



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

*January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

Ministry Assistants Today

Officiant: Rev. Chris Micklewright
Lectors / Intercessors: Micklewright Family

Note: In light of inclement weather, we are holding a service of Morning Prayer online instead of an in-person Eucharist.

Ministry Assistants February 1

Lector: *Christine Pickup*
Intercessor: *Candace Roberts*
Usher: *Mark Roberts*
Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*
Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*
Organist: *Adam Haines*

Welcome to the Epiphany at Gloria Dei Episcopal Church!

The Feast of the Epiphany, held on January 6, marks the official end of the Christmas season. However, Epiphany is much more than just a capstone to the beauty and pageantry of Christmas.

The word “Epiphany” comes from a Greek verb meaning “to appear,” and the Feast of the Epiphany focuses on the appearance of the star that guided the Magi – the three wise men – to baby Jesus (you can read all about this in chapter 2 of Matthew’s Gospel). The appearance of this great light will shape our worship for the next several weeks, so that we celebrate the Epiphany from now until the beginning of Lent.

Please join us throughout this season, as we ponder what it means for Jesus to appear in our lives, and as we seek to faithfully reflect God’s light and love into the dark places of our world.

Officiant: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (*Isaiah 49:6b*)

Confession Of Sin

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you 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 neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you eternal life.

Amen.

Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: Lord, open our Lips.

All: And our mouths 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.

Officiant: The Lord has shown forth his glory.

All: Come let us adore God.

Venite – Psalm 95:1-7 (*In Unison*)

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.

Officiant: The Lord has shown forth his glory:

All: Come let us adore God.

Psalm 27:1,5-13 (*Read Responsively*)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *

the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; *

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *

and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

(continued...)

Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
You have been my helper; cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

All: 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.

First Reading **Isaiah 9:1-4**

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 11: The Third Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

Gospel Reading

Officiant A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Matthew (4:12-23)**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Officiant The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **Rev. Chris Micklewright**

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on and interpret the readings in light of the whole of Scripture and Christian tradition. You are always free to disagree with Rev. Chris, and you are more than welcome to reach out for further discussion of the readings and the ideas presented in the sermon.

The Apostle's Creed (*Officiant and People together*)

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.

Officiant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Officiant: Let us pray

All: **Our Father, who art 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.
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 forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (*the intercessor and the people pray responsively*)

Officiant: In this season of Epiphany, let us pray for God's light to shine in the darkness, using the words of Psalm 72. We begin with a few moments of silence. (*Long silence.*)

Intercessor: God of light, give to the people your justice; we pray especially for your church throughout the world, for our bishops, Sarah, Sean, and Daniel, for our priest, Chris, for our postulant, Rachel, and for this congregation.

People: **Rule your people righteously, and the poor with justice.** *(Long pause for silent prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, you promise to defend the needy in our midst; care especially for immigrants, for refugees, and for all who feel afraid.

People: **Rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.** *(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, your mercy lasts as long as the sun and moon endure, so we pray for our planet and for all those affected by climate change.

People: **May mercy come down like rain upon mown fields, and like showers that water the earth.** *(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, we remember the places of turmoil in our world, especially Ukraine, Venezuela, Sudan, Iran, and Minneapolis – and we pray for a time when the righteous shall flourish.

People: **May there be an abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.** *(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, we pray for those in authority, in our church, in our city, in our nation, and around the world, that they might recognize your authority over all creation.

People: **May the rulers bow down, and all the nations do service to God.** *(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, we long for the deliverance of the poor and oppressed in their distress, and for your pity to be known among the lowly and needy. Today, we pray especially for:

People: **Sheila, Emily, Harry, Monica, Amy, Alan, William, Betty, Angel, Dakota, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Seamus, Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Laurie, Jerry, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.** *(Long Pause for Further Names)*

Intercessor: God of light, you redeem the lives of your people, and hold their blood dear in your sight. We pray for all who have died, especially Alex Pretti.

People: *(Long Pause for Further Names)*

Officiant: Blessed be the LORD GOD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds. May our eyes be open to God's light, and may we be faithful in God's service, that all the earth may be filled with God's glory.

People: **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day *(Intercessor and People in unison)*

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer for Mission *(Officiant)*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

An extended period of silence follows, as we make space for how the Holy Spirit might be speaking to each of us.

The General Thanksgiving

(Officiant and People in Unison)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Benediction

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *(Romans 15:13)*

All: Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS at GLORIA DEI

Join us for 10 Minutes of Prayer on Zoom – Every Monday at 9:00am

Start your week with a time of discussion, prayer, and Scripture.

Meeting ID: 748 3341 8409 Passcode: 8C3fDK

Lunch Packing Outreach – February 22

Our Missions Committee has been doing great work to care for people in need in our surrounding communities. Please join us after services to pack lunches for Prevention Point (a ministry in Kensington). Future dates are: February 1, February 22, and March 29

Donations of the following items are always welcomed: paper lunch bags, paper sandwich bags, individually wrapped candies & individually bagged chips. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted.

Musical Meditation – Every Tuesday at 6:00pm

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 6pm (in the church) for a unique service featuring music, silence, conversation, and prayer. Led by our Sextons, musical meditation now features both communal drumming and performances by local musicians.

Missions Committee Meetings – Wednesday, February 4 at 9:00am on Zoom

Our Missions Committee meets each month on the first Wednesday to discuss our current outreach efforts and potential new opportunities. New members and new ideas are always welcome.
(Meeting ID: 897 2826 6283 Passcode: 098374)

Power Interfaith City-Wide Assembly on Affordability - Feb 1 at 3:00pm

POWER Interfaith organizes congregations throughout Philadelphia to advocate for a better future, and their current focus is on affordable housing. As our Missions Committee is exploring opportunities to get further involved, you are invited to join us in attending a City-Wide Assembly on Affordability that POWER is holding at Mother Bethel AME Church. Learn more about this event, and about POWER, on their website: <https://powerinterfaith.org/event/power-philadelphia-city-wide-assembly-on-affordability/>

New Meal Ministry with St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church – February 5 & 7

Join us as we launch a new partnership, helping to provide meals for the community at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Feltonville (North Philly). We will gather at 2pm on Thursday, February 5, to cook a meal in Riverside Hall. Then, on Saturday, February 7, volunteers are needed to deliver and serve the meal at St. Gabe's. Contact Rev. Chris for more details and to get involved. We hope to continue this ministry every other month throughout 2026. Future dates / times can be adjusted for new volunteers.

Book Discussion Group – Winter / Lent 2026 – Thursdays, 5:30-6:30, Starting February 5

Have you ever wondered about why Jesus had to die, or why Christians have turned an instrument of torture into a symbol of hope? Throughout February and March, we will be exploring these questions and many more as we read and discuss *The Wood Between the Worlds: A Poetic Theology of the Cross*, by Pastor Brian Zahnd. Copies of the book will be available for free, and a schedule is on our website.

'Tis Well...The Life and Death of George Washington – Thursday, February 12 at 7pm, presented by HGDPC

Most of us know little about President George Washington's personal life. But you'll know a lot ... after a return visit by popular George Washington author Jeffrey E. Finegan Sr. (who has written four books about our first President)! This program will feature stories from Dr. James Craik, Washington's oldest friend and physician. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Tickets available at www.PreserveOldSwedes.org.

Bach Cello Suites presented by HGDPC – February 14 at 7:00pm

The suites for unaccompanied cello by JS Bach are among the most beloved and iconic compositions. Join baroque cellist & music historian, Eve Miller (*Tempesta di Mare, Philadelphia Bach Collective, Bach Collegium of Philadelphia, The Publick Pleasure*) for a Valentine's evening with the 2nd (BWV 1008) and 3rd (BWV 1009) suites, and music of Supriani, Gabrielli and Dall'Abaco. Reception to follow the concert in Riverside Hall. Tickets available at www.PreserveOldSwedes.org.

Guided Tour of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church – February 15 at 12:00pm

Historian and archivist Jeanette Woehr will describe the history of this church, from its founding to the present day, and talk about many important historical figures who worshipped here or are buried in the graveyard. Tour participants will meet inside the church building at noon. The tour should take about an hour. Rain or Shine. Tickets are \$15 each. Advanced registration is required at www.PreserveOldSwedes.org.

Ash Wednesday – February 18

Join us for the beginning of Lent, which runs from February 18 (Ash Wednesday) through April 2 (Maundy Thursday). As in years past, our services will follow the Ash Wednesday liturgy, to include the imposition of ashes and the celebration of the Eucharist. This year, we are offering an early morning service (6:30am) in addition to our usual services at noon and 7pm. The evening service will feature music, while the morning and noon services will be quieter and more contemplative.

SOS Lenten Discussion Group with Root Quarterly – Tuesdays During Lent, 7:00pm (Starting 2/25/26)

Join us for the return of our annual SOS Lenten Discussion Series in collaboration with Root Quarterly, a local magazine devoted to building bridges and deepening societal conversation through the arts. This year we will be discussing ways in which we tell stories to make sense of the world, recognizing that stories can inspire and motivate us, but they can also cause harm and be used to manipulate or deceive. A dinner of soup will be provided each week, and participants are welcome to drop in and out as schedules allow. See our website or contact Rev. Chris for more details.

Songs and Stories by John Kim Faye, presented by Sexton Sideshow – February 28 at 7:00pm

Philadelphia-based musician and author John Kim Faye takes you on a musical and lyrical journey based on his best-selling memoir *The Yin and The Yang of it All: Rock 'n' Roll Memories from the Cusp*, as told by a Mixed-Up, Mixed-Race Kid, a story about the discovery of a voice and the courage to use it on the biggest stages, both literal and metaphorical. The songs and stories culled from Faye's personal and professional experiences weave a tapestry of revealing moments as told from his unique perspective on the cusps of identity, race, and fame. Tickets available at www.Old-Swedes.org/events.

Construction Beginning Soon!

We're delighted that Gloria Dei Church and the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation (HGDPC) have received over \$1,000,000 in grants in 2025, which will support the installation of a new roof on the church, repairs to the bell, a stormwater management system and resurfaced parking lot, and more! Construction on the major projects will take place this year (and possibly beyond), and updates will be provided as plans are finalized. To get involved in our ongoing preservation and grant-seeking efforts, talk with Rev. Chris or Amy Grant (the President of HGDPC).

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector
440-865-1490, rector@old-swedes.org

Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
215-389-1513, info@old-swedes.org

Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

Adam Haines, Organist and Music Director

Gloria Dei Vestry

*Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden),
Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr*

Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website, www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

