



Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Epiphany 1, The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, January 9, 2022 10:00a

Lessons: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

From Linnea+

Blessed Epiphanytide! We only get to celebrate Epiphany on a Sunday every seventh year, although from watching the service last Sunday, I know my friend and colleague, Fr. David Brower, talked about the Magi. I love the season of Epiphany! I love the imagery of a guiding star—remember “scope for imagination” as a characteristic of a sacred text (from the sermon on Advent 4)—but mostly I love the universality of the proclamation of the Birth of Christ and the inclusion of the whole earth, the whole Cosmos, in the great gift and promise of “a Child born to us, a Son given to us whose Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” That’s why we sing service music in Zulu and in Spanish in our Sunday Liturgy in Epiphany.

But Epiphanytide is the season for other traditions, one of which is House Blessings and the ceremony of Chalking the Door. We have prepared kits for you to take from church this morning that include chalk that has been blessed, along with an explanation of the meaning and the practice of marking the entrance to one’s home with an affirmation of Christ’s presence and blessing, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, and the traditional names of the Magi, Casper, Melchior and Balthazar. The signing is **21 + C + M + B + 22**; the numbers are the years 2021 to 2022, the crosses are for Christ, and the letters are the Magi’s initials or the first letters of the blessing. The chalking can be across the head or along the door jamb.

There is also a Liturgy in our *Book of Occasional Services* for your priest to come and bless your home, room by room. I would be happy to do this for anyone who wishes; please let me know. Again, Blessed Epiphanytide.

Prayers this week:

Prayers for healing: Kelli, James, Jason, Jodie, Skip, Teri, Rob, Philip, Eric, Amy, Kathie, Jesse, Rita, Caitlin, Steve, Jeanne, Martha, Betsy, Ruthie, Rachael, Christina, Tina, Justin, Robin, Joyce, Karen, and Mark P; prayers for the healing of the earth, that countries and individuals will follow through with their commitments to reducing emissions that cause climate change.

Prayers for the departed: Vivian, Lynne H, Kya and for all who have died from Covid-19 around the world this week

Prayers for comfort and courage: for the Edstrom and Homeyer families and all who have experienced loss

This Week

Today, Sunday, January 9 *The Baptism of Our Lord* Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist live streamed at 10:00a, www.hastingsemmanuel.org or later at <https://www.facebook.com/hastingsemmanuel/> Please mask throughout the service. There will be no coffee hour.

Monday, January 10 *William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*
Pray for our region and for the world in the midst of pandemic

Tuesday, January 11 *Aelred of Rievaulx, Monastic and Theologian, 1167* Centering Prayer, 6:30p, in the Parish House; Annual meeting reports to Patsy for inclusion in the Annual meeting booklet

Wednesday, January 12 *Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop, 367*
Pray for the Diocese, our own parish and breakfast guests.

Thursday, January 13

Richrd Meux Benson, 1915, Priest and founder of The Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE, an Episcopal monastic order that develops materials for teaching in spiritual growth, which we have used from time to time at Emmanuel), and Charles Gore, Bishop, 1932

Vestry, 6:15 to 7:00p, to approve the 2022 budget and new endowment trustee, Amy C.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87421628059?pwd=QThTM3JdTd1ltOTNiNi94TTJNZNFiUT09>, Meeting ID 874 2162 8059, passcode 520545

Pray for the Church around the world

Friday, January 14

Linnea to Cadillac for Energy Audit there, back Saturday

Pray for our country, for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Saturday, January 15

Pray for Episcopal Relief and Development

LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1st Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

SERVERS: Lay Eucharistic Minister: Dennis M; Lector/Intercessor: Rich F; Acolyte: Sam P; Ushers: Brian and Michelle A; Altar Guild: Marge R, Deb R; Videographers: John H, Matt P, Judy S; Tellers: Jan T, Georgette S

Looking ahead:

- **Emmanuel Church Annual Meeting, January 23 (Snow date January 30)**
- Some educational opportunities will be coming your way in January. (Some may be rescheduled depending upon Covid and Omicron developments.)
 - Calvin College January Series at the Hastings Public Library, weekdays from January 10-18, 12:30-1:30
 - RCRE (Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity) Book Club at the Hastings Public Library
 - RCRE Workshop, "Effective Conversations among Differing Viewpoints" or "How to talk so people will listen and listen so people will talk," with Dr. Laura Cochrane and Dr. Sara Moslener from CMU – being rescheduled in late Feb/early March
 - Care of Creation book study of *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, chief scientist for The Nature Conservancy, distinguished professor at Texas Tech University, and Christian believer
- **The fact that nothing else is listed here does not mean that God doesn't have a significant blessing or learning opportunity for us—just that we don't know what it is yet! 😊**

Stewardship of Finance: Thank you for your commitment to God for God's work through Emmanuel Church. The Treasurer is working on a budget in preparation for the Annual Meeting. If it were presented today, the budget would show a deficit; if you plan to pledge but have not done so yet, please call Jim B asap. 574-370-6510.

Stewardship of Body and Spirit: The Omicron variant is presenting a troubling profile of infection rates wherever it appears. It has been identified in Kent County and elsewhere in Michigan. For the time being, the Community Breakfast as well as Sunday Coffee Hour have been put on hold. Linnea and the Vestry are determining additional limits re singing and spacing until the impact of Omicron becomes clearer.

COVID ACTION PLAN cards are in a basket on the Welcome Table, with information re rapid testing and treatment.

Stewardship of Place, Environment, and Creation Care: Emmanuel and Grace Lutheran earned \$1000 to share and facilitated Home Energy Audits for over 75 homes. Thank you for your participation.

Stewardship of Relationship and Community: Help is needed to pick up parishioners who don't drive. Please sign up for this rich and vital **Rides Ministry**. Sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside Linnea's office.