



# Church of the Epiphany

## FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • December 2024



Photo by Annette Fazenbaker

### *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming A Harbinger of the Christmas Miracle*

#### ADVENT DECEMBER NEWLETTER 2024

We are in the season of Advent and many of the Advent aids to worship are well known to guide us through this month of preparation and waiting. We have Advent wreaths, and the colors of the Advent wreath are the traditional three purple candles and one pink one of Joy. These are old and valued reminders to to our preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Perhaps in your home an Advent calendar is available to open a spot each day. And by tradition we have named the four Sundays of Advent - [Hope](#), [Peace](#), [Joy](#), and [Love](#). Each of these Advent themes are there as guidance

for us to use to keep focused on the season. We await the coming of the Savior of the World.

This season of Advent and the season of Lent are both seasons of waiting. In the present season we wait in darkness for the light to get stronger each day until the Christ Child is dwelling with us.

The First Purple Sunday is one of Hope. And the reading that day was from Zachariah. His message was one of terror and fleeing the coming wrath. But the Hope was there. "And the LORD will be King over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one."

The Second Purple Sunday is the Sunday of Peace. In the reading from Luke, we have John the Baptist in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As we know, confession and absolution are a very sure condition of peace in our lives.

The Third Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Joy, and the color is pink. John is questioned as to what the people he is baptizing should do? His answer is to be kind and generous, don't take advantage of others and be satisfied with what you have, share your goods. The one who is coming after John is the one who will baptize you with fire.

The Fourth Sunday Purple Candle represents Love.

The ultimate love of God is that he sent His only son to us. The reading from Luke that Sunday is the message to Mary about her being the Mother of God's Son. God and Mary are both

**Pastor Fred *continued***

involved with the mighty Love of God. God and Mary and Joseph know who Jesus is. Jesus, this child born at Christmas, is the Son of God. A careful reading of all the letters of Paul will repeatedly show us that from the Old Testament through the New Testament this knowledge of who we await. Jesus is God.

He has other titles. Son of Man, Son of God. Lord, Word of God, Lord of Lords. In Hebrew we will find many references to Jesus is LORD (Capital letters) the Old Testament's Yahweh and in Greek "Christ." In the Nicene Creed we say we believe "in one Lord, Jesus Christ. The only begotten son of God." We tend to think of Jesus by the other names but truly He is God. God is God, Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Truly God has come to dwell with us.

This Christ is also seen in Hebrew OT thought and NT hope as the Messiah, the king and authority who would set things right for the oppressed people. Was he the one anointed with oil to be the deliverer? The anointed one is a Lord with authority, control, of power over others. To say that one is "Lord " is to consider that person a master or ruler of some kind. In the time of Jesus that word "lord" was used as a title of respect toward earthy authority. After the resurrection, the title "Lord" was applied to Jesus. and it became much more than a title of honor or respect. This title was to declare the deity of Jesus.

Jesus is God. It is true. He is the Messiah by his death and Resurrection. He is more than the Savior. He is the Lord of all.

Someday we pray that this truth will be acknowledged by all. "God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Have a thoughtful Advent.

Pastor Fred+



*Church of the Epiphany's  
Advent and Christmas Schedule*

**4th Sunday in Advent**

**December 22 - 10 AM**

Lessons and Carols

We will decorate the Church after the service

**Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24 - 4:30 pm**

**Reception following the service**

There will be no service Christmas Day

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

We will hold our Epiphany celebration after the service



# The Second Coming 1.0

The Advent II Sunday sermon set forth some basics about the **Second Coming of Christ**. I hope everyone received a copy. I hope you took time to read it. Perhaps you can do so now.

Most of our Advent lessons talk about Jesus' birth on Christmas. We say we also look forward to the **Second Coming**, but our Sunday readings do not help us learn much about it. In our Eucharistic Celebration, we proclaim, "**Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**" And that promise is set forth in several places in Holy Scripture, in words spoken by Jesus and by His Angels and in Paul's letters. Scripture provides some clues about the Second Coming. Some churches and televangelists claim to understand the prophecy more fully than we Anglicans and other traditional churches. You may have heard about the **Rapture** and the **Millenium Reign** and wondered what that was about, and why you never hear about such things in your home church. I will set forth some very basic information, but I make no claim to know any of the answers.

**RAPTURE** – This term does not exist in Holy Scripture. Nevertheless, some believe that, when the end time comes, the church – those who believe in Christ – will be taken up suddenly by the Lord and will meet Him in heaven. Although Scripture does not say this, many believe that those who are raptured will not endure the final tribulation (expected to be 7 years) that is described in Revelation. In some verses in Matthew 24, when Jesus is talking about how suddenly the end will come, He sets forth a couple of examples: two men in a field, and one will be taken; two women grinding and one will be taken. Some verses in chapter 4 of 2 Thessalonians also talk about meeting the Lord in the air. There are other supporting verses which you can find if you are interested. Or you can find a friend or Pentecostal pastor who would love to explain it all to you! You might read the *Left Behind* series of books to get a feel for the fictional experience. **RAPTURE** teaching arose in the 1830's and gained popularity in evangelical circles.

**MILLENIUM REIGN** – Revelation 20:1-10 speaks of Christ reigning for "1,000 years" during which time Satan is bound and some of God's people reign with Him. There are various interpretations of this passage. Three of the most common are: **Amillennialist** – It is figurative language describing what is happening now in the "church age" and it will continue until Christ returns. **Premillennialist** – The 1,000-year reign will begin with Christ's return sometime *before* the final judgment, but there are differing views as to how and when the tribulation period fits in. **Postmillennialist** – Christ's reign on Earth will eventually be established by the spread of the Gospel such that the majority of the world will be obedient to Him, and at the end of that time, Christ will return in bodily form and reign over the new heaven and the new earth forever.

If this all too brief summary whet your whistle, pick up your study Bible or your computer mouse and start digging! But please don't stray too far from the Anglican Catechism without some serious study and responsible teaching. I suspect you will find a great divergence of opinions!

Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor



## *November News Around Epiphany*

We are so thankful that Donya and Trevor Conine were able to go the Dallas for the Dallas Cowboy's football game on Thanksgiving Day, a belated birthday present from her daughter Kelli. The third sibling, Wayne Jr, was able to meet them in Dallas so Donya's three children were with her. This was a long dream come true for Donya, a true football fan. And the Cowboys won which was doubly exciting!

On December 1, Epiphany held it annual star party potluck. Many thanks to all who brought the delicious soups and side dishes.

Afterwards, we made the cardboard stars that Annette had gotten ready for all the "helping hands" to put together. The ornaments will decorate our tree and will be given to all who attend the service on Christmas Eve. Many thanks to Paul, Annette, Madeleine, Karli, J.R. Hester, Michele Lachey, Darcy Ellis, Sean Lofland, Nancy, and Pastor Fred as our star makers!

We were so glad to see David LaMaster who was with us for 2 weeks before he had to leave for China. Please keep he, Mico, and Abby in your prayers as they are navigating the confusing bureaucratic immigration system. He is hoping to have his family join him in Alamogordo by October 2025. Of course David had his two wonderful dogs with him - Mogli now has a friend, Freya.

On Sunday, December 1, our projector bulb died just before the service so we also had the excitement of doing "old church" - prayer books and hymnals! Everyone was flexible and we did quite well.



Our 2024 Christmas Ornaments



Above, David LaMaster and his friends!

Below, Fr. Frank blesses Evelyn Conine on her 4th birthday.





## Standing Committee Meeting Report Wednesday, December 4, 2024

The meeting for December was long on prayers and praise, and short on business. The Standing Committee would like to organize another in person SC meeting in Juarez in February. The deanery of West Texas has a new priest being ordained on Dec. 7, by the name of Matt Halstead. He is an accomplished and published author of theological topic books. He will be a good addition to the diocese and the West Texas deanery.

The diocesan survey results were shared, and all in all, the results were positive in nature and negative responses are being addressed.

The Rev. Elias Rosales Mendez needs heart surgery and is trying to find a doctor in Mexico that will take him as a patient.

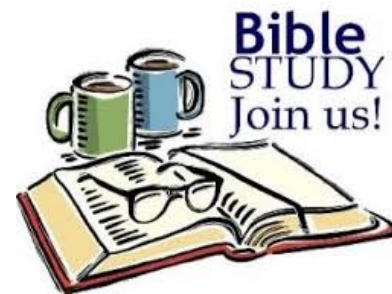
The Rev. Abram Castillo's wife is recovering from dengue fever. That particular illness is a deep concern in Mexico as there have been several large outbreaks in the country.

The new church in our diocese, in Castle Rock, CO would like to invite anyone traveling through Colorado for the holidays to stop in at 5 pm on Christmas Eve at the county fairgrounds there. They do a full pageant of the nativity in a barn at the fairgrounds. I had visions of the "Vicar of Dibley" when I heard this! It sounded like a heartwarming experience - and by the way, they said the barn was heated!

The last agenda item discussed was the matching grant program sponsored by the Lily

pharmaceutical company. It is a clergy relief fund program offered to the ACNA by the company. The diocese voted to be a part of the program, but as of yet, what our financial responsibility to the program is unclear as it depends on how many dioceses in the ACNA opt in and then the costs will be shared among those opting in. Evidently the more in the program, then it becomes less costly to each. The details of this will continue to be discussed in future standing committee meetings.  
Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Fazenbaker



### **Fr. Frank's Bible Study Wednesdays at 4:00 PM**

At Grace Methodist Church 16th St. and Cuba,  
Alamogordo. Wednesdays 3-4 pm.  
They are studying the Book of Revelation.  
For more information call or text Fr. Frank  
At 575-442-1354.

### **Combined Ladies Bible Study Thursdays, at 10 am**

at Westminster  
Presbyterian Church, 2201 15th St. ,  
Alamogordo.  
We are studying "The Letter to the Ephesians"  
We will break for the Holidays and resume on  
Thursday, January 23, 2025  
Plan to join us in January.

## Congratulations to Our Students

To: Evan Griffin, grandson of Pastor Fred and Nancy, who graduates Magna Cum Laude in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso on December 15. Evan will be a Research Assistant in the Department of Engineering as he works toward his master's degree.

To: Madeleine Fazenbaker, who is studying film at New Mexico State University, participated in a presentation of short films on December 11 which were made this semester.

Two of the films Madeleine worked on won the top prizes. Madeleine will graduate in Spring 2025 from New Mexico State with a degree in Creative Media. She hopes to produce documentaries and educational films.

## Epiphany "Thanks You's"

We thank Fr. Frank and Patrick for removing the tree which fell into the side of the church during one of our three snow storms this November. There was no damage to the building, Praise God!

On Sunday, December 1, just before the service, our projector bulb burned out and we thank Paul Fazenbaker who replaced the bulb after the service! We were blessed that it happened before the Christmas Eve Service!

We also thank Sean Lofland for replacing the bell rope and his son, James, who rang the bell before church.

### Epiphany Military Prayer List

Dominick Rankin, USArmy, Ft. Bliss, TX  
Gabriella Murley, US Army, Ft. Bliss, TX  
Mason Gregg, US Marines, Okinawa  
Creed Napier, USAF  
JW Grove, US Navy  
Nicholas Tran, USAF, Joint Base Lewis-McChord,  
Shawn Zima, US Army, Hong Kong  
Wyatt Green, US Navy



### Praise Reports

- For** Thomas Zima, Carolyn's Wilson's son and Patrick's Father, who is moving to the Alamogordo area from Florida.
- For** John Scott's improvement in his eyesight
- For** Evan Griffin's graduation from UTEP
- For** the repair of our projector
- For** the delivery of our donation of speakers to the mission in Juarez.
- For** the safe removal of the tree which fell into the side of the church and that no damage was done to the building.

### Prayer Concerns

- For** Thomas Zima as he makes employment decisions
- For** Donya Conine
- For** Wayne Conine Jr. who is having a defibrillator implanted to help with his heart problems.
- For** Machele Lackey and Susie Sims
- For** Rev. Elias Rosales Mendez for heart surgery
- For** Rev. Abraham Castillo's wife recovering from dengue fever in Mexico.
- For** Fr. Frank and Carolyn Wilson, George and Gayla Chapman, Patty Kendrick, and all our caregivers
- For** the Diocese and Bishop Steven, and for Annette Fazenbaker as a deanery representative to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
- For** church plants within the diocese: Light of Life Ministries, Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque; Comunidad del Rey de Justicia, Iglesia Piedra Angular, Juarez MX; Comunidad de Gracia, Xalpa, MX

## December Service Schedule *LEMS & Lectors*

**The Rev. Willis F Griffin, Pastor**

**The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor**

### **Advent I - Sunday, December 1 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Annette Fazenbaker

### **Advent II - Sunday, December 8 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Nancy Griffin

### **Advent III - Sunday, December 15 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Donya Conine

### **Advent IV - Sunday, December 22 - 10 AM**

#### **Lessons and Carols**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

### **Christmas Eve Service, December 24 - 4:30 PM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Paul Fazenbaker

### **Christmas 1 - Sunday, December 29 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Annette Fazenbaker

### **The Epiphany - Sunday, January 5, 2025 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Fred

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Donya Conine

## *December Event Schedule*

### **Sunday, Dec. 1**

Potluck after the service

Potluck and Star Party after the service

### **Sunday, December 22**

Lessons and Carols and decorating of church after the service.

### **Christmas Eve, December 24 - 4:30 PM**

Reception following the service

***There will be no service Christmas Day  
December 25***

### **Sunday, January 5**

Epiphany celebration and pot luck after the service



#### **Coffee Fellowship December**

Dec. 1- Potluck

Dec. 5 - Nancy Griffin

Dec. 15 - Karli Sorensen

Dec 22 - snacks

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Reception

Dec. 29 - Machele Lachey



#### **December Birthdays**

David Griffin - 2

Jessie Brinkley - 22

Tom Gregg - 31

#### **December Anniversaries**

Fred & Nancy Griffin - 22

Doug & Avery Goodgame - 28



## ACNA Lectionary C for December

### Advent I • December 1, 2024

Zechariah 14:3-9  
Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:25-33

### Advent II • December 8, 2024

Malachi 3:1-5  
Psalm 126  
1 Corinthians 4:1-21  
Luke 3:1-6

### Advent III • December 15, 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Psalm 85  
Philippians 4:4-9  
Luke 3:7-20

### Advent IV • December 22, 2024

Lessons and Carols

### Christmas Eve • December 24, 2024

Isaiah 9:1-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14

### Christmas I • December 29, 2024

Isaiah 61:10-62:5  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Galatians 3:23-4:7  
John 1:1-18

## The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ

### The Anglican Church in North America,

The Rt. Rev. Steve Wood, Archbishop

### Diocese of the Southwest,

Bishop Steven Tighe

### The Church of the Epiphany

The Rev. Willis F. Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Musicians: Esther Fyock, Stan & Sandy Thomas.

Donya Conine, Senior Warden

Annette Fazenbaker, Junior Warden

Doug Price/Bookkeeper

Church Board

Karli Sorensen Aguilar,

Patrick Zima, Nancy Griffin, Clerk

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere where the Word of God fills each person with an understanding and renewal of their faith in Christ.

Outreach, both within our own community as well as abroad, is a further extension of this faith.

*Romans 10:17 ~ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.*

### The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ

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### The Church of the Epiphany, Cloudcroft, Rev. Fred Griffin, Rev. Frank K. Wilson

Christ the King, Albuquerque (Rev. Peter Falk, Rev. Kyle MacKenney, Deacon Bill Lock); Church of our Lord, Albuquerque (Rev. Harold Trott, Michael Kline); Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque (Revs. Greg & Noel Pfeifer; Christ Church, Farmington (Revs. Carl & Barbara Brenner); St. Clement's, El Paso (Revs. Bill Cobb, Rick Milliorn, Eduardo Gonzalez, Michael Sheehan, Deacon Courtney Brown) Rey de Paz, El Paso (Revs. John Dixon, Ken Hanna); Good Shepherd, San Angelo (Rev. Hal Scott); St. Stephen's, Roswell (Rev. Bob Tally); All Saints' and St. Paul's, Midland Texas (Rev. Tom Finnie); Iglesia La Trinidad, Guadalajara (Lay Leader, Miguel Meriono Lobos) Iglesia de Jesus & Jesus es la Resurreccion, Aguas Caliente, Mexico (Revs. Elias Rosales Mendez and Maria del Rayo Jimenez Victoria, Deacon Roger Griffin); Gran Pastor, Fresnillo, Mexico (Sr. Warden, Norma Rodriguez, Missionary Meredith Omland); Good Shepherd, Hill New Mexico (Rev. Farhid Adabache); Iglesia Anglicana, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Rev. Jack Wehrs, Deacon Fernando Sandoval); St. James, Dalhart, Texas (Rev. Philip Ray). Emmaus Anglican, Castle Rock CO (Rev. Theron Walker; Resurrection Anglican Fellowship, Greenwood Village, CO (Fr. Phil Eberhardt) St. Paul's Anglican Church, Owasso, OK (Fr. Chris Waters); Christ the Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK (Fr. Brad Van Deventer); Iglesia Piedra Angular & Comunidad de Fe, Rey de Justicia, Juarez, Chihuahua;