth
But how much greater will our song be
When He comes again to earth
When He comes again
Hear the angels as they're singing
On the morning of His birth
But how much greater will our song be
When He comes again to Earth
When He comes to rule the Earth!
When He comes back,
When He comes back
To rule the Earth!

Christmas Eve Worship 2024



Host and Hostesses are needed for

Coffee and refreshments after worship each Sunday.

Please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall for the Sunday you would like to host.

Host is responsible for providing refreshments and making coffee.

Cleaning up afterwards, take out the garbage, make sure the coffee pot is off and doors are locked.

Volunteers Needed

Chalice Bearer- Training provided

Lectors

Greeters

Women's Group Leader

Contact any vestry member or
Fr. Justin to volunteer.

VOLUNTEER



ANNOUNCEMENT



Sunday Worship

Please join us for Sunday worship
at 9:00am

Coffee Hour after Sunday Worship

Grace Episcopal Church warmly invites its members and friends to come together in Fellowship after Sunday Worship, where the aroma of coffee and delicious treats mingles with the sound of joyful conversations, fostering a deep sense of community and belonging.

Hosts are needed, please sign-up in the fellowship hall.



Grace & St Thomas Men's Luncheon

When: Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at noon

Where: Wicked Wheel or other location as announced

No reservation required

Wednesday night Worship and Supper- January 15th

When: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:45 pm

On the third Wednesday of each month, we gather at 5:45 PM for a meaningful Worship service featuring Holy Communion, followed by a delightful Potluck supper where everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share, enriching our fellowship with diverse flavors and stories. If you wish, bring an adult beverage of your choice

Enjoy the worship service and fellowship



Dinner with Friends

Kim Jacobson is organizing gatherings of Grace folks to go out to eat, Dutch treat. Another get together will be planned soon. We would love for you to attend. Everyone is invited. If you might be interested please let Kim or Dean Beckman know so you can be included in the email invite list!

Kim Jacobson-763-370-3122 or email: kimsue-j63@gmail.com

Dean Beckman-email: Gussie1223@msn.com

CHURCH NEWS

Winter Card Groups

Grace has two different groups playing cards in our fellowship hall during the week.

Everyone is invited to come out and join in.

Donna's card group meets Mon. and Wed. at 10:30am

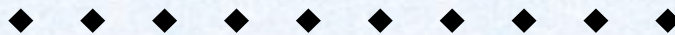
The Snowbird Card group meets Thurs. from 1-3



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off a toy or dog treat for our designated Christmas recipients! Your generosity is so appreciated!

Stuff the Bus and Lucky Puppy Rescue were very appreciative!



Calling all Women!!!

The first outing for 2025 has been planned.

We will meet for lunch on Monday, January 13, at 1:00pm at J. Michaels.

Kim will plan a topic of the day and then we will take volunteers to plan subsequent meetings. Can't wait to see as many of you as possible.



*"Cease to inquire what the future has in store
and take as a gift whatever the day brings
forth."*

—Horace (1st century B.C.)

A Word from your Vestry

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all our Grace Worshippers,

As we begin a new year at Grace let us all pray for continued gifts from God and healing for all our parishioners that are in need of his healing touch.

Let us not forget those who are in need of spiritual support due to loss of family and friends and even earthly needs. Let us reach out to all those and lift them up in prayer or any other way needed.

We at the Vestry look forward to an exciting year and hope that you each will travel on this road of fellowship together with all of us.

We welcome Tyler McPherson as our new member on the Vestry and know he will be a great addition.

Thanks to Jack Friou and Pam Tancredi for your service to Grace and the Vestry.

We will miss you!

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January-Lay Ministry Schedule

January 5th 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Lector: Kelly Hodges

Crucifer: Katie Hodges

Chalice Bearer: Jack Friou

Greeter: Babette Harrell

Counter: Fred Pope

January 12th First Sunday after Epiphany

Lector: Les Brackett

Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Sam Richardson

Greeter: Dean Beckman

Counter: Sam Richardson

January 15th Wednesday Service

Lector: Nancy Beckman

Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Jack Friou

January 19th Second Sunday after Epiphany

Lector: Carol Adams

Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Carl Walters

Greeter: Deb Gray

Counter: Carl Walters

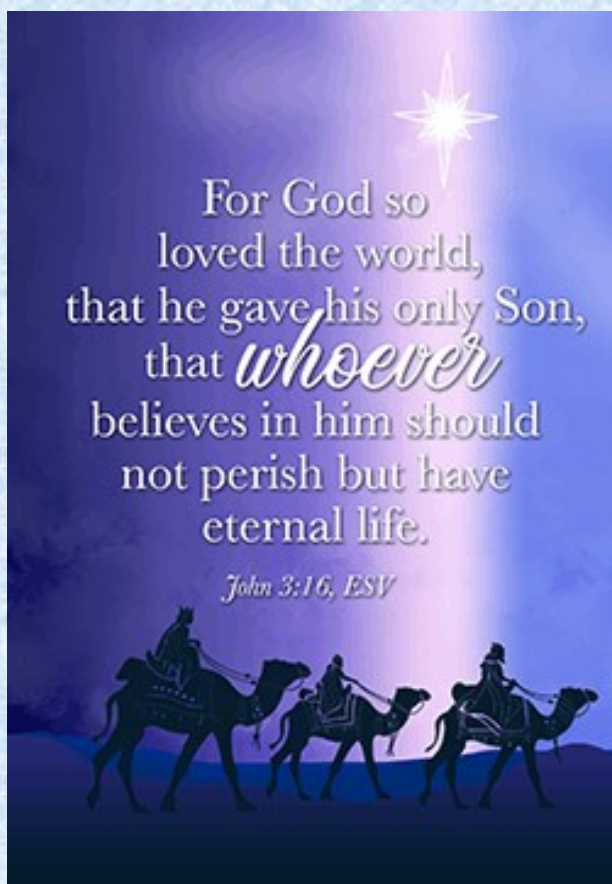
January 26th Third Sunday after Epiphany

Lector: Jamie Shepard

Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Sam Richardson

Greeter: Donna Heim

Counter: Sam Richardson



A Word from the Editor

Announcements for the newsletter need to be emailed to Liz Creswell secretary@gracespirit.org by the 20th of each month.



January Birthdays

01/04-Michael Hodges
01/13-Scott Helms
01/15-Kim Jacobson
01/29-Lindsay Walters
01/30-Sam Richardson

If your birthday or anniversary are missing from the list please email that information to secretary@gracespirit.org

"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

—Joseph Campbell

New Year's blessing



The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

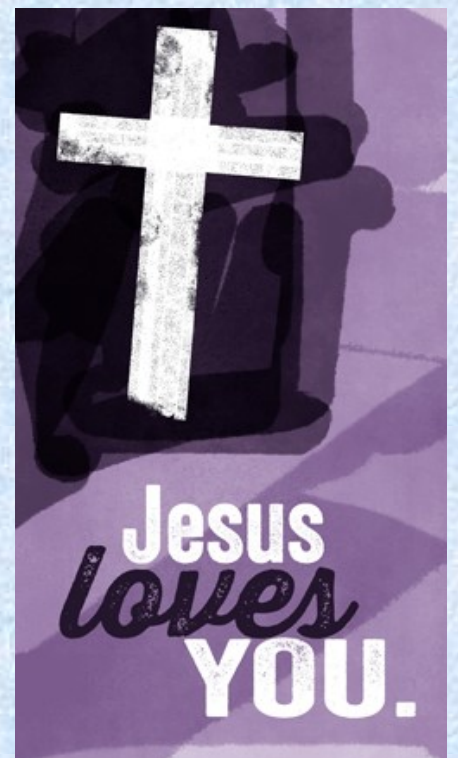
May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.
May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with
you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net



Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther⁷