



The STAR



December 2021 - January 2022

Emmanuel

A little tradition we have at Epiphany is beginning worship during the season of Advent by singing verses of the classic hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

Each of the eight verses unpacks an Old Testament name for the Messiah Jesus.

Emmanuel
Wisdom
Lord of Might
Branch of Jesse’s Tree
Key of David
Dayspring from On High
Desire of Nations
King of Peace



For me, singing these names for the Messiah during Advent is a Sunday-by-Sunday reminder of my own need for Jesus. It also reminds me in the middle of my busy and distracted life that the thing I need most this time of year and at every time is nothing less than Jesus’ return and final victory over death and hell.

Friends, Advent exists to remind us that whatever else is true about our lives and about this moment that we live, the central truth is that as Christians we are waiting for our Savior to come back. We are at the end of the day people waiting for both the end and the beginning of all things.

“Oh come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.”

God bless,

Encountering God, Building a multigenerational congregation, Equipping every member.

Personal Prayer

Let me share a surprising fact with you. Father Peter and I struggle to decide what to write about for these Star articles. We have both recently returned from an inspiring Synod for our diocese where there are many encouraging things that could be shared. But, this morning I realized that I have not written enough about one of my favorite books, A Diary of Private Prayer by John Baillie. I know I have mentioned him in a couple sermons. Naturally, I also love The Book of Common Prayer, but somehow, Baillie's spirituality speaks to me and encourages a prayer from my heart that is so real. Today I read the twenty-third day and this is a portion of that selection.



“Holy Father, from whom all good things come, let the Christian gifts of faith, hope, and love be more firmly established in me every day...

O God, I hope-

For your daily mercies to continue;

For the loosening of sin's grip upon my will;

For my growth in grace and in true holiness from day to day;

For a more perfect holiness, when my earthly days are finished;

For a day when I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

When I prayed that this morning, I recognized that I often pray that the virtues are established in my heart. My thinking is that it is so easy for other, competing ideas to get established instead. After all, I read things, listen to people, watch a little television and that's when competing things can overshadow godly things. But deep in my heart I want faith to take root, for hope to find a home and for love to be welcome in my attitude. For that to happen, it requires an action of God, and they are received as gifts from God. In praying for daily mercies, it is a reminder that there is much to thank God for already. I want those mercies to continue while the grip of sin loosens. There are ways I can discipline myself to help in this area, but truly I want the freedom to follow God more closely. While I hope that grace and true holiness is growing in my life, I know that only happens by the power of God and a willingness to forge a new, and sometimes unfamiliar, path forward. That is because by the time I meet the end of my earthly sojourn, I want to be able to say, “God really has worked perfect holiness in me, even though I am not yet perfected.” And finally, the yearning to know God will experience its consummation when I see God face to face. Right now, I know intellectually that I am fully known. I know this on faith. But one day I shall know God in a way that is unimaginable right now. Still, praying this deep-seated hope reminds me of the ultimate things in life. I could have started my day off with the busyness and worries of the day. Instead, I had the opportunity to orient my thoughts towards what is truly important to me. I trust you will join me in this hope.

Pamela +

Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols at Epiphany

Epiphany will be celebrating Jesus' birth this Advent and Christmas season with special worship services and activities.

Christmas Eve services at Epiphany this year will be at 5 and 9pm. Our 5pm will include our kids in a musical presentation. The 9pm service is a traditional candlelight service. The mask-only worship area in the fellowship hall will be available for both services.

We will be worshipping as normal at both 8:30 and 10:15 am on December 26.

This year we are moving our annual Lessons and Carols service into the Christmas season. It will be at 10:15am on Sunday, January 2. This traditional service of music and scripture reading is a great way to continue celebrating Christmas for the full 12 days of this special Christian holiday.

"It's been a long year. Let's come together to remember and joyfully celebrate the miracle of God's presence with us in his son Jesus Christ" said the Rev. Peter Frank, Epiphany's rector.



Members of Epiphany's children's choir at a past Christmas Eve service.

Children's Christmas Music Opportunities



The children of Epiphany have two opportunities to be involved in music during this season in preparation for the Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 5:00pm.

All Sunday school children (preschool to fifth grade) will take the first 20 minutes of the Sunday school time through Advent (4 Sundays) to practice **Away in the Manger**. We will practice in the vestibule with the doors propped open for fresh air, while still wearing masks.

Accompaniment is on the guitar. They will perform in costume. One brief practice session is scheduled for right after church December 19. Any child could join on Dec. 24.

Children who want to join the Junior Choir have an additional opportunity. The Junior Choir will sing at the Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 pm. All children grades kindergarten – high school are welcome. Masked rehearsal dates and time: December 5, 12, 19 at 9:30 am in the blue classroom where there is a piano. They will be singing **Joy to the World**. Children will add the chimes, so rehearsal is essential.

Please contact Debby Morris with any questions or comments.
703 631-1687 or debby1950morris@gmail.com



Bishop John Visiting Epiphany Jan. 2 Fr. Peter offering “Anglicanism 101” starting Dec. 5

Epiphany will welcome Bishop John and his wife, Meg, to Epiphany on January 2 for a final time before the election of his successor this coming October.



Bishop John will preach and celebrate at both the 8:30 and 10:15 worship services. We also hope to have some candidates for him to formally receive into the Anglican Church.

Being received into the Anglican Church means understanding and accepting the basic tenants of our Anglican branch of the Body of Christ. To prepare interested church members, Fr. Peter will be hosting “Anglicanism 101” in the Library from 9:30 to 10:00 on Sunday Dec. 5, 12, and 19.

Please sign up at church or send an email to Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net) for more details.

How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place

An Excerpt from Bishop John's Address to Diocesan Synod Nov. 20

Editors Note: *With Bishop John's permission, I am publishing this extended excerpt from his address to gathered clergy and lay leaders during our annual gathering (Synod). Bishop John is a wise man who gave me a lot to think about. I hope you read it and find it both challenging and helpful as well.*

*"How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God...
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of
wickedness."*



It is a joy to be together. Our 2020 Synod was entirely online and now, a year later, we are still having to navigate COVID realities. And through this, we have learned how precious it is to be able to gather together.

Many of our churches have told me that, as difficult as it was to close down worship when COVID hit, coming out of COVID has been far more difficult. There have been so many decision points and every one has been marked with uncertainty over contradictory expert opinions and competing needs within the congregation. And conflict over masks and vaccinations has threatened to be as divisive in churches as it is in the wider society. I know that many of you are exhausted by it all, not least from decision fatigue.

Let me say to our clergy and staff members and lay leaders: you have served with devotion and perseverance through this season, and you have led our churches wisely. I trust you to determine the process and the pace of returning to our pre-COVID patterns of gathering as is best for your congregation.

When we entered the COVID pandemic and our churches suspended in-person worship, we put great emphasis on the value of worshipping online. We can praise the Lord, we can hear God's Word, we can pray. We even found ways to get consecrated elements to folks in their homes. But people have now gotten so comfortable with it that the new challenge is drawing folks back to being together. I wonder if we may have promoted online worship so effectively that we inadvertently undermined the value of gathering together for worship and prayer, study and fellowship and mutual ministry.

We need each other. We need to come together. We need to stand against the notion that online you can get all you need from the Body of Christ and that physically gathering is simply an option for those who feel like it.

Now let me be very clear. I expect that most of our churches will continue to livestream their Sunday worship. That is important for those who are unable to attend and for seekers who may be checking us out in a way that is less threatening than walking through the doors of a church.

But we need to be together.

One priest spoke very pointedly to his congregation about this need to regather. He said, There are a number of biblical ways to complete this sentence: “I cannot go to church because...”

- I cannot go to church because I am in prison.
- I cannot go to church because I am sick.
- I cannot go to church because I’m immune compromised and at high risk of contagion.
- There are a number of ways to complete that sentence, “I cannot go to church because....”

However, he said, there are no biblical ways to complete the sentence, “I don’t need to go to church because...” Let’s face it: pajama church is comfy, but it is not God’s best for those of us who are able to worship with others.

We need to be together—because of what we gain from being with others, and because of what we can give to others, and because of what, together, we offer to a world that needs Jesus and needs his Body, the Church.

Remember, we say in the Creed that we believe in the Church. It is an essential part of our faith. The Church is imperfect, to be sure. Fractured, sadly yes. But we believe in the Church and as we gather we reveal the purposes of God, and God’s work is done through us.

All this is happening in the context of the growing polarization of our culture. I spoke about this last year, but the concerns are only growing. The deep divisions in our nation are increasingly finding their way into the Church. Too often, I hear from people something along these lines: “I believe I should be able to go to church only with people who agree with me about everything I think is important. I expect sermons to speak boldly about the issues I care about, but not meddle in politics over the issues I don’t want to hear about. I want to be able to voice my political opinions at coffee hour without worrying that I’m offending someone, and I don’t want to have to hear opinions I find outrageous. My church is a sanctuary from all that controversy out there that is so uncomfortable.”

How hard this is for our clergy and lay leaders. Clergy are hard-wired to be reconcilers, but our culture is telling us we can only be reconciled with people we agree with. More and more we see that disagreement over hot-button issues means friendships strained or broken, Facebook friends are unfriended, family gatherings are awkward at best.

There are, of course, Gospel essentials, things we must speak clearly about and where we must not compromise. We hold fast to the authority of God’s Word and to the truth expressed in

the Creeds, to the sanctity of life, the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman, to the dignity and value of people of every race and tribe. But there are also what Paul calls “disputable matters” in Romans 14:1, things which may be important, but which are nevertheless things we may disagree about. God commands us to care for the immigrant, the stranger in our communities; but Scripture does not spell out governmental immigration policy. Scripture says many things to us about tithing and our stewardship of money, it does not spell out federal tax policy. In such matters Christians may in good faith disagree. But the Gospel challenges us all.

You may know Tim Keller’s amazingly helpful book, *The Reason for God*. In it, Keller makes the point that the Gospel confronts and corrects every culture at some point. He specifically addresses the fact that liberal Western cultures love the idea of a forgiving God and are repelled by a God who judges and sends some people to hell. But more traditional cultures react in exactly the opposite way. They have no problem with God’s judgment, but they think the idea of turning the other cheek to be ridiculous. No culture naturally agrees with all elements of the Gospel. The Gospel cuts hard against every culture at some point.

Diversity in the church can be challenging for us, to be sure, but it can also be God’s way of showing us our blind spots and correcting our errors. If everyone in a church was raised the same way, was taught the same way, and now thinks the same way, there’s a real likelihood that we’ll also overlook the same important elements of the Gospel. Having among us folks who see the world differently can save us from a dangerous Gospel tunnel vision.

We are impoverished if we only read Scripture through our own eyes, if we only see the Bible through the eyes of our own people group, and if we only encounter Scripture with those who share our life experiences.

For example, we need to be taught by those who have known persecution for their Christian faith and not just security and freedom.

We need the insights of those who have experienced physical suffering and not just health and success.

And we need to learn from those of other cultures and races and not just our own. That’s Esau McCaulley’s point in his book, *Reading While Black*, by which he means, Reading the Bible While Black.

The Gospel challenges every political opinion and every political party. And we must beware of only talking about issues that “our tribe” wants to hear about, whether it’s abortion or racism or biblical marriage or concern for the poor. The Gospel challenges us all and we must be on guard against a retreat into a supposed sanctuary from anyone or anything who might make us uncomfortable. We need each other.

My prayer is that our Diocese will continue to work at this. We will talk and pray and learn from one another so that we might more and more demonstrate the reconciling work of Christ to the world.

MISSIONS UPDATE: GLOBAL SCHOLARS

As discussed at our recent annual meeting, among the missionary organizations supported by Epiphany is Global Scholars. Here is a recent report from Global Scholars, sharing a testimonial from one of the professors in Global Scholar's network about his success in introducing students to Christianity:

A recent update we received from "David" demonstrates the profound influence our professors have and, in turn, the influence their students can have. David writes:

"As a freshman in college I was introduced to the power of multiplication ministry via 2 Timothy 2:2.—"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

As David discipled his students, "entrusting" them with God's truth, he then sends them out "to teach others also." In his letter David tells how one of the students he discipled is being faithful to "teach others also" back in his home country (a closed Muslim country). David's student writes:

On June 16, 2021, I and my five sub-team members started sharing Jesus and praying for the community people. Many people were around us as we proclaimed Jesus... The Lord opened my mouth and I shared about Jesus' birth, death, resurrection, and hope for the second coming. Then I said that "JESUS" can save you. After that, they asked us to pray for them and especially for their children and we did so. On June 22, 2021, we arranged a program for around 30 community people... A Christian family offered their house to be our venue. However, after our 40-minute journey to their house, a boy came to us and told us that they no longer wanted people to come in due to the risk of getting COVID... And then suddenly, the ladies whom we have shared Jesus [with] on June 16 came to me and offered their house so that we may share the good news there.

We all went to their house and shared the Good News. That day, many people received Christ as their Lord and Savior. To God be the glory! Now I am rejoicing for all of the situations because He is in control. After [studying with you], my wife and I decided to move there to water the seeds and continue to share the Good News among the peoples in our country. I am committed as a slave of Jesus Christ until my death. I will not be ashamed to be afraid to obey the Great Commission among the people because He will give the redemption, restoration, and the passion to follow the Great Commission."





- 1 Fay Cochran
- 2 Janice Monaghan
- 3 Chris Johnson
- Dan Johnson
- Will Schreiner
- 5 Maria Murphy
- Charlotte Camak
- 7 Katie Miller
- 13 John Murphy
- 19 Michael Ellis
- 21 Michaela Turner
- 22 Andy Baehr
- 23 Jan Coffee
- 26 Joel Monroe
- 28 Annabelle Easton
- 31 Ran Cottingham

- 1 Bethany McKenica
- 2 Maria Luisa Torabi
- 3 Amy Johnson
- 4 Teagan Merrill
- 6 Linda Boggs
- 10 Frances Miller
- 11 James Boggs
- Care Murphy
- Jessica Francis
- 16 Daniel Baehr
- 17 Ryan Ellis
- Pamela Meeks
- 19 Ellie Dial
- Joanna Torabi
- 22 Sandy Stoddard
- 23 Christopher Frost
- 24 Nolan Hanger
- 28 Wyndy Fredrick
- 30 Maggie McNeely

Happy Anniversary



December

- 2 Lisa & Andy Baehr
- 14 Krystal & Fred Apelquist
- 27 Rebecca & Tim Bixler
- 29 Melanie & Walter Kobos
Margaret & Frank Donivan

January

- 2 Jan & Gordon Coffee
- 3 Barbara & Mark Oliphant
- 4 Andrea & Peter Frank
- 18 Shahmala Kamalanthan &
Ragu Nadarajah
- 20 Linda & James Boggs
- 24 Debbie & Ted Hanger



Here at Epiphany we emphasize:

- ✦ Encountering God through beautiful worship and believing prayer
- ✦ Building a multigenerational congregation that loves children and families.
- ✦ Equipping every member to publicly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Associate Rector	pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. David Welch, Parish Deacon	dwelch@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. Sally Hoover, Parish Deacon	shoover@epiphanyanglican.net
Jimmy Crawford, Music Director	jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net
Janice Monaghan, Financial Director	jmonaghan@epiphanyanglican.net

Vestry Members

Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs
 Jon Crane**
 Christina Cummings
 Kelly Derrick*
 Sally Eckard**
 Ted Hanger**
 Bill Hoover
 Leslie Johnson
 Carole Menzel*
 Pat Meyer*
 Joyce Schmaltz**
 Geoffrey Seroka
 Margaret Stromberg*

* Retiring Vestry Members

**Newly elected Vestry Members

Vestry Officers/Committee Chairs for 2022

Senior WardenTBD
 Junior Warden.....TBD
 Registrar.....TBD
 Home Group Ministry Coordinator.....Leslie Johnson
 Vestry Liaison to Mission Committee.....Jim Boggs
 Vestry Liaison to Benevolence CommitteeTBD
 Vestry Liaison to Finance Committee.....TBD
 Finance Committee ChairmanTom Miller*
 Treasurer.....Charlie Monroe*
 ChancellorDavid Reed*

*Non-vestry members

Vestry Officers and Committee Liaisons will be appointed/ elected at the January Vestry Meeting

Publishing Information

The ***Epiphany STAR*** is published bi-monthly and contains articles and information about what God has and is doing in us and through us as the Epiphany Family. It is intended to encourage each of us in our ministry and discipleship by relating how God is working in the midst of us.

The ***Epiphany Candle*** is published weekly by email, highlighting what is coming in the days ahead at Epiphany and other information that the staff and vestry feel is important to emphasize.

Articles and Subscription requests: **star@epiphanyanglican.net**
candle@epiphanyanglican.net

jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net (for weekly bulletin)

Deadlines: STAR: 21st of the January, March, May, July, September & November.

Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM • Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM

Intercessory Prayer Letter

Requests can now be submitted by email at a secure site,

prayer-request@epiphanyanglican.net

or written and left in the prayer request box in the Fellowship Area.

All prayer requests are collected after the Sunday morning services and prepared for Monday morning distribution. For more information or questions, contact Faith Fisler by email at mizfiz34@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Ladies Dining Out

First Wednesday of each month

7:00 PM

Piero's Corner Located in Franklin Farms Shopping Center



Debby Morris hosts this group for a casual dinner at Piero's Corner Italian Ristorante located in the Franklin Farms shopping Center, Herndon, VA. This small group offers the opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed setting. There is no agenda except to enjoy the evening with friends.

Contact: Debby Morris epiphanyladiesdiningout@gmail.com

Look for us online:

Church of the Epiphany: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/>

Church Calendar: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/events/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/epiphany.anglican>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EpiphanyVideo>





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Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

Encountering God, Building a multigenerational congregation, Equipping every member.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER

1, 8, 15, 22	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
5, 12, 19, 26	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
5, 12, 19, 26	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
24	5:00 PM	Family Christmas Service - Livestream and In Person
24	9:00 PM	Candlelight Christmas Service - Livestream and In Person
12, 26	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
26	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
27-31		Church Office Closed

JANUARY

5, 12, 19, 26	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
2	10:15 AM	Lessons and Carols
1,2		Visitation Bishop John Guernsey
9, 23	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
23	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace