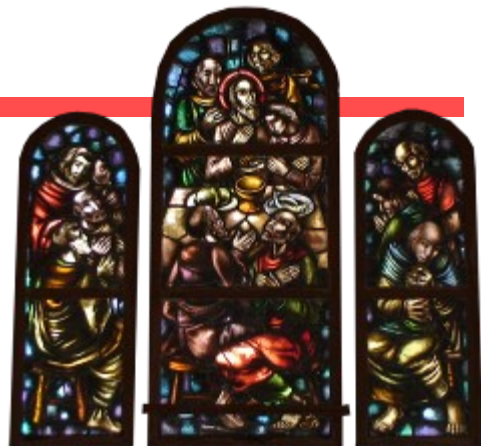


# The Journey

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



August 2021

## Let us this month

- \* Get Your COVID Vaccine
- \* Attend Christian Formation Classes in person or online
- \* Greet the Bishop August 29th
- \* Ask the priest how can you help
- \* Call, write or visit an elder
- \* Remember you **can** be a blessing to others- just do it

# New Altar Vessel

*Silver, Bronze and Olivewood Chalice —*

*A blessing from the late Betty Hirozawa*



## Inside this issue:

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**Fr. Charles Browning shows the new chalice during Christian Formation class**

Accept Your Blessing



Photo by Graham White

# Reflections

by Fr. Charles A. Browning II  
Priest in Charge

## BEHOLD, THE MAN!

*(or, Plato and Diogenes in the Bible)*

I don't know how many preachers have this experience—I suspect it's more than a few—but I sometimes encounter some cool bit of biblical insight that will never make its way into a sermon. By this, I don't mean that I'll forget it, or that I find it too controversial or whatever. What I mean is that, on occasion, I will learn some cool thing in the Bible, but it's not something that will "preach." It's simply trivial information.

Several years back, I attempted a young adult Bible study series entitled "That's Really in the Bible?!" where we'd take a look at these sorts of things, these bits of the Bible that either don't show up in the lectionary or are simply anecdotally cool. Like the time Saul consulted a witch and spoke to the ghost of the prophet

Samuel (1 Samuel 28:3-25). Or the time a dude named Balaam had a conversation with his donkey (Numbers 22:20-35). Or that there's no accurate way to translate Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 into English because, in it, Jesus is playing off of the dual meaning of the word *pneuma*, which means both "spirit" and "wind" at the same time (try substituting the two words yourself!). So, consider this essay a little foray into that anecdotal corner of the Bible.

I was recently reading an article on a humor website that recalled famous stories about Plato and Diogenes and their notorious rivalry. Diogenes was an eccentric philosopher, the founder of what is known as "cynicism," who lived in a large bucket (you read that correctly) in the heart of Athens. In some ways reminiscent of the Jewish prophets, Diogenes believed that virtue was best expressed through living rather than theorizing, leading him perform strange behavior. He also felt that Plato was a sell-out who was more interested in the acclaim that came from his wealthy associations than in any actual philosophy. As a result, the two very much did not like each other and their various attempts to one-up each other captured the attention of people all over the ancient Mediterranean world—including Judea.

Long after their deaths, the Plato and Diogenes stories would continue and take on lives of their own. One person who adored Plato's ideas was a Jewish philosopher named Philo of Alexandria. Philo found a way to incorporate Plato's ideas into his own Jewish religious beliefs. This would prove to be crucial for the development of Christianity. One of Philo's most celebrated ideas had to do with the concept of the *logos*—a

term which can mean either “reason” or “plan” or even “word” and refers to the intermediary through which God created the universe. This was a major idea for the Greek-influenced world around the time of Jesus.

One of Jesus’ disciples who seemed to be very interested in Greek philosophy and the ways it was known throughout the culture was the so-called “beloved disciple,” the one credited with writing the gospel of Saint John. We see evidence of this early on, when in the first chapter, this disciple writes “in the beginning was *logos*, and *logos* was with God, and *logos* was God” (see John 1). Here, the disciple is obviously channeling a philosophical thread well-known to people of the time.

But this isn’t the only one! The author of John also seems to reference an infamous story that involved Plato and Diogenes.

An oft-repeated and referenced story from the ancient world is one where Plato was giving a lecture on humanity. Plato was very interested in reducing things down to their most basic elements as a way to illustrate his understanding of the world as “forms” and “accidents.” Plato believed that there existed, outside of the material world, an ideal “form” of everything, and that all material things are attempting to reflect that ideal form. Plato would say that all chairs are evoking the ideal form of a chair, and that we can infer the nature of that ideal form by considering what the most basic elements are necessary for a thing to be a chair (are you confused yet?).

In this spirit, Plato stood up and said “man” (as in “mankind”) is, at our most basic level, a “featherless biped.” The story goes that, soon

after, Diogenes burst into the room chasing a plucked chicken, saying “behold, a man!” In the ancient world, this was high comedy. Plato was embarrassed, and had to revise his idea (he added that flat fingernails were essential).

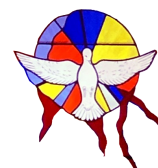
Now, astute Bible readers might recognize a similar line in John’s gospel:

*Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.”*

*Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!” (John 19:4-5, NKJV)*

This, to me, seems evocative of the Diogenes story. And it also fits with the gospel of John’s larger points about Jesus—that in addition to being the incarnate *logos*, Jesus is also an ideal representation of humanity, this latter part carrying strong resonance with the Plato vs. Diogenes account. The author seems to be drawing on the imagery of this then-familiar tale to help preach the gospel to a Greek-influenced audience.

And, now that I think about it, this anecdote *can* preach. Because it suggests to us that the ideal form of humanity is found not in the rich and well-connected in the halls of secular power. Rather, the ideal form of humanity is found in mocking crown and bruised face; in the scourged and broken Jesus—whom we laud as King of Kings and Lord of Lords; He who emptied Himself and lived among even the least of us.







# Fr. Charles at Camp Mokule'ia

*by Cainna Browning*

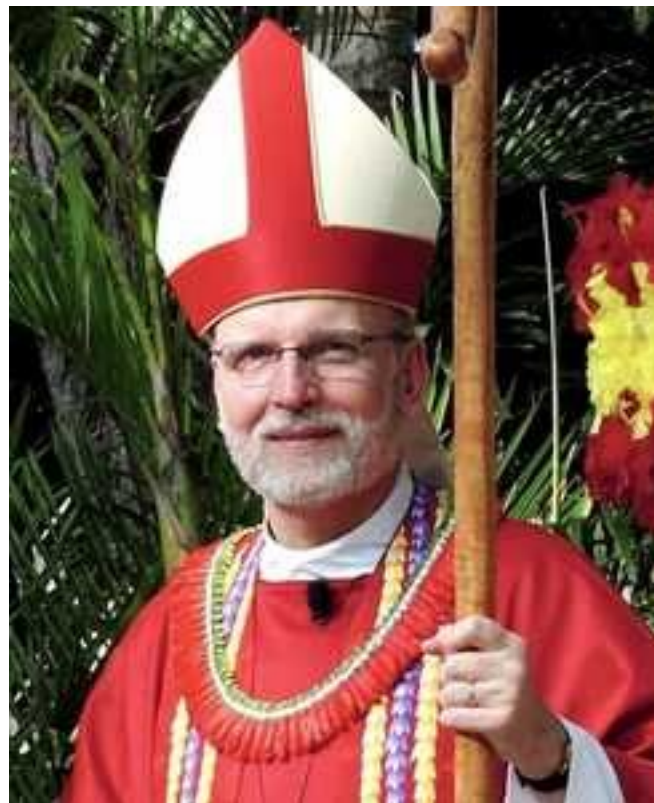
Fr. Charles served as the chaplain for the elementary school campers at **Camp**



**Mokule'ia** from July 11-16. He led daily services of morning and evening prayer/ vespers. He also spent time with the campers and staff during meals and activities, and was available to discuss various spiritual questions and needs. Everyone was so welcoming to our family, and the campers were very friendly to our kids and got to know our boys a bit. We ate our meals with the group, and the food was so delicious! We attended a few of the camp activities, including the closing campfire worship service, where we enjoyed s'mores and fellowship together. We also took a little family hike to Ka'ena after the camp concluded and saw our first monk seal! It was a relaxing and adventurous trip, and we are so grateful to the folks at the camp for inviting us to be a part of their lives for a week.



*Cainna*



The Rt. Reverend Robert Fitzpatrick

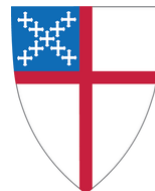
Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick will visit St. Mary's Episcopal Sunday August 29 during the 9am morning Worship Service.

It truly will be a time to be bless. So come anticipating your blessing.

After worship service, an opportunity to meet the Bishop will be during Aloha Hour outdoor in front on the church annex located the rear of the property.



*The Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick was elected as 5th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii on October 20, 2006 and was ordained as Bishop on March 10, 2007.*





# You Are Invited To The Next

## Christian Formation Classes

**Every Wednesday 6pm - live on YouTube**

**Saint Mary's Honolulu**



## Praxis Makes Perfect

July sessions can now be watched on YouTube -  
click on the "Praxis Makes Perfect" image to watch



[smomjourney@yahoo.com](mailto:smomjourney@yahoo.com)

**The Journey Team** Together Since 2014



**JOURNEY EDITOR:**  
Fr. David H. Blanchett

**PROOFREADER:**  
Charlene Date  
(not pictured)

**WEB MASTER**  
Richert Au Hoy



# **Have a Safe Summer**

**attend church activities**

**Wear a mask**

**Stop at stop signs**

**don't jay walk**

**Hike with a buddy**

**never cross the street looking at your cell phone**

**Get vaccinated**

**Drink lots of fluids**

**Use sun screen**

**Ask for help**

# Road Map



An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

2062 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: 808-949-4655  
Fax: 808-949-4655

Web: <http://www.stmaryshawaii.org>



## Vestry Meeting

10:15am  
August 15th



## Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

In-Person and Live Streamed  
on YouTube & FaceBook

**Bishop Visitation**  
**August 29**  
**Sunday 9am**

**Sandwich Ministry**  
**Sundays 3:30pm**

## In Memoriam

14-Ethel Kumura

15-Bill Sumida

16-Charles Tawarahara

24-Arthur Liu

31-Mildred Ushijima



7-David & Martha Blanchett

28-Roy & Jan Horimoto

## August Birthdays

9-Larke Golaski

30-Arlene Sato

## Prayer Ministry

8:15am  
Sundays in  
Soldier Chapel

## Christian Formation Classes

Wednesdays: 6pm

Live Stream on YouTube



Saint Mary's Honolulu