



DECEMBER 31, 2023

1st SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE	(8:30) “How Many Kings” (11:00) “In the Bleak Midwinter”
CALL TO WORSHIP	(8:30) “Behold He Has Come” (11:00) “People Look East” #248
WELCOME	
SONG OF CELEBRATION	(8:30) “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (11:00) “Joy To The World” #267
GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY	
THE READINGS	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	(8:30) “What Child is This” (11:00) “Angels We Have Heard on High” #289
THE GOSPEL	
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	
SERMON	
SONG OF THE DAY	(8:30) “The First Noel” (11:00) “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” #288
PROFESSION OF FAITH	Advent Creed
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	
SPECIAL MUSIC	(8:30) “You’re Here” (11:00) “Personent Hodie”
OFFERING PRAYER	
COMMUNION	(8:30) “In The Bleak Midwinter” “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (11:00) “The First Noel” #300 “In The Bleak Midwinter” #294
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
BLESSING	
SENDING SONG	(8:30) “Joy To The World” (11:00) “Go Tell It On The Mountain” #290
MISSION AND PEACE	“Traveling Mercies”
POSTLUDE	(8:30) “O Come All Ye Faithful” (11:00) “For Unto Us A Child is Born”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creating God, shine your light this day throughout creation. Let all come from near and far to celebrate the gift of the Christ and to share the good news of life and deliverance he brings. Amen.

ISAIAH 9: 2-7

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

PSALM ANTIPHON:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to thee O Israel.

PSALM 96

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. ² Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. ⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Antiphon

⁶ Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

Antiphon

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity." ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³ before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Antiphon

ROMANS 15: 4-13

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 2: 1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ '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.'" ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO ABIDING LOVE!

It is one of our greatest joys to welcome new people into membership in our community. We are blessed to have guests and visitors growing closer in relationships and involvement in the life of the church. Membership in the congregation provides full participation in the leadership and missional direction of Abiding Love. If you would you like to become a member we would be happy to welcome you! We are currently inviting everyone interested in membership to contact Pr. Brad and to complete a Member Information form (ask an usher for a copy). A New Member gathering for interested people will follow.

If you have any questions, contact Pr. Brad:
bhighum@abidinglove.org or 512-892-4040

SEASON OF EPIPHANY

January 7: Baptism of our Lord

8:30 & 11:00 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion

January 14: Let There Be Light

8:30 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion
11:00 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion and Mixed Blessings

January 21: Live In The Light

8:30 & 11:00 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion

January 28: The Power of Light

8:30 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion
11:00 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion and Mixed Blessings

February 4: You Are The Light of the World!

8:30 & 11:00 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion

February 11: Transfiguration

8:30 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion
11:00 am—Worship w/ Holy Communion and Mixed Blessings

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ABIDING LOVE!

May you know God's love as you sing, pray, proclaim, and serve.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COMMUNION AT ABIDING LOVE.

Hold out your hands to receive the bread. Gluten free wafers are available. Take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the tray. Children and adults not communing may come forward and cross their arms over their chest to receive a blessing. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
and Mixed Blessings
11:00 am Worship w/ Holy Communion

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

New Years' Day - ALLC Office and
Food Pantry Closed
CC Closed
7:00 pm AA (HS Room)
7:00 pm Troop 555 (AC)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

CC Closed
10:30 am Tuesday Bible Study (C)
7:00 pm Alanon (C)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

CC Closed
6:00 pm Music Rehearsal
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

CC Closed
10:00 am Quilters (UC, MS)
6:00 pm Alanon (L)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

CC Closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:30 am Packing up Christmas items for
next year (Sanctuary and Narthex)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
9:45 am Confirmation (HS)
9:45 am Faith Formation
11:00 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
5:30 pm HS Youth Activity (HS)

SERVING

DECEMBER 31, 2023

Preaching and Presiding
Rev. Brad Highum

Acolyte

(8:30) Molly Enno
(11:00) Isaac Schroder

Altar Guild

(8:30) Di Brophy, Tricia
Slovaceck, & Coleen Thompson
(11:00) Denise Alaimo

Assisting Minister

(8:30) Margaret Dove
(11:00) Lacye Matejowsky

Children's Message

Tyler Parks

Communion Assistant

(8:30) Paul Mettke
(11:00) Greta Rymal

Lector

(8:30) Pat Dove
(11:00) Audrey Lehman

Music

Gus Sterneman
Stephanie Morrison
Mixed Blessings

Ushers

(8:30) Karin & Lloyd Matthys
(11:00) John Berkland, Kurt
Armstrong, T.J. Shoaf

Tech

Zee Zepeda
Anna Marie Gonzales

ABIDING LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 31, 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



That the world may know!

As the celebration of the Christmastide continues, we lift our eyes to the greater work God is doing in making known the Incarnate One who has come into the world. In coming to honor the one born king, dignitaries from outside the tradition reveal to us the breadth of God's vision: that from humble beginnings the world may come to know God's Christ, and through him the One God, Lord of All.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come."

- Isaiah 60:1

The word Epiphany means "manifestation," something made real, revealed or made known in the world around us: a sudden, striking realization, an intuitive perception or insight into essential meaning. In this season of Epiphany, we explore the revelation and transforming insights that come to us in the "manifestation" of God in Christ Jesus. He is born into the world as a light shining into the shadow places of life. Yet even as we come to know Him as the Light of the World, He calls forth the light of God that is in each of us to shine for the world to see.

- Pastor Brad

CONNECT WITH ABIDING LOVE

7210 Brush Country Rd. Austin, TX 78749 512.892.4040
info@abidinglove.org www.abidinglove.org