

# EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

December 8 - 14, 2023

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

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## WORSHIP CELEBRATION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~

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

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

## READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2

Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

**SUMMARY OF READINGS:** All biblical passages for this Sunday shift the mood from lament and longing to the good news of God's coming soon. Both Isaiah and 2 Peter remind us of conditions in the world that persuade some that salvation is nowhere near. But those same passages boldly make their announcements of comfort and redemption to the faithful who are waiting. The composer of Mark's gospel uses Isaiah 40 to say that the promise is being fulfilled in the appearance of John the Baptizer to prepare the way. Psalm 85 helps us to now enjoy the anticipated consequences of God's presence.

**QUESTION(S) FOR REFLECTION:** By starting as an adult John awaiting an adult Jesus, Mark reminds us that Jesus grew up. It is an important reminder in the season of Advent, when we are tempted to linger too long within the images of a manger. A baby can be demanding, but in the case of the infant Jesus, the adult he will become is infinitely more so. Imagine a conversation between John and Jesus. What do you think they would talk about upon meeting as adults for the first time?

### AT HOME PRAYERS

**Morning** - Creator God, thank you for this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower me to be a messenger of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as I seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places I encounter. In the peace of Christ, I pray. Amen.

**Evening** - Holy God, you have comforted me throughout this day and rescued me from my exile. Where I have flourished, I give you thanks; where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness. Protect me through the night that I may rest in your realm of peace where righteousness makes a home. 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.



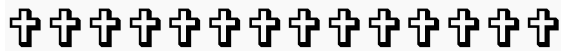
### REV. ELIZABETH'S "DROP IN" OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>:

Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup> – 1pm-3pm

Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> – 10am-Noon.

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](mailto:greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com) or leave a telephone message for her at the church office. Thank You



**THANK YOU!** A Big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to support our White Gift Sunday with your thoughtful donations. All donated gifts will be given to the young people through Sudbury's Action Centre for Youth. Shopping was done this week, and the bags will be filled on Monday for delivery on Tuesday. Thanks also to students at Lively Secondary who are helping out as well. Your generosity makes a big difference in the lives of others. Thank you, and Thanks be to God.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES:** are extended to two of our more senior members who were December babies a long time ago! Corrine Banks is celebrating her 96th birthday this month and Maybourne Kohlsmith, who we believe is our Supreme Elder, is celebrating her 99th! Congratulations to you both. A birthday card from the Parish has been sent to both these delightful long-lived ladies.



**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.



**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.





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

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

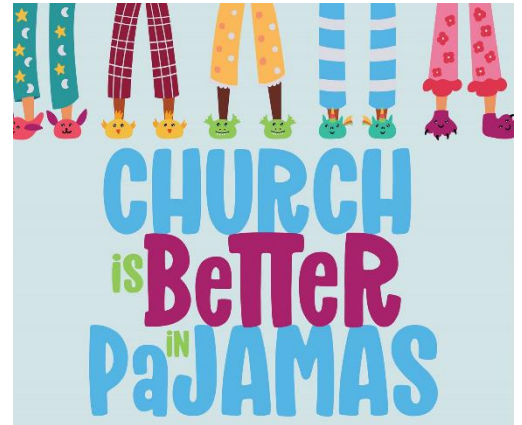
**WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

**9pm** traditional choral Christmas Eve worship service

**Christmas Day ~ Monday December 25<sup>th</sup>**

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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



**REMINDER:** If you or a loved one need to rent a walker, crutches, bed rail, raised toilet seat etc. on a short-term basis, such as after joint replacement, you are welcome to call Barb Bolton to see if she has one you can borrow, rather than rent. Her phone number is 705-674-1691



**A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH**

***PEACE***

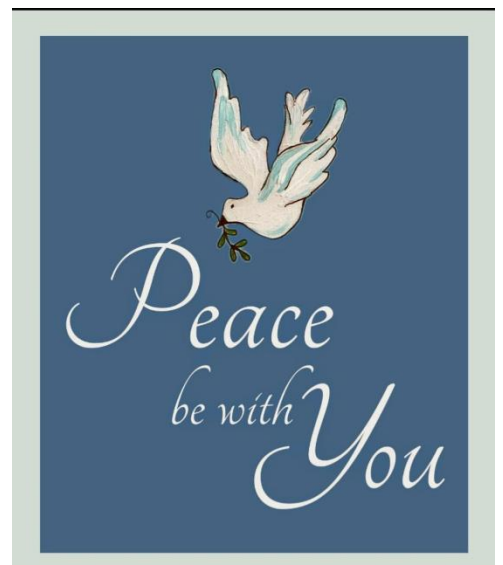
Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't know about you, but during this particular season of Advent, I find that I am not simply yearning for God's peace, I am desperate for it. The world is desperate for it.

It doesn't matter which country you visit or hear about, there's always conflict. Conflicts that lead to wars and the worst kinds of human atrocities are too often rooted in race, religion, land, and ethnicity.

Wherever we are in the world, there is history. There is history between ethnic groups, people of different skin colours, different religious groups, political parties, competing peoples and nations. all struggling for power and supremacy.

And even after the "struggle" is apparently over, there's inevitably a seething unrest bubbling away below the surface.



The fact that you or I alone cannot solve the world's geopolitical conflicts or even the tensions in our own country is both frustrating and overwhelming. We are desperate for peace. And so I wonder, is there something that you and I can do to help bring about peace in our neck of the woods, in Sudbury, and in the Church of the Epiphany?

In the First Letter of Peter we hear, *So all of you should live together in peace. Try to understand each other. Love each other like brothers and sisters. Be kind and humble. (1 Peter 3:8. ERV).*

Those words were written to a group of Christians who, in the first century AD, were undergoing terrible torture and persecution. And God's advice here through Peter the Apostle wasn't to stand up against the enemy. It wasn't to fight back. It wasn't to take over and win the argument. God's wisdom was that the church try to live together in peace. But how?

We live in peace by understanding each other. Understanding is always the first step towards peace, because it deescalates the conflict. We also live in peace through loving each other like family. Sure, families argue, but love prevails. We live in peace by being kind and humble. Kindness is one of the most underrated forces for good on the planet. Humility is a quality that we all admire, but very few aspire to.

Likewise, we are reminded that peace is something that we must put into practice if it is to become a reality.

Our Sunday morning liturgy and worship helps us in our efforts to practice and to bring peace. The worship we bring always attempts to express what we believe. During the *Passing of the Peace*, we take a moment to acknowledge that reconciliation with God and reconciliation with people go hand in hand. We cannot claim to have one without the other. We cannot rightly receive God's forgiveness if we are not reconciled to our sisters and brothers. Passing the Peace is our enactment of the reconciling love and forgiveness of God through Christ. We are literally touching one another, holding and shaking hands, in humility, in forgiveness, and in repentance. When we pass the Peace each Sunday morning, God's peace is being shared freely among God's people.

On this Second Sunday in the Season of Advent, God is saying, "Listen Up! You can bring peace to your home, to your neighbourhood, to your workplace, to your church. You can bring peace that only you can offer through understanding, love, kindness and humility." These are small steps that will take us a long way. May the peace of Christ be with us all.

Yours Faithfully,  
Rev. Elizabeth



**LET US PRAY**

**FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Wilson Biswas; Jane Kivisto; Dale Dunn; Don and Lorraine Campbell; Margaret Kamerman and Eddie Moswane; Terry Kett.

**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](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services)

Announcements for ETW should be sent to [etw@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto:etw@epiphanysudbury.org) by NOON each Thursday.