



April - May 2023

Going Down to Look Up



I have recently joined a small group of priests who meet via Zoom every Tuesday morning. We share life updates. We pray together. We study together. In short, it is like many of the small groups that you may be part of here at Epiphany.

I have found the study portion of what we do to be particularly helpful. One of the occupational hazards of ordained ministry is that over time it can be easy to just teach and not to learn. This group acts as a corrective for me. This week, our focus was incorporating repentance and humility more deeply into our lives.

It brought an old, somewhat sour joke to my mind, "Sure, Bob is a humble person... He has a lot to be humble about!"

Well, it's true, but it's not just Bob. We all have a lot to be humble about. As Tim Keller says, "*you are far more flawed than you ever had the eyes to see or the courage to admit.*" Not only do we have a lot to be humble about, we also have the example of Jesus himself, who was full of humility, not because he earned it, but because he chose it. "*And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.*" (Phil 2.8).

But after we get past all the reasons we deserve to be humbled, what is the reason for humility? To put it another way, how does humility spiritually benefit us? Well, I think getting our place right by being humble helps us get God's place right as well. We go down to look up. Paul writes in Colossians 3, "*Set your minds on things above, not on things that are on earth.*" (verse 2). How can we look up without accepting that the place our feet are planted is firmly down below?

As we prepare for Easter, is there some place in your life where you need to go down to better look up? Is there a place where you need to repent so that you can see Jesus above, interceding for you at the right hand of God? It's worth thinking about, and maybe even acting on.

God bless,

Graced Vulnerability



Working with children has not always been one of my strong suits but I am glad that changed over the years. I did not have fond memories of being a vulnerable child, so I preferred to project strength that I didn't have. As I matured, both as a person and in my relationship with God, I started to see God's hand in children's inherent vulnerability. So, I was delighted when I was assigned a book for one of my seminary classes, Graced Vulnerability by David Jensen. Jensen's claim is that children's vulnerability exemplifies our basic humanity and God's own nature: "By becoming vulnerable with the children in our midst, we not only stake a claim with their lives, we also understand more fully what it means to be created in God's image and what it means to be church."

We welcome children in our midst, not just for what they will be one day in the future, but for who they are right now. Children remind us to be open, to accept help from others but also to care and protect all vulnerable ones, even those we might not see on a Sunday morning. Children teach us to slow down and think about what our words and actions mean. If we are to have a growing relationship with God, we recognize that being vulnerable is necessary to form bonds of dependence with him. We need to be vulnerable to forms bonds of connection with others as well, and for some adults this is a hard thing to do.

Here at Epiphany, we express the value of vulnerability by teaching preschoolers, preparing to take first communion and by training the adults who work with children to put protections in place for all of our children.



This Spring, on May 21, we are offering the diocesan approved "Protecting God's Children" training, which is a necessary component of anyone who wants to work with children. Let's have a chat if that is something you want to attend.

This summer, we are switching up our Sunday school offering to be interactive and drama-based with music thrown in for good measure. Children will learn some of the stories Jesus told (we know them as parables) as they act them out in the classroom. Who knows if some of this fun will spill over into a Sunday morning? Having a multi-generational congregation helps us all to embrace our vulnerability with God and with others and that is a good place

to be in.

Pamela +

Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule at Epiphany

Walk the way of the cross and celebrate the resurrection at Church of the Epiphany, April 2-9.

Palm Sunday: Palm Sunday services will be at 8:00 am and 10:15 am on April 2. Children will participate in the Palm Sunday procession with the congregation and then attend Sunday School.

Maundy Thursday: We will remember the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment that we "love one another" with communion at 7pm on Thursday, April 6

Good Friday: This solemn service is at noon and 7 pm on Friday, April 7.

Prayer Vigil: Epiphany will be keeping a prayer vigil in the chapel beginning at the conclusion of the evening Good Friday service through to the start of the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening. For more information and to sign up to participate in this time of watchful prayer, scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.

Great Vigil of Easter: Epiphany begins our Easter celebrations with the Great Vigil of Easter service at 7:45 pm on Saturday, April 8. As part of this service, Epiphany's clergy preach an ancient Christian Easter sermon that was originally delivered in Constantinople during the 4th century. This musical and traditional service tells the story of salvation and joyfully welcomes the beginning of the Easter season.

Easter Sunday: Easter worship at Epiphany is at 10:15 am on April 9. Join us for this glorious and joyful service. There is no 8 am service on Easter Sunday.

A note about daily services during Holy Week. Epiphany's daily worship services will continue on a limited schedule during Holy Week. There will not be a Morning Prayer service on Tuesday (Clergy attending renewal of vows) or Friday.



Prayer Vigil sign-up.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone or

Visit the website below.

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/4090c4dadac2ba2f85-prayer4>

Epiphany Serves at Bishop's Consecration



Epiphany was very well represented at the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Christopher Warner, our diocese's new bishop. Fr. Peter served as the chair of the consecration service planning committee. Our Altar Guild provided a number of liturgical items for the service, and helped on the day of the consecration. Other Epiphany members helped direct traffic and assisted in vesting the more than 130 clergy and 25 bishops.



Fr. Peter preparing to begin the retiring procession of the clergy as the service concludes.

Epiphany vergers Merle Stromberg and Lisa Baehr served at the consecration with Falls Church verger Lesley Hackman.



Easter Eggs with our New Neighbors

Epiphany has new neighbors. Centerpointe Church (www.centerpointechurch.com) has purchased the former private school campus just north of our church at 3753 Centerview Drive and is in the process of renovating it to serve as the new home for their congregation. Fr. Peter has had a chance to meet with their pastors, Dr. Kieth Edwards, and Brandon Horst. He is enthusiastic about Epiphany connecting with Centerpointe and possibly ministering together in the future.

Centerpointe is some months away from completing their building work, but is holding an Easter Egg Hunt for kids on their property from 10am to noon on April 8 (Holy Saturday). They have invited us to join them.



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.



Full House for Shrove Tuesday Pancakes!

**Pancake
Palooza!**



Around 100 came out for the first Epiphany Shrove Tuesday Pancake-Palooza in many years on February 21. We enjoyed plenty of good food (organized by Joyce Schmalz) and enjoyed the music of the Live Oak Band, a group led by Epiphany member Bob Schulenberg.





Pancake Palooza!



Missions Update: Global Scholars

As pointed out in the last edition of the Star, college is often where faith is gained—or lost. For that reason, Epiphany has been a long-time supporter of Global Scholars, which supports Christian professors in overseas universities. Here is a recent report from a professor discussing how he has set students on the path to faith by planting seeds of doubt about their secular worldview:



When I saw the subject line “Seeds of Doubt” on John and Laura’s recent update, it immediately caught my attention. After all, we often think of Global Scholars professors as sowing seeds of faith. But John’s explanation of seeds of doubt encouraged me, and I think it will encourage you as well.

During the seven and a half years we've been teaching internationally, we've seen a number of students become Christians and have been witnesses to their baptisms. However, we also are encouraged when we see indications that students are doubting the secularism they arrive with, or questioning their convictions that Christianity is a set of irrelevant myths.



Here's a sampling of some of those "seeds of doubt." Some of these are from recent individual conversations, and others are from student evaluations from my Worldview course this fall:

- An **Iranian student** spoke about how when he came to university, he hated all religion because of what he sees it doing to people, and thought he was an atheist. "Now I'm seeing the possibility of God in a whole new way."
- A **student from Belarus**: "I got rid of many stereotypes about Christians. Because of my previous negative experience with Christians, I was really biased in many different ways about religion."
- A **student from Ukraine**, who has some Christian background: "I was a committed agnostic before this class, and I didn't want to think about all these topics. In the course, I became more loyal to Christianity."
- A **student from Kazakhstan**: "I became more considerate and curious about theistic faith."
- A **Lithuanian student**: "I didn't know that the New Testament was written based on what people heard from eyewitnesses who actually saw Jesus."

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

- An **Iraqi student**: "My worldview was mainly based on science, and I was confident. However, this course opened my eyes to many things. Even though I consider myself an agnostic, I do find Jesus' character rather puzzling. If I ever reach a point where my brain is ready to believe, I think Jesus' character, qualities and virtues will be my belief."
- A **Russian student**: "I used to have a more secularist idea of life, but after this course I started to think a lot about God, since I saw good reasons for why it is more rational to believe in God."

That's a long list, and I could list other responses from Christian students who found their faith deepened and strengthened in the course. Of course, there were plenty of non-Christian students who indicated that they saw no reason to seriously rethink their skepticism. Obviously, we would prefer — and we pray — that all of our students immediately become committed Christians. But since the majority of our students arrive at our college never having met a real Christian and have no prior understanding of the Bible, we consider these expressions of doubting their secularism to be encouraging.



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.**

Happy Birthday



- 4 Rachel Easton
- 10 Roger Miller
- 12 Stephanie Merrill
- 18 Caleb Koop
Christopher Plummer
- 20 Debby Morris
- 21 Greg Harrison
- 22 Beth Monroe
- 24 Bill Hoover
- 25 Jimmy Crawford
- 27 Christopher Easton
- 29 Beverley Monroe
- 30 Robin Ridinger

- 1 Jan Reiter
- 2 Dave Welch
- 3 Andy Plummer
- 4 Debbie Hanger
- 5 Murray Black
- 9 Bob Beckley
Gabrielle McKenica
- 12 Peter Frank
- 16 Gregory Harrison
- 20 Bethany McKenica
- 22 Jim Murphy
- 27 Leslie Johnson
- 30 Ginger Black



Happy Anniversary



April

- 2 VJ & Kent Johnson
- 4 Nancy & Bill Knight
- 12 Amie & Scott Boncher
- 20 Ellen & Greg Harrison
- 28 Rachel & CJ Easton

May

- 12 Cathy & Gregory Trout
- 13 Janice & Don Monaghan
- 14 Melanie & Tom Miller
- 16 Tracy & Andy Plummer
- 22 Penny & Robin Rauh
- 24 Catherine & Jeff Zimmerman
- 27 Bea & Andrew Long
Laurie & Randy Rash



Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net
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Vestry Officers/Committee Chairs for 2022

Vestry Members

Jane Burkett
 Jon Crane
 Christina Cummings
 Don Holt
 Sally Eckard
 Ted Hanger
 Leslie Johnson
 Joyce Schmalz
 Geoffrey Seroka
 Maria Torabi

Senior WardenLeslie Johnson
 Junior Warden.....Geoffrey Seroka
 Registrar..... Christina Cummings
 Home Group Ministry Coordinator.....Jane Burkett
 Vestry Liaison to Mission Committee..... Don Holt
 Chairman of the Benevolence Committee Ted Hanger
 Vestry Liaison to Finance Committee.....Jon Crane
 Finance Committee ChairmanTom Miller*
 Treasurer.....Charlie Monroe*
 ChancellorDavid Reed*

*Non-vestry members

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



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Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL

11	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
5, 12, 19, 26	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
2, 9, 16, 26, 30	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
2, 9, 16, 26, 30	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
16, 30	6:00 PM	Youth Connections
6	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
7	12:00 PM & 7:00 PM	Good Friday Service
8	7:45 PM	The Great Vigil of Easter
9, 23	1:15 PM & 2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

MAY

9	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
7, 14, 21, 28	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
7, 14, 21, 28	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
14, 28	6:00 PM	Youth Connections
21	11:45 AM	Protecting Children Training
14, 28	1:15 PM & 2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

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>

