

THE WEEKLY WORD

EPIPHANY PARISH OF SEATTLE . MAY 27, 2014

The Map of the Soul is Read on the Face

A meditation by The Rev. Doyt Conn

Dear Epiphany,

I was watching men carry bags of oysters the other day. They had spent the morning harvesting them off a beach. Blue mesh bags were filled and piled high. Then, at the end of the day they started carrying the bags to some truck, I suppose, on the side of the road beyond my sight line. The bags were heavy. You could tell by how they bent with their knees to lift them, and then walked with straight backs taking quick, small steps. I could imagine the netting digging into their hands. I could imagine how sore their backs were after spending the morning knocking the barnacles off the oysters. I could imagine these men heading for the bar for cold beer. As I wondered about these men, I realized that my speculation would move to knowing if I could see their faces.

You can tell much about a person by the work they do and the way they move and how they talk and where they live and with whom they associate. But the map of a soul can be read on the face. The wrinkles as they bend and twist and dance around the eyes act as a living frame that draw us into eyes that gaze back upon us. It is how we see them seeing back at us that tells us the most about the state of their soul. Have they been hardened or softened by their suffering? Has their study life made them wise or aloof? Has their experience created autonomy or communal necessity? Is worship of themselves or something other? The answers are found in the eyes.

I see myself two ways in the mirror. I see myself when I am looking for myself. I usually like what I see. My soul is familiar to me. And then I see myself in the mirror out of the corner of my eye, accidentally. When this happens I am not so sure how thrilled I am to have my face. It is a tired face, and not quite the right color. Maybe it's the light. I suppose all faces get tired and worn out. I remember my grandmother's face looking old and tired and worn out, until she was looking at me, then it was radiant, then I was seeing her looking back at me, and what I saw was her soul.

The eyes, it is said, are the window to the soul. They come out at you and connect to you, like an internal light radiating out and wrapping around you. At least that was how my grandmother's gaze felt. It doesn't make any sense anatomically, and yet you know what I mean. You know what I mean because mystery is a real part of life, and we have all experienced it. The soul is real, and yet has no physiology or anatomy.

So what do we see in the dancing face and flashing eyes? What radiates back at us, and gives us a sense of the soul of another, even if we can't define it? In the novel *Gilead*, the pastor says to his son, "I suppose you're not much prettier than most children. You're just a nice-looking boy, a bit slight, well scrubbed and well mannered. All that is fine, but it's your existence I love you for, mainly." To be loved for being is to be seen for who we are, beloved.

When Jesus rose from the grave he seemed strange to the apostles. They weren't quite sure who he was, though at the same time they knew exactly who he was. They knew who he was because of how he looked at them. The resurrected Christ was a man unmasked from all wrinkles of worry and pallor of pain and rings of sleepless nights. He was a soul unencumbered, free to gaze upon humanity as beloved. He endows you and me with the same capacity. He empowers us to be souls unleashed to look upon the world as beloved... so as followers of Jesus, please do so.

Please gaze upon your wife as beloved. Please look upon your children as beloved. Please greet your neighbor, employee, customer, and boss as beloved. Treat them as if the most important thing in the world to you is Jesus and the beloved way he looks upon the world. I believe if we, who proclaim ourselves as Christians, act as Christians, the whole world will be a little more likely to let the radiance of their souls shine forth.

Doyt+

*FEAST of the ASCENSION
and an Instructed Eucharist
Sunday, June 1*

Over the years, people have expressed a desire for some sort of real-time worship teaching and commentary that would shed light on the various elements of the service. Such a teaching is often known as an “Instructed Eucharist,” and we are going to have one here at Epiphany this Sunday.

During both the 8 am and 10:30 am services there will be seven brief pauses for instructions in which a commentary will be read about what is happening in that particular point in the service. The first explanation occurs before the service formally begins, while the other six happen during the service itself. The instructions become briefer during the latter part of the service so as to minimize any distracting effect on the worship itself. We will let the instruction for the service act as the homily, and as such, will not have a formal sermon.

I hope you join us on for this Instructed Eucharist. It should be fun, and may lend some insight and even depth to your overall worship life here at Epiphany.

Doyt+

*PENTECOST
Sunday, June 8*

In next week’s *Weekly Word*:

A Reminder to **WEAR RED**,

An Invitation to **bring cupcakes** to coffee hour,

And an invitation to remember your baptism as we celebrate

two baptisms during the 10:30 am service.

The Art of the Sacred

We've had a phenomenal year with *The Saint John's Bible*. Since its arrival last fall we have had the privilege of learning about this unique undertaking with both Eric Hollis and Michael Patella from Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, as well as book artist and Vashon Island resident Suzanne Moore. In addition, many of you have enjoyed the Visio Divina groups and the "Up Close and Personal" sessions with Bible liaison and Visio Divina leader Carmen Hoffman.

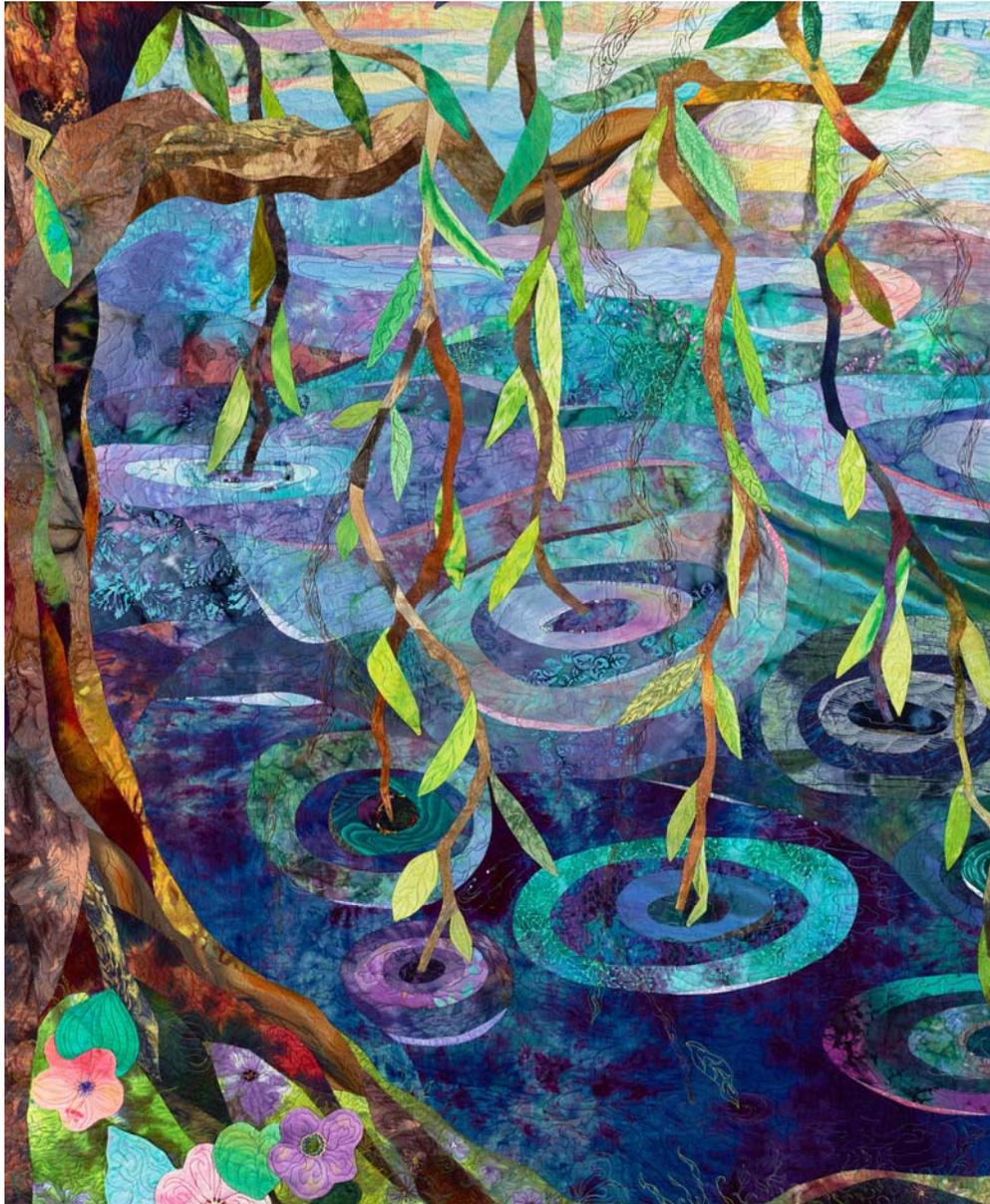
As we come to the end of the academic year, we are hosting one last hurrah for *The Saint John's Bible* with an exhibit called *The Art of the Sacred*, taking place in the Great Hall, Saturday, June 21 through Saturday, June 28. *The Art of the Sacred* features both volumes of *The Saint John's Bible*, as well as a collection of art quilts curated from the bi-annual Sacred Threads quilt show held in Washington, D.C. Sacred Threads West features contemporary art quilts depicting ecumenical spiritual themes: Joy, Inspiration, Peace and Brotherhood, Grief, Healing, and Spirituality. Last summer I had the opportunity to travel back to D.C. and I was awed by the quality – and emotional power – of the imagery. The best of the best is coming here to Seattle, and with the awesome help of volunteers from the parish, we're bringing this show to the church, as well as the community at large.

Accompanying *The Saint John's Bible* and Sacred Threads West will be Joyful Art, a collection of paintings made by parish young people. These originals will bring life and color to the hallway leading up to the Great Hall, and will be a vibrant introduction to the other parts of the exhibit.

An opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 from 2 – 4 p.m. Please join us in the Great Hall for a glass of something festive and the opportunity to meet some of the quilt artists featured in the show. The exhibit continues throughout the week and closes the following Saturday, June 28. RSVP to the parish office at epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org

Our goal is to bring you a fabulous visual and spiritual experience; I hope you find *The Art of the Sacred* colorful, fun, powerful, and moving.

-Julie Moberly



Detail of *Promise of Spring* by Vikki Pignatelli, Columbus, OH

Exhibit Dates and Times

Saturday, June 21, 10 am – 4 pm

Reception on Saturday from 2 – 4 pm

Sunday, June 22, 12– 4 pm

Monday, June 23, 1 – 4 pm

Tuesday, June 24, 1 – 4 pm

Wednesday, June 25, 1 – 4 pm

Thursday, June 26, 1 – 7 pm

Friday, June 27, 1 – 4 pm

Saturday, June 28, 10 am – 3 pm

Building Committee Update

Dear Epiphany,

Early preconstruction phases of the project are in full swing. As part of the permitting process, we have submitted documents for the refurbishment of the Parish Hall to the city. We met with a staff member from the city's Preservation Board because the Chapel is a City Landmark. We were advised that our liturgically-driven changes do not require a formal application to the city's Landmark Committee. Keeping them apprised is sufficient.

Ben Bradstreet

The Next 100 Years Building Committee

Ed Emerson, eemerson@wellspringeap.org

Laura Blackmore, laura@cascadiaconsulting.com

Bob Barnes, bobb@advancedinc.com

Jim Marlow, jim@grinwithoutacat.com

Ben Bradstreet, bwbradst@yahoo.com

Eastertide Minyan Golden Nugget

"The view that the history of Christianity is a history of unrelenting persecution persists in modern religious and political debate about what it means to be Christian. It creates a world in which Christians are under attack; it endorses political warfare rather than encouraging political discourse; and it legitimizes seeing those who disagree with us as our enemies. It is precisely because the myth of persecution continues to be so influential that it is imperative that we get the history right."

From the "Introduction" to *The Myth of Persecution*
by Candida Moss

Join the Eastertide Minyan Wednesdays in the Fireside Room from 6-7 pm through June 4. Readings are provided.
Contact Robin Mondares at rmond@uw.edu.

Sunday Lectionary Corner

June 1, 2014

The Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year A

Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36,
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL BETWEEN MAY 25th and MAY 31:

Mary Jane Anderson, Steve Faust, Jan Melin, Diana Ackerley, David Clarke, Barbara Beal, Victoria Stuth, and Raymond Kristiniak.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR CYCLE OF PRAYER:

Tina & Karl, Riley, Allison, and Katherine Neiders;
Jackie & Eleanor Nelson; Merideth & Richard Nelson;
Monica Nelson; and John & Laurel Nesholm. We pray for the
churches of St. Luke Memorial & St. Matthew (Tacoma).

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR CONTINUED HEALING AND STRENGTH FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE ILL OR GRIEVING:

Paul, Coralie Swanson, Connie Gaines, Barbara Ward,
Barbara Himmelman, Naraine Baker, Ginger, Kay Schack, Piper
Simmons, Yamy Xolocotzi, Bonnie, Roy Enriquez, Will Gluck, Ruth,
Silas, TJ Johnson & family, Bill, Susan, Debbie, Megan, Carl Putnam,
George Fisher, Rosalie, Malina, Matt, Nancy, Isla Jude, Alice, Susan,
Hank Schilling, Tristram Hyde & family, Emily Coyle, Noreen,
Jeanne Edwards, Sandra, Bill & Millie Grayson, Larry Mayer, the
Neville family, Gerald Swymeler, George Harrington & family, Gary
West, David Mattson, Steve & Liz Swift, Robert Hawking, Heather,
Chance, & Zane Gehring, Brookes Hawkes, Holden Hughes, Rollie &
Josie, Olivia, Ray Brownfield & family, Laura, Joel & Katie Artzt,
Paige Cubbison, David, Eric, the Kinnard family, Eileen Riley, Carla
Robinson, Stu McGee, Chris Wolf, Lauren, Cork, Henk & Helen Si-
mons, David, Joyce, Mark, Liz, Jim Emig, Amille, Carla Sargent, Fan-
nie Lofton, Katie Putnam Kidd, Sarah Quinn, Christian, Dolores
Maxson, and Lauren Riker.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Rick Hegwer, Bob Hitchings, and Richard Maxson.

*Occasionally we review and revise the prayer list. If we have removed some-
one in error or you would like to have someone removed or added please
contact the Parish Office. The same invitation applies for birthdays.
206-324-2573 or epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org*