

EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

February 10 - 17, 2022

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

(705)-675-2279 info@epiphanysudbury.org



Sunday, February 13th, *The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany* worship in the Church with Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green

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

10:30am – Worship Celebration (BAS) with Holy Eucharist, and in Honour of **Black History Month**

Readings for *The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Summary of Readings – The biblical passages from Luke and First Corinthians continue, each raising different issues. In Luke we hear the Sermon on the Plain, with a series of blessings and woes. The story from Jeremiah and the responsorial psalm both use the same kind of expressions as Luke, to stress the contrast between the righteous and the unrighteous, between weal and woe. Paul's letter to the church in Corinth turns our attention to Paul's argument concerning belief in the resurrection. To some extent its teaching and tone is similar to that of the Gospel story

Join us LIVE on Sunday mornings at <https://epiphanysudbury.org/our-services/>

The live stream will begin at about 10:15 and the service begins at 10:30

Question for Reflection and At Home Prayers

The God Jesus speaks of is not always the God we proclaim. Our human inclination is to fit God into our own small definitions, cultures and places. But God is always breaking down the barriers we construct to keep God in or out. Here, once again, God is calling us back. God is always reminding us that we must empty ourselves, turn away from the ways of the world, and then – and only then, only by God's grace – do we receive the fullness of blessings God offers to the utterly destitute, the marginalized, the expendable. Where, in your life, do you need God's help to break down barriers that you have erected to keep the radical mercy and love of God out of your life?

Morning – Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Guide my steps as I face choices to care for the earth or not, to show compassion toward others or not, to care for myself or not, to be true to Christ or not. May each of my choices draw me closer to you. In the loving name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Evening – Creator God, tonight I come home to you in prayer. Thank you for guiding me through this day, even when I was not conscious of it. Now I give this day back to you, entrusting all that I did and all that I left undone to your compassionate care. May I rest in the peace of your love and grace this night. Amen.

Reopening the Church of the Epiphany in the Diocese of Algoma

Revised Covid protocols have now been issued for the Diocese of Algoma. Though congregation singing is prohibited at this time, we are able to include more music in our worship and liturgy. For more information the Revised Covid Protocols for reopening Algoma's churches are available on the Diocesan website under the [Covid-19 Pandemic Response page](#).

Annual Vestry Meetings at the Church of the Epiphany. CORRECTION.

Please note that our annual Vestry meetings will be held in two parts, as we did last year amidst the pandemic. Our first Vestry will focus on our various ministries. This meeting is scheduled for the evening February 27, not February 20th as that is the Sunday of the Family Day Long Weekend. Our meeting on the 27th will be held on Zoom. Our Financial Vestry meeting will be held after the 2021 financial report is complete. Please watch for upcoming news, announcements and emails for when we will hold our Financial Vestry, also via Zoom. For more information, please speak with Gilles Tessier or Marion Collinson. Thank You.

[Electronic Offering Program \(EOP\) – The Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury](#)

The Electronic Offering Program is a service that is offered to you and your parish to assist in giving and receiving donations. In this computerized age where many of us pay our bills online this service allows many to donate to their church and other ministries electronically.

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February is *Black History Month*

Recognizing Black History Month in Canada

Why is it important to recognize and celebrate Black History Month in Canada?

The commemoration of Black History Month in North America dates back to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian Carter G. Woodson proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada shortly thereafter. During the early 1970s, the week became known as Black History Week. It was expanded into Black History Month in 1976. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The House of Commons carried the motion unanimously. In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month. It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.

The month of February provides all Canadians with an opportunity to celebrate and commemorate the legacy, history and achievements that Canadians of African descent have made and continue to make, and to recognize our commitment to equal rights, opportunity and freedom from discrimination in Sudbury and across Canada.

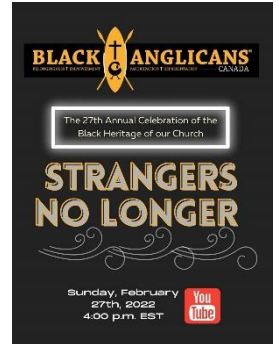
Celebrating Black History Month at the Church of the Epiphany

This Sunday, February 13th, the Church of the Epiphany will honour *Black History Month* with a special worship celebration at 10:30am. Please join us for worship in the church or online when we will renew our commitment to Racial Justice.

Strangers No Longer – Celebrating Black Heritage in the Anglican Church

Please mark your calendars for this very important worship service. Black Anglicans of Canada invites all Anglicans to the 27th Annual Celebration of the Black Heritage of our Church. You can tune in on YouTube on Feb. 27 at 4 p.m.:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVKY7RJYWxEwk6VcwsYERsA>



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR - 2022

Rev. Elizabeth has registered a team for Church of the Epiphany to participate in this year's CNOY (VIRTUAL) walk. Here's what you need to know.

It's cold out there. And on February 26, our team is going to do something about it. Together with thousands of Canadians across the country, we're walking and fundraising to support and serve people and families experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger in our community.

The walk in Sudbury supports The Samaritan Centre:

Since 2005 The Samaritan Centre has been holding space for care, community, and services for some of Sudbury's most vulnerable citizens facing multiple social barriers. The Samaritan Centre is a client-focused, facility operating a daily Drop-In, Outreach Services, weekly hairdressing services and Basic Recovery Groups. Through partnerships with other agencies The Samaritan Centre also offers Housing Intake, Nurse Practitioner services, HIV/Hep testing and reflexology/massage. The Samaritan Centre houses two feeding programs that are separate, non-profit agencies. The Centres collective vision is a resilient community where hope, dignity, and humanity can grow. The Samaritan Centre needs our support!

You can **sponsor** the Epiphany team, **join** the team and/or **send messages of encouragement to the team** through this link: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=973375>

Please, give generously by following this link:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/FundraisingPage.aspx?registrationID=5037054&langPref=en-CA>

OUR INTERCESIONS THIS WEEK:

We pray for our Parish Family: Dale and Lisa Dunn; Christine Kraus; Kevin Doonan; Susan Becker-Scott

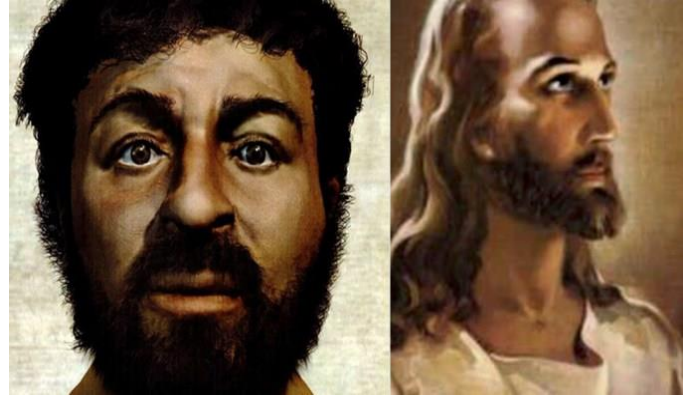
For those for whom prayer has been requested: John; Sandra; Irene; Lawrence; Jean; William; Sean; Mark, Colleen, Natalie and Curtis; Nick, Ellen and George, Carol and Riley.

“**Elwood Dunn** passed away into the loving arms of his Creator God earlier this week. A small Memorial Service was initially to take place Saturday, February 12th at 3pm, but due to complications related to Covid 19, Elwood's Memorial service has been rescheduled for **Saturday, February 19th at 3pm**. Please keep Dale and their daughter Lisa in our prayers at this time. Thank You.”

A Note from Rev. Elizabeth – for Black History Month
Jesus was a Man of Colour. Why We Should Care.

Dear Friends,

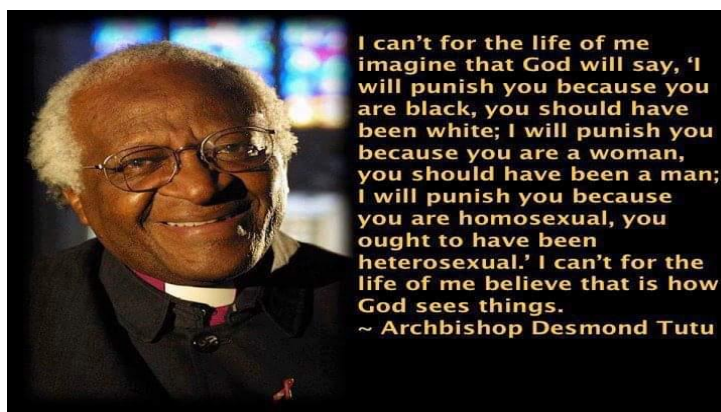
In 1977 I was seven years old. Looking back upon my childhood, I clearly remember watching the miniseries *Jesus of Nazareth*. This television drama starring Robert Powell as *Jesus*, offered a portrayal of the birth, life, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. As a young child, I loved everything about this epic miniseries. I loved it. Jesus looked so kind and gentle, with his wavy sandy blond hair, blue-eyes and his very white skin. This portrayal of the image of Jesus was not an issue for me in 1977, but it certainly is an issue for me now. The problem is, Jesus was not white. You'd be forgiven for thinking otherwise if you've ever entered a Western church or visited an art gallery. But while there is no physical description of Jesus in the Bible, there is also no doubt that the historical Jesus, the man who was executed by the Roman State in first century Palestine was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew. This is not controversial from a scholarly point of view, but somehow it is a forgotten detail for many of the millions of Christians who will gather for worship each Sunday. Christians attend churches to worship Jesus and, in particular, to remember his life, death and resurrection in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In many churches across Canada, Jesus will be depicted as a white man - a guy that looks like Anglo-Canadians, a guy easy for other Anglo-Canadians to identify with. Think for a moment of the famous painting by Warner Sallman called, *The Head of Christ*. Or call to mind some of the most famous artworks of Jesus' crucifixion by Ruben, Grunewald, and Giotto. In these images we see the European bias in depicting a white-skinned Jesus. Does any of this matter? Yes, it really does. As a society, we are well aware of the power of representation and the importance of diverse role models. After winning the 2013 Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *12 Years a Slave*, Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o shot to fame. In interviews since then, Nyong'o has repeatedly articulated her feelings of inferiority as a young woman because all the images of beauty she saw around her were of lighter-skinned women. It was only when she saw the fashion world embracing Sudanese model Alek Wek that she realised black could be beautiful too.



If we can recognise the importance of ethnically and physically diverse role models in our media, why can't we do the same for our Christian faith? Why do we continue to allow images of a whitened Jesus to dominate? Many churches and cultures do depict Jesus as a brown or black man. Orthodox Christians usually have a very different iconography to that of European art; and if you enter a church in Africa, you'll likely see an African Jesus on display. But these are rarely the images we see in Canadian Protestant and Catholic churches, and it is our loss. It allows the mainstream Christian community to separate their devotion to Jesus from compassionate regard for those who look different. I would even go so far as to say it creates a cognitive disconnect, where one can feel deep affection for Jesus but little empathy for a Middle Eastern person of colour. It likewise has implications for the theological claim that humans are made in God's image. If God is always imaged as white, then the default human becomes white and such thinking undergirds racism. Historically, the whitewashing of Jesus contributed to Christians being some of the worst perpetrators of anti-Semitism and it continues to manifest in the "othering" of non-Anglo Saxon Canadians

At this time in our history, I can't help but wonder, what would our church and society look like if we just remembered that Jesus was brown? What would happen if we were confronted with the reality that the body hung on the cross was a brown or black body that is broken, tortured, and publicly executed by an oppressive regime? How might it change our attitudes if we could see that the unjust imprisonment, abuse, and execution of the historical Jesus has more in common with the experience of Indigenous Canadians or asylum seekers than it does with those who hold power in the church and usually represent Christ? Perhaps most radical of all, I can't help but wonder what might change if we were more mindful that the person Christians celebrate as God in the flesh and saviour of the entire world was not a white man, but a brown or black skinned Middle Eastern Jew? These are very important questions for us to pray and to ponder, especially as we honour and celebrate Black History Month in Canada. *To God be the Glory. Thanks be to God.*

Yours Faithfully,
Elizabeth+



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