

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
Come as You Are. All are Welcome!



Archbishop – The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Incumbent – The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green
Deacon Associate – The Rev. Normand Blanchard
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The Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury

Come as You Are. All Are Welcome!

*Worship Celebration with Holy Eucharist
for the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Sunday, November 19th, 2023

10:30am

Preacher and Presiding Celebrant – Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather at the Church of the Epiphany is on the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng, Wahnapiatae, and Anishinaabek Peoples – First Nations who have sought to walk gently on this land.

This territory was the subject of the Robinson-Huron Treaty. We recognize the enduring presence of all Indigenous Peoples who are connected to and on this land; and as we commit ourselves to the work of healing and reconciliation, as we seek a new relationship with the original Peoples of this land; one that is grounded in justice, honour and deep respect for all Indigenous Peoples. May it be so.

The Gathering of the Community

Please stand

Opening Hymn Alleluia! Sing to Jesus – CP 374

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

Gloria Glory, in the Highest Glory - CP 366

The Prayer of the Day *We pray together in silence*

Presider Let us pray
Holy God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world.
Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal
light, peace and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated

We listen for God's Word spoken to us in Scripture

The First Reading *from the Prophet Zephaniah* *(Zeph. 1:7, 12-18)*

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At
that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the
people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their
hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth
shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build
houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is
near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD
is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of
wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a
day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day
of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against
the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they
shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day
of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be
consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants
of the earth.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm Psalm 90:1-8, 12



The Second Reading *from the First Letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 4:13-18)*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Celtic Alleluia – CP 715

Deacon The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 25:1-13

Deacon The Gospel of Christ
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Please be seated

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed *As you are able, please stand.*

Presider Let us stand and confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
I believe in God,

All **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 Holy Spirit and 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 *(standing, sitting, or kneeling)*

Leader Today in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma).

In our diocese, we pray for parishes or congregations in transition; that they will embrace God's vision for their future and that He will grace them with the ability to focus on their ministry and mission in the world as a people of hope and faith.

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. We pray for our priest, teacher, and pastor Elizabeth; for our deacon, Norm, for our associate, Rhonda, and for Glen, Archdeacon of the Sudbury-Manitoulin deanery.
- For all who visit, or who have recently become members of the Church of the Epiphany. Our community of faith is blessed to have you with us. **Thanks be to God.**

- For our outreach missions, through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
- For Sudbury's ecumenical faith communities; today we especially pray for our parish, the Church of the Epiphany.
- For Suicide Prevention through the Indigenous Ministries in the Anglican Church of Canada
- For our local initiatives; today we pray SOS – Sudbury Outreach Support.
- For the Rev. Canon John Gibaut and for the staff and students of Thorneloe University.
- For those who are marginalized, racialized, despised, ignored and rejected for any reason. May their need for justice be met with genuine mercy and compassion.
- For this Country of Canada, especially we pray for new Canadians and for all Indigenous peoples of this land.

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, God of grace, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you welcome us into your joy and entrust us with your gospel. In hope for the world to come and with love for the world you have made, we offer our prayers for your church, your earth and for your people.

For your church, in this community, in Bethlehem, in Gaza, and around the world, that your good news may be proclaimed to all. God of grace,

All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For oppressors, that they may know justice, and those oppressed, that they may know peace. God of grace,

All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For your creation, that we may be the caretakers you intend. We pray for Iceland and for all who are at risk of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. God of grace,

All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For the young, that they might be nurtured in love and sustained by a global peace. God of grace,
All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For the old, that they might be secure in the peace of your care. God of grace,
All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For those who fight the demons of addiction, that they might find relief. God of grace,
All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For those who face an early death and those they leave behind, that they might be comforted. God of grace,
All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For all those who care for the suffering and those in their charge, that they would be freed from pain and fear. God of grace,
All **hear our prayer.**

Leader For all those about whom we worry and those whose troubles are known only to you. God of grace,
All **hear our prayer.**

Leader All this we pray with gratitude for your eternal love and extravagant grace; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Light. **Amen.**

We Seek God's Forgiveness

Presider Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness.

Presider Most merciful God
All **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Deacon The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

We greet each other with the peace of Christ.

Offertory Hymn **O God We Yearn for Safety** (Tune: King's Lynn-389)

All **O God, we yearn for safety; we long to be secure.
Yet faithful, loving service is what you value more.
You give us what is needed; you love, forgive and save.
Then, sending us to serve you, you call us to be brave.**

**You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three;
to some you give one blessing to manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving and don't demand success;
You daily call your people to lives of faithfulness.**

**You give your church the gospel — Good news for us to share.
You give us great compassion for neighbours everywhere.
You give us skills to serve you and loving work to do.
We're blest to be a blessing, and called to risk for you.**

**O God, it seems much safer to live from day to day,
Protecting what you lend us and hiding it away.
Yet all these gifts can't flourish when hidden in the ground;
When we are brave to share them, your blessings will abound.**

Biblical References: Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27
Tune: Arthur Henry Mann, 1888 ("O Jesus, I Have Promised")
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The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Creator God, your word creates in us a yearning for your kingdom. Receive all we offer you this day, and keep us in your peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living word through whom you have created all things and all people. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. Jesus lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. In fulfilment of your will, he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people. Jesus chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name together as we sing.

Sanctus **Holy, Holy, Holy - CP 732**

All ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

Presider Holy and gracious God, accept our praise through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way Jesus took the cup saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me." Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand and to be in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your servant Jesus Christ. All honour and glory are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider *As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,*
All **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All **We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God
People **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei CP - 745

All ***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.***

All people of faith are welcome to the table of the Lord. It is Jesus himself who invites you.

Communion Hymn *Nothing Can Trouble (Nada te turbe) – CP 568 (Choir only)*
Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him – CP 59

Prayer after Communion *As you are able, please stand.*

Presider Let us pray together
All **Gracious God, in this sacrament we have shared the body and blood of Christ. May we who have been nourished in holy things bear witness to his light. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.**

Presider 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.**

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.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending – CP 601

Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgements for today's worship service

Preacher Presiding Celebrant	Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green
Lay Reader	Sean Etches
Cantor	Samuel Fritz
Reader	Carrie Leatherdale
Intercessor	Marion Collinson
Director of Music	Rev. Normand Blanchard
Technical Support	Kevin Doonan / Ralph Mounter

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