



Reformed Episcopal Church

Since 1873

Diocesan Newsletter

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Reformed Episcopal Church
Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

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A message from The Rt. Rev. David L. Hicks...



This month, on January 6th, the church celebrates the *Epiphany*, or as it alternatively called, the *Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles*. Although the Gospel reading for the day, the story of the wise men in St. Matthew 2:1-12, is often conflated with the Christmas story, Epiphany is a distinct and important celebration, and the particular emphasis of the season it inaugurates is worthy of our attention and meditation. The word *epiphany*, means "showing" or "manifestation," hence the season highlights the Scriptural occasions when the glory of Savior Jesus Christ is shown to the world, such as the appearing of His natal star, His baptism in the Jordan River, and the miracle of the water changed to wine. Epiphany teaches us the importance of God's self-disclosure in Jesus Christ, with the intent that the whole world sees and knows the glory of our Lord.

While Epiphany is distinct from Christmas there is a logical connection between the two. St. John writes in the Gospel that bears his name, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; and we beheld his glory" (1:14). Manifestation follows incarnation: Epiphany follows Christmas. St. John and the other apostles were eyewitnesses to the glory of God, whom had come in human flesh; and they were commissioned to bear witness to what they had seen and heard. It is through their testimony that the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ was made known – was made manifest – in their time and continues to be made known, even today.

As we enter the season of Epiphany, we are entering into God's continued activity in making Jesus Christ manifest in the world. He does so through the testimony and ministry of His church, which has been entrusted with the apostolic message and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Through Word and Sacrament, Christ is portrayed in His glory to the whole world, as the One who is full of grace and truth. It is my prayer that every person in our Diocese rightly understands the wonder of the Epiphany season, that each of us exercises his or her gifts of ministry with the intent that our Lord receives the attention and honor. May our churches be places where Christ Jesus, above all things, is clearly manifest to those passing through our doors. Amen.

Liturgical Colors

January 1	Circumcision of Our Lord	White
January 6	Epiphany	White
January 7	Epiphany I	Green
January 14	Epiphany II	Green
January 21	Epiphany III	Green
January 28	Epiphany IV	Green

Calendar of Events:

Date	Time	Explanation
Saturday, January 6	8:30 a.m.	Philadelphia Area Ministerium Holy Communion, RE Seminary Chapel Blue Bell, PA
Tuesday, January 9	Noon	NY/Northern NJ Area Ministerium at Covenant Chapel Basking Ridge, NJ
Saturday, January 20	9 a.m.	REC/APA Maryland Area Ministerium at Grace Reformed Episcopal Church Havre-de-Grace, MD

Traditional Liturgical Evangelical Scriptural