

Now the Green Blade Rises



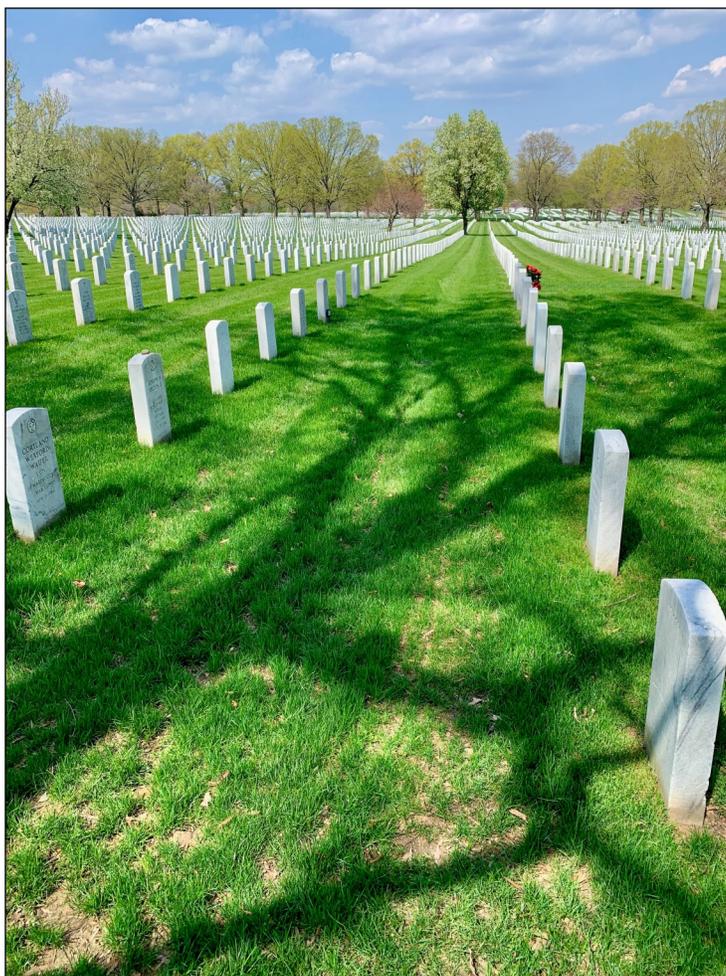
There is an Easter hymn that when I first heard it, seemed a bit obscure. The first verse goes.

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain
Love lives again that with the dead has been
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green*

I found myself thinking of this hymn as I visited Arlington National Cemetery recently. Many of us have been there, but if you haven't, it is hard to capture the scale of Arlington. In it are divisions of the dead, row on row, rank on rank, laid out in every direction, marshalled under the names of our military's dead commanders – McClellan, Eisenhower, Nimitz, Patton, Marshall, Bradley, Halsey, King – to name a few.

Yes, there is so much death in Arlington. Some died in the violence of combat. Others died due to old age. Some lost their lives to disease and accident.

But there is also so much hope in Arlington. There are so many graves marked with the sign of the cross, saying that in this ground, or in this niche is someone who confesses "the resurrection of the dead and the life of



the world to come.” To add to that, the grounds are beautiful, especially this time of year, with flowering trees and plants everywhere, green grass between the white grave markers, and a gentle, rolling landscape that descends toward the Potomac River.

What struck me was how much the hope I feel in Arlington is an Easter hope, not just a vague good feeling. It’s a hope that the tens-of-thousands who are buried there will one day rise again, like green blades pushing up through the dark earth in the springtime. It’s a hope that Arlington’s grounds themselves prefigure on purpose, I suspect, through the careful landscaping of their springtime greenery.

Friends, Arlington and places like it need not just be places of sadness for us, but also ground zero for the fundamental hope we have as Christians. Spring is coming. Under the earth, grass is growing. Someday soon, the dark earth will be covered over with green blades.

God bless,

Pat



Easter Worship at Epiphany

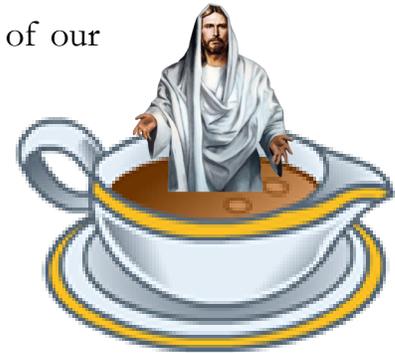
Epiphany worshiped together in-person and online on Easter Sunday, April 4. Following social distancing guidelines, we were able to welcome the largest congregation we have had in church in the past year on Easter Sunday.



Why did they put Jesus in gravy?



On Sunday we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, which for me, is always a time to reflect on what is true and confirm my faith. See, the historical reality of the resurrection bolsters parts of our belief systems which are more subjective or based on personal experience. I believe with all my heart that Jesus does not have a grave or any



remains of his body. He lived, then died and then was raised from the dead. Once a year I have the opportunity to cement that faith by being reminded that what I believe sits on a firm foundation.

Like most of us, I have had experiences with God that go beyond objective events or facts. It's based on faith, a faith that was gifted to us. When I was just 8 years old I had an encounter with the Holy Spirit when I was convicted of sin. I knew I belonged in the class of sinners, like all humans, but for me it became real and personal at that tender age. A skeptic might potentially say that I was manipulated into this kind of thinking but the deeper truth is, I never really doubted that part of the Gospel ever since. Somehow that just seems so self-evident. We do things wrong. I do wrong things and left to myself, I can't seem to help it. So, I began to trust Jesus for my own personal salvation. Although I heard the Gospel at a Baptist VBS, it was not the fire and the brimstone that frightened me. I doubt they even mentioned hell at all or if they did, that is not what caught my imagination. What truly captured my imagination was the love of God through Jesus.

So, then fast forward to the time when my stepmother, Joan, announced that she had cancer. I was twelve. The next six years were spent looking for treatment, crying, hoping and praying. They were hard years, but my faith was formed in that crucible. During that time, I thought a lot about death. That's when I had to face the prospect of being the one to find Joan dead. So, I prayed that this would not happen, even as I gradually knew where the cancer was headed. But Joan was not afraid to die. She spoke of it all the time, as in literally every day. And that was one of her best gifts to me, as a teenager. I was not so afraid anymore, even though I contemplated her nearing death and my eventual death. Somehow, her death became a part of her living.

But that did not stop a moment of crisis on her deathbed as she slipped in and out of consciousness. All of a sudden, I was torn. I asked God if Joan would be with God, that she would truly be escorted into his loving arms.

"This is all real, right? Could you give me a sign?" I pleaded. And an hour or so later, I had a gift from God for my doubting heart. It seems so small, even strange. But there it was: she said the word "gravy." I shook my head in disbelief, doubting myself.

Did she just say, “Gravy?” And she did because my dad made a joke about it. He said something about mashed potatoes going with the gravy. But for me, ***I knew*** what it meant, that this was the sign I was seeking. Just the week before I had been at a church camp and had learned a corny joke about the little boy asking why they put Jesus in the grave. The mother was confused until the little guy said, “You know, the hymn. “Up from the grave arose.”

See, “grave he” sounds a lot like “gravy,” and I had literally just heard that joke one week before and it had stuck with me in all its old-fashioned humor. I had prayed for a sign and for some odd reason, my mother was induced to say gravy.

With that simple word, I was enheartened and trusted once again that indeed Jesus arose from the grave and he would come to take my stepmom too. It is not the hard facts of the data that we also need, but it was a step towards a lifetime of touches from God that has helped my faith. I have many more little stories of faith. I hope you do too.

Pamela +

Coates Elementary Food Ministry Up and Running

Fairfax County is one of the richest counties in the nation, so it’s shocking that food insecurity is an issue for FCPS students. Yet it is a very real issue that faces many elementary school students every weekend.

As COVID-19 cases have diminished somewhat and students return to schools, Epiphany has had the opportunity to resume the provision of weekend food bags for Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School in Herndon. The March goal was to provide 50 bags with food for the weekend to the school, and the people of Epiphany responded in spades! Not only did people donate generously, but a small army of volunteers joined us on April 7 to check and pack food bags. Special thanks to Jan Reiter for showing us the ropes and to “the Daves” who deliver the bags!



If you’re thinking, “Rats, I missed out!” there’s still time! We’ll continue to collect food donations in April and May to deliver food bags each month until the school year ends. If you’re interested and need more information, please contact either Joyce Schmalz (matzocat@msn.com) or Bea Long (bduquelong@gmail.com). We plan to pack and check food bags on Sunday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m. at Epiphany if you’d like to join us!

Sharing the Good News: Epiphany Social Media Team Increases Visibility



The Social Media Team was approved by the Vestry because most newcomers to Epiphany find our web site and liked what they see. Therefore, we need to increase the number of people who can find us on the Internet as we prepare for a return to exciting in-person activities. The Team is using Facebook to project Epiphany Anglican as a vibrant, digitally active congregation that is meeting God, building a multi-generational congregation, and equipping every member for ministry. Sharing our congregation's activity and faith on the internet can help current members increase their participation and grow together as well as attract new members who shift from our social media presence to our web site.

The Team currently has five members; fortunately three of the five provide graphic designs for regular posts and for our digital advertising. The Team has support from the Audio Visual specialists, content input from lay leaders of Epiphany's ministries, and from others who make the Music Minutes video clips and who research and prepare material for seasonal descriptions of the church year. Members are Don Holt, Alvin Lee, Petrina Teoh, Jami Johnson and Jim Boggs. Supporting specialists are Bob Beckley, Barb Oliphant, Ralph Morris, and Bill Hoover.

The Team updates Epiphany's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/epiphanyanglican on an almost daily basis.

Immediate goals include increasing the number of folks who view our livestream, visit our web site, engage Epiphany remotely, and engage physically as opportunities increase. The Team regularly meets with Fr. Peter and a social media consultant to discuss ministry communication needs and to review statistics on the effectiveness of their work. Help the Team by having your church events (remote and in person) on the church calendar and by providing basic information on these events to: mediateam@epiphanyanglican.net.



Expanded In-Person Worship Schedule at Epiphany

For more than a year, Epiphany's 10:15 Sunday worship service has been "livestream only." With the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines advancing rapidly, we are going to change that starting on Easter Sunday with in-person and Livestream worship for 10:15 and further changes continuing on following Sundays.

This means that we will be able to worship together three different ways on Sunday beginning on April 11, in-person at 8:30, and 10:15 and also via the video livestream at 10:15. Below are details on each of these options:

8:30am Sunday: In-Person worship. We will continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing. We are distributing the bread, but not wine for communion. We will have instrumental music, but no congregational singing. Sign-up required as space is limited to 67 congregation members. [Sign up here for April Services.](#)

10:15am Sunday: In-Person worship. We will continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing. We are distributing the bread, but not wine for communion. We will have instrumental music, and two or three vocal pieces sung by our quartet, but no congregational singing as we begin. Sign-up required as space is limited to 67 congregation members. Initially we will not be able to offer children's programming, nursery care, or after-church fellowship hour. [Sign up here for April Services.](#)

10:15am Sunday: Livestream. We will continue to offer our livestream service as we have throughout the pandemic at www.livestream.com/epiphanyanglican. Because there will now be people worshipping at the church at 10:15, viewers will notice some changes in focus as the celebrant, readers, etc. work to lead the people present in the building with them, instead of speaking primarily to the cameras. They will also see worship leaders wearing masks when not preaching or reading.

Families with children are more than welcome to attend worship. We will be providing activities for younger kids while they sit with their parents. The Cry Room will be available on a first-come, first serve basis.

Friends, after more than a year of not being able to greet you at the door before worship begins at 10:15, I am excited about this step forward. As a church, we continue to do our best to balance the fundamental necessity of gathering together as a congregation for public worship, with our responsibilities toward our neighbors and our own health. I trust that each of us will prayerfully weigh our personal risk category, whether or not we have been vaccinated, and other relevant facts as we make decisions about returning to in-person worship. At the same time, know that by continuing our livestream, and keeping a close watch on the advice we receive from the authorities as well as other data, we will continue to do our best to act responsibly. We will make changes to what we are doing on Sundays if the status of the pandemic demands it.

MISSIONS UPDATE: DANIEL AND MYRIAM LIBEREK

Epiphany has supported Daniel and Myriam Liberek and their ministry in Belgium for several years, and Daniel has preached to us twice in the past five years. Here are excerpts from a recent report:

PRESSING ON ...

Greetings partners,

We have much to share and are so excited to be a small part of what God is doing.

Last Sunday we saw a walking, talking, ministering answer to prayer as Joachim was back at the keyboard and, added blessing, his son Noé (Noah) was playing the guitar. Alleluia!

It's just so amazing. Thank you for praying and, now, for praising! As you continue praying for his recovery please do pray for Lea (daughter) who is having a hard time recovering from her Covid infection. She used to sing in the praise band but doesn't have enough breath to sing more than one song. It's been discouraging for her as she was infected in October.



Today our children's workers held a special celebration. For several weeks we had managed to hold Sunday School for kids while broadcasting the worship service from the church with 15 adults maximum in attendance (including the team members). It was legal, but probably too good, so a new rule came into effect forbidding us from holding Sunday School while holding the worship service. That was a bit discouraging, especially as we are seeing more and more signs that the kids and our youth need to get together. It is becoming VITAL for them.

Our children's team (under our daughter Rebekah's leadership) decided to hold a monthly event for kids. The first such event was held today and went well. We are only allowed 25 kids but we are allowed something :-). Myriam (Left) was part of the team, involved in the skit and so was Mical (our oldest daughter). (Right)



We are so glad to be working with folks who want to get the Gospel out no matter what. If the door gets to be closed they climb through the window.

Thank you for your part in the ministry God has called us to and your involvement in our lives.

May God see many come to Him through faith in Jesus as his church faithfully testifies and witnesses around the world during these difficult days! Thank you for being a much better team than we deserve. We are blessed to have YOU!



- 4 Rachel Easton
Kyle Louis
- 7 Caitlyn Bender
- 10 Roger Miller
- 12 Stephanie Merrill
- 15 Charlie Westerman
- 18 CJ Plummer
- 20 Debby Morris
- 21 Greg Harrison
- 22 Beth Monroe
- 24 Bill Hoover
- 25 Jimmy Crawford
- 27 Christopher Easton III
Barbara Peake
- 30 Robin Ridinger

- 1 Jan Reiter
- 2 Dave Welch
- 3 Andy Plummer
- 4 Debbie Hanger
- 5 Murray Black
- 8 Annette Rhoads
- 9 Bob Beckley
Gabrielle McKenica
- 12 The Rev. Peter Frank
Christopher Menzel
- 13 Brianna Meeks
- 16 Gregory Harrison
- 18 Virginia Murphy
- 20 Bethany McKenica
- 22 Jim Murphy
Jacqueline Plummer
- 24 Alexis Tucker
- 27 Leslie Johnson
- 30 Ginger Black
- 31 Sam Fishburne

Happy Anniversary



April

- 2 VJ & Kent Johnson
- 4 Nancy & Bill Knight
- 12 Amie & Scott Boncher
Cathy & Gregory Trout
- 20 Ellen & Greg Harrison
Annette & David Rhoads
- 26 Ann & Zan Dial
- 28 Rachel & CJ Easton

May

- 5 Barbara & Tom Noble
- 13 Janice & Don Monaghan
- 14 Angela & Brett Bender
Melanie & Tom Miller
- 16 Tracy & Andy Plummer
- 22 Penny & Robin Rauh
- 24 Catherine & Jeff Zimmerman
- 27 Bea & Andrew Long



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

2021 Vestry

Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs
 Christina Cummings
 Kelly Derrick
 Bill Hoover
 Leslie Johnson
 Carole Menzel
 Pat Meyer
 Geoffrey Seroka
 Margaret Stromberg

Vestry Officers/Committee Chairs

Senior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Junior Warden..... Geoffrey Seroka
 Registrar..... Carole Menzel
 Home Group Ministry Coordinator..... Leslie Johnson
 Vestry Liaison to Mission Committee..... Jim Boggs
 Vestry Liaison to Benevolence Committee Kelly Derrick
 Vestry Liaison to Finance Committee..... Carole Menzel
 Finance Committee Chairman Tom Miller*
 Treasurer..... Charlie Monroe*
 Chancellor David Reed*

*Non-vestry members

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.

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



3863 Centerview Drive, Suite 100
 Chantilly, Virginia 20151
 Main Number: 703.481.8601
 Prayer Line: 703.389.7292

Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL

7, 14, 21, 28	12:00 PM	Midday Eucharist In-Person.
11, 18, 25	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person .
4, 11, 18, 25	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
25	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

MAY

5, 12, 19, 26	12:00 PM	Midday Eucharist In-Person..
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
23	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

Look for us online:

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

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

**Sign up for In-Person Worship
Services**

**Look for the link in the weekly
Candle**

*Due to current circumstances,
many of the normal activities have either
moved online or have been **postponed**.
Check with your Ministry Organizer
for details relevant to your specific activity.
See the weekly Candle for the
most current information.*