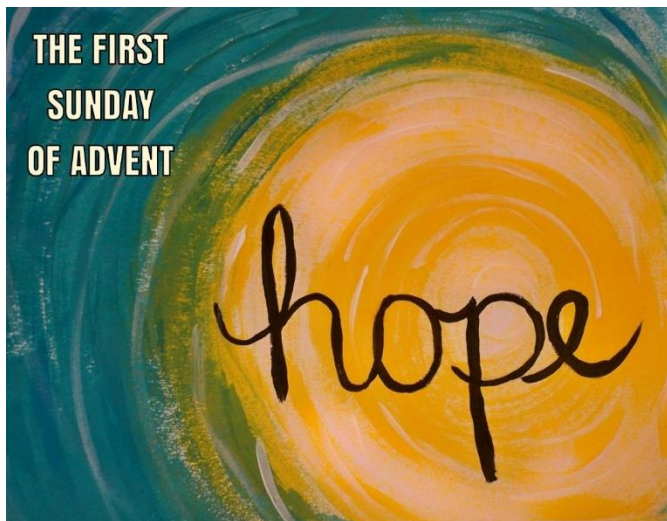


EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

December 1 - 7, 2023

Church of the Epiphany ~ 85 Larch St. Sudbury, Ontario ~ P3E 1B8

www.epiphanysudbury.org 705-675-2279 info@epiphanysudbury.org



THE FIRST
SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

WORSHIP CELEBRATION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 2023 ~

8:30am – Traditional Said Service of Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am – Main Worship Service with music and Holy Eucharist.

READINGS FOR ADVENT I: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

SUMMARY OF READINGS: On this First Sunday of Advent the church is called to yearning for God's

redeeming presence, to the sorrow that is not sentiment but repentance, and to expectation. Both Isaiah and the psalmist lead in a lament by the community of faith, and a prayer for God to come with saving power. Mark's story offered a description of how it will be, and is, when God's Christ comes to perform God's final work of judgement and redemption. In his letter to the ancient church in Corinth, Paul reminds a troubled church that God's coming in Christ is the formative act for the Christian community.

QUESTION(S) FOR REFLECTION: The coming of Advent jolts the church out of Ordinary Time with the invasive news that it's time to think about a fresh start, about new possibilities and about a new hope for human wholeness. We cannot create peace through selfishness, but by opening ourselves to hope. Hope is what is left when your worst fears have been realized and you are no longer optimistic about your future. Hope is what comes with a broken heart willing to be mended. How has a broken heart brought you to a place of hope?

AT HOME PRAYERS

Morning - Holy God, thank you for the gift of life today. As I begin this new season of Advent, I pray that you will startle me out of my complacency so that I may see and serve you in new and hopeful ways that will speak of your living presence already among us. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening – Holy God, as I now lay me down to sleep I still long for the hope of your coming. As I rest this night I pray that I will rise to the promise of a new day tomorrow, so that I may a sign of your hope in all that I do. In the hope of Jesus, I pray.



COVID CASES ARE ON THE RISE IN GREATER SUDBURY. Please be mindful of not only your health, safety and well-being but also that of others. If you are not feeling well, or have any ill symptoms such as coughing, fever, fatigue, or a sore throat, please stay home and join us for the worship services that will be offered online. We are delighted to welcome you online if you are not able to join us in person.



REV. ELIZABETH'S "DROP IN" OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3rd:

Wednesday December 6th – 11am-1pm.

Thursday December 7th – 9am-11am

Please note that the closer we get to Christmas, Rev. Elizabeth's office hours may be subject to change as she will be doing a number of Home Communion Visits.

Please be reminded that if you need to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or schedule a visit for any reason, please email her at greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com or leave a telephone message for her at the church office. Thank You



RETURNING THE COMMUNION RAIL: Some members of our 10:30am congregation have expressed their desire for returning to the Communion Rail at the time of Communion. While some people prefer to stand when receiving the sacrament, others prefer to kneel. Either way is fine and perfectly acceptable. With the start of a new Church Year, marked by the First Sunday in the Season of Advent, our 10:30am congregation will renew the traditional practice of receiving Holy Communion at the Communion Rail, beginning this Sunday December 3rd.



WHITE GIFT SUNDAY: will take place this Sunday, December 3, the first Sunday of Advent. Traditionally, we have used this Sunday to provide gifts for the Christmas bags for the youth at Sudbury Action Centre, many of whom look forward to these bags as their only Christmas gift. If you find it difficult to get out to shop, a cash contribution will help us fill them. (Please note, any amount donated is not receipted as we are just helping you with your shopping.) Currently, there are more bags to be filled for males than for females. Suggestions include: ☐ warm mitts, hats, socks (adult size) ☐ hand warmers ☐ scarves ☐ pens, little notebooks ☐ underwear (all adult sizes (Briefs or Boxer briefs for the guys and bikini, high waisted or boy shorts for the ladies) ☐ deodorant, toothbrushes, small tubes of toothpaste, ☐ small size shampoo etc.) ☐ individually wrapped treats like granola bars, Dad's cookies, leftover Hallowe'en treats, Christmas candies.

(Please note: **NO** Mouthwash or hand sanitizer)

Your help is hugely appreciated by the staff and youth at Sudbury Action Centre.

If you have any questions please contact Mary at emer79@hotmail.com



A NOTE FROM REVEREND ELIZABETH

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Sunday is ‘White Gift Sunday’. It is a yearly opportunity in the life of our church to help support Sudbury’s youth who are in need, especially at this time of year. However not everyone may be aware of this gift-giving tradition.

Why is it called “White Gift Sunday?” - The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift, has grown into today’s white gift services in many North American churches across several denominations. The story is told that a minister’s wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday School Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others. May we all share in our giving to others.



If you happen to be out shopping before Sunday morning, please keep White Gift Sunday in mind; and kindly bring your gift donations to the Church of the Epiphany no later than 10:15am this Sunday morning, December 3rd.

Let us pray.

Holy God, you are the giver of all good gifts; you know each need and hear each prayer. We come today with these gifts that we give in Christ's spirit of love and justice. Use these gifts and use our lives for the building of your kingdom in your world. These things we pray in the name of Emmanuel – God with Us. Amen
Thank you for all of your White Gift donations.

Yours Faithfully,
from Rev. Elizabeth.



THE EPIPHANY IS IN NEED OF YOUR LOVING HEARTS AND HELPFUL HANDS: Volunteers are



needed for many hospitality ministries:
Coffee Hour Hosts: Hosting coffee hour on Sunday morning following our 10:30 service includes preparing and serving coffee, tea and water/juice etc. and putting the dirty dishes in the dishwasher afterwards.
Coffee Hour Bakers: Maybe you're unable to host coffee hour, but would like to

contribute snacks or sweets etc. That's an option too.
Soup and Sandwich Makers for Lunch & Learn: The Outreach team will continue to host Lunch & Learn sessions in the New Year. If you'd like to make a pot of soup, or a loaf of sandwiches for the Lunch, that would be appreciated. If you are unable to make soup but may be willing to purchase the ingredients, we have a volunteer chef ready to cook for you.
Greeters & Sidespeople: We also need to add to our roster of Greeters & Sidespeople. Our Greeters are the first face people see when they arrive at Epiphany. Greeters welcome them, direct them to the cloakroom, washroom etc. Our Sidespeople hand people a hymnbook when they enter the church, take up the offering and direct everyone to the Altar for Communion. They also count the number of people in attendance, and put away all the hymnbooks following the service.

If you're interested in taking on any of these roles, please speak to Terry Kett.



YOUR OUTREACH TEAM: is asking you to "share a snack with the Sudbury Food Bank." During the season of Advent PLEASE put aside a couple of dollars a day (the cost of your daily coffee or snack), or a few dollars a week for the four weeks of advent to be sent to the food bank, so they can buy the supplies that are so desperately needed in our community. (The food bank will receipt donations of \$20.00 or more)

This fundraising effort starts December 3 and ends Christmas Eve. The money will be collected in the New Year. There will also be a collection jar available at coffee hour if you prefer to give that way.
Please remember, the Food Bank is able to purchase MORE with a dollar than we can and can purchase what is needed in the different areas of Sudbury.

Food items will also be accepted and delivered to the Food Bank.

Please give as you are able.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY:

Sunday December 24th
Worship Celebration for the Fourth Sunday in Advent – 10:30am. (There will not be an 8:30am service).

Worship Celebrations for Christmas Eve – **Back by popular demand, 5pm Pajama Church** for the young and for the young at heart; and 9pm traditional choral Christmas Eve worship service

Monday December 25th

Worship in Celebration of the Birth of Jesus on Christmas Morning – 10:30am.

All Are Welcome!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you would like to contribute to the cost of Christmas Flowers please speak to the Wardens. We will ask you to fill in the flower form so we can make sure the correct memorial information is included in the Christmas Bulletin. No Later than Sunday December 17th please.



2024 CHURCH CALENDARS: Have been ordered but have not yet arrived. They are on back order and should be arriving anytime now. They will be available for \$8.00 each when they do arrive.



JOY GROUP TAKES A BREAK: The last get together for the JOY craft ladies before the Christmas break will be on Thursday, December 7th. They will resume again on Thursday, January 18 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year, 2024.

For further information please contact Carol Bohren at (705) 618-3644



LET US PRAY

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Mary and Gilles Tessier; Joy Knuff; Roger and Paula Labonte; Wayne and Kay Jermyn; Anthonia Coata Bannya and Edward Roy..

FOR THOSE IN NEED: Dorothy; William; Jean; Pat; Nick and Ellen; John and Judith; Karen and Corrine; Della and Sandra; Frances; Monique.



Watch us LIVE on Sunday Mornings at www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services

Announcements for ETW should be sent to etw@epiphanysudbury.org by NOON each Thursday.