

The St. Barnabas' Epiphany Pageant
with Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 12, 2025 - 10:15 a.m.

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church
*Serving our community, the world, and each other
through the love of Jesus Christ.*

Welcome! We are a diverse community committed to carrying out Christ's mission in the world around us, strengthened, nurtured, and guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Some of us were born into the Episcopal Church, some of us were received into it as adults, and some of us are discovering it for the first time. We come from various occupations, family configurations, educational backgrounds, interests, and talents. We have found hospitality here, and invite you to join us.

Our religious tradition is best known for the beauty of its Anglican music and liturgy. Contemporary issues are tested by the standards of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. The conscience of the individual is highly respected, and corporate worship is the means by which Christ shapes our moral values, nurtures and guides our spiritual formation, shapes the character and community of the faithful, and equips us for mission and ministry. If you are not currently active in another congregation, please accept this invitation to worship with us, and to make our church your own.

The First Sunday after the Epiphany January 12, 2025

10:15 a.m. Epiphany Pageant and Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

The Collect for Epiphany

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

LEVAS 24

There's a star in the east

Negro Spiritual

Epiphany Pageant Liturgy of the Word

Let us hear the Story of God's Redeeming Grace, a scriptural retelling of the story of the Incarnation, as presented by St. Barnabas'.

OPENING SCENE

Narrator: In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light day and the darkness He called night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. (Genesis 1:1-3)

As the days of earth increased, God, the creator, spoke through his prophets, declaring his plans for the world and the people he loved.

Prophet: The Lord said to the prophet Isaiah: Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. (Isaiah 65:17)

Prophet: And Jeremiah said: Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch. And he shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 23:5, 6)

Prophet: And again from Isaiah: Hear now, O house of David! The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:13-14)

SCENE 2

Narrator: In the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to the city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to marry a man whose name was Joseph, and who was of the house and lineage of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Gabriel: Hail, O favored one! The Lord is with you.

Narrator: Mary was greatly troubled by his words and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Mary: How shall this be, for I have no husband?

Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overpower you, so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth has conceived a child in her old age; she who everyone thought was barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible for God.

Mary: Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord. May everything happen according to your words.

SCENE 3

Narrator: The angel departed from her and she hurried off to the hill country of Judea to bring Elizabeth the great tidings. As had been told, Elizabeth had indeed conceived, and when she heard Mary's greeting, the child within her leapt with joy and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Loudly she proclaimed, "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Mary answered, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For He has been mindful of the humble state of his handmaiden. From now on, all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is His Name!" (Luke 1:46-49)

Now when Joseph, to whom Mary was betrothed, found out that she was pregnant, he was tempted to go and privately break their contract, for he was a just man. But while he was considering this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream saying: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child she has conceived is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus, and he will save the people from their sins. This has been done to fulfill the words of the prophet Isaiah."

Joseph: I will do as the Lord requires of me. Mary will be my wife.

Prophet: The prophet Micah proclaimed: Oh you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are small among the cities of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. (Micah 5:2)

Hymn 114 vs. 1 (no refrain) *Tw'as in the moon of wintertime* (congregation)

Une jeune pucelle

SCENE 4

Narrator: It came to pass that in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled, and everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph went up from Nazareth, to Bethlehem, the city of David, because he belonged to the house and lineage of David. He went with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was great with child.

Narrator: And while they were there the time came for Mary to deliver, so Joseph sought refuge for them in the crowded city.

Joseph: My wife is very close to delivering a baby. Do you have a place for us?

Innkeeper: I'm sorry. We have no more room. But there is the stable, where at least you will have shelter.

Joseph: Thank you. That will do. Come, let's hurry!

Narrator: And so Mary brought forth her first born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

SCENE 5

Prophet: Hear the Lord's words to Jeremiah: Nations, listen to me and proclaim my words on the far-off shores. I scattered my people, but I will gather them and guard them as a shepherd guards his flock. (Jeremiah 31:10)

Prophet: And the prophet Ezekiel echoed: Now you shepherds, listen to what I, the Lord, am telling you! (Ezekiel 34: 7)

Narrator: There were in the same country shepherds watching over their flocks by night. The Angel of the Lord came down, and the glory shone around them. They were sorely afraid, so the Angel said to them:

Chief Angel: Be not afraid. I bring you tidings of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the city of David is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign unto you: you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

All Angels: Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth, good will to all people!

Narrator: When the Angels left them, the shepherds arose and said to one another:

Shepherds: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing the angels have said has happened and that God has made known to us.

Narrator: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby who was lying in the manger just as the Angels had foretold.

Prophet: The prophet Isaiah said: Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. The mind of the rash will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear. (Isaiah 32: 3, 4)

Narrator: The shepherds returned from the stable glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen just as it had been told to them concerning the child. All who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

SCENE 6

Star: The Lord said: There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a comet shall rise out of Israel. (Numbers 24:17)

Prophet: And also: The desert tribes will bow before him; the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him. All kings will bow to him and all nations will see him. He will be given the gold of Sheba. His name will endure forever, and all nations will call him blessed. (Psalm 72)

Narrator: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Herod was king of Judea. Three wisemen from the east came to him and asked:

Wiseman 1: Where is he who is born King of the Jews?

Wiseman 2: We have seen his star rising before us as we traveled.

Wiseman 3: We have come to worship him, with gifts from our lands.

Herod: Ah, yes, let me consult with my advisors. Where is this child that they talk about?

Advisor: According to the prophecies, the ruler of Israel is to be born in the town of Bethlehem.

Herod: I have been told the child should be in Bethlehem. Go, seek him. When you have found him, come and tell me, that I too, may go and worship him.

Hymn 128, vs. 1 *We three kings* (congregation)

Three Kings of Orient

SCENE 7

Narrator: The wise men departed and continued to follow the star which had led them from the east. It stopped over the place where the child lay, swaddled in a manger. When the wise men saw the child with his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Prophet: As the prophet Isaiah foretold: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

Prophet: For unto us a child is born to us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Prophet: He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9: 7)

Word Made Flesh

A Reflection by Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

*The Word became flesh and stayed with us;
and we have seen the Word's glory,
favored and beloved as an only child,
overflowing with grace, shining with truth.*

John 1.14

The Beloved walks among us.
The miracle is not on one holy night,
but in every created thing:
your Word takes on substance,
your love is embodied,
not a sentiment but an act,
not a wish but a creation,
your living child, begotten of love,
actual and real and forceful
and dwelling with us.
Every living being is holy.
This world brims with your goodness.
The Beloved walks among us.
Glory to you, O God,
and peace on earth.

Hymn 111 vs. 1 *Silent Night* (congregation)

Stille Nacht

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.**

Prayers of the People

Presider or deacon

As we join the angels and shepherds and celebrate with joy the Epiphany of the Son of God, let us offer prayers to God who gives new birth to sons and daughters and siblings in every time and place.

Deacon or other leader

For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God.
For Mark, our bishop, and for all bishops, presbyters, and deacons.
For all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

O God of love and glory,
Be known among us.

For the peace of Jerusalem and the Holy Land;
For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.
For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.
For justice, peace, and freedom among the peoples of the earth.

O God of love and glory,
Be known among us.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those who suffer for the sake of conscience, and for those in prison.
For the dying and the dead, and for all who mourn;
For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

O God of love and glory,
Be known among us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Presider

Illumine our hearts with the light of your glory, O God, and fill us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be witnesses to your incarnation, and ministers of your freedom and saving peace. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Prayers for Birthdays & Anniversaries

All those with Birthdays and Anniversaries this week are invited to be recognized.

Watch over your *child/children* [____], O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when they stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants [____ and ____ etc], that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

The Three Drovers

William G. James

Hymn 115 v. 3

What child is this

Greensleeves

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us
Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat,
this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing,
gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup
is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross,
the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's
coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has
formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the
Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a
people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the
fullness of time gather us with blessed Mary, blessed Elizabeth, blessed Barnabas, and all your
people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship
you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.
Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-154

Christ our Passover

David Hurd

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

WLP 831

Ubi Caritas

Taizé

Hymn 112

In the bleak midwinter

Cranham

Celebrant and People, standing

**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 Epiphany Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Christ at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Inspirer, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 135

Songs of thankfulness and praise

Salsburg

Dismissal

Postlude

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Thank You for Your 2025 Stewardship Pledge

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who have pledged to the 2025 Stewardship Drive. Your generous contributions are vital in supporting the many ministries and programs that sustain our parish community. Together, we can continue to grow in faith and service throughout the coming year.

A special thank you to the following parishioners for their pledges:

Hugh Agnew & Nancy MacLachlan
Cesar & Lydia Arana
Behn Ayala
Bonnie & Gil Baldwin
Jonathan Barber & Anne Radway
Deborah & Sam Batten
Joy Borkholder & Rich Stolz
The Bolin-Shellito Family
Maria & Wayne Bottlick
Charles & Cricket Camp
Philip & Patricia Church
Crutch & Beth Crutchley
Michael & Simone Dugger
Sue & Robin Erskine
Betty Jo Fortune
Sheena Friend & Aaron Elliot
Janet George
Diana & Tim Greer
Connie & Bob Gribbin
Art & Linda Hamerschlag
Elizabeth Harper
Linda Hartman
Ed Ing
Gertrude Jones
Sharon Jones
The Kennedy Family
Jocelyn Leatherwood



Leonard LeRoy
Joy Lyles
Bob & Maria Macfarlane
Blair MacKenzie
Joshua Matadial
Cindy McLaughlin
Theresa Merchant
Jack & Barbara Miller
Camille & Ken Mittelholtz
Helen Mosher
Shirley Newman
Molly Newling
Eileen & Ron Parlow
Mark Patterson & Trisha Serven
Luke & Laura Strange
Keith & Nancy Peyton
Desiree Rampersaud
Norma Ricketts
The Riddle Family
Grace Jones Robbins
Kathleen Schaefer
Kathleen & Larry Stark
Rachada Weiland
John & Katie Westerlund
Dave Wright
Mary Yeaman.

Thank you for being a part of this important work!

Participants in the services today are:

10:15 a.m.

Vestry Leader/Closer	Katie Westerlund
Acolytes	TBD
Pageant	Children and Youth of St. Barnabas'
Chalicer	Cindy McLaughlin, Mark Patterson
Usher	Art Hamerschlag
Coffee Hour Hosts	Maria Bottlick
Counters	Art Hamerschlag, Ken Mittelholtz
Altar Guild	Mary Yeaman, Sheena Friend, Betty Jo Fortune

Participants in the services on January 19 are:

8:00 a.m.

Vestry Leader/Closer	Sam Batten
Acolyte	TBD
Lector	Mark Patterson
Chalicer	Cindy McLaughlin
Opener	Mark Patterson

10:15 a.m.

Acolytes	TBD
Lectors	Ellen Riddle, Michael Dugger
Chalicer	Ellen Riddle, Michael Dugger
Usher	Tim Greer
Coffee Hour Hosts	Theresa Merchant
Counters	Linda Hartman, Norma Ricketts
Altar Guild	Jocelyn Leatherwood, Kristen Anderson, Betty Jo Fortune

Land Acknowledgement

We remember and honor the Indigenous people of the world, especially the Piscataway Conoy Nation, whose land we now occupy in this region that was once their home, and that was taken from them. We give thanks for them and their care for this land. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us; rather, we are charged with stewardship of the Earth, and are all members of our Creator's family. We ask God to help us learn from our past mistakes and be instruments of justice and peace for all people, particularly the original Indigenous inhabitants.