

Sudbury Manitoulin Deanery DIGEST

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Epiphany 2018

THE EPIPHANY

*How beautiful are the mountains
the feet of the messenger
who announces peace. == Isaiah 52:1*

“Add hope,” I remember telling a reporter of the *Boston Globe*. She was sharing a draft of her story on grassroots efforts to stop global warming, and kindly giving me the last word {Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jones, priest associate of Grace Church in Amherst, Massachusetts and a long-time environmental activist and leader of Religious Witness for the earth [www.rwearth.org]}. At the end of the article I was quoted as saying that people can slide rapidly from denial into despair. What we need, I told her, is hope. Hope protects us from becoming overwhelmed or paralyzed. Hope is as essential as water, as precious as clean air, as persistent as the bird in the willow tree this kept repeating three notes, then a fourth, followed by a rat-a-tat burst of calls.

In Advent, we explored the landscape of transformation. As we waited the holy birth, we prepared the way for God in Christ to come, letting God level the mountains of our pride and self-righteousness and lift us from the valleys of our desolation and self-doubt.

At Christmas, we celebrated Christ's birth. We practiced abiding in the One who abides in us and in all creation.

Today, the day of Epiphany, we look forward in hope to the day when we will see God's glory face to face. Today we dedicate ourselves to living in hope. Hope doesn't necessarily mean escaping the present situation, much less daydreaming about an alternate reality. Hope is facing reality as it is, and knowing that God is in it with us. Hope sends us into the world to bear witness to the love of Christ, confident that “all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:10).

When it comes to healing the earth, we have urgent things to do. But I only act with wisdom and clarity if I take time to pray. When I sit in silence and let my mind grow quiet, noticing things exactly as they are, an inner space opens up that embraces paradox, polarity, and contradiction: life and death, flesh and the spirit, beauty and ugliness, joy and sorrow. In the emptiness of that open-minded acceptance, I can rest.

And a stream of energy rises up, a fountain of light not contingent on outward circumstance, an upwelling of love that comes from nowhere, *Alleluia* is what I want to sing, even at the grave.

That is what gives me hope even in the midst of terror, loss, and squalor. I touch that hope in the inward vision of a river of light flowing through me, and in the tenderness I feel sometimes I pass, as I touch my fingertips to every thing I pass, a secret blessing, I touch that hope when my hand grasps another's hand, when I realize again that I am not alone and that together we can seek to mend the world.

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all people shall see it together. - Isaiah 40:5*

Margaret Bullitt-Jones, *Joy of Heaven, to Earth Came Down: Meditations for Advent and Christmas*. FORWARD MOVEMENT: Cincinnati, Ohio. Page 91-93

News and Events:

1. Most of us have heard about the many hundreds of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Several artists have put together a travelling art show called Walking With Our Sisters. That show is coming to Sudbury in January 2018. Here is the official announcement: **WALKING WITH OUR SISTERS**: A Commemorative Art Installation for the Missing and Murdered indigenous Women of Canada & the USA. January 7 - 21 at the MacEwan School of Architecture on Elm St. Sudbury. See www.walkingwithoursisters.ca for more information.
2. The Epiphany's annual **Book Sale** takes place on January 19-21. If you have good, used books to donate please drop them off at the church during the week of January 15th. Please, no textbooks. For more information contact Evelyn Fillier at keeper1916@gmail.com.
3. Also from The Church of the Epiphany is that they have **PEWS FOR SALE**. 4 beautiful long oak pews. Price is negotiable. If you or someone you know is interested, please call our office. One idea – they could be cut in half and become the elegant seating for a breakfast nook.
4. **ALPHA**
An Alpha program will be running at the Church of the Ascension in partnership with the Samaritan center and Restoration Church beginning in February. Alpha is a program that explores life's big questions from a Christian perspective with those who have little or no Church background and with those who have been Christians a long time. If you are interested in taking the course or helping out with this exciting ministry, contact Father Aidan – armstong.aidan@gmail.com. Alpha will begin on Thursday February 01 and run for 10 weeks. All Welcome!
5. From the Archdeacon's Desk: **CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**
“Over the next few weeks we will be gathering in our individual congregations to appoint and endorse Wardens, Treasurers and other congregational leaders at our annual Vestry meetings. These are very important and sometimes difficult tasks which are given to people we trust. In an effort to help them, as well as anyone interested in the administrative aspect of our congregational life, I have set aside some time on Saturday Feb 3 for a “Warden's Workshop” to take place at St. John's Church in Copper Cliff from 10 am to 2 pm. Topics will include a look at the Canons which apply to the position of Warden, a suggestion of some ‘self-care’ methods, and some practical advice on conducting meetings. It is my hope that by gathering together the Wardens in this Deanery will be strengthened in their particular ministry. I realize this is a sort of ‘last minute’ kind of invitation but I urge those of you who are Wardens, Deputy Wardens,

Chairpersons, Treasurers to consider attending. Please email me at livelyanglican@bellnet.ca if you wish to attend. A lunch will be provided for those who reply. It is my hope that this will be just the first of a series of similar gatherings.”

We hope your New Year’s celebrations were happy and safe and perhaps quiet. If you have been or are travelling, be safe. Keep warm in this very cold period. May God grant you patience and perseverance as you prepare for Vestry meetings and the necessary reports. For those Parishes seeking full or part time Incumbents, know that you are all in our prayers.

So far we are sending our this Digest weekly on Wednesday, usually before 10 PM. Just a reminder, all of the News and Events above are from the Church of the Epiphany’s newsletter and bulletins. Feel free to send me and Allison Cline (our Webmaster) any and all events and news. Articles are also very welcome. You can use either our personal email as above or the Yahoo address as above.

If we have not received items by the Sunday night previous, there will be no newsletter on Wednesday, although some news items may be repeated due the date of the event. If you have some news and/or articles and miss the Sunday cut off, please send directly to either personal e-mail address above. We will gladly include parish events, special events, and worship times. Please make sure all info is as accurate as possible, and any poster type submissions are as camera ready as possible to be included as PDF attachments to the newsletter.

Improvements: Any suggestions are always welcome.

Safe Unsubscribe lives here. If you want us to remove your name from our newsletter list, just send us an e-mail.

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