

GRACE EPIPHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - MT AIRY

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The Rev'd. Náz Javier, Th.M., M.Div., LCSW | priest-in-charge (part-time)

Worship Profile for Grace Epiphany Church – Mt. Airy

The congregation at Grace Epiphany Church worships twice on Sundays with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. The earlier service is a spoken service; the second service is our principal celebration with congregational song. Both utilize Rite II of the Holy Eucharist from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month and during the summer months—from July to Labor Day weekend—we have one Eucharist with congregational song at 9:30 AM.

Since roughly 2012, with the departure of the last full time organist/choirmaster, the church has not had a choir accompany the sung Eucharist, though there remains in the current congregation former members of the choir. Our current organist is an “extended supply” organist without a formal letter of agreement. On occasion, we do invite guest musicians or soloists to accompany our principal Sunday service.

Our churchmanship can be described currently as broad, though the church has historically been a “Morning Prayer” congregation.

In addition to the Sunday Eucharist, our church also marks the following Holy Days with the celebration of the Eucharist: Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. The Good Friday office follows the order of service as prescribed in the 1979 BCP with the addition of the Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament.

The Eucharistic services vary depending on the liturgical season, primarily in terms of the use of different settings of the Ordinary music of Eucharist. During Advent, we use Betty Carr Pulkingham’s *Freedom Mass*; during Christmas & Epiphany, we use Marty Haugen’s *Mass of Creation*; during Lent and the summer months of Ordinary Time, we use David Hurd’s *New Plainsong Mass*; for Eastertide we use Richard Proulx’s adaptation of the *German Mass*; for the fall months of Ordinary Time, we use Richard Rroulx’s *A Community Mass*. Also depending on the season, the congregation sings a seasonal sequence and/or offertory hymn. Almost always, the Hymn of Praise is sung, so is the *Sursum corda* and the acclamations during the Great Thanksgiving.

The priest-in-charge selects the hymns for the service. Often, we will use familiar hymn tunes with different texts—this is done to promote the congregation’s ability to sing familiar music that contain texts that are in greater harmony with the message of the Lectionary texts. We use both *The Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* (LEVAS2) as primary hymnals.

The Organ

We are fortunate to have a still functioning Skinner Pipe Organ (Opus 320) built in 1920. The disposition is available online at the Organ Historical Society website and is accessible [here](#). At this time, the organ is playable, though there are some dead notes. Even with the dead notes, the organ is sufficient for accompanying services, even allowing for appropriate variation and coloring of registration and repertoire performance for preludes and postludes. However, the organ is likely not suitable for full concert performance.

What We Require of a Prospective Organist

Our prospective organist will be expected to be sufficiently knowledgeable in or at least interested in the liturgical discipline of the Episcopal Church as this is laid out in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. We also expect that the organist will understand his/her primary role as the supportive accompaniment of the congregation in their worship of God through the chants and hymns of the liturgy. To this end, we expect that the organist be observant of the dynamics of worship (conceptually) and what is happening in the liturgical space (practically, in real time).

While we do not expect the organist to possess professional degrees from a conservatory, we do expect him/her to be able to possess sufficient experience to accomplish the following:

1. Provide a recent copy of the Pennsylvania State police clearance per the requirement of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, cf: <http://www.diopa.org/backgroundchecks/>
2. Accompany the hymns and service music contained in LEVAS2 and the hymnal;
3. Teach the congregation new music, as needed;
4. Work with other musicians as these are invited;
5. Eventually re-start and re-train a small choir, or even a quartet.
6. As needed work with our Sunday school children, though this is not an absolute expectation.

The organist is expected to be present for the principal Eucharist on Sundays at 10:30 AM or 9:30 AM during the summer and on the fifth Sunday where this occurs. S/he will also be expected to accompany the Christmas services (currently 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve); Ash Wednesday (currently at 12:00 PM); Maundy Thursday (currently at 6:00 PM); and Good Friday (currently at 12:00 PM). S/he will have the right of first refusal for any weddings and funerals during the year.

Compensation

Our parish currently compensates the organist at \$250.00 for accompanying the principal Eucharist, without choir or soloists. Potential for increased compensation is available with the formation of a choir or coaching of soloists. Weddings and funerals are compensated at a minimum of \$150.00 per service.

Audition

Should you be interested in pursuing the position, there will be an audition. During the audition the prospective organist will be expected to play the following:

1. A repertoire piece of his/her own choosing.
2. Two hymns from *The Hymnal 1982*—one of the organist's choosing; the other of the clergy.
3. Two hymns from *LEVAS2*—one of the organist's choosing; the other of the clergy.
4. A chant-like piece from the service music section of the hymnal.

The organist will be provided with access to the instrument and sanctuary so that s/he may become acquainted with the instrument, as is necessary.