

Epiphany This Week

May 7-13, 2021

Church of the Epiphany
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YEAR B

Sixth Sunday in
Easter

All church buildings in the Diocese of Algoma will remain closed until further notice. Church of the Epiphany is currently closed for in-person worship. Pre-recorded services will be available during this time.

Please join us for a pre-recorded digital **online** worship, Service of the Word with the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green beginning 8 am this Sunday.

You can find our programs on the parish website (www.epiphanysudbury.org) or on our Facebook page or on Youtube.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

As is evident from today's first story from the Acts of the Apostles, foreigners are equally included to receive the Holy Spirit of God, as they are fully welcomed into the messianic community of God. The joyous mood of celebration in Psalm 98 is closely related to God's vindication before the nations. Christological confession, with strong insistence that Jesus actually did come in the flesh, figures prominently in the First Letter of John. The Gospel story is a continuation of last week's story, where we hear Jesus' speech about the vine and the branches; and now with the crucial and compelling call for the disciples to love one another as Jesus loves them.

Question for Reflection

In our Gospel story this week, Jesus speaks of his extreme love for us, calls us his friends, and says that he makes known to us everything that he hears from God. How does thinking of Jesus as your friend affect your faith and your daily living?



COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Effective Thursday, April 8, the government is issuing a province-wide Stay-at-Home order requiring everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely. As Ontario's health care capacity is threatened, the Stay-at-Home order, and other new and existing public health and workplace safety measures will work to preserve public health system capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations, allow for progress to be made with vaccinations and save lives.

All church buildings in the Diocese of Algoma will remain closed until further notice.

COVID-19 VACCINE If you are 50 years of age or older in 2021 you are now eligible to have your first vaccine shot in Sudbury. If you have not already had it, or don't already have an appointment for one, this is the telephone number to call to arrange an appointment. **705-674-2299.**

If you are 40 or older in 2021 you may be able to get a vaccine at some pharmacies in Greater Sudbury (by appointment only)

- Shoppers Drugmart - Long Lake Road - 705-522- 3030
- Rexall - Val Caron – 705-897-4994
- Walmart – Lasalle - 705-566-9692
- Walden Family Drugstore – 705-692-5868

If most of us get this vaccine, the virus will not find hosts, and life will return to normal very much more quickly.

You can also access the appointment booking information at [Public Health Sudbury and Districts](#)

*****Stay Home, Stay Safe and Healthy*****

CONGRATULATIONS to Betty Stembridge who is excited to finally be a great-grandmother! We give thanks for the safe arrival of a healthy baby boy. The Stembridge name lives on!

ZOOM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Our next Zoom gathering is set for **Wednesday May 12, at 11am**. During these meetings friends check-in with one another, we offer prayers and spend time reflecting on a passage from scripture. If you would like to take part in these, please contact Mary Donato at donatomarye@hotmail.com

SPECIAL VESTRY ZOOM MEETING Please plan to attend the special Zoom meeting, May 12, 7 pm for the election of a new people's warden. We are most grateful to Gilles Tessier who has faithfully put his name forward to serve once again as people's warden. Please note that this election is the only item on the agenda for this meeting. A Zoom link, and other information will be sent out later in the week.



MUFFINS/PANCAKES WANTED Sudbury Action Centre for Youth is looking for donations of these nutritious items as they are operating an overnight program for youth 16-24. These are also great for distribution at the door to young people using their services. If you would like to offer some help occasionally, as well as for more information, please contact Mary Donato at 705 566 1589.

PAY IT FORWARD WITH PWRDF When you receive your vaccine, consider making a donation to Primate World Relief and Development Fund's Vaccine Equity Fund. Your gift will support PWRDF partners in the most vulnerable parts of the world as they prepare for vaccination rollout, including work already underway to supply PPE, thermometers, sanitation and handwashing facilities, and accurate public health information. Donate at pwrdf.org

PRAYER MINISTRY If you, a friend, or a loved one is in need of prayer and would like your/their name added to our Sunday morning prayers, and also in the next two issues of Epiphany This Week(ETW) Intercessions, please contact either Lorraine Campbell (705-822-4342) or Barbara Bolton (705-674-1691).

PASTORAL CARE If you, or someone you know, is need of pastoral care and/or a safe visit by Rev. Elizabeth, please be sure to let our priest know either by way of emails or telephone calls. Communication is always helpful as we strive to love and care for others.

Electronic Offering Program (EOP) at the Church of the Epiphany



Going forward, it would be most helpful if Members could make their financial offerings through the Electronic Offering Program.

For those wishing to enroll in EOP at the Church of the Epiphany, please go to our main website <https://epiphanysudbury.org>. On the top of the page you will see **Electronic Offering Program (EOP)**. Please click on this link to start your enrollment. Here is a direct link to the program <https://epiphanysudbury.org/electronic-offering-program-eop/>.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Questions from last week

In what ways have you experienced the gift of God's love this week? In what ways have you given God's love to someone else?

Responses and Reflections from Epiphany People

"As I was walking in the park yesterday a lovely young boy bid me the most beautiful and energetic 'Hello'. It warmed my heart so much that I said a prayer of thanks, grateful for the boy's bright and loving smile."

"Though I often feel so tired, I am doing all that I can to help a dear friend who is quite ill. I think this may be the way I have been giving the love that God asks us to give."

"It is no secret how much I adore my dog. I was thinking about how dogs are so good at giving unconditional love. I think a dog's love is like experiencing God's love – it's unconditional"

For next week:

*Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
He subdued people under us, and nations under our feet.*

Psalm 47 :1-3

Questions

*In what ways do you experience God as being awesome?
How does the awesomeness of God strengthen or inform your faith?*

Please email the Rev. Elizabeth with your responses to these questions no later than Wednesday, May 12th. Thank you. greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com

A Note from the Rev. Elizabeth

When was the last time you did something, you love, I mean really, really *love*? For me, the answer is yesterday. With the generous support and encouragement from the *Sudbury Downtown Churches Group*, I offered my first Biblical Storytelling Workshop in Sudbury, via Zoom. Twenty-five people registered, and twenty-two stayed to the very end.

For this workshop, which featured the story of the *Good Samaritan*, Kevin and I prepared two videos, we incorporated photos and digital images, and I was able to offer insights and information on how to learn, internalize and tell scripture by heart.

I have been a professional biblical storyteller for the better part of ten years now; it is my passion, it's what lights me up because it is the spirit-energy circuit between me and God our Creator. I know I was created to tell scripture by heart, it is something that I always long to share with others. Teaching, coaching, leading and encouraging people to tell biblical stories makes my heart sing, and leap with joy.

I wonder, what might that special *thing* be for you? In what ways do you follow your bliss and share the beautiful, life-giving, unique gifts that God gave you? If you have been unable or unwilling to tap into your spirit-energy and passion for life, I pray you find your way back to it, and to rediscover that holy spark that is within you. Why? Because when we do that special *thing* that each of us has been created to do and to share with others, we are truly living in the joy that only comes from God – the source of our love and creation. To God be the Glory. Thanks be to God.

With every Blessing, Elizabeth+

THIS WEEK'S INTERCESSIONS

(Please uphold the following in your prayers this week)



For the Church in the World we pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya

For the Church in our Diocese we pray for Hospital/Institutional Chaplains: The Rev. Anne Carr, The Rev. Gail Clifton, The Rev. Canon Barbara Graham, The Rev. Rhonda Hirst, The Rev. Beth Hewson

For our Companion Diocese of Tarime we pray for Gamasara - Catechist Clemencia Mnyoro

For those for whom prayer has been requested: Cathy Labelle, Bob Duff, Renee L. and Gwen Crosdale, William, Joan, Bishop Tom, Myrna Morrison

For Members of our Parish family Marion Collinson, Gwen Chmilar, Eric and Patricia Lind, Chantal McFadden, Fade and Remi Ogundimu and for our wardens, Peter, Jane and Hoi; and their families

Morning – *Holy God, I begin today breathing in your love for me, for others, and for the world. Keep me mindful of all the marvelous things you are doing around and within me today. Help me to feel my friendship with Jesus and his confidence in me. Maintain in my heart the image of myself as a tree, bearing the fruit of Christ's love everywhere I go today. I pray in his loving name. Amen.*

Evening – *Holy God, you are both judge and friend. Even as I review my day, I give it over to you. I let go of the good, the bad, and the in-between, trusting in your care for me. I am content this night to abide in your love. I breathe in your joy and peace. Whatever I need, I ask of you in Jesus' name. Amen.*



On the occasion when they first met, Archbishop Anne is hearing Rev. Elizabeth tell the story of the birth of John the Baptist, at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Lyn, June 2019. This is Elizabeth's ancestral church, and where she was baptized by her father.