

# **The Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury**

Come as You Are. All Are Welcome!

## Worship Celebration for **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Service of the Word

**Sunday May 2, 2021**

Officiant and Preacher – The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green

The land on which we gather at the Church of the Epiphany is on the traditional territory of  
Atikameksheng and Anishinabek First Nations

This territory was the subject of Treaty 61, also known as the Robinson-Huron Treaty.  
We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful  
for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in this community, and we commit ourselves to  
the work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

### **The Gathering of the Community**

#### **Opening Hymn** [\*\*Come and Journey with a Saviour - CP 482\*\*](#)

- 1 Come and Journey with a Saviour  
who has called us from our birth,  
who has washed us in the waters,  
and who loved us on the earth.

#### ***Refrain***

Come and journey, come and journey  
with a Saviour who has come.  
We are all God's sons and daughters;  
in the Spirit we are one.

- 2 Come and journey, journey inward,  
Come and seek him deep within,  
Where he meets us in our living,  
In our striving and our sin. (Ref.)
- 3 Come and journey, journey outward,  
Telling others of his name,  
Telling others of his glory,  
Of his cross and of the shame. (Ref.)
- 4 Come and journey, journey outward  
Where that cross calls us to care,  
Where injustice and where hunger  
And the poor call us to share. (Ref.)

- 5 Come and journey, journey upward.  
Sing his praises, offer prayer.  
In the storm and in the stillness  
Find his presence everywhere. (Ref.)
6. Come and journey, journey onward;  
All our gifts we now shall bring  
To the building of a city  
That is holy, Christ its King. (Ref.)

Text: Herbert O'Driscoll (1928-) ©

Music: Melody *The Sacred Harp*, Mason, 1844; attrib. to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879);  
Harm. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-). *Harm.* © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used under license.

*Rev. Elizabeth* Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
*People* **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
*Rev. Elizabeth* This is the day that the Lord has made;  
*People* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
*Rev. Elizabeth* Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
*People* **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Rev. Elizabeth* Almighty God,  
*People* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ***We Seek God's Forgiveness***

### **Confession and Absolution** *for the Season of Easter – from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book.*

*Rev. Elizabeth* We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do as members of Christ's body. In God there is forgiveness.

*Silence*

*Rev. Elizabeth* Loving and all-seeing God,  
*All* **forgive us where we have failed to support one another and to be what we claim to be. Forgive us where we have failed to serve you; and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to yours we ask your pardon.**

*Rev. Elizabeth* God forgives us; be at peace. Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection; reconciliation for all the human race

*All* **We shall be one in Christ, one in our life together. Praise to God who has created us, praise to God who has accepted us, praise to God who sends us into the world.**

**The Prayer of the Day** *In Silence We Pray Together*

*Rev. Elizabeth* Holy God, Creator of All that Is, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation. We pray in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever.

*All* **Amen.**

**We Listen for God's Word spoken to us in Scripture**

**The First Reading** *from Acts of the Apostles*

*(Acts 8:26-40)*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'

He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of

them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

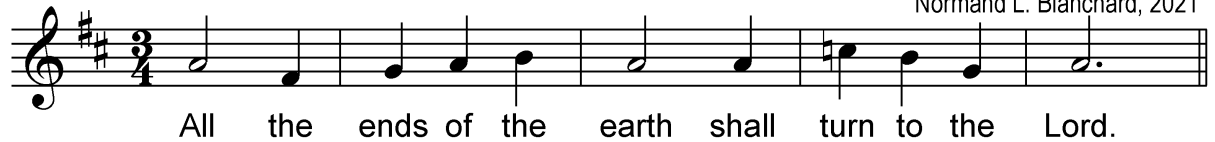
*Reader  
People*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us, the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Psalm**

Psalm 22:25-31

Normand L. Blanchard, 2021



### **The Second Reading** *from the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of John*

*(1 Jn 4:7-21)*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Reader  
People*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us, the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation

Normand L. Blanchard (2018)



*Rev. Elizabeth*

The Lord is with you

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Rev. Elizabeth*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **The Gospel**

*John 15:1-8*

*Rev. Elizabeth*

The Gospel of Christ

*People*

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## Sermon

### The Apostle's Creed

*Rev. Elizabeth*

Let us confess our faith as we say,

*All*

**I believe in God,**

**the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,**

**Born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Leader* Today in the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

In our Diocese, we pray for Christ Church, Windermere

Let us pray:

- For our Companion Diocese of Tarime
- For Anne, our Archbishop and Metropolitan of Ontario; for Linda, Primate of Canada; for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, for our priest and pastor Elizabeth and our Associates John and Rhonda
- For our outreach missions, through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
- For Suicide Prevention through the Council of the North
- For our local initiatives. We especially pray and give thanks for S.O.S. Street Outreach Sudbury
- For the students and staff at Laurentian University during this time of uncertainty
- For the world during this pandemic crisis

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying, God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Holy God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work in creation continues in us. Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you have made. We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness; God, who makes us one,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Holy God, Word of Life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people. Show us anew what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us. Enliven the church with your Spirit, that we may honour your earth with responsible care. God, who makes us one,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Almighty God, uphold your sisters and brothers who endure disasters caused by weather, war, famine, sickness and greed. Strengthen all who are in peril, especially we pray for the people of Brazil, India, Pakistan, Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, Israel and Palestine. We continue to pray for all the people of Greater Sudbury, as you hear the cries of those in need and who are in despair. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. God, who makes us one,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Holy God, Giver of All Good Things, bring trust and sympathy to the nations of the world. Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict. Give wisdom to the leaders and hope to the poor. God, who makes us one,

*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Merciful God, we pray for all who are in need of comfort. Comfort those who mourn; upholding those who are sick, or holding vigil, or awaiting words of hope; we pray especially for those who we name in the silence of our hearts (*please allow a long pause for silence.*) God, who makes us one,

*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Holy God, trusting in your never-failing mercy, we commend to you all those we have named, and those whose needs are known only to you, in the name of your Son, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**Hymn** **Through All the Changing Scenes of Life - CP 501** (*Tune: Richmond*)

1 Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.

2 Oh, magnify the Lord with me;  
exalt the sacred name;  
when in distress to heaven I called,  
God to my rescue came.

3 The guardian hosts encamp around  
the dwellings of the just;  
deliv'rance they provide to all  
who in God's shelter trust.

4 Oh, make but trial of God's love,  
experience will decide  
how blest and favoured are they all,  
who in this love confide.

- 5 Fear God, you saints, and you will then  
have nothing else to fear;  
Let service be your life's delight,  
your wants shall be God's care.
- 6 To Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
The God whom we adore  
Be glory, as it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

Text: Ps. 34:1-9; para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726), *New Version*, 1696, alt.  
Music: George Smart (1776-1867)

## The Lord's Prayer

*Rev. Elizabeth* And now we pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
*All* **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Doxology

*Rev. Elizabeth* Glory to God  
*All* **whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Announcements

**A Sung Blessing**

May the peace of God be your peace. May the  
 Love of God be the love you show. May the  
 joy of God be the joy you know, and may the world that  
 God would see be found in you.

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**The Blessing**

*Rev. Elizabeth*

Go now with joy, that you have been fed and healed, securely abiding as branches of the true vine. Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you by the One who never lets you go. Seek out those who abound with sacred questions, and be ready to answer a mystery with love. Alleluia!

**Closing Hymn****Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee - CP 425**

- 1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
 God of glory, Lord of love;  
 hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
 opening to the sun above.  
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
 drive the dark of doubt away;  
 giver of immortal gladness,  
 fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
 earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
 stars and angels sing around thee,  
 center of unbroken praise.  
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
 flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
 chanting bird and flowing fountain  
 call us to rejoice in thee.

3     Thou art giving and forgiving,  
      ever blessing, ever blest,  
      well-spring of the joy of living,  
      ocean depth of happy rest!  
      Thou our Father and our Mother,  
      all who live in love are thine;  
      teach us how to love each other,  
      lift us to the joy divine.

Text: Henry van Dyke (1852-1933), alt.

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); arr. Edward Hodges (1796-1867)

## **Dismissal**

*Leader*           Let us go forth in peace to love and to serve the Lord, as we love and serve  
                    one another. Alleluia!

*People*           **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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### **Acknowledgements for today's worship service**

Celebrant	Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green
Lay Reader, Intercessor	Christine Osmond
Cantor and Reader	Marion Collinson
Transept Cantors	Nora O'Neill and Ralph Mounter
Director of Music	Norm Blanchard
Technical Support	Kevin Doonan

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