

# EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

March 22 – April 4th, 2024

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

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## WORSHIP CELEBRATION FOR HOLY WEEK and EASTER

**8:30am** – Traditional Said Service with Holy Communion (BCP) ~ for both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

**10:30am** – Main Worship Service with music and Holy Eucharist (BAS). ~ for both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

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**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.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** that there will not be an ETW Newsletter issued during Holy Week. Instead, worship services, along with news and announcements will be shared by email. The next edition of our ETW Newsletter will be issued on Friday, April the 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.

**INTRODUCTION TO HOLY WEEK:** It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew ‘Passover’) was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the *Pascha* developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, faithful Christian people share in Christ’s own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, ‘commandment’) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ’s washing of his disciples’ feet, the institution of the Holy Eucharist, and the perfection of Jesus’ loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil (‘Could you not watch with me one hour?’) Thursday passes into the sorrowful silence of Good Friday. Within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

This ‘Week of Weeks’ preserves some of the oldest texts still in current use, and rehearses the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories. At the same time, the worship services and ceremonies of Holy Week have in the course of Christian history been the occasion of, or have actively encouraged, hostility towards the Jews. The *‘Ioudaioi’* of St John’s Gospel have all too easily been identified with ‘the Jews’ as a whole, or more specifically those Jews who were neighbours of a Christian church. This places a double responsibility on those who lead the keeping of Holy Week today: to be faithful to the act of collective memory, but also to be sensitive to the ways in which an unreflecting use of tradition can perpetuate a strain of Christian anti-Semitism.

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# Holy Week

Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> - **The Sunday of the Passion** with the Liturgy of the Palms, 10:30am

Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> – Mid-Week Worship, 10am

Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> - **Maundy Thursday** with Washing of Feet and Holy Eucharist, 7pm.

Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> – **Good Friday**: The Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 11am

Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> – **Holy Saturday: The Great Easter Vigil** at the Church of the Ascension, 7:30pm



**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION IN HOLY WEEK:** The passion of Christ is a story of terror in which, against all odds, love wins. How might this story reshape your week, your life, our church, and our world? Where will you commit to letting love win? How will this change your life?

## **AT HOME PRAYERS**

**Morning** – Lord Jesus, in your passion and resurrection, you show me there is no place you have not been and no place you fear to go. Morning by morning, you awaken me more deeply to this truth. Send me into the world this day with the courage and wisdom to be a faithful witness to your coming reign of justice, mercy and peace. Amen.

**Evening** – Holy God, although I have sought to serve you this day, I have failed to keep your love. You know my strengths and weaknesses better than I do; I pray you reveal them to me, so that I may be healed this night and begin afresh tomorrow. In the presence of Christ, I pray. Amen.



Order  
Easter  
Flowers

**EASTER FLOWERS:** If you wish to contribute towards the cost of Easter Flowers for the church, please contact the Church Office **BY THURSDAY AT NOON PLEASE**. Donations can be made in memory of or in honour of a friend or loved one(s). In Thanksgiving for a person or event etc. etc.

Please e-mail [info@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto:info@epiphanysudbury.org) with your information: Name, Envelope number, Amount donated, as well as the memorial or thanksgiving information "In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_, or "In thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_"

You can donate online via the "Donate Now" button at the top and bottom of each page of our website ([www.epiphanysudbury.org](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org)) by credit card and e-mail the information as indicated above, or drop your donation off at the church.



## **OVERVIEW OF REV. ELIZABETH'S SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK**

**Monday** - Pastoral Visits with Home Communion

**Tuesday** – Worship Preparation for Holy Week and Easter

**Wednesday** – Worship in Wednesday of Holy Week, 10am

**Thursday** – Maundy Thursday, 7pm

**Friday** – Good Friday, 11am

**Holy Saturday** – Preparation for the Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday** – Two worship celebrations

Please be assured that if you need to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or schedule a visit for any reason, please email her at [greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com](mailto:greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com) or leave a telephone message for her at the church office. Thank You



**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY SANDWICH PROJECT** - Over the last many years, a small group of parishioners have always stepped up to provide the makings of at least 20 loaves of sandwiches in months with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, for the Elgin Street Mission at the Samaritan’s Centre. (FYI - There are usually about 5 months a year with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday). This year Easter Sunday falls on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday! The same faithful group will undoubtedly provide as they have every other 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. However, in conversation with The Samaritan Centre recently we have learned that they have need of and storage space for all kinds of **non-perishable** makings for sandwiches: items such as mayonnaise, canned salmon or tuna, peanut butter, jam, soft margarine etc.



In many places in the Gospels, we are directed to feed the hungry, as we attempt to follow Christ. Can we at Epiphany help fill their shelves with these items at Easter this year? We hope that many of you who are not already involved in this worthwhile project will bring some of these items to church with you this Eastertide. The food box will be open to accept these donations starting on Palm Sunday and at every service in Holy Week, including Easter Sunday. Let’s fill those shelves! Thanks in advance!!

**Note:** For those bringing the regular sandwich makings on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Sue Moland has agreed to be responsible for the collection and delivery of sandwich makings for the Mission on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday for the Church of the Epiphany. This month has 5 Sundays (next week March 31). For those planning to contribute, please reply to Sue at 705-694-0906 (voice or text) or by email to [tom.moland@live.ca](mailto:tom.moland@live.ca).



Celebrate the Promise of New Life

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**THE MEANING OF EASTER**



For us who follow the life, teachings and examples of Jesus made known throughout the Gospels, the ultimate significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death. His resurrection means the eternal life that is granted to all who have faith in him. The purpose of Easter also means the full confirmation of all that Jesus taught and preached during his three-year ministry. If Jesus had not risen from the dead or simply died and not been resurrected, he would have been thought of as just another teacher or prophet. However, the resurrection of

Christ rebuked all that and provided final and undeniable proof that Jesus was the Son of God, and that he had overcome death once and for all.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian gospel. Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). Certainly, without the resurrection, there would not be the Church; neither would there be Christian witness, preaching or faith. The apostles of Christ would have continued as the disheartened group, which the Gospel of John depicts as being in hiding for fear of the Judean authorities. They were in total despair until they met the risen Christ (John 20:19). Then they touched Christ's wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with him. The resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): "...for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). The resurrection affirms Jesus of Nazareth as the prophesied Messiah of God and the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth. To God be the glory. Thanks be to God.





**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION ON EASTER SUNDAY:** Paul's claim about Christ Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15 is a creed: Christ died, was buried, was raised, and appeared to many disciples and finally to Paul. Who writes, "by the grace of God I am what I am". If you were to say those words of yourself, what would it mean that everything about you – all you are and have done – is "by the grace of God"? Where is God's grace evident in your life today?

**AT HOME PRAYERS**

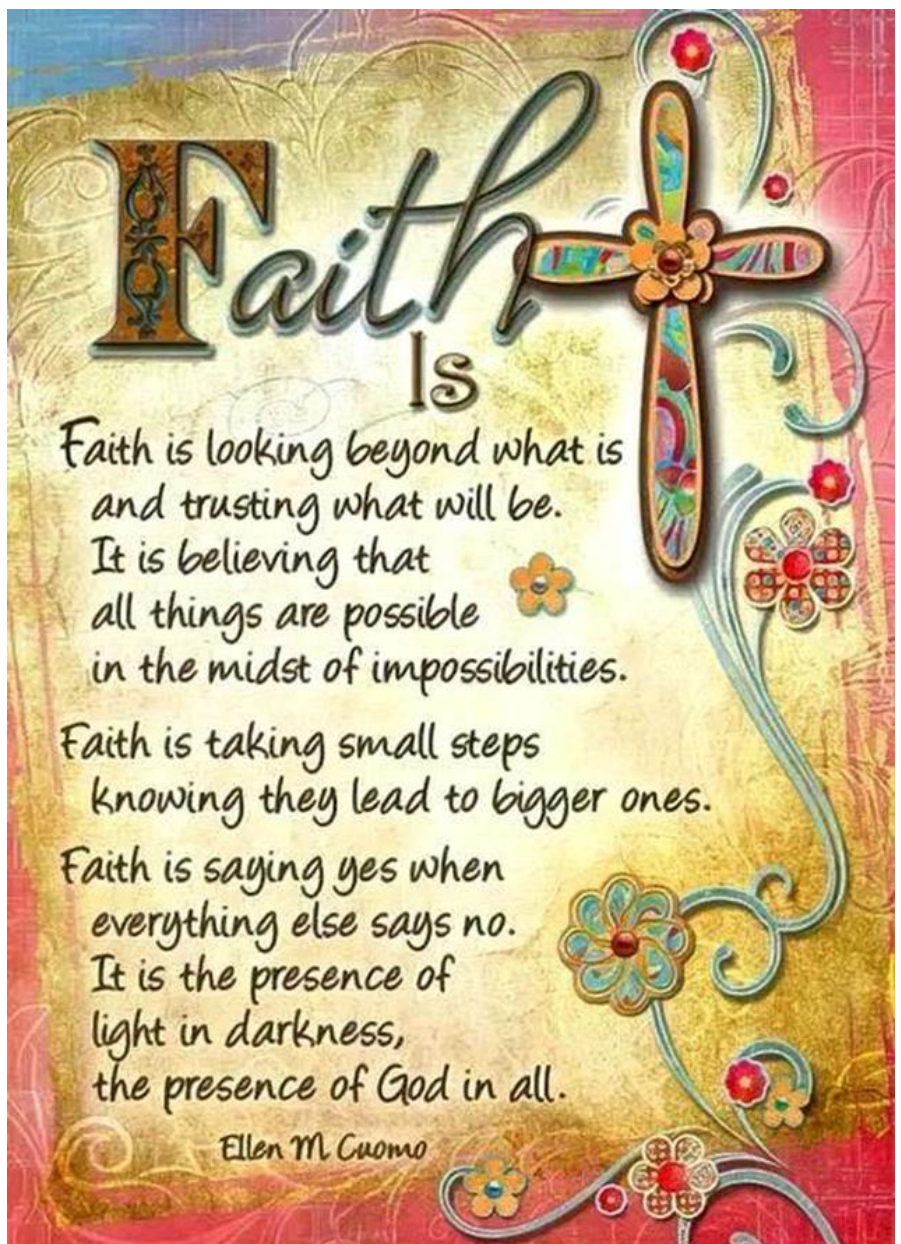
**Morning** – Holy and Life-giving God, I am full of thanks for a night of rest and for this new day and all that now awaits me. I go forward toward new encounters with family and friends, in work and in play, and all that will bring me into contact with strangers, certain that you are with me. Lead and guide me always in the way of resurrected life. Help me to see the risen Lord today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Evening** – Holy God, who is both Father and Mother, you are my comfort at the end as at the beginning of each new day. You pull me toward the goodness you desire for me. I give you thanks for all that has come my way this day, and I ask your enveloping power to watch over me this night. Give rest to all your people. Wherever there is suffering, pain and struggle, may your holy angels bring peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.



**A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH - *Holding Fast to Faith in Holy Week and Easter.***

I don't know about you, but for me, Holy Week and Easter always feels like an emotional and spiritual roller coaster. All the planning and worship preparation aside, when I fuller immerse myself into all the holy days leading up to Easter Sunday, and likewise steep myself in all the biblical stories that take us to the day of Resurrection, I cannot help but to feel it all. Even though all the stories and each day in Holy Week and Easter are so familiar to me, each year I somehow hear and feel them differently. Why? Because what is true for me, is true for us all: life, by its very nature, can feel like a twisting and turning roller coaster, with all of its ups and downs. One minute our lives echo the "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday, and the next minute we might find ourselves curled up in the fetal position, weeping at the foot of the cross. And then, just when we think we cannot bear another moment of anguish, our pain is transformed into the promised hope of something new and even unexpected. If you are a "feeler" like me, you know what I'm taking about. As followers of Jesus, we not only bear witness to the story, we sometimes find ourselves literally living the story. That is why holding fast to our faith is so important at this time of the Church Year. When the ups and downs of our lives seem overwhelming, the best thing we can do is hang on tightly to our trust in our Creator God and in all God reveals through Christ Jesus.



Our trust in God, our faith in God, plays a crucial role during Holy Week and Easter because it represents the core essence of our shared belief and practices. It is a time when we reflect deeply on the foundational events of our faith in Christ; such as Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his last

supper with his disciples, his brutal crucifixion, and ultimately, his glorious resurrection. Faith during Holy Week and Easter is not just about biblical acknowledgment, it is about personal and communal engagement with the profound spiritual truths that all these events symbolize. It is a time for us to renew our trust in God's plan for salvation, to contemplate the sacrificial love demonstrated by Jesus, and to embrace the hope and promise of new life through his resurrection. Holy Week and Easter serve as a powerful reminder of the central tenets of Christianity as they invite us to reaffirm our commitment to living out our faith with sincerity, love, devotion, and in complete trust that God in Christ makes all things new. New Way, New Life *is* the way of God, always and forever revealed and made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. To God be the Glory. Thanks be to God.

Happy Easter Everyone.

Yours Faithfully,  
Elizabeth+



**ARCHBISHOP ANNE WILL BE JOINING US FOR A BIG WORSHIP CELEBRATION IN APRIL!**

On Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> Archbishop Anne is scheduled to join us for a BIG worship celebration that is evolving from what we originally had in mind. Rev. Elizabeth will be meeting with Archbishop Anne next week to discuss her Episcopal Visit with us at Epiphany.



**HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK IN THE DIOCESE OF ALGOMA:** Archbishop Anne, along with the Social Justice Committee for the Diocese of Algoma, are pleased to present for the first time in the life of our diocese, *Homelessness Awareness Week*. Please mark your calendars and watch our upcoming weekly newsletters for more information. Thank You.

Join the  
"Panel Discussion Event"  
moderated by  
Abp. Anne Germond  
on Thursday May 2nd,  
7-8:30pm

HOMELESSNESS  
WEEK

Visit the Diocese of Algoma  
website for Homelessness Week  
reflections, prayers, and parish  
resources.

Send questions and register at  
[Jane.e.cox1@gmail.com](mailto:Jane.e.cox1@gmail.com).

Registrants will receive the  
webinar link 3 days before the  
panel discussion on May 2nd.



## LET US PRAY

**FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Philip and Mary Hopkins; Pat Ecclestone; Beulah Hester; Tom and Sue Moland; Colleen and Randy Hill; Richard and Joanna Nanka-Bruce.

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



**Watch us LIVE** on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 at [www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services)

**Announcements for ETW** should be sent to [etw@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto: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.

