

EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

March 1 - 7, 2024

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

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WORSHIP CELEBRATION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ~ SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd 2024 ~

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

10:30am – Main Worship Service with music and Holy Eucharist (BAS).

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

SUMMARY OF READINGS: Today’s passage from the Hebrew serves as a reminder of what it means for us to be a people of the covenant. One who fails to live up to the stipulations within the

Ten Commandments has placed himself or herself outside the covenant. The 19th psalm echoes the notion that the law provides not only a general map for human living but that it also provides God-given directions along the highway of life. In his first letter to the ancient church in Corinth, Paul recognizes that not accepting the gospel is a subjective act. The gospel is the power of God “to us who are being saved.” It is out of our own experience of the saving work of God that we are able to recognize the crucified Christ as “the power of God and the wisdom of God”. The gospel story shines a light on the conflict of values; a conflict between what Jesus Christ really means and those values espoused by the structures of religion with which Jesus contended.

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION: The third Sunday in Lent focuses on the gift of God’s law. John Calvin (1509-1564) described three uses for the Ten Commandments: First, they show us how to live before God and neighbour and expose our sins in failing to live as God intends. Second, they instruct our civic or common life, showing us how to live responsibly in the freedom God gives. Third, rather than show us what we must do in order to *receive* God’s grace and love, the commandments show us how we should live *because* we are a people who have already received God’s grace and love in Christ Jesus. Does God’s law restrict or enhance our freedom as human beings?

AT HOME PRAYERS - Morning – God of heaven and earth, I listen this morning for the sound of your glory: in the song of the birds, in quiet conversations that begin the day, in easy laughter among friends, in sunlight’s warmth, pattering rain, or silent snowfall. Give me ears to hear your glory in many forms. Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises. Throughout this day I, too, will proclaim your glory, your grace, and your love so that I may be part of the chorus of praise that stretches to the ends of the earth. In Christ’s name, I pray. Amen.

Evening - God of freedom, I thank you for claiming me as your own and for setting me in the midst of the community of faith. Today the news was filled with stories of people who do not live according to your commandments, with grievous results. Lives are shattered as your ancient tablets of stone are broken again and again. And I struggle, too, in my own ways, to live before you and my neighbours in faithfulness, generosity, and love. As the day comes to an end, I pray for forgiveness for myself and for this weary world, confident of your grace and mercy. Send your gift of Sabbath rest, and let me sleep in peace as, over and around me, night declares to night your power and glory. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.



PLEASE REMEMBER - 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.



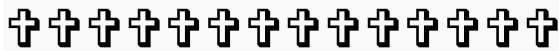
REV. ELIZABETH'S OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3rd:



Rev. Elizabeth will be available in the Church Office on Tuesday and Thursday morning of this week; and for most of the day on Wednesday.

She will be on Manitoulin Island for a meeting on Friday.

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 or leave a telephone message for her at the church office. Thank You.



LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS: As most of you know, an apartment on the Fourth Floor of St. Andrew's place suffered a rather serious fire on Monday night of this week. Smoke quickly spread throughout that part of the building, and many people were instructed by the Fire Department to evacuate. Thanks to the loving hearts and helpful hands of Joy Knuff, Gilles Tessier, Kevin Doonan, Marion Collinson and Rev. Norm Blanchard, the Phoenix Hall was quickly made available to those who needed the comforting warmth of shelter as well as some sandwiches, tea and coffee. We likewise give thanks to God that no one was hurt or seriously injured. Providing emergency shelter and hospitality served as a primary example of Jesus' Second Great Commandment – to love our neighbours as ourselves. Thank you and Thanks be to God!



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT – Every Wednesday during the Season of Lent, from now until Wednesday March 20th, Rev. Elizabeth will be offering worship in the church with Holy Eucharist, followed by a reflective bible study in the Algoma Room entitled *Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church*. Our worship will begin at 10am, with our bible reflection to follow. It is a good idea to bring a sandwich, beverage or light snack with you. Everyone is welcome.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS EVERYONE!
ARCHBISHOP ANNE WILL BE JOINING US FOR A BIG WORSHIP CELEBRATION IN APRIL!

On Sunday April 14th Archbishop Anne is scheduled to join us for a BIG worship celebration that may include the sacraments of Baptism, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Confirmation. A big worship celebration like this one will require a fair amount of planning. Plans are now in the works! If you haven't done so already, now is the time to let Rev. Elizabeth know if you or a family member is interested in receiving the sacraments baptism, confirmation, or the renewal of baptismal vows. It would be most helpful if you would kindly send Rev. Elizabeth an email indicating the sacrament that you wish to receive, and that includes your full name and contact information. Please email Rev. Elizabeth at greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com Thank You.



A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH:
Why is My Plan Not Working?

Dear Friends in Christ,

Vestry Season in the life of any Anglican Faith Community is usually always stressful. One reason for that has to do with all the hard work and good care that goes in to preparing for an informative, transparent, productive and worthwhile Vestry meeting. Hard conversations need to happen, financial statements need to be prepared and explained, reports need to be written and submitted, worship needs to be tailored to under an hour. In preparation for an annual Vestry Meeting, these things and more fall on our plates, even while the usual everyday cares and concerns of our lives persist. The other reason why Vestry Season is often stressful is because everyone wants the best for our beloved church – and that’s Good! But challenges arise because everyone’s idea of “what is best for our church” is weighed or measured differently. For example, we all want our church to “grow”. For some, “growth” might simply mean an increase in membership, and for others, “growth” might mean growing in discipleship or growing more fully in their relationship with God in Christ. Because “growth” can be interpreted differently depending on one’s point of view, debate can easily arise over which interpretation is more important in relation to “what is best for our church”. Just like living in a family is not always easy, neither is living in community. And yet as Church, we are called to be the body of Christ in our present place and for our present time. And that is precisely what distinguishes us, or sets us apart, from any other family, group, or organization. **Jesus.**



Christ Jesus who calls us to be his heart, his hands, his feet, his pattern and his *life* in the world is who sets us apart. When I look at the image alongside my note, I hear it speak a thousand words as it tells an old, and all too familiar tale. Whatever plan a community of faith may come up with, be it through certain skills, or a carefully crafted strategy, a balanced budget, or any other effort or idea that we might include in our plan for *what is best for our church*, our plan will not work if it is not grounded, rooted, tethered and upheld by the gospel.

If the life, teachings and examples of Jesus are not our starting place, then as Church, we will be aimlessly set adrift and run aground by way of our own misguidance. I know. I have seen this happen before. Therefore, as your priest and pastor, and in this season of our Vestry, I am renewing my commitment to better serve the community of the Church of the Epiphany by ensuring that we hold fast to the gospel in all that we do and in all that we are. That is, after all, what God has called me to do with everything that is in me. In this time of our annual Vestry, I vow to go, do and follow as I have been called by God in Christ through the waters of baptism. I pray you will too, so that together, we may grow in every way through our relationship with God and with each other.

To God be the Glory.
Thanks be to God.

Yours Faithfully,
Elizabeth+



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR ~ THANK YOU! I am grateful for the financial support of my church family at the Epiphany. Along with my family and friends we raised \$1465.00. Overall, the Faith in Action team placed 9th. We were in the top 10! Supporting our most vulnerable is what Jesus has asked us to do. From a grateful heart;
Evelyn



**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING
for The Church of the Epiphany
Sunday, March 3rd, following our
10:30am worship. Please mark
your calendars and be sure to
stay for our meeting. Thank You.**



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LET US PRAY

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Marion Collinson; Andrew Adegbite; Joy Knuff; Ruth Corston; Beulah Hester; Gerry Loughheed; Bill and Darlene McKetsy.

FOR THOSE IN NEED: Sheila; William; Jean; Pat; Nick and Ellen; John and Judith; Karen and Corrine; Della and Sandra; Frances; Monique; Carol and Bob; Peter; Maybourne, Roger.

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Watch us LIVE on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 at www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services

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

Donate Online: You can make a donation to the Epiphany, via PayPal, by clicking the “Donate Now” button at the top or bottom of each page on our website.