

# THE WEEKLY WORD

EPIPHANY PARISH OF SEATTLE . MARCH 4, 2013

## **Life, Love, and Freedom**

*An Evening Prayer Lay Homily by Eric Artzt*

*Hebrews 2:10-18 John 8:30-32*

Recent events in the world and in my own life, have left me reflecting on the nature of freedom. In today's Gospel reading, Christ assures us that by walking with Him and living according to His word, that we will know truth, and that this truth will set us free.

One might pause to wonder then, of what type of freedom is he speaking. Are we not already free to take on our God-granted lives in any way that makes sense to us?

As our pastors remind us, God's gift of love is tied to His granting us free agency within His creation. This free agency, this freedom, we already have.

As any parent knows, even at precocious young age, we are free to act according to our impulses and desires. Brain researchers inform us that empathy is simply absent in young children. As parents, even as we observe the first glimmers of empathy in our children, glimmers that we have painstakingly scaffolded through consistent efforts to enforce consequences for wrong behavior, and to lavish praise for right... we know that our power to control their behavior is depressingly limited. Our little monsters are truly free. This reality is reinforced as we see them ascend into legal adulthood, and finally, the situation becomes reversed when they are forced to deal with us in our old age!

So I ask again, like them, are we not already free? Free perhaps, but like Christ, not immune from suffering. From Paul's epistle: [God] made the pioneer of [our] salvation perfect through sufferings. Writing this homily I thought back to the character of Agent Smith in the movie *The Matrix*. Addressing a captive Morpheus, Agent Smith remarks about the failure of one early revision of the virtual world created by machines to enslave mankind:

*continued...*

“Did you know that the first Matrix was designed to be a perfect human world? Where none suffered, where everyone would be happy. It was a disaster. No one would accept the program. ... I believe that, as a species, human beings define their reality through suffering and misery. The perfect world was a dream that your primitive cerebrum kept trying to wake up from.”

Indeed, the church glorifies Christ’s example in martyrdom, and the example of his successors. Behind our own altar are symbols of the gruesome fates of saints: death by crucifixion, by halberd, by spear, by stoning or scimitar. Sometimes in our lives we can reach a grim place where suffering becomes the centerpiece of our existence. Perhaps that is part of what we prepare for in Lent: cultivating stoicism in the face of suffering.

We do live in paradise, yes, and God does love us unconditionally, yes, and He has granted us freedom to act as free-agent monsters do, .... yes. But as we quickly learn even as young children, we are not immune and we are not all-powerful.

The spectre of my inevitable death looms always. At times it causes me to live my life not with the deserved joy of a free-agent monster loosed in paradise, but rather stalked by a fear of death. Fear affects my life decisions, poisons my relationships, and destroys fleeting moments of comfort and peace. I fear for myself, my beloved, my children, my treasure. I am frustrated by my maddening inability to control the actions of others and sometimes even myself.

Lent offers us an opportunity to confront this reality as Christ did, and perhaps, to rise above our attachments. To confront the illusion that with our God-granted freedom comes real control of our dominion. But also, to confront the illusion that the sufferings of this world need define us. Yes, we are free. No, we are not in control. But there is hope, personified in Christ.

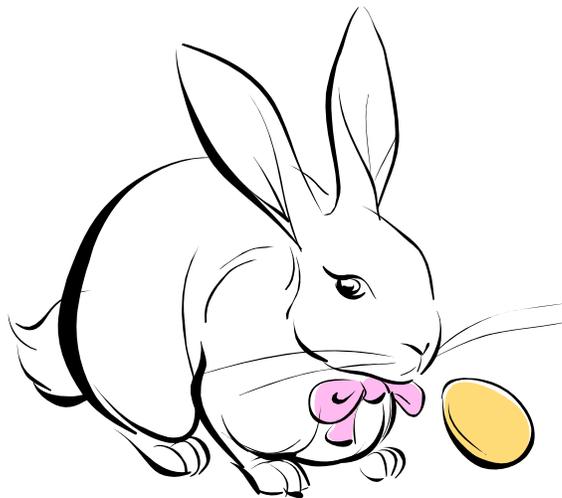
As Paul notes, Christ “shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death.” Christ subjected himself to temptation in the wilderness. In his ministries, he struggled to help his disciples understand the promise of the Kingdom. Ultimately, inevitably, he subjected himself to share our human fate through his death on the cross. Hard trials, harder than

most of us will ever bear. But through these he revealed His truth, and in his words he invites us to experience true freedom... Kingdom-freedom. All we have to do is follow.

As Pastor Kate said Sunday, this Lent, let us sit with ourselves in the wilderness, and there find the courage to allow Christ's hard-won truth to enter our lives. This Lent, let us experience the quiet spaces where we might grasp the potential of Christ's true freedom given freely to us just as our freedom in this world is given freely to us by the Father.

This Lent, and here I paraphrase a modern day philosopher of some fame and repute... Lady Gaga. This Lent, may we find the courage to live, ... "to know in our hearts, that although we may never reach that glorious moment until we die, we can live our lives freely, on the edge, halfway between heaven and hell, and let's all dance in the middle, in purgatory."

*-Eric Artzt*



### **Easter Baskets for Kids at the YWCA Shelter**

Please sign up to bring an Easter basket for kids at the YWCA shelter. You can purchase a filled basket or make one themed around anything: learning, books, hygiene, toys, etc. (\$15-20) for any age you like, boy or girl. Each basket will make a difference to a child in need. Please sign up by **March 17** (sign up sheets in the back of the church or call or email Sherilyn) and bring your basket to church by **March 24**. Questions: contact Sherilyn Peterson at [speterson@perkinscoie.com](mailto:speterson@perkinscoie.com) or 206-322-2831

*Thank you!!*

## THE CROSS-*A Contemplation by Aubin Barthold*

Have you heard someone (yourself) posit a proverbial “last meal”? Lobster, pizza, hot fudge sundae, Teresa Davis’ gumbo? Have you ever contemplated what inescapably follows an actual last meal? Execution. Have you ever contemplated the actual FINAL steps to the scaffold? Jesus carried his own scaffold down to Golgotha-Calvary-Jerusalem’s public execution quarry. No matter your mind’s problems with Christian theology, let alone the Nicene Creed, there Jesus DID die on THE CROSS—the emblem, the symbol of Christ, of our core belief.



Every Friday in Jerusalem, Franciscan monks take groups of pilgrims down the Via Dolorosa, the road Christ may have walked on his way to the cross. Stopping at each of the fourteen locations that mark events in the final (hours, steps, breaths) of Christ’s life, the pilgrims recall the Passion story and offer prayers for the world. (*A Walk in Jerusalem*, Peterson 1998)

My impression of the Stations of the Cross was it was a morbid Catholic thing. Once on my way along a forested path at a Franciscan Seminary, I had been on a Stations of the Cross path (noted by reading one or two Station signs), but I was on that path only to use the Brothers’ tennis court. Lent 2011 I was on a different path. Lynn Frink, who suggested Peterson’s book and its adaptation for a “walk” here after returning from the Epiphany group pilgrimage, had given me a copy for Lent as I had expressed interest in the Stations. So I dragged myself to that first Epiphany “Walk”.

For our Stations of the Cross Service there are a Presider, a Lector and a Reader. The Lector reads a Biblical citation to Christ’s “station” on his final spiritual journey e.g. Station II:

*So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. John 19:16b-17*

The Reader follows with the corresponding passage from the book e.g. for Station II the second paragraph reads:

*When the condemned men appear- there are three of them- each receives a single beam to carry across his shoulders to Golgotha. A placard declaring each man's crime will be carried in front of him. The death procession forms, and the order is given to move out through the crowded streets.*

The Service is in the Chancel on an oval of chairs . It is intimate. It is quietly intense. It is important. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you will end in a different place. Last year I was with Pieter Drummond reading the Service (my fourth or fifth "Walk"). I don't recall which parts we took. I don't recall which Station I was reading. I do recall that suddenly I couldn't read because some shed tears had blurred my glasses. Pieter and I went back and forth to the end with some difficulty. We have talked about it. We WERE walking Jesus' final walk. He took the walk for you. Come take the walk with Him.

-Aubin Barthold

## **Contemplative Stations of the Cross**

**Dates:** Fridays in Lent through Mar 22

**Time:** 6-7 pm **Location:** Church

*"Every Friday in Jerusalem, Franciscan monks take groups of pilgrims down the Via Dolorosa, the road Christ may have walked on his way to the cross. Stopping at each of fourteen locations that mark events in the final days of Christ's life, the pilgrims recall the Passion story and offer prayers for the world. "*

from *A Walk in Jerusalem* by John Peterson

Using John Peterson's *A Walk in Jerusalem* as a guide, we will join with Jesus in his Passion every Friday in Lent. Offering a contemplative experience as we sit with icons of the Passion and walk with Jesus in our minds, this service features scripture, guided meditation and prayers that apply the Passion narrative to today's world. Those who have been to Jerusalem before and those going on the next Pilgrimage are especially encouraged to attend this hour-long service.

Break the Friday fast with a simple supper of olives, cheese, and bread.

## Wednesday Evening Prayer and Lenten Series *A Cinematic Approach to Lent*

**Presenters:** The Reverend Doyt Conn and Matt Marshall

**Dates:** Wednesday Evenings, March 6, 13, 20

**Times/Places:** 6:00-6:30 pm / Evening Prayer / Chapel  
6:30-8:00 pm / Potluck & Study / Library

### *Searching for Lent*

**March 6:** *In the Heat of the Night* (1967, Norman Jewison), screening. Two policemen abandon the comforts of racial prejudice aimed at each other when they unite to solve a murder.

**March 13:** *In the Heat of the Night* (1967, Norman Jewison), brief history, film clips, and discussion.

### *Mirroring Lent*

**March 20:** *Chariots of Fire* (1981, Hugh Hudson), brief history, film clips, and discussion. Please note: the screening of *Chariots of Fire* will be scheduled on a separate date.

### Five Wednesday Simple Potluck Suppers

Supper during the *Cinematic Approach to Lent* series will be simple and potluck. We are looking for two people per week to sign up to bring soup. For the rest of the meal we are asking attendees to bring bread, cheese, fruit, or salad. In keeping with the season, please, no desserts. *If you would like to sign up to bring soup on Wednesday March 13 or 20, please contact Emily in the parish office at [epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org](mailto:epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org)*



# EASTER FLOWER FUND

During our Easter services, we decorate our church with Easter lilies. You can remember a special person or event this Easter by donating to the Epiphany Parish Flower Fund. Perhaps you would like to acknowledge the birth of a baby, a marriage or a loved one now departed, to be acknowledged in our Easter service bulletins.



Contributions to the Flower Fund are also gratefully accepted and acknowledged throughout the year. Donations of any amount are welcome.

*Thank you for your consideration of the Epiphany Parish Flower Fund.*

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27.**

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed for purchase of an Easter lily.  
(Make payable to *Epiphany Parish* with *Easter Flowers* on the memo line in the lower left hand corner of your check.)

I wish to be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin,  
 in memory of            or             in thanksgiving for:

\_\_\_\_\_

For another special Sunday during the church year: \_\_\_\_\_

Bulletin message: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Next 100 Years Next Steps**

As at least 253 of you know, we have been thinking pretty intently about the next 100 years at Epiphany these past few months. As a way of considering how these ideas find practical application for our common future, and with the support of the Vestry, I have called into being two committees: one is a Building and Grounds Assessment team lead by Ed Emerson, Laura Blackmore, Bob Barnes and John Nesholm. The other group is a Fundraising Assessment Team lead by Furman Moseley and Anna White. Joining Furman and Anna are Mary Anne Howard, Lex Lindsey, Molly Hanlon, Laura Blackmore, and Cory Carlson. We have also employed parishioner Linda Maxson and The Rev. Bill Adams as a part-time consultants to help us in these assessments. You may know Linda as a parishioner who takes Eucharist to shut-ins, but she also has an extensive and helpful background in education, policy, communication and fundraising as well. Her previous positions have included leadership in non-governmental organizations, the University of Washington and NOAA. And you may recall Bill Adams as the retired professor of Liturgics from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin TX (now living on Whidbey Island), who taught a three part series last year on the liturgical significance of our worship space at Epiphany. We have great teams in place and it will be exciting to see where this leads us. Please keep this work in your prayers, and I'll keep you posted as things move forward.

*Doyt+*

## +TEC— This Sunday

### **George Herbert**

*His Words, Our Music*

**Presenter:** Tom Foster and Barbara Cairns, with the Epiphany Choir and Soloists

**Date:** Sundays, March 3 and 10

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

**Location:** Great Hall

This 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglican priest literally wrote the book on how to be a country parson; but he is beloved as one of the world's great metaphysical poets. George Herbert's poems have delighted everyone from Izaak Walton (his first biographer) to T.S. Eliot to Seamus Heaney. Herbert was a protégé of the great English theologian and poet, John Donne, and in turn, his words have inspired composers in every century since his death. This presentation features an introduction to Herbert's life and times, as well as an opportunity to hear his words and music. Epiphany Choir and soloists will assist in sharing some of the Herbert hymns found in our hymnal, and we'll sample some revealing examples of solo songs and choral settings by modern composers.

### **Save the Date—Epiphany All Clean Saturday, March 16, 10am-1pm**

We'll be scrubbing, dusting, scraping, and washing again. Last year we had a great turnout by the Epiphany Choir, the Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Liberation and those who just love to exert some elbow grease and see the Church, Chapel, and Great Hall shine.



*Lunch will be provided.* Please mark your calendars and RSVP to Emily in the Parish Office if you plan to attend.

## **Vestry Notes—February 2013**

The Vestry met on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Davis Walker led the opening prayer. The mission and theology discussion focused on Isaiah 58:6-12, which was appropriate as preparation for Ash Wednesday the following day. The passage dealt with fasting and living a Christian lifestyle while getting away from the burdens of the world.

In Treasurer Gary Sundem's absence, Doyt Conn thanked Vestry members for writing notes to parishioners with outstanding pledges. Vestry members volunteered to contact those whose pledges remain outstanding. Doyt also noted that Mike Evans, who has ably led the Stewardship Committee for years, has resigned. Doyt asked that Vestry members consider who might lead this effort in 2013.

In accordance with the By-Laws, the Vestry then unanimously elected officers for 2013 as follows:

- Buildings and Grounds: Bob Barnes
- Treasurer: Gary Sundem
- Chancellor: John Cary
- Clerk of the Vestry: Nancy Emerson

Next, the Vestry addressed its officers, participation on various Epiphany committees and leadership of various events, as follows:

- Junior Warden: Cory Carlson
- Member-at-Large: Mary Anne Howard
- Finance Committee: Clyde Summerville
- Stewardship Committee: Caroline Normann
- Neighborhood Liaison: Laura Blackmore
- Bishop's Visit: Robin Mondares
- Vestry Alumni Picnic: Davis Walker
- Vestry & Spouses Christmas Party: Laura Rodde

Doyt Conn updated the Vestry about Epiphany Disaster Preparedness measures. A 40-foot-long shipping container to store emergency supplies will be housed against the hedge near the small swings in the parking area. Epiphany School and Epiphany Early Learning Preschool are coordinating efforts with the Church since in any disaster those children's needs would be of highest priority. A container beautification project will be planned in the future.

A new part-time administrative position had been approved in the 2013 budget. Doyt Conn explained how responsibilities are likely to be distributed between the existing full time administrative assistant and the to-be-hired part-time assistant. He also described the coming Lenten activities and encouraged Vestry members to participate as fully as possible.

Lastly, Robin Mondares reported on the success of the 2013 "Have a Heart Dinner," which again was sold out and approximately \$28,000 raised. Thirty-one children participated in activities downstairs while adults enjoyed the fellowship of friends at this special event. Love for Charley Bush and support for the Social Action Committee and its meaningful works were manifested throughout the evening. Heartfelt thanks go out to the many people involved in organizing this event.

Doyt Conn led the closing prayer, and the Vestry adjourned at 8:35pm.

*-Laura Blackmore*

## **SUNDAY LECTIONARY CORNER**

*March 10, 2013*

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*[http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC\\_RCL/Lent/CLent4\\_RCL.html](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Lent/CLent4_RCL.html)*



## **Sing, Sing a Song...**

If you do a simple internet search for "effects of singing on the brain" you will find link upon link about the physical and psychological benefit of singing; interestingly, singing in groups can do even more! People who sing with a group regularly tend to be happier - its been documented!

Build Choristers into your family's life. Meeting from 9am-10am, during the coffee and formation hour each Sunday, join us!

Upcoming Chorister worship services include Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday.

*Kathea Yarnell*

choristers@epiphanyseattle.org

425.272.5972

## **REQUEST FOR DONATIONS**

Thanks to volunteers and regular guests, the Friday night overnight men's shelter at Epiphany continues to run like clockwork.

Please consider donating :

- socks
- individual single serving juices for Saturday mornings
- razors
- toothbrushes.

If you have questions or suggestions email Linda Bush at [lindchar@comcast.net](mailto:lindchar@comcast.net).



## **UPCOMING BAPTISMS at EPIPHANY**

**The Great Vigil of Easter**

***Saturday, March 30, 2013—8 pm***

Baptism Preparation Class and Rehearsal  
for Families and Godparents

Saturday, March 23

9:00-10:30 am

Please contact the Rev. Kate Wesch  
for more information at  
206-324-2573 or [kwesch@epiphanyseattle.org](mailto:kwesch@epiphanyseattle.org)

## **Returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation: A Guide for Four Sets of Circumstances**

*A series from [http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/  
CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/Returning-to-Reconciliation.html](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/Returning-to-Reconciliation.html)*

*(Continued from last week)* For something to be a mortal sin, **three things are required**. All three of them are necessary. It must be something quite seriously wrong. It must be something I do, knowing its seriousness and knowing that it is wrong. And, it must be something I do deliberately, that is, freely. So, for something to be a mortal sin, I have to understand that something is serious enough to ruin my relationship with God and freely choose to do it anyway.

When we examine our consciences, we are looking primarily for things like that. And, we are looking for them in two areas: in what I've done and in what I've failed to do. For example, I might never have abused my children, verbally or physically, but I might examine my conscience and recognize that I failed in my responsibility to raise them in the faith - the commitment I made at the time of my marriage and at their baptisms. However, I might judge that, though it is a serious matter, I didn't do it deliberately and intentionally. In that case, I might examine this situation in terms of my overall selfishness or failure to live my commitments - perhaps venial sins in the area of what I've failed to do, but for which I can ask for forgiveness and healing so I can do this better in the future, or receive our Lord's peace, even if I can't fix the past.

### **Our Sins Are Forgiven**

We must never forget what happens in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our sins are forgiven! They are taken away. The slate is wiped clean. We have a new beginning - a fresh start. We receive God's mercy and are filled with God's peace. And, once this total and complete forgiveness happens, deep and lasting healing can happen as well.

So, it's a great idea to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive a fresh start and to let the grace of healing begin. Most of us are ready to do that because we really miss communion with our God. We really don't like division, conflict, selfishness, negativity, disorder, injustice or dishonesty. We long for integrity and a love which nothing but this Sacrament can offer us.

# PARISH PRAYER LIST

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL BETWEEN March 3 and March 9:** Beth Clark, Aiden Artzt, Andrea King, Margaret Whitlock, Anne Hofius, Julie Gould, Harrison Probst, Sallie Ragsdale, Monica Nelson, and Hudson McKinney.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR CYCLE OF PRAYER:** Susan Spencer; Bette Sprague; Grace Steers; Nerys Jones & George, Celyn, and Mali Stermer; and Olga Stewart. We pray for St. Matthew/San Mateo (Auburn).

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR CONTINUED HEALING AND STRENGTH FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE ILL OR GRIEVING:** Paul, Bette Sprague, Coralie Swanson, Connie Gaines, Barbara Ward, Barbara Himmelman, Kay Schack, Veronica, Ashle, Bob Bergman, Ginger, Piper Simmons, Sid Malbon, Gregg Waddell, P.J., Tom Pelphrey, Jamie, Kathy, Yamy Xolocotzi, Dougald MacMillan, Anne, Adrian, Cyril Urwyler, Tim Murray, Alice, Laura, Anthony, Cassie, Cindy, LaVerne Green, Erik Grafe, Hannah Moderow, John Baker, David & Diane Libbey, Jack Roberts, Mary Cecile, Carl Putnam, Nikki, Ellen Gimbel, Edwina, Eileen Riley, Peg Sherwood, Bonnie, Bill Bultmann, Bill Williamson, Baby La John Gonzalez, Colleen Terry, Liza, Roy Enriquez, Charlotte Hutton, Andrea & family, Mark Jensen & family, James Bryant, Helen Arnold, Peter, Jean, Shannon Ries, Jerre, Jessica, Will Gluck, the Torrance Family, Ruth, Marjorie, Johnny Gene and Beverly Saulsbury, Joey Johnson, Mark, Jeanne Edwards, the Robinson family, Jolene, David, the Hawkes family, Jean, George Fisher, Edna Heatherington, Marie Claiborne, Jane Ewing, Gibbs Lincoln, Ruth Dalton, Charley & Linda, Rain, Charles and Aileen Mangham, Pete Sander, Lauren Riker, Alan Fowler, George Briggs, Scott Gehring, Donta Rogers, JoAnne, George Harrington, Linda Kercher, Nina, Carolyn du Pen, Bill, Laura, Jim, Carla, Stan, the Davies family, the Summerville family, Marilyn, Bob Shupe, and Amy King.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:** Virginia Augustine, Ed, and Al Sargent.

*Occasionally we review and cull the prayer list. If we have removed someone in error or you would like to have someone removed or added please contact Emily in the Parish Office. The same invitation applies for birthdays.*  
206-324-2573 or [epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org](mailto:epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org)