



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
3695 Rogers Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043 410-465-2273
church@stpetersec.org
The Venerable Denise Schiavone: Deacon
Tom Hesson: Music Director
Kathy Scherer: Organist

The Epiphany

January 6, 2026

Holy Eucharist — 7:00 PM

Welcome to St. Peter's. We are glad you are here!

Our worship is influenced by some of the most ancient patterns of liturgy from the earliest centuries of the Church: Scripture reading, hymn singing, prayers, chanting, incense, and communion. We use the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and the 1982 Hymnal (Hymnal) which are both included in the pew, and this leaflet includes instructions and explanations to help guide your participation in today's liturgy.

If you have any questions, please ask one of our ushers or any of our members who will be glad to help.

Children are always welcome in worship, exactly as they are! There is a designated "pray-ground" about 2/3 of the way back to allow a space for younger children.

Connect with **StPetersEC** on: Facebook, Instagram, or X (formerly Twitter)

***Please be mindful of those who prefer to observe quiet, reflective prayer before the service begins as the candles are lit.

The Word of God

Prelude

All Glory Be to God on High

Walther

At the sound of the bell, the congregation stands as able for the processional hymn:

Opening Hymn

We Three Kings

Hymnal 128

(THREE KINGS OF ORIENT)

The people standing, the Celebrant sings

The Celebrant then says

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

1. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

2. We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks

to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly King,

God the Father Al-might - y. 4. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,

5. that taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy up - on us.

6. Thou that taketh away the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

7. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mercy up - on us.

8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. Thou only, O Christ,

with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

The Celebrant then continues

Collect of the Day

(This is a prayer appointed for each day that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season in the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the readings for the day.)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.***

First Reading (please be seated)

Isaiah 60:1-6

(This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred.)

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

For darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

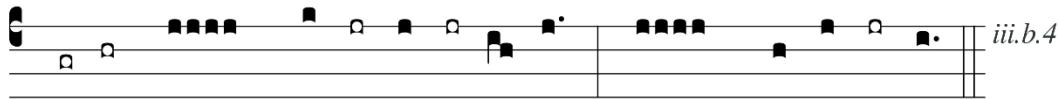
After each reading, the Lector says "The Word of the Lord" and the People respond: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

(The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. You are welcome to either join in chanting this psalm or prayerfully listen.)

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Deus, judicium



- 1 GIVE THE King your *jus-tice*, O God, *
and your righteousness to *the King's son*;
- 2 That he may rule your *peo-ple*^right-eous-ly *
and the poor *with jus-tice*.
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity *to the peo-ple*, *
and the little hills *bring right^eous-ness*.
- 4 He shall defend the needy *a-mong* the peo-ple; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the *op-pres-sor*.
- 5 He shall live as long as the *sun* and^*moon* en-dure, *
from one generation to *an-oth-er*.
- 6 He shall come down like rain *up-on* the mown field, *
like showers that *wa-ter* the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the *right-eous* flour-ish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall *be* no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the *isles* shall^*pay trib-ute*, *
and the kings of Arabia and *Sa-ba* of^*fer gifts*.
- 11 All kings shall bow *down* be-fore him, *
and all the nations do *him serv-ice*.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries *out* in dis-tress, *
and the oppressed who has *no help-er*.
- 13 He shall have pity on the *low-ly* and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of *the need-y*.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from *op-pres-sion*^*and vi-o-lence*, *
and dear shall their blood be *in his sight*.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

(This reading is taken from the New Testament, typically from a letter to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

After each reading, the Lector says "The Word of the Lord" and the People respond: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

(The People stand as able for the "Gospel Alleluia" as we prepare our heart, mind, soul, and strength to hear the Gospel [literally "Good News"] of God, as revealed in the life, teaching, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.)

*Alleluia. Alleluia. We have seen His star in the East:
and are come with offerings to worship Him. Alleluia.*

All remain standing for the procession and proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

At the end of the Gospel reading, the Deacon and people say the following responsory:

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Jennifer Mariano

(The homily or sermon follows the Gospel because it is directly grounded in Holy Scripture. It illuminates the readings and helps us relate them to our daily life.)

Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 358

(The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" [I believe]. Creeds reflect basic Christian beliefs over time & around the world.)
The people stand, facing the altar and saying

*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

The Leader and People pray responsively

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Mark, Blessed Peter, and all of the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.*

*We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.*

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

*For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.*

The Celebrant, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The ministers and people share the peace of Christ as a sign of reconciliation and with the hope of continuing this work in the world.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Having heard the Word of God, affirmed our faith, and shared in the peace of Christ, we now are prepared for the Holy Communion, often called the Holy Eucharist, Lord's Supper, Holy Sacrament, or Liturgy of the Table. We give back to God the gifts God has given us in bread & wine and in money or food offerings. You may give as the plate is passed or online (instructions are on the back of this leaflet).

Offertory*In the bleak midwinter*

Harold Drake

Presentation Hymn*Songs of thankfulness and praise
(SALZBURG)*

Hymnal 135

The Great Thanksgiving**Eucharistic Prayer I**

Hymnal S-112

(In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. This is essentially one long prayer with four parts. Each part corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread & wine as a sacrament of his Body and Blood. We begin this prayer with the "Sursum corda," Latin for "Lift up your hearts.")

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus/Benedictus

Celebrant and People

S114

The people stand or kneel.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymnal S-119

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S-157

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Invitation to Communion

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation.

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.

Communion

*He shall come down like the rain upon the mown field:
in his time shall the righteous flourish;
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.*

Communion Hymn

*What star is this, with beams so bright
(PUER NOBIS)*

Hymnal 124

Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Closing Hymn

*As with gladness men of old
(DIX)*

Hymnal 119

Dismissal

People:

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 11, 2026 (The Baptism of our Lord/First Sunday after Epiphany)

9:45 AM Eucharist

The Rev. Ron Fisher

Coffee Hour to Follow in St. Joseph's Hall

Parish Announcements

Dear St. Peter's Members:

As you know we will be voting on nominees for the 2026 Vestry Class at our Annual Meeting in late January. As nominations have closed the Nominating Committee wanted to present the approved slate of nominees along with their short biographies and answers to required questions. The nominees for the two open seats on the Vestry are Nicole Busch and Jonnie Widener. There will be further communications regarding the Annual Meeting as we get closer to the date.

Respectfully,
St. Peter's Vestry Nominations Committee

Katy DeHart, Chair
Tom Donohue
Jeff Loveless
Mary Milano

Outreach

The Outreach team will now meet on the second Sunday of each month at 11:30 am in the church kitchen. Our next meeting is January 11. All are welcome to join.

Action dates:

1/11 Little Pantry Monitor- Katie Shaw
1/14 Little Pantry Monitor- Kate Oursler
1/15 Pete's Packs Packing
 Pete's Packs Delivery- Kaye & Doug Pryor
 Food on the 15th Packing
1/16 Little Pantry Monitor- Kaye & Doug Pryor

Parish Prayer List

The Church: Sean, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Carrie, our Bishop; Denise, our Deacon; Vestry and Officers: Bill Rodney (Senior Warden), John Francis (Junior Warden), Katie Shaw (Registrar), Doug Pryor (Treasurer), Alexa Fair, Katy DeHart, Sara Radcliffe, Kimberly Jones, Joshua Bombino, Mary Milano.

Recent Needs: Pat Hand, Gary and Bel Powell, Tami Adams, John & Pam Bowers, Ron & Estella Krastal, Andrew Baker, Lauren Nalls, Pat & Chuck Hersl, Lorna Fyffe.

(Names remain on the Recent Needs Prayer List for 30 days unless notified otherwise.)

Ongoing Needs: Ray & Rose Powell, Jennifer Foster, Rick Kneeland, John Jordan, Bob Williams, Earl Markowitz, Sue & Steve Hartlaub, Ronnie Ducote, Colin Clark, Paul Bragaw, Betty Jean Wolynetz, Walt Geffert.

(Names remain on the Ongoing Needs Prayer List for 90 days unless notified otherwise.)

Homebound Members: Irene & Walter Clossen, Sylvia Ellison, Brenda Sabino.

Repose of the Soul: Betty & George Schwartz, Charles Zaberlein, Dick Weise, Sofia Feltkamp, Jim Wolynetz, Polly Moore, Oliver Hand.

(Names remain on the Repose of the Soul Prayer List for 30 days unless notified otherwise.)

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list or have an announcement featured here? Please submit names/announcements to the church office by email: parish.admin@stpetersec.org BY SUNDAY NIGHT.

LOOSE-PLATE OFFERINGS given in the plate that are not designated will go to support the following

1st Sunday—Discretionary Fund, 2nd Sunday—Outreach Fund, 3rd-5th Sundays—General Operating

WANT AN EASY WAY TO DONATE? DO IT ONLINE WITH TITHE.LY!

Make a one-time donation or set up regular giving. Tithe.ly allows for ACH transfers from your bank account, or payments with Debit, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. If you choose to cover the transaction fees, that is also counted as part of your donation for tax purposes.

Scan the QR code from your Smartphone or visit: stpetersec.org/give



CONNECT WITH US:

We would love to connect with you! Whether it is your first time here or you simply need to update your information, scan the QR code or fill out the connection card in the pew. We look forward to getting to know you!

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

SERVING THIS WEEK	
Acolyte	Stan Brown
Intercessor	Judi Mahaffey
Preacher	The Rev. Jennifer Mariano
Lector 1	Tom Donohue
Lector 2	Alexa Fair
Livestream/AV	Katherine Schnorrenberg
Usher	Doug Pryor