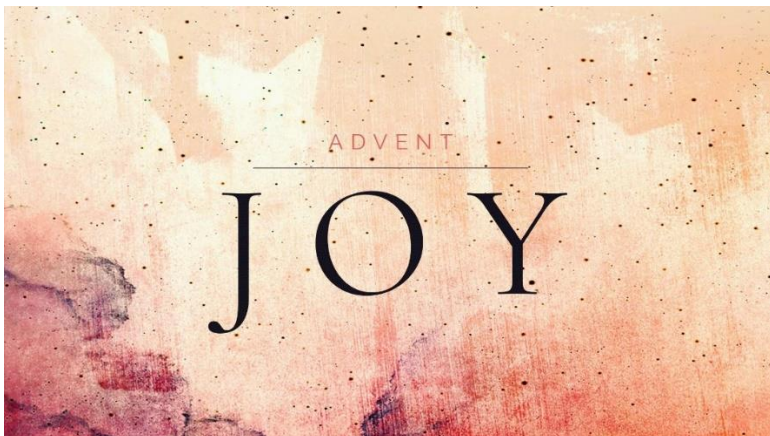


EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

December 15 - 20, 2023

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

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



WORSHIP CELEBRATION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 2023 ~

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

PLEASE NOTE that Sunday December 17th will be our last 8:30am worship gathering for 2023. We gather again for our 8:30am worship on Sunday January 7th when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

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

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

SUMMARY OF READINGS: Understandably, the idea and image of the Lord's coming produces both fear and joy. Our biblical passages for today encourage us to be full of joy. Such is Paul's word to the church at Thessalonica, while both Isaiah, and Mary's Song in Luke, announce good news to the poor, the lowly and the oppressed. The gospel story tells more about John the Baptizer, but this time as a witness to the life and light offered to us all in Christ Jesus.

QUESTION(S) FOR REFLECTION: The gospel story reminds us that we are not the light, but with John we are called to testify to the light, who is Jesus Christ. The verb "to bear witness" occurs thirty-three times in the Fourth Gospel! How can you bear witness, in this season of lights, to the true Light who has come into the world?

AT HOME PRAYERS - Morning – Light of the world, you greet me this morning with new possibilities. Shine brightly, I pray, until I see into the dark places of this world, and into the dark places of my own life. I want to follow you in paths of justice, speak up for your liberty, and bend with you toward the broken-hearted, and even the broken places within myself. I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise – and with my whole being I will forever rejoice in you. Amen.

Evening - Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day. Let me dream this night of all the great things you have done. As the darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow, I give thanks for the greater Light no darkness can overcome. To anyone who mourns, or sits in prison, or fears danger this night, bring the peace that only you can give. You are faithful, and I know you will do according to your purposes. In the light of Christ, I pray. Amen.



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.



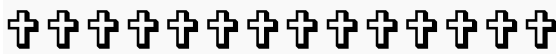
MEMORIAL FLOWERS ON SUNDAY - This Sunday the flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Kenneth Maeck, given by Vivian and Bernard Aschwanden and all the Maeck family. Thanks be to God.



REV. ELIZABETH'S "DROP IN" OFFICE HOURS:

Though she is available, please note that Rev. Elizabeth will not be holding regular Drop-In Office Hours until the week of January 7th.

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY ~ Also please be aware of our Special Celebration for Epiphany Sunday and the morning of New Year's Eve.

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, **5:00 pm Pajama Church** for the young and for the young at heart. People of ALL AGES are welcome to wear their cozy, comfy pajamas as we hear the Christmas story in a informal family worship service.

9:00 pm traditional choral Christmas Eve worship service

Christmas Day ~ Monday December 25th

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

Sunday, December 31st – Epiphany Sunday and New Year's Eve Morning

As it happens, this year Epiphany Sunday and the morning of New Year's Eve occur on the same day – Sunday December 31st. Following what promises to be a very special worship celebration at 10:30am, there will also be a Special Coffee Hour to mark the occasion of our celebrations.

All Are Welcome!

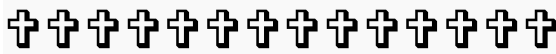


We are sad to announce the passing of former, and long-time Epiphany Member Ken Maeck. Ken's funeral will take place at the Epiphany tomorrow afternoon (Dec. 18th).

We send our love and Prayers to Richard, David, Roxie, Vivian and the extended family and pray for God's comfort for those who mourn his passing and for strength as they prepare to celebrate a life well lived.

(See Rev, Elizabeth's note below for more)

You can read Ken's Obituary by [clicking here](#).



THE SUDBURY CHAMBER SINGERS will be performing their Christmas concert at our church on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 pm. Entitled "Christmas Beyond Home," this concert will feature Advent and Christmas music from around the world. The tickets are \$20 each and can be bought at the door.



PASTORAL VISITS: Earlier this week Barb, Lorraine, and Rev. Elizabeth had a wonderful home communion visit with Maybourne at Finlandia. Maybourne has recently celebrated her 99th birthday, making her the oldest beloved member of our parish community. The home communion visits with Rev. Elizabeth, along with Lay Pastoral Visitors, Barb and Lorraine, are always a very special, meaningful time when prayers are offered and God’s love is shared. If you are not able to join us for worship at Epiphany on Sunday mornings, please know that home communion visits are available. If you would like a home communion visit, please contact Rev. Elizabeth, or be sure to speak with Barb or Lorraine. Thank you.



NEW CHURCH ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE: The Church of the Epiphany would not be able to function without your support. It is your faithful Givings that makes ministry possible and enables life to flourish in and through our church. New Church Envelopes are now available to be picked up outside of the church office. If you need someone to deliver you your envelopes, please call or email the church office. Thank You



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.



PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND: Cards to use for donations to PWRDF in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion, are available on the bulletin board in the Algoma Room.

Two packages of older PWRDF Christmas cards are available at \$5 each. They will be available on Sunday after the 10:30 service if interested.



FAIRTRADE ORGANIC COFFEE: with all profit to our Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, will be available after the 10:30 service on Sunday. Cost for most is \$17 for a pound. Ecuador, Peru, Guatemala, Costa Rica are some of the countries of origin. Bean or ground is available. A bag of this coffee makes a wonderful and aromatic hostess gift or stocking stuffer and we know the growers are receiving a fair price for their labour.



THANK YOU!! After a shopping trip with the donated money, the items collected for White Gift Sunday and items donated by students at Lively Secondary School (with the guidance of teacher, Kristina Donato) 50 Gift bags were delivered, in two carloads, to the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth. The staff there were so excited and appreciative of our efforts. For a number of youth, this is the only Christmas gift they receive. Thank you for your help in accomplishing this outreach to vulnerable youth.



2024 CHURCH CALENDARS: Have **FINALLY** arrived! They are available in the church office for \$8.00 each.



THE ANNUAL BOOK SALE: will be taking place at the end of January. Book sale posters will be available on the table outside the church office. Please take one, or more, to post in a business you frequent, your apartment building, etc. If you would like an electronic copy to send to friends and family contact Evelyn at keeper1916@gmail.com

Books can be brought to the church beginning Sunday, January 21st, 2024.

If you are in need of help with delivery of your donated books please contact an able bodied church family member that lives in your area of town.



A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH
A God-Given Full Circle Moment

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Saturday December 16th at 2pm, members of the Church of the Epiphany are welcome and invited to join members of the Maeck Family, when we will gather together to give thanks to God for the life and memory of Ken Maeck. Some of you may remember when Ken and Sheila Maeck began attending the Church of the Epiphany in the early 1980's. They remained dedicated, faithful friends and members of the Epiphany Family until they moved to Manitoulin Island many years later. Sheila passed away on Christmas Day, 2022 and Ken passed away earlier this week on December 12th. We thank God that their sufferings are over and that they have been reunited in spirit.



Some of you may also know that Ken and Sheila's daughter Vivian, or Vicky, as she was so often called, is one of my dearest friends. I first met Vivian in 2016 when she served as the Chair for the Selection Committee for my last parish in the Diocese of Toronto. Even in those early days of my knowing her, Vivian was quite keen on my ministry as a biblical storyteller, and she was very supportive of my style and approach as a parish priest and preacher. Over time, Vivian (Vicky) eventually came to serve as my Rector's Warden, which is when we began our enduring friendship. Vivian was a rock for me during the time of my father's illness and death. Throughout our shared ministry together as Rector and Rector's Warden, Vicky anchored me with her genuine care, support, honesty, and in her ability to never be harsh or critical in any matters that pertained to my role as Incumbent. Even in the most difficult circumstances Vivian always cheered me on and uplifted me in ways that I will never forget.

I was so sad when Vivian informed me that she and her husband Bernard were leaving King City permanently, with plans to build a house and live up north in Blind River. But then, a year later, I met Archbishop Anne and with her support, I began to explore opportunities for ministry in the wonderful Diocese of Algoma. I remember the joyful sounding amazement that I heard in Vicky's voice when I told her that I was seeking to serve as the priest of her home parish – the Church of the Epiphany in Sudbury! When she learned that I was a candidate

for Epiphany, Vivian, without being asked, immediately came in full swing with the same level of support and encouragement that she always, so generously gave to me in previous years.

In my conversations with Vicky this week, we both were very surprised when we realized that during the time when she served as my warden, it somehow happened that Vivian never attended one of my funeral services. We recalled that, because she and Bernard were so often away in Blind River during the construction of their house, Vivian was not able to assist at any of my funeral services while in my previous parish. This means that the funeral for Vicky’s father will be her first one with me, her friend, serving as the priest and presiding celebrant.

Now, by the grace of God, it is my turn to be there for Vivian, Bernard and all their family and friends; and to support and encourage them in their time of grief and loss. Words fail to express what all this truly means to me personally. It comes as a God-given, full circle moment that I will never forget and will forever cherish.

To all Epiphany members who will be in attendance at Ken’s funeral, and especially those who are helping at the church in any way, I am truly grateful. I thank God for you. And I thank God, that tomorrow we will come together to offer our thanksgivings for the life of Kenneth Maeck, and as we welcome his friends and relatives, many of whom were beloved, long-time members of our Epiphany church family. For me, nothing would be possible without you, and without the amazing grace of God. Thank You and Thanks be to God!

Yours Faithfully, Elizabeth+



LET US PRAY

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Kevin Doonan; Marion Collinson; Joanne Petitt; Paulette Sage; David Tate; Joyce Van Eyk; Ruth Corston; Beulah Hester; Pat Ecclestone.

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



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.