

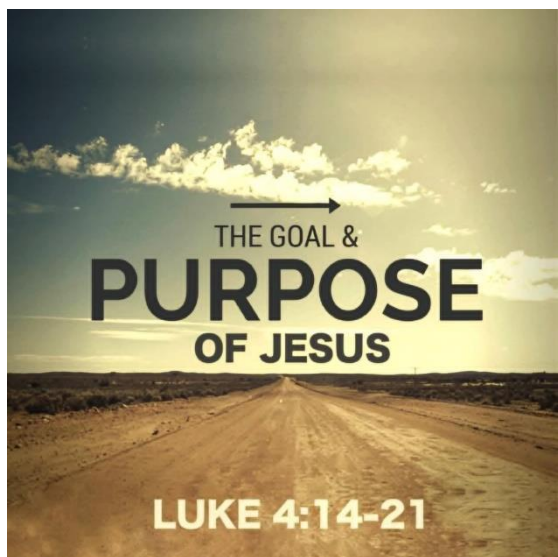
EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

January 24 – 30, 2025

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. **Please note** that every Monday an overview of Rev. Elizabeth's weekly schedule will be posted in the window of the Church Office. If you need to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or schedule a visit for any reason, you can call the church office or email her directly at greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com . Thank You.



WORSHIP FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 26th, 2025 ~

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

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

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

SUMMARY OF THE READINGS: In Nehemiah the ancient Israelites gather as one to hear Ezra read and explain the

Law, signifying their collective hunger for God's Word and a desire for spiritual restoration. Their emotional responses of worship, weeping, and eventual joy, underscores the power of understanding Scripture to convict, renew, and strengthen a community in God's grace. Psalm 19 declares the revelation of God's glory in two ways: through creation, which proclaims God's majesty and power, and through God's divine law, which is perfect, trustworthy, and life-giving. The psalm concludes with a prayer for personal purity and that one's words and thoughts may be pleasing to the Lord. In his first letter to the ancient church in Corinth, Paul uses the metaphor of the body to emphasize the unity and diversity of the church, where every member, though different in function, is indispensable and contributes to the well-being of the whole. Paul calls the Church to honor and care for one another, affirming that God has arranged each part of the body as God wills and that love is the guiding principle for living in this interdependent community. The gospel story tells of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. He reads from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue, and there proclaims that he is the fulfillment of the prophecy to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and healing to the broken-hearted. This declaration reveals Jesus' Spirit-empowered mission to inaugurate God's Kingdom, emphasizing liberation, justice, and restoration for all people.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Paul's teachings to the ancient Corinthian church, reminds us that the body of Christ thrives on interdependence and mutual care, where every member, no matter how seemingly insignificant, holds sacred value. Just as the human body requires every part to function harmoniously, so too does the church need the unique gifts and contributions of all its members to fulfill its mission. This passage challenges us to reject divisions, pride, or favoritism within the community of faith, calling us instead to honour and uplift one another, especially those who may feel overlooked or undervalued. By embracing this vision of unity and shared purpose, we embody the love of Christ and bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

How can we, as a community of faith, ensure that every member feels valued and included in the life of the church? In what ways is God calling you to use your gifts to serve and strengthen the body of Christ?

AT HOME PRAYERS: *Morning* – Loving God, as I begin this day, remind me that I am part of the body of Christ, uniquely created and gifted to serve your purpose. Help me to honour the gifts of others and to work in harmony with those around me, celebrating the unity we share in you. Guide my steps to contribute to the well-being of the whole, and grant me the humility to value every member of

your body. May all I do today bring glory to you and build up your Kingdom. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Evening – Gracious God, thank you for the ways I have served today. Forgive me for where I've fallen short and help me use my gifts to honour you and others. Grow me in unity and love that comes from you, and renew me for tomorrow to reflect your grace in all that I do and say. In the love of Jesus, 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.



EPIPHANY'S GIGANTIC BOOK SALE - IS HAPPENING NOW! The Phoenix Hall at the Church of the Epiphany is FULL of books! Please be sure to visit our Booksale and bring your friends. The books, CDs and DVDs that you buy will help support Epiphany's local Outreach initiatives (photos)



One Of A Kind Bookmarks – Marg Loney, who is a renowned local artist and beloved friend and longtime member of Epiphany, has graciously blessed our Booksale with 100 of her hand painted bookmarks. Marg is famous for her flower paintings. Several years ago, Marg was quoted saying, "I cannot imagine

a world without flowers. When I was a child growing up in Larchwood, there were these beautiful marsh marigolds. Wild roses bloomed in the grove and we had bright red geraniums on the windowsill all winter long." Now at the tender age of 96, Marg continues to paint her lovely flowers for bookmarks. Her artwork is a treasure and we thank God that Marg is still able to paint so beautifully, and that she is able to share her gift of painting with us. At Marg's request, the proceeds from her bookmarks will be donated to The Sudbury Women's Centre. Thank You Margaret, and Thanks be to God.



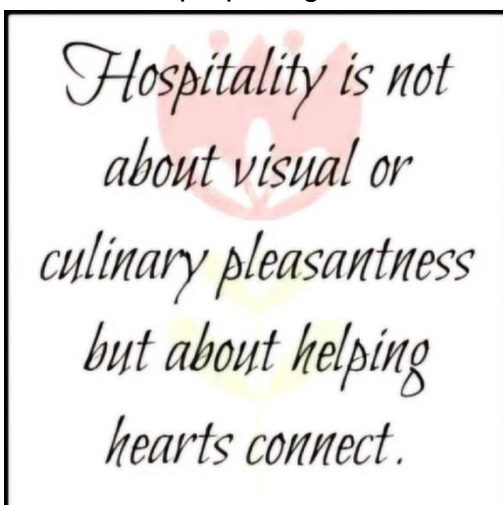
One Of A Kind Bookmarks by Marg Loney

These beautiful bookmarks are available for purchase \$5 each or 3 for \$10 Proceeds will be donated to The Sudbury Women's Centre



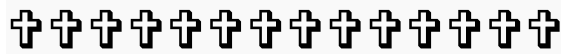
FELLOWSHIP TIME FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY 10:30 SERVICE: Christine Osmond has graciously agreed to help coordinate Coffee Hours volunteers because she knows how important it is for us to keep our coffee hour ministry going.

Christine is proposing that there be two (2) schedules:



- + One schedule would be for hosts, whose primary responsibilities would include setup and cleanup, making coffee and tea, as well as putting out juice, water and any treats. It would be great to have a core group of at least 6 pairs, but, as with most things, more is better. Hosts may opt to provide treats, but hosting should never have to be an overwhelming expectation.
- + The second schedule would be for treats to be served. Home baking is wonderful and appreciated, but store-bought baked goods go over very well too. There have been many compliments on packaged cookies, and banana loaf that everyone thought must be homemade. Further store-bought baked goods keep well and can be brought to the church ahead of time.

If you're interested in helping out please speak to Christine or give her a call at home at 705-855-5377.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT AT THE ELGIN STREET MISSION ON AN OCCASIONAL BASIS?

The Outreach Group for Epiphany is compiling a list of people who might be willing and able to help out with occasionally serving meals at the Elgin Street Mission. The time period is from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. There is good supervision and instruction. However, it is a busy 3 hours and people have to be on their feet for the full length of time. Helpers are also needed for breakfast which begins at 7:30am. There are opportunities for people to help out with food preparation during the day.

If you and/or your friends are interested, please email your name and phone number to the church office. Right now, we are compiling a list of people who might be able to help out with other teams. If we had enough people committed, we would look at doing our own team of 10 people. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the church office or speak to Mary Hopkins or Mary Donato. Thank You.



LOOKING AHEAD: Last year, following our Palm-Passion Sunday worship, Kellie Clifford unexpectedly began to teach some members of our congregation how to make Palm Crosses. Those who jumped in and learned to make Palm Crosses expressed great delight in doing so. Unfortunately, Kellie as moved away from Sudbury and is no longer with us at Epiphany. However, Rev. Elizabeth has found some instructional videos for making Palm Crosses. If you are interested in gathering together with Rev. Elizabeth to make Palm Crosses, please call or email Carrie in the church office and let her know. The first Sunday in the season of Lent is March 9th. We have some time to plan and prepare. Thanks very much.



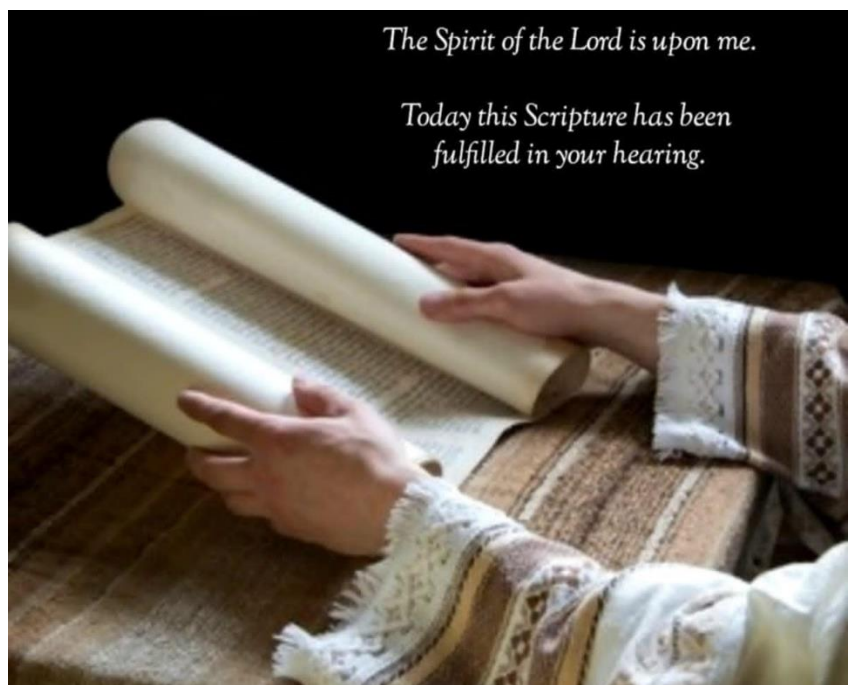
THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING: for the Church of the Epiphany will be held on Sunday, February 23rd, following our 10:30am worship. Those responsible for reports are asked to have them submitted to Marion Collinson, ready for publication please, **NO LATER** than Friday February 14th. Thank You.



A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to
the captives and recovery of sight to
the blind, to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*
– Luke 4:18-19

*Let me make one final plea. Mr.
President.
Millions have put their trust in you. And
as you told the nation yesterday you
have felt the providential hand of a*



loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country. And we're scared now.

There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in Democratic, Republican and independent families -- some who fear for their lives.

And the people, the people who pick our crops and clean our office buildings, who labor in poultry farms and meatpacking plants, who wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants, and work the night shifts in hospitals. They may not be citizens or have the proper documentation. But the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals. They pay taxes and are good neighbors. They are faithful members of our churches and mosques, synagogues ... and temples.

I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away. And that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here.

Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger for we were all once strangers in this land. May God grant us the strength and courage to honor the dignity of every human being; to speak the truth to one another in love. and walk humbly with each other and our God. For the good of all people in this nation and the world.

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- *Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Washington National Cathedral, January 21st, 2025.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Like the many the thousands of Episcopalian and Anglican Christians throughout North America and around the world, I find myself deeply inspired by the now famous sermon that was preached this past week by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. Her words continue to resonate deeply with so many people, and as they call us to reflect on the transformative mission of Jesus.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, we witness Jesus standing in the synagogue, boldly proclaiming the Spirit's anointing upon him: to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and liberty to the oppressed. This moment inaugurates Jesus' mission—a mission not confined to words, rituals, or distant promises but rooted in radical love, selfless service, and the healing of our broken world. It is a mission as relevant today as it was then, challenging us to embody the Kingdom of God in our own time and place – *especially* in our own time and place.

Bishop Budde has reminded us that unity, dignity, and honesty are essential to building communities that reflect God's Kingdom. She spoke of a unity that does not demand uniformity but is instead grounded in humility and respect for the sacred worth of every person. Her call to foster understanding and resist the "culture of contempt" is a timely and urgent invitation in a world so often divided by fear, mistrust, and hostility.

The Kingdom of God is not a distant, ethereal hope; it is a present reality we are invited to live out every day. Jesus' mission is not abstract; it is a call to action. To bring good news to the poor is to advocate for economic justice and care for those in need. To proclaim liberty to the captives is to stand with those imprisoned by systems of injustice, discrimination, or debt.

To give sight to the blind is to see the world through God's eyes, recognizing the dignity of the overlooked, the value of the marginalized, and the truth of our shared humanity.

For us here in Sudbury, what might it mean for us to embody Jesus' mission? In a nation as vast and diverse as Canada, we are uniquely called to be agents of healing and bridge-building in our communities. We are called to respond to the cries of Indigenous peoples seeking justice and reconciliation, to welcome the stranger and refugee, to care for creation, and to ensure that no one among us is left behind.

This is not easy work, nor is it comfortable. Like the people in the synagogue who marveled at Jesus' words but grew angry when confronted with their implications, we too may feel challenged when the Gospel calls us to step beyond our comfort zones. Yet, this is the way of Christ. His path is one of courage, humility, and sacrificial love; a love that demands much of us but transforms the world in ways that we can scarcely imagine.

From so much of what I have heard, seen and read in response to Bishop Budde's sermon, Anglicans and Episcopalians across North America have now become newly inspired to rekindle their commitment to social justice. This includes addressing pressing issues such as poverty, housing insecurity, and systemic inequalities, with many congregations mobilizing to take action through advocacy and outreach programs. Additionally, there has been a concerted effort to foster unity in diversity, creating spaces for dialogue and mutual understanding across ideological, cultural, and theological divides.

Clergy and lay leaders have been empowered to act boldly in proclaiming the Gospel, not only through words but also through service and advocacy, embodying the transformative power of God's love. On a personal level, individuals have sought spiritual renewal, as they seek to align their daily

lives with the values of God's Kingdom. Furthermore, many have begun to build partnerships with other faith communities, working together on shared concerns such as environmental stewardship and racial reconciliation, recognizing the importance of collective efforts to address these global challenges.

In light of all this, I encourage us, as a congregation, to reflect on these movements and to ask ourselves and one another:

- How can we better support our ministry of Outreach at the Church of the Epiphany so that together we may boldly proclaim good news to the poor in our community?
- Where are the places of division or oppression where God is calling us to be instruments of reconciliation and peace?
- In what ways can we all come together to embody the unity, dignity, and justice of God's Kingdom here and now?

As we continue to ponder all that was said in Bishop Budde's sermon, might we recommit ourselves anew to this mission, knowing that we do not walk this path alone? The same Spirit that anointed Jesus and empowered the early church is with us still, equipping and inspiring us to live as Christ's hands and feet in the world.

I pray we go forth with boldness and compassion, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour not only with our lips but with our lives. And may we find joy in the knowledge that, as we do, we join in the great work of God's love and liberation for all.

Yours Faithfully,
Elizabeth+



LET US PRAY

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Evelyn Fillier; Gilles and Mary Tessier; Richard and Joanna Nanka-Bruce; Marilyn Young; Margaret Klassen; Stephen Donato.

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



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.



Help us keep the air we share
healthy and fragrance-free

PLEASE REMEMBER: The Church of the Epiphany strives to be Fragrance Free, or Fragrance Reduced.

Please refrain from wearing or using strong fragrances, things such as cologne/perfume, scented lotion, fabric softener etc. while in our building.

Those with breathing issues and fragrance sensitivities will be grateful.

Thank You!