

A Time Called ... EPIPHANY:

After Christmas and New Year's, Epiphany could seem like a bit of an anticlimax. But think about a time when you received some wonderful news, so wonderful that you could scarcely believe it. Did you take it all in at once, or did you find that the full meaning was revealed over time? Epiphany is our time to contemplate the Christmas story and feel the wonder of the Magi as they saw the baby.

Historical Roots of the Christmas Season

January 6 is Epiphany. It is believed that Epiphany was initially based on the Jewish Feast of Light. In Western Christian tradition, over time, December 25 was established as the date to celebrate Christ's birth, but the Eastern (Orthodox) tradition continues to celebrate it on January 6. In many parts of Canada, this day is referred to as "Ukrainian Christmas."

Finding Meaning in the Tradition

For Christians, Epiphany begins on January 6. Epiphany, with its focus on the coming of the magi (traditionally representing various races of humanity) celebrates the universality of the gospel. God came for all people. Instead of putting away the crèche scene, it is a good time, in our homes, to gather the magi – especially if they have differing skin colours – and set them in the middle of the dining room table where we can gaze at them and consider God's revelation to all nations.

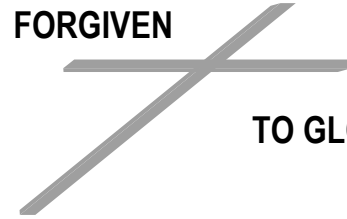
The season of Epiphany leads us toward the baptism of Jesus and the Sunday called "Transfiguration."

Questions for Personal Meditation

What does it mean to me to say that God is revealed to all people and all nations?

"For some people today, 'God' is an empty word indicating no reality they have ever consciously known. They do not believe there is a God." *Living Faith* (9.3.1). How would you share the amazing news of God's revelation with unbelievers? Think of someone specific.

FORGIVEN



TO GLORIFY, WITNESS & SERVE

Matthew 18:15
talktotheword.com

If your brother sins against you,
go, show him his fault
between you and him alone.

LOVE
If he listens to you, you have
gained back your brother.

KITCHENER EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Established 03rd May 1987

Minister:

Minister in Association:

Music Director:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Rev. Jeff Smith

Sarah Pottier

Sunday 14th January 2024 10:30 am

*The community of faith Celebrates the Good News
In the Spirit, the Presence, and the Power
Of the risen Lord Jesus
To discover New Dimensions of & New Possibilities for
Living the Christ-Life*

Celebrating the Truth of the Presence of God – Alleluia!

Call to Worship:

Praise: “Shout to the Lord” **SB #54**

Welcome, and announcements:

Celebrating the Truth of Forgiveness – We Receive New Life!

Praise: “I come with joy” **SB #37**

Prayer, and the Lord’s Prayer:

Celebrating the Truth of God's Word! - We are Listening!

Scripture: St. Matthew 18:15-17 NLT

Message: “Biblical conflict resolutions”

Celebrating the Truth of God’s gifts to us – We Are Accountable

The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings:

+ Offertory

Doxology: “**My tribute**” **SB #45**

Prayer of Dedication

Praise: “Tell me the old, old story” **BP #401**

Celebrating the Truth of our Going Forth – We Leave for Ministry

Benediction:

Interpersonal Benediction: “The blessing”

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS TEAM: PRAYER REQUESTS

Warnock Aitken – St. Joseph’s Life-Care Centre, Brantford

Frank De Vries – at home

Pearl Howden – Trinity Village LTC

Bob Kenzie – Sunnyside Home

Mary Master – Conestoga Lodge

Dolly McCormack – Court at Laurelwood Retirement Home

Marg McCorriston – at home

Terry McCorriston – at home

Julie Phoenix – Southbridge London Long Term Care Home

Curt Ryan – AgeCare West Williams LTC

Shirley Steinberg – Highland Place Retirement Residence

Glen Verheye – at home

Sunday School:

We are having bi-weekly Sunday School running in 2024: **January 21; February 4, & 18; March 3, 17, & 31; April 14, & 28; May 12, & 26; June 9, & 23.** We have split the group: Grade 5 and under, and Grade 6 and up, to create a more engaging experience for our older children.

We are looking for more Sunday School teachers, helpers, or back-ups to join the team. If interested, please contact Cathrine (gcejtaylor@gmail.com), Nicolene (nclemens7@yahoo.ca) or Johnson (srikanthjohnson@gmail.com).

We can’t wait to share and grow with the children this year. Peace and Joy, Cathrine, Nicolene, & Johnson

KEPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18th February 2024 following the morning worship service, with a soup luncheon to start the meeting in the Gray Hall. Annual reports are due in to Barb Cook, email her at: mjblcook@outlook.com by 31st January 2024.

Seniors’ Group:

The next Seniors' event is a dessert and Court Whist (cards) party at the church, Wednesday, January 17th, 12:30 to 3:00. Desserts, coffee, tea and soft drinks are provided.

Mission Moment – Sunday 14th January 2024:

Sohdi became the sole provider for her family when her husband died a decade ago. A farmer in Pakistan, she plants various crops, but droughts and floods have disrupted food production for three years. In 2021, Sohdi received aid through the Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development project, supported by PWS&D, which provided food aid to households in need. This assistance enabled her family to eat properly even during times of failed harvests. The project also provided support for women artisans to improve their skills and market their goods, making them more resilient for the future. Sohdi is grateful for this support that allowed her to stay out of debt. Now, she dreams of her son's wedding as well as sending her other children to school.

From the Finance Team: Offering Counters:

We'd like to add a few team members and provide full training & support to help new team members become established. We hope you will consider offering your talent for this role at a KEPC and can contact Barb Cook (519-998-2183) or Rob Gloin (519-781-4379) to discuss further.

From the Finance Team: options for financial giving to KEPC:

- 1) **Canada Post:** send your offering envelope in an envelope addressed to the Church: 10 Zeller Dr, Kitchener, ON, N2A 4A8
- 2) **E – transfer:** This involves using your online banking application using the e-transfer option & sending the transaction to the Church email: kepc@golden.net
- 3) **PAR: pre-authorized remittance.** This is set up once and an amount is withdrawn from your bank account monthly until you choose to stop it or change the amount. Contact Chris Clemens clemensc78@yahoo.ca and he can set you up.
- 4) **Tithe.ly** on our website, (click on the menu “Donate Now”) and donations can be through your Visa, Mastercard, or Debit.
- 5) The locked, **black box** on the wall of the sanctuary by the main doors for your offerings.

Thank-you for your ongoing and prayerful support of the mission and ministry of KEPC.

Congregational Financial update:

Here in the early days of 2024, we find that we ended the year 2023 with an \$8,500 deficit. Thank-you so much for helping us to bring it down from roughly \$3,000 per month to this new amount of roughly \$700 per month!

We will continue to keep you informed of the financial situation and ask that you join us in praying for guidance and solutions to address the current situation. Thank you.

Offering Envelopes: 2024 Offering Envelopes can be picked up in the Narthex, please let Chris know if any updates are required. If you are interested in having assigned envelopes for 2024 and are not on PAR, please reach out to Chris.

For anyone that changed addresses in 2023, please let Chris and Mark know so that we can check our records and update them as required.

Grocery Cards:

We are participating in the grocery gift card program in our Region. If you would like to purchase grocery gift cards for the PC group of stores, and/or the Metro group of stores, please speak with Barb Cook, Rob Gloin, or Emmie Richardson. They are available every other week. We receive a small amount back from the Community Charity Services, for each card we sell.

Mission and Outreach Team:

A big thank you to all who provided baked goods and gave of their time to help with the World Day of Prayer planning meeting on this past Friday!!

EVENTS THIS WEEK: 14 – 21 January 2024

- Sunday:** 10:30 am – Winter Communion Sunday Worship Service;
3:30 pm – Sudanese Worship Service
- Monday:** 1 pm – Music Therapy
7 pm Session meeting in the Gray Hall
- Tuesday:** 9:30 am – Bible Study via Zoom
11:45 – 1:30 Music Therapy
6:30 pm – Sparks
- Wednesday:** 12:30 – 3 pm Seniors Group Court Whist and desserts in the Gray Hall
7 – 9 pm – Scouts in Gray Hall
- Thursday:** 9 am – Sonshine Corner in the Gray Hall
- Friday:** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Music Therapy
- Saturday:** 8 am – 1 pm GRIPS in the Gray Hall
1:30 – 4:30 pm Gray Hall booked
- Sunday:** 10:30 am – Sunday Worship Service
3:30 pm – Sudanese Worship Service
- Monday:** 1 pm – Music Therapy
6:30 – 10 pm GRIPS in the Gray Hall
7 – 9 pm Elders meeting with Dr. Jeff Crawford, our General Presbyter, in the sanctuary