

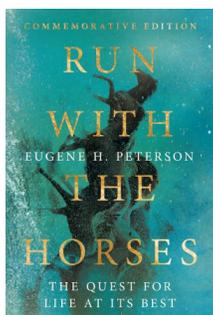
BISHOP'S EPIPHANY 2022 BOOK LIST

By Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler

Every Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, I will share a list of 12 books that really captured my attention during the previous year. They are books that I found spiritually inspiring, culturally stimulating or uniquely interesting.

The word “epiphany” finds its origin in the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means “a manifestation, unveiling or disclosure” – or if you will, a “revelation.” I have found each of these books to be revelatory – spiritually, historically and/or culturally. Books have always played a formative role in my life. Indeed, I would have to say that most of my mentors have been authors, often long passed away, whose writings have profoundly shaped my own life and spiritual journey.

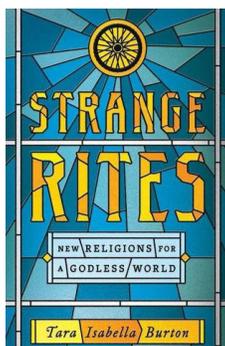
These 12 books below are not listed in any particular order. They are both non-fiction and fiction, and reflect a variety of literary genres. Some are new titles recently published, and others now classics.



Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best

- Eugene H. Peterson

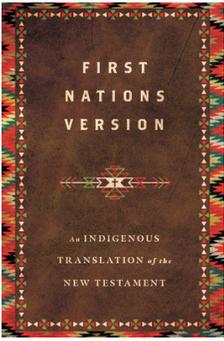
In my view, this is the best book written by the late Eugene Peterson, the renowned pastoral theologian and translator of *The Message* translation of the Bible who died in 2018. The new commemorative edition is a profound reflection on the life of Jeremiah, the Hebrew prophet, exploring what it means to be fully and genuinely human in the quest for life at its best. U2's lead singer, Bono, said of this book, “It really changed me.” An exceptional book!



Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World

- Tara Isabella Burton

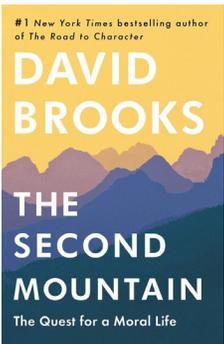
This is a fascinating look at the “new spirituality” of millennials in the US. While mainstream Christianity is significantly in decline, religious scholar and prize-winning writer Tara Isabella Burton draws our attention to the “remixed” spiritual traditions that are being embraced by many Americans today. Disillusioned with organized religion and political establishments, she illustrates how the younger generation is seeking out spiritual paths driven by intuition, not institutions, and how Americans are not abandoning religion but “remixing” it in ever-newer, ever-stranger ways, as they search for meaning, purpose, community and ritual.



First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

- Terry M. Wildman (Lead Translator)

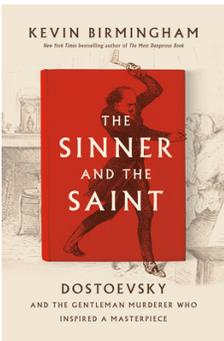
This is a remarkable new translation of the New Testament by Native American Biblical scholars, recounting “the Creator’s Story”—our Christian Scriptures—following the tradition of Native storytellers’ oral cultures. The indigenous translation uses names for God common in many native cultures, including “Great Spirit” or “Creator,” and names of Biblical figures echo their original meanings in Greek and Hebrew: Jesus becomes “Creator Sets Free.” Reading it is like listening to a wise elder share ancient teachings about our Creator. Spiritually, I have found the words to sweep me up into the story of the “Great Spirit” and inspire me to follow the “good road” all the more. The freshness of its words has transformed my spiritual imagination.



The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life

- David Brooks

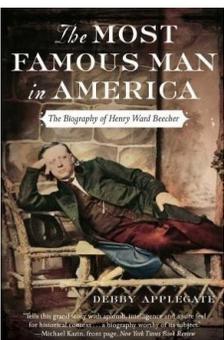
In this #1 New York Times bestseller, celebrated op-ed columnist and television commentator David Brooks explores what it means to live a life of meaning and purpose. In some ways a spiritual autobiography, Brooks looks at a range of people who have lived joyous, committed lives, and gathers their wisdom on how we can integrate our commitments into one overriding purpose. On the “second mountain,” life moves from self-centered to other-centered.



The Sinner and the Saint: Dostoevsky and the Gentleman Murderer Who Inspired a Masterpiece

- Kevin Birmingham

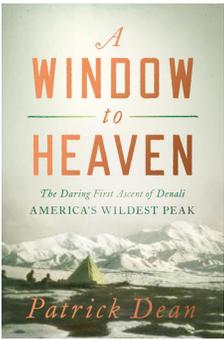
The true story behind the creation of one of the masterpieces of world literature, Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*. This is a gripping account of how Dostoevsky came to write this epic story, influenced by the astonishing story of Pierre François Lacenaire, a notorious murderer in Paris in the 1830s. A fascinating read that shares Dostoevsky’s own astonishing journey, from a young celebrated writer, to years in Siberian exile, to illness and debt, to writing perhaps the greatest of Russian novels. A thrilling read!



The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher

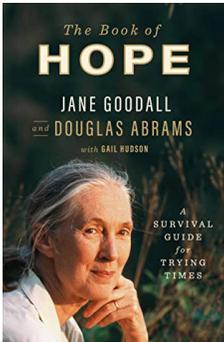
- Debby Applegate

One of the best biographies I have read! Pulitzer Prize-winning author Debby Applegate recounts for us the life of the celebrated 19th century Congregational minister, Henry Ward Beecher, the brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Preaching a gospel of unconditional love, Beecher becomes one of the founding fathers of modern American Christianity, and one of the most famous individuals in the country. Beecher was involved in nearly every important drama of his era—antislavery and women’s suffrage movements, the rise of the entertainment industry and tabloid press, and controversies ranging from Darwinian evolution to presidential politics (during the Lincoln era). However, his is also a story about how quickly one can fall, becoming the subject of scandal, which ended up as the most widely covered event of the century, with more newspaper headlines than the entire Civil War. This has the suspense element of a novel, and yet it is all true!



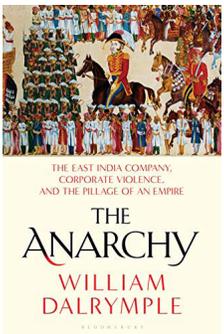
A Window to Heaven: The Daring First Ascent of Denali: America's Wildest Peak
- Patrick Dean

This is the thrilling and daring story of Hudson Stuck—an Episcopal priest—and his team's history-making summit in 1913 of Denali, the tallest mountain in North America. With temperatures of forty below zero and winds of 100 miles per hour for days at a time, 50-old Rev. Stuck, divinity student Robert Tatum, an Alaskan wilderness guide, and a member of the Koyukon people, became the first to set foot on top of Denali. It is an enthralling adventure story, that also highlights the rich Inuit and Athabascan indigenous traditions—and Hudson Stock's efforts to help preserve their ways of life. Hard to put down!



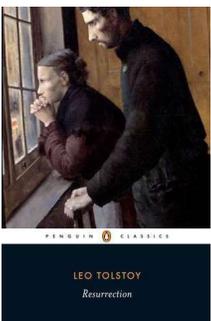
The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times
- Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall, the world's most famous living primatologist, anthropologist and naturalist, explores hope. Drawing on decades of work that has helped expand her understanding of what it means to be human and what we all need to do to help build a better world, *The Book of Hope* is a deeply personal reflection. Jane tells the story of how she became a messenger of hope, from living through World War II to her 60-year study of chimpanzees in Tanzania, to realizing she had to leave the forest to travel the world in her role as an advocate for environmental justice. This is a rare and intimate look at the nature of hope, and also into the heart and mind of a woman who revolutionized how we view the world around us. Watch a trailer about the book: [The Book of Hope trailer](#)



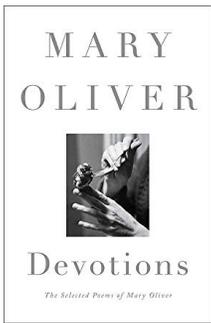
The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence, and the Pillage of an Empire
- William Dalrymple

Prize-winning historian and travel writer William Dalrymple tells the epic story of how the East India Company took over much of Asia in the 1700s, and illustrates the devastating results of a corporation that in effect runs the world. Over the course of 47 years, the East India Company's reach grew until much of South Asia was essentially ruled from a boardroom in the city of London. *The Anarchy* tells one of history's most remarkable stories of how a multinational corporation answerable only to shareholders, most of whom had never even seen the Indian subcontinent and no idea about the country whose wealth provided their dividends. It is a devastating, albeit timely, portrait of the danger that can result when a company becomes a global power.



Resurrection
- Leo Tolstoy

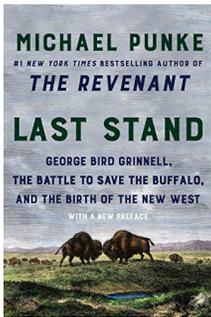
Resurrection is the least known and last novel written by my favorite Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy. Perhaps his most controversial novel, it is a profound tale of guilt, forgiveness and redemption. A story of moral responsibility, Tolstoy critiques the injustices of man-made laws and the institutionalized church of his day. Ultimately, it is a magnificent story of personal resurrection and faith in God.



Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver

- Mary Oliver

Devotion by the late Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver, who died in 2019, is a personal selection of her best work. Mary Oliver's poetry is profoundly spiritual, focusing on the natural world and the connection between all living things. This carefully curated collection of more than 200 of her contemplative poems, covers the span of her literary career, and leads one into a deeper dimension.



Last Stand: George Bird Grinnell, the Battle to Save the Buffalo, and the Birth of the New West

- Michael Punke

In *Last Stand*, Michael Punke (the author of the best-selling *The Revenant*) recounts the dramatic history of the extermination and resurrection of the American bison. In so doing, he gives us a unique glimpse of the vivid and often tragic story of the American West of the 19th century. Between 1870-1900, bison, who had once numbered 30 million, were reduced to just 12. A young conservationist named George Bird Grinnell, a fascinating figure, leads the fight to save the bison from extinction, and through many challenges, succeeds. This is the definitive history of the American buffalo, written by a master storyteller.