



Jan. 8, 2025

What is Epiphany?

Epiphany is a Christian holiday celebrated on January 6th, 12 days after Christmas in the Gregorian calendar, marking the end of the Christmas holiday.

What does Epiphany mean, and what does the day commemorate?

Epiphany, meaning “manifestation” or “showing forth”, has been celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established. It is commonly known as Twelfth Night, Twelfth Day, or the Feast of Epiphany. It is also called Theophany or “manifestation of God”, especially by Eastern Christians. The holiday commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus’ divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the Three Kings or the Magi visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when John the Baptist baptized him in the River Jordan. The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches emphasize the visit of the Magi when they celebrate the Epiphany, while the Eastern Orthodox churches focus on Jesus’ baptism.

How is Epiphany observed?

Epiphany is celebrated in various ways around the world. In some European countries, such as the Czech Republic and Slovakia, children dress as the three kings and visit houses. In France Le Jour des Rois (the Day of Kings), sometimes called the Fête des Rois, is celebrated with parties for children and adults. In Spain, the holiday is known as Kings’ Day or the Día de Los Reyes, and is celebrated just like a second Christmas, with feasting and the giving of presents. In Latin America Día de los Reyes Magos is the celebration of Epiphany, during which the three wise men bring gifts for children. Many Christians in Canada take part in Epiphany activities, such as attending special church services, sessions, luncheons or evening events that focus on the meaning behind Epiphany.

Mumming around the Christmas season until Epiphany is a 200-year-old tradition in Canada and is especially practiced in Newfoundland and Labrador. It involves people disguising themselves with masks or costumes to cover their identity and visiting friends’ or neighbors’ houses to perform songs or dances. Mumming may also include the custom of naluyuks, which are of the Inuit culture of northern Labrador. Naluyuks dress in loose-fitting clothes, mask their faces, and visit house after house to reward good children and frighten bad ones during this time of year. The children answer questions about their behavior during the past year and receive gifts from the naluyuks if they are happy with the answers.

The Three Kings Cake is another Epiphany tradition in Canada. A trinket is baked inside the cake, and whoever gets the piece of cake with the trinket (often a plastic bean, baby or crown) becomes the “king” or “queen” for

the day. The tradition originated in France and is celebrated in many French-speaking parts of the world, including Quebec

The Visit of the Wise Men

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem,

Mathew 2:1

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A word of thanks from Shannon Jarvis

The words 'thank you' do not describe how grateful I am for the donations and support that my Graceview family has provided me with throughout my whole life, but especially over the last few years. I appreciate all of you so much. I wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2025.

***Thank you,
Shannon.***

GoFundMe for Shannon Jarvis

Shannon Jarvis has been dealing with serious health issues for all of her life and has endured major hardships and setbacks in her health in the last three years, especially. She recently came home from more than a two year stay in the hospital in 2022-2024, that has left her with the inability to walk, indefinitely, at the age of 34. Now that she is home in her parents' house, she is confined to her bedroom as the house and bathroom are not wheelchair accessible. Another friend and I have started a GoFundMe for Shannon to raise money for a bathroom renovation, to make her bathroom wheelchair accessible so she can live more comfortably in her home.

The link for the GoFundMe for Shannon is here:

<https://gofund.me/9ef554f3>

Donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Lunardo

Christmas Angel Program

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our congregation, we have received almost \$2050 in donations for the Christmas Angels program. As a result, we have been able to transfer this amount to the St James Food Basket and 102 people have been given a \$20 Walmart gift card. Since the Food Basket was closed during the Christmas holidays, every client received a gift card to help them at this difficult time of year. The members of Outreach would like to thank all of the people who contributed to this fund and helped to bring the joy of Christmas to those in need in our community.

A Fall Devotional Update

A **new** edition of **Our Daily Bread** (December/January/February), as well as the current edition of **These Days** (October/November/December) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.

Coffee/Tea Sign - Up



The sign-up sheet for coffee/tea service after worship is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen downstairs. Please sign yourselves up or sign up your committee so that our Fellowship time after church can continue.

Jan. 5 – Susan & Kathy

Jan. 12 –

Jan. 19 – Jackie & Dave

Jan. 26 -

Jimmy Carter: How Prayer Sustained Him

Alina Larson

To honor the memory of President Jimmy Carter, here is his story of faith, prayer and the presidency.



Credit: Rick Diamond

During Jimmy Carter's presidency from 1977 to 1981, he faced down challenges in the Middle East, Panama and the Soviet Union, as well the energy crisis here in the United States.

It's all in Carter's 2010 book, *White House Diary*, a fascinating collection of the thoughts, observations and candid discussions about his faith that he recorded during his years in office.

According to Carter, it was the Iranian hostage situation that tested him the most. "I prayed more during that year when the hostages were being held than I did any other time in my life," said Carter in a phone interview during his book tour. "My prayer was that every hostage would come home safe and free while I protected the interests of my country." Carter's prayers weren't answered as quickly as he'd hoped; the hostages were released on his last day in office.

Carter also relied on prayer during his negotiations at Camp David with Egyptian president Anwar El Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. He had so much faith in the power of prayer, in fact, that on the first

day Carter proposed that the three lead a world-wide prayer for peace. Sadat agreed immediately and Begin eventually agreed after the three collaborated on the prayer's exact wording.

"I don't doubt that millions of people in Israel, Egypt, in the Arab world and also in America prayed for peace," says Carter. The Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty was finally signed in 1979.

Carter's faith was so central to his life that, despite hectic presidential demands, he maintained spiritual practices that were important to him: teaching Sunday school and nightly Bible reading.

Carter began teaching Sunday school when he was just 18 and a midshipman at the Naval Academy—and he has taught ever since. As president, he taught Bible lessons at the Baptist church nearest the White House, though the days he would be there were never announced for security reasons.

In 1970, Carter and his wife Rosalynn began the habit of ending each day by reading from the Bible. They took turns each night reading aloud, and when they were in different cities they read the same passage. Beginning in 2000, the couple read in Spanish, just to practice the language.

Though his faith gave him strength, Carter also found inspiration in the regular folks he met thanks to the human rights-focused Carter Center he founded and his work with Habitat for Humanity.

"We see the bright side of things and the blessings that God gives so many people," he said. "I would say the most impressive thing I've learned is how similar people are all over the world. A lot of times we tend to underestimate people who don't have a decent home or don't have a good education for their kids, who can't provide for healthcare, or don't have a regular job. But as we work side-by-side with these people, say, building a Habitat (for Humanity) house, always we find those poor families...are just as smart as I am, just as ambitious, just as hard-working, and their family values are just as good as mine...So we've learned a lot about how varied God's blessings are and how worthy people are and how equal we are in the eyes of God."

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

- * Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times.
- * **Evelyn R's** nephew **Dexter Ramsumair** of New Jersey will be undergoing heart surgery on Friday, January 10th.
- * Please keep in your prayers the following:
Paul Johnston, Michael Langstaff, Robert Soth, Zachariah Mwangi, Shirley P., Josephine Wong, Shelia Thomas' grandson, Carter, Ed L., Bob N., Charlotte Prentice, Joan and Peter K., Margaret M's brother, Simon, the Jarvis family, Olive S., Roman P., Jean Fox's nephew, Ryan, and Gordon F.
Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- * Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- * Saturday, Jan. 11 – World Day of Prayer
- * Monday, Jan. 13 @ 9:30 AM – Sing Etobicoke at Graceview
- * Tuesday, Jan. 14 @ 11:00 AM – Elaine’s Craft Club
- * Tuesday, Jan. 21 @ 6:30 PM - Session

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
Jan. 12	Eric Lee	Kathy Twynam	Nancy McPherson
Jan. 19	Nancy Green	Nancy McPherson	Lynne Bishop
Jan. 26	Ethel Waite	Al Bishop	Bob Twynam
Feb. 2	Eric Lee	Lynne Bishop	Kathy Twynam
Feb. 9	Maureen Screen	Anna Cherniak	Nancy McPherson
Feb. 16	Errol Baldeo	Nancy Green	Susan Chopp
Feb. 23	Eric Lee	Harry Learoyd	Lynne Bishop
Mar. 2	Susan Chopp	Chris Parr	Bob Twynam
Mar. 9	Nancy McPherson	Susan Chopp	Kathy Twynam
Mar. 16	Eric Lee	Bob Twynam	Nancy McPherson
Mar. 23	Kathy Twynam	Jean Fox	Susan Chopp
Mar. 30	Chris Parr	Maureen Screen	Lynne Bishop
Apr. 6	Eric Lee	Margaret Munene	Bob Twynam

SING! ETOBICOKE WINTER SCHEDULE

Jan. 13	9:30 AM	GV	Light the Way	W25SE2
Jan. 20	9:30 AM	Fellowship	Songs of the North	W25SE3
Jan. 27	9:30 AM	GV	Time After Time	W25SE4
Feb. 3	9:30 AM	Fellowship	Guest Day III	W25SE5
Feb. 10	9:30 AM	GV	Love Songs	W25SE6
Feb. 24	9:30 AM	NPCC	Troubled Water	W25SE7
Mar. 3	9:30 AM	GV	Over the Rainbow	W25SE8
Mar. 10	9:30 AM	NPCC	Unforgettable	W25SE9
Mar. 17	9:30 AM	NPCC	Spring Sing (Guest Day IV)	W25SE10

Note: we will not be meeting on Family Day, Feb. 17, 2024

Worship Calendar

Jan. 12	Surrendering to the True Messiah	Luke 3:21-38
Jan. 19	Unwrapping the Gifts	1 Corinthians 12:1-14 & 14:1-5

WEEKLY GIGGLE

So, the head pastor wakes up one beautiful Sunday morning and decides he's going golfing that morning. So, he calls in sick, heads out to the golf course, and starts golfing.

Meanwhile, the angels in heaven are not pleased. "Do you see that God?" They say. "Are you going to let him get away with this?"

So, God gives the pastor a nice burst of wind as he hits the ball at the start of a difficult course, and the ball sails all the way to the green and rolls straight into the hole. The angels didn't like this. "Seriously? Why did you do that?"

God calmly answers, "Who's he gonna tell?"



Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan choppertini@hotmail.com

*Our services are now live streamed. Go to the church's website (www.graceview.ca) to click the link for the most recent worship services on YouTube.

* Message from **Pastor Eric**: "FYI the Graceview website page has been revamped, so as to keep people updated of our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview".

<https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out and be sure to "follow."

Contact information for Pastor Eric Lee: 778-791-1741; leefyeric@gmail.com

NB: If the phone number for Pastor Eric does not connect you immediately (technical issues?) call the church (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

Email for Iris: ericirishk@gmail.com

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	3	4
5	6 Sing Etobicoke @NPCC *Outreach Team 7:00 PM	7 Walking Group 11:00	8	9 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	10	11 World Day of Prayer
12 "Surrendering to the True Messiah" Rev. Eric Lee	13 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview	14 Walking Group 11:00 Craft Club 11:00	15	16 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	17	18
19 "Unwrapping the Gifts" Rev. Eric Lee	20 Sing Etobicoke @Fellowship	21 Walking Group 11:00 Session 6:30	22	23 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	24	25
26	27 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview	28 Walking Group 11:00	29	30 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	31	1