

EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

November 29 – December 5, 2024

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

www.epiphanysudbury.org 705-675-2279 info@epiphanysudbury.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday 9:30 – 12:00. You can reach Carrie, our Parish Administrator at the phone number or e-mail address above. **If you need to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or schedule a visit for any reason**, you can contact Carrie, or you can email Rev. Elizabeth directly at greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com. Thank You.



WORSHIP FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st ~

8:30am - Said service of Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am - Main Worship with music and Holy Eucharist (BAS)

READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF

ADVENT: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

SUMMARY OF THE READINGS: The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church. Advent is a season of hope, preparation, and anticipation for the coming of Christ. It focuses on the themes of vigilance and readiness for both the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and his promised return. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the promises of the fulfillment of God's covenant with ancient Israel and Judah, where God will raise a righteous Branch from David's lineage. This leader will execute justice and righteousness, ensuring safety and restoration; and Jerusalem will be called "The Lord is our Righteousness." Psalm 25 is a prayer of trust and guidance, where the psalmist seeks God's mercy, instruction, and forgiveness, relying on God's steadfast love and faithfulness. In his first letter to the ancient church in Thessalonica, Paul expresses gratitude and joy for the faith of the Thessalonians, praying earnestly to see them again and to strengthen them in their faith. He asks God to increase their love for one another and to make their hearts blameless in holiness in preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. In the gospel story, Jesus tells of signs in the heavens and on earth, signaling the coming of the Son of Man and calling for vigilance and prayer. All these biblical passages combined elevate the season of Advent with themes of hopeful anticipation and readiness for Christ's return.

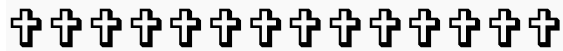
QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: At the start of this Advent season, Jeremiah reminds us of God's unwavering faithfulness and promise to bring justice, righteousness, and hope through a righteous leader who will bring justice and peace. This prophecy, fulfilled in Jesus, reveals that God is faithful to God's people at all times and in all places. Then as now, Jeremiah invites us to anticipate God's continued work in the world and in our lives. How might you cultivate a deeper trust in God's promises in your daily life? In what ways can you reflect Christ's justice and righteousness in your relationships with others?

AT HOME PRAYERS: Morning – Loving God, as this new day begins and the season of Advent unfolds, I open my heart to your presence and your promises. Help me to wait with hope, live with faith, and prepare my soul to receive the peace and joy that only you can give. I pray in the name of the one for whom I wait, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evening – Merciful God, as this day comes to a close and the season of Advent begins, I thank you for your faithfulness and loving presence. Grant me rest, peace, and a renewed heart, ready to await the coming of Christ with hope and joy. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



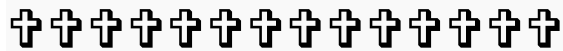
COVID CASES ARE RISING AGAIN - If you are not feeling well, or have any ill symptoms such as coughing, fever, fatigue, or a sore throat, please stay home and join us for the worship services that will be offered online. We are delighted to welcome you online if you are not able to join us in person.



THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1st IS EPIPHANY'S ANNUAL WHITE GIFT SUNDAY : The First Sunday of Advent has traditionally been known as White Gift Sunday.

For many years now, we have collected items for Christmas bags that were given to the youth at SACY – (the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth). Unfortunately, SACY has had to close its doors. As we learned at Epiphany's most recent *Lunch and Learn*, through the presentation by Amanda from The Hub, (located at the YMCA and serving youth between the ages of 12 and 25), many of those youth now go there. The suggestion was made that gift cards in small amounts from various places like Walmart, Giant Tiger, Basics, Dollarama, would allow the recipients to make their own choices rather than be supplied with the items we provide– and that makes sense! We also learned that on December 4th, the Sudbury Youth Wellness Hub will be holding a warm clothing fair where the participants can take what they need. We recognize that some of you may already be collecting toques, socks, mitts, and the like. Therefore, Epiphany's Outreach Group would like to propose the following for this year's White Gift Sunday - Either a monetary donation be offered in a white envelope that can be used towards the purchase of gift cards for the youth at the Hub; and/or that hats, mitts, scarves, blankets, and other warm clothing items be given to the Hub's Warm Clothing Fair. In whatever way you choose to give, together we will be serving youth who are in need of our care, compassion and generosity. If you have any concerns or questions please speak with Carrie in the church office, or please contact Linda -705 618 9208; or Mary – 705 690 2625. Thank You!

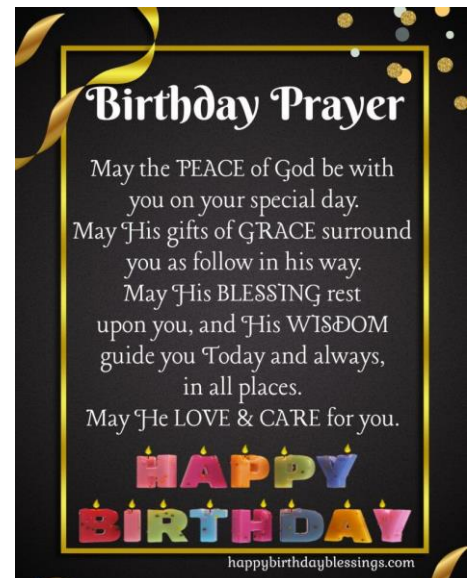
*A New Initiative
for
White Gift Sunday!*



BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: are being sent out to our two most senior members by their Church Friends. Corinne Banks will celebrate her **97th** birthday at her new home in Pioneer Manor on Dec. 2nd and Maybourne Kolhsmith will celebrate her **100th** on Dec. 7th at her Countryside Extencicare home.

Rev. Elizabeth will be making a special announcement before worship this Sunday about how we all can wish our “Golden Girls”, a very happy birthday!

Happy Birthday, Ladies!



MAISON McCULLOCH HOSPICE: If you are looking for a Christmas gift idea for someone who has everything, or needs nothing, perhaps you would consider looking at the list of “Wish” items the Hospice has prepared for this year. Several of our parishioners have used the peace and services of our Sudbury Hospice in the past year.

The Wish List is posted on the bulletin board in the Algoma Room.

Rev. Norm suggests you do not physically have to purchase any of those items. Cash or cheque donations towards any item on the list would be the best way to give this Christmas and any gift over \$10 will receive a charitable donation receipt from the Hospice too.



WORKING FOR RECONCILIATION AND RIGHT RELATIONS: You are invited to experience a sharing circle with Elder Jim Eshkawkogan. The Right Relations team at St. Andrew's is offering an opportunity to learn and build relationships in a sharing circle with our friend Elder Jim.

Date: Dec 3 at 2:30pm in the sanctuary at St. Andrew's, 111 Larch St. Those interested might consider bringing a small snack to share with those around the circle.

Everyone is welcome.

For more information and to RSVP, contact one of the following:

Janet at 705-673-8759

Marilyn at 705-929-5257

Sylvia at 249-360-3474



CONGRATULATIONS GILLES: On Thursday, November 28th, the Very Reverend Jay Koyle, Provost of Thorneloe University, along with Thorneloe's Chancellor, Archbishop Anne Germond celebrated with Gilles Tessier, who was awarded with the Fellowship Award from Thorneloe University.

Stacy Sathaseevan, Thorneloe's new President, had this to say about Gilles - *"When Gilles became the Treasurer of the Thorneloe Board of Governors in 2022, he took on a much larger role than anticipated. At a time of great transition, Gilles, a volunteer nonetheless, maintained regular office hours as needed. In this time, he took on the responsibility of the day-to-day finances required to keep Thorneloe operational. This went on for many months. He was tasked with finding an external bookkeeping organization and provided our Executive Administrator with endless support while establishing a new financial process for the institution. In the absence of a Manager of Finance, Gilles worked closely with our external auditors to locate information and provide additional clarification during the audit process. Gilles has worked tirelessly as a liaison between Thorneloe, external bookkeepers, and the financial institutions we work with. Gilles has been instrumental in ensuring the continued financial operation of Thorneloe University through his long hours offering support at a crucial transitional period, establishing a new system that works for our organization and continuing to mentor us, especially me, as we settle into a new normal. Thorneloe University is grateful for Gilles' dedication and hard work and acknowledges the crucial role he has played in ensuring our continuity. "*



Congratulations Gilles! Your Epiphany Church Family is so very proud of you! Thanks be to God!



SANDWICHES ON THE 5th SUNDAY: This is an early reminder that there is 5 Sundays in December and that means it's our turn to provide sandwich makings for the Mission. During your Christmas planning please think of the Mission and their need to provide food at this time of year.

Thanks, and God bless. ~ Sue Moland



A NOTE FROM PHILIP, HEAD OF EPIPHANY'S CRRAP COMMITTEE.

Greetings Epiphany Friends!

Now that we have entered the season of snow, ice and wet weather, it would be really great if we could all do our part to help maintain the new floors in the Algoma Room. If you can, please bring a pair of slippers or "inside shoes" with you, for services or other events, and kindly leave your snowy wet footwear in the cloak room. This will be a great help in keeping the floors in the Algoma Room in tip-top shape. Please speak with me if you have any questions or concerns. I'm here to help.



Many Thanks.
Philip Hopkins



A NOTE OF THANKS SHARED BY LINDA, ON BEHALF OF EPIPHANY'S OUTREACH GROUP:

Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters of Epiphany's Outreach Ministry;

Donations from Epiphany for the Sudbury Secondary School Christmas Project continue to be a sign of God's love in action!

This week our church received a *Thank You* email from a teacher who is coordinating the Christmas gift baskets for students in need. The teacher wrote to us saying,
"Thank you so very much for your generous donations to our Christmas Baskets for Students in Need. We have a list of about 20 students who have families that are struggling this holiday season and your donations will go a long way. Our committee met yesterday and thanks to you and some other community sponsors, we will be able to purchase a \$50 grocery store gift card, plus some other specialty items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, hats and mitts) for each of our families. We will also send income tax receipts and thank you cards in the mail in the new year."

Thank you so much, Church of the Epiphany, for supporting this downtown outreach project and for helping to bring God's love to our community. ~ Linda.



A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH

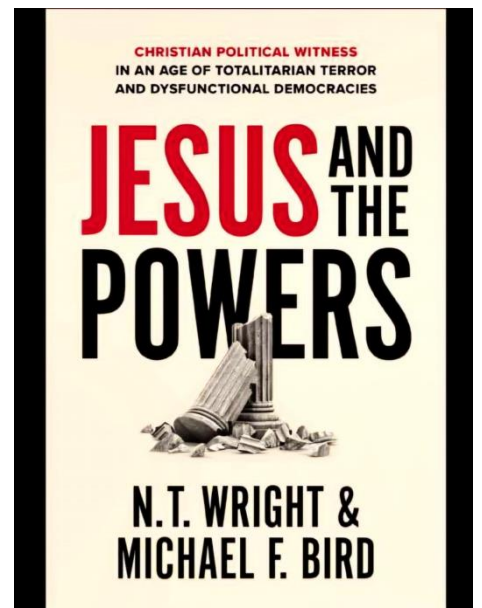
***Jesus and the Powers:
Christian Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies***

An Advent Book Study in the Diocese of Algoma

Dear Friends in Christ,

Everyone in our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to take part in our Diocesan Advent Book Study that will be led by our Assisting Bishop, Bishop Michael Oulton. The book that has been selected is called, *Jesus and the Powers: Christian Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies*, by renowned authors N.T Wright & Michael F. Bird. It is a timely and important read, especially for the season of Advent.

Jesus and the Powers examines the political, social, and spiritual "powers" that dominated the ancient world of Jesus and how his life, death, and resurrection directly confronted these forces. Wright and Bird draw on biblical texts, historical analysis, and theological insights to reveal how Jesus' mission was not only about personal salvation but also a profound challenge to oppressive systems—be they religious, political, or cosmic. The book presents Jesus as inaugurating God's kingdom, which redefines power through love, justice, and self-giving sacrifice, ultimately exposing and subverting the false powers of the world.



Advent, as a season of anticipation, focuses on the coming of Christ—the one who enters into a world of oppression and brokenness to bring hope, peace, and renewal. *Jesus and the Powers* resonates with Advent themes by inviting readers to reflect on the following:

The Incarnation as a Confrontation with Power

Advent celebrates the humility of Christ's birth, which stands in stark contrast to the power structures of the world. This book challenges us to see the birth of Jesus as a revolutionary act of God's kingdom breaking into human history.

Hope in the Midst of Darkness

At the end of 2024, a year that is undoubtedly marked by many global challenges, the message of Jesus confronting the powers of darkness feels particularly timely. Advent reminds us that God's light shines in the darkest places. *Jesus and the Powers* underscores that hope.

A Call to Active Faith

As Advent serves to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, *Jesus and the Powers* calls us to examine how our faith interacts with the "powers" of today – powers such as political systems,

social inequalities, and personal idols, and instead, encourages us to fully embody the kingdom values of Jesus in our lives today.

Jesus and the Powers is an ideal read for Advent because it moves beyond a sentimental view of the Nativity to a deeper understanding of the radical implications of Jesus' birth, life, and mission. It encourages all of us to prepare not just for the holy season of Christmas, but for a transformative encounter with the living Christ.

It's not too late! Copies of *Jesus and the Powers* can be ordered and delivered quickly through Amazon Canada. The book is also available on Kindle. To register, please contact Carla at the Diocesan Synod Office (carla.macewan@dioceseofalgoma.com). Please let her know you would like to take part. Carla will soon be emailing the Zoom link to all who have registered. Bishop Michael will lead our book study sessions on three Wednesday evenings in Advent – the 4th, 11th, and 18th. I hope to see you there!

Yours Faithfully,
Elizabeth+

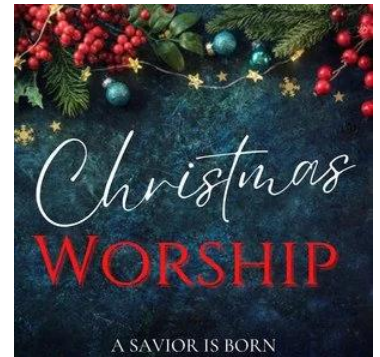


FAIR TRADE COFFEE: If anyone is interested in purchasing fair trade coffee, please advise Mary Donato or the church office. It will only be ordered if there is sufficient interest. Ground and bean coffees are available from many different countries such as Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador. Decaf, in both ground and bean form, is available but is only ordered on request. All profit goes to support Alongside Hope (formerly Primate's World Relief and Development Fund).



WORSHIP TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve – Family Celebration, 5pm; Traditional Worship, 9pm
Christmas Morning - Worship with Holy Eucharist – 10:30am.
All Are Welcome!



GIFTS OF STORY & SONG: Some members from Epiphany are taking part in *Gifts of Story & Song* at the Church of the Ascension on Sunday December 1st. Ticket information and other details are provided in the poster below:

Church of the Ascension
1476 Sparks Street, Sudbury, Ontario

Presents
"Gifts of Story & Song"
Sunday, December 1st, 2024 at 6:30pm
Tickets - \$25.00

Join us for our "Winter Wonderland" evening
in support of our Church and "The Go-Give Project"

*** Featuring ***
Jeff Hooper - MC

Gerry Laughhead Jr.
Mary-Beth Miller
Alexandro Costantini
Elizabeth Green
Jacinthe Trudeau
Jeff Wiseman
Hoi Chua

Matt Walchuk
Jeremy Mannella
Philip Balon
John Feldman
Christina Masotti
Melissa Schank
Sarah Craig

For tickets please contact –
Kath Greenidge – email k.greenidge@sympatico.ca or 705-560-5069
Church of the Ascension – email ascension@vianet.ca or 705-566-2790

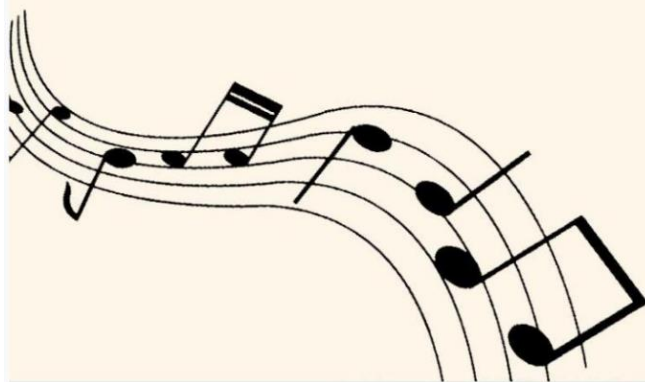
ANOTHER EPIPHANY CONCERT SERIES CONCERT:

THE CHURCH OF EPIPHANY PRESENTS

THE MUSICIAN'S OF TODAY AND STARS OF
TOMORROW FEATURING SONGS FOR THE SEASON.

Date & Time: Saturday,
December 7th at 2pm
Location: Church of the
Epiphany, 85 Larch St.

Free will offering to the Church of
the Epiphany may be made at the
door of the event.



Welcome to Our World

The Sudbury Chamber Singers

50th Anniversary Christmas Concerts

50 years of holiday favourites

Dec 20 (Fri), 7:00 p.m.

Dec 21 (Sat), 2:00 p.m.

The Church of the Epiphany
85 Larch St. Sudbury

Tickets, \$20

Reservations: tine@snolab.ca

705-561-8431

Special Guest Conductor and Guitar:

Jeff Wiseman

Music Director: Susan Urquhart

Collaborative pianist: Damien Laframboise



LET US PRAY

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Marion Collinson; Jane Kivisto; Bill Heathcote; Nancy Cresswell; Wayne and Kay Jermyn; Gilles and Mary Tessier.

FOR THOSE IN NEED: Terry; Sheila; William; Myrna; Maybourne; Karen and Corrine; Joanne; Frances; Pat; Carol, Bob and Riley; Nick and Ellen; Marg.



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.



The First Sunday in Advent