

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
May 24, 2020

Welcome to the Church of the Messiah
We are delighted to have you worshipping with us.



Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

- Gerard Manley Hopkins

Church of the Messiah
Mission Statement

The Church of the Messiah is an inclusive and welcoming community

- *Committed to serving God by serving neighbors near and far;*
- *Affirming the dignity of every human being;*
- *Believing we are called to be stewards of creation.*

- *adopted by the Vestry of the Church of the Messiah on February 10, 2015.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The bishops continue to extend virtual worship through July 1st.

*Although Governor Baker has lifted the moratorium on worship communities, all Episcopal Churches in Massachusetts will continue to offer **only virtual worship through July 1st**. A detailed directive has been sent to all rectors outlining a very specific procedure that must be followed prior to re-gathering and thereafter. An advisory committee to the rector has been formed to implement this plan here at the Church of the Messiah. We will keep you informed as details and our plans unfold. Thank you for your ongoing support as we seek to uphold the dignity and safety of all people during this pandemic.*

Our Sunday worship services continue to be live-streamed at 10 AM via Zoom. Information on how to join these services and how to download Zoom may be found below and will be sent out in a separate Constant Contact e-mail .

INSTRUCTIONS TO DOWNLOAD ZOOM:

1) Go to this link: <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the directions to download Zoom. Depending on what type of device you are using, the link will take you to the Zoom website or the App Store if you are on a mobile device. Zoom is **free**, and **there is no need to sign up or create an account**. All you need is the software/app installed on your device.

2) Then join us for Morning Prayer this Sunday at 10am by clicking this link: <https://zoom.us/j/632447285> We suggest you plan on getting to our virtual church at 9:45am to give yourself plenty of time to get settled. You can go ahead and test this link now ahead of time to make sure that everything is working. Because virtual church hasn't actually started yet, you will end up looking at a screen that may show a live video of you if you have a camera. On Sunday at 9:45am when you join, you will be looking at the sanctuary.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS: Although our church office is closed, we monitor the mail, voicemail and email on a regular basis. Please continue to send financial contributions by mail to the Church of the Messiah, 16 Church Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. These can be sent on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual basis. We also have the capacity to receive stock transfers. For further information, please call the church office at 508-548-2145 and leave a voice mail.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Our prayers are asked for those who suffer from addiction, anxiety, are survivors of abuse or assault, those who are undergoing treatment or living with cancer, are unemployed or homeless. We pray for refugees seeking safety and security in this and other countries and for all who are ministering to their needs. Lastly, we pray for all who are suffering from or ministering to those with the COVID-19 here and around the world. In our parish, we continue to pray for Charlie Hauck, Gloria Borgese and Ellen Leary.

CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION: Caring for this corner of the earth

INVASIVE PLANT AWARENESS

As the weather continues to get nicer, more of us are out working in our yards getting ready for summer. Now is a great chance to take a look around to see if you have any invasive plants on your property, and if so, finding a way to remove them.

Invasive plants are one of the biggest threats to our ecosystem because they can out-compete and displace our native plant species. This greatly reduces the numbers of our native plants, especially when particularly aggressive invasive species like Multi-flora rose effectively smother out all other plants in a huge area. Our native pollinators, as well as all other native insects, birds and mammals, have developed important relationships with our native plants over many, many years. 90% of insects who eat plants are specialized, meaning that they rely on one or only a few very specific plants to survive. The Monarch butterfly is a good example. They can only lay their eggs on milkweed because their larvae can only eat the leaves of milkweed.

Besides out-competing, invasive species can also "trick" our native pollinators. Black swallow-wort and pale swallow-wort are invasive species that are close relatives of milkweed, and Monarchs can mistake them for milkweed and lay their eggs on them. When the larvae hatch they are unable to feed and die.

So, are you ready to start getting rid of invasives!?! There are some really great resources out there to get help identifying invasive plants in Massachusetts, including this one by Mass Audubon: <https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants>.

Here is some quick info about one particular invasive that is very easy to recognize right now because it is starting to bloom. Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an herb that was introduced from Europe. It produces numerous seeds after blooming and quickly takes over large areas. Garlic mustard actually changes soil conditions so that other types of plants can't grow. Hand-pulling or mowing work for controlling populations, making sure to get to them before they flower and set seed. Garlic Mustard is flowering now, so get out there if you have some in your yard!

A final word: Marshall and I spent a week clearing an area of our yard at the back of our property line that was completely invaded by multi-flora rose. It has only been clear for a few weeks now, but already there are native ferns, Canada mayflower, and other native plants moving into the cleared area. If you make room for them, they will come back! A small patch of invasives on your property may not seem like a big deal, but if everyone does their part and removes them, and encourages native plants to grow in their place, think of the huge difference it would make!

- Brittany and the Environmental Committee

REGIONAL POLICY PLAN Re: The Cape Cod Commission

The Cape Cod Commission plays a leadership role in planning and policymaking across Cape Cod, regulating developments of regional impact, and making decisions on buildings and infrastructure that will last for decades. On May 28th, the Commission will hold a virtual public hearing to consider proposed amendments to its Regional Policy Plan (RPP) . Further information on reading this plan and possibly taking action related to it, please consider visiting the website: www.350.capecod.org

WAYS TO SAVE THE PLANET – Simple Things Can Make a Difference

1. Use Energy Efficient Lightbulbs:

Energy efficient lightbulbs are a simple way to reduce the amount of power you use. Not only will this help the planet, it will also save your bank balance too. By replacing just one lightbulb, the effect can be tremendous. If every house in the USA did this, it would reduce pollution by the same amount as removing one million cars from the road!

2. Turn Your Computer Off Overnight:

If you turn your computer off every night, again you will reduce the power you use. You will save an average of \$14 a year. It's not a huge amount, but better in your pocket than your energy supplier's right?

3. Don't Pre-Rinse the Dishes:

If you can't live without your dishwasher, then at least cut the pre-rinse. With a decent detergent, your dishes will be just as clean and you can save an average of twenty gallons of water per load.

LOCAL CSA's (Community Sustainable Agriculture farms)

As we scramble to secure groceries, what better time to embrace our local CSA's and businesses that source local, sustainable foods. Please see the list below for some of our area contacts. These farmers have different offerings and plans. All in the spirit of Buy Local!

Bay End Farm, Buzzards Bay www.bayendfarm.com/farmstand
contact them for CSA details

Bootstrap Farm, Cataumet www.bootstrapfarm.com
Offering curbside delivery for members. Public shopping is also available, currently for Tuesday, Friday & Saturday pick up. Order online, with car delivery at store. Please visit our website for the latest public shopping hours.

Cape Cod Organic Farm, Barnstable www.capecodorganicfarm.org
May 27- September 30 for pick up at Farm

Coonamessett Farm, Hatchville www.coonamessettfarm.com
offers a variety of CSA options for pick up at Farm. The Farm Market is open Wednesdays through Sundays 9 am to 5 pm. They are now taking SNAP program EBT cards. They have an expanded grocery section including produce, cheese, and meats. They also have take-home meals, fresh and frozen, made at the farm by Buffalo Jump.

DaSilva Farms, Teaticket www.dasilvafarm.com
offers a variety of CSA options for meat and eggs. Sign up to receive updates for delivery schedule.

Pariah Dog Farm, East Falmouth www.pariahdogfarm.com
contact them for CSA details. Vegetables, fruit, herbs, eggs, maple syrup, sea salt and honey

WOODS HOLE RESEARCH CENTER OFFERING SPRING WEBINAR SERIES

Here's something to add to our "stay at home" list...The Woods Hole Research Center is offering a spring lecture series to help people of all ages understand current research in climate change. To register for this free series, please go to the Woods Hole Research Center website: www.whrc.org and follow the prompts. *You can also view previous webinars in the series on this site.*

PASTORAL REFLECTION BY BISHOP ALAN GATES

May 8, 2020

Dear People of the Diocese of Massachusetts,

I want to speak with you about sacramental hunger and eucharistic practice.

The lengthening duration of church closures has made increasingly painful for all of us the accompanying fast from holy communion. I want to assure you that your bishops share this grief, and are engaged in and ceaselessly reflecting upon conversations throughout the diocese and the wider church about sacramental practices in these times.

In the midst of our extended absence from in-person worship, the question of remote consecration of elements in people's homes is being widely discussed and debated among faithful Christians and church leaders in many different contexts. Some in this conversation maintain that the Eucharist is a communal activity defined (like the Incarnation itself) by material substance and physical place, and by the exchange of those elements in the physical presence of one another. For others, online liturgical innovation made possible by technological realities not previously imagined appears an obvious and loving response to a pastoral need.

The yearning is shared. The question is real. The conversation is engaged.

In the Diocese of Massachusetts, as indeed in all dioceses throughout the Episcopal Church, the remote consecration of elements in worshipers' homes has not been sanctioned at this time. This should not be understood as a rejection of the critical need for a conversation about this proposal. It is not a declaration that the question is not important; clearly it is. It does not represent an assumption that any of us knows the outcome of a thoughtful discussion; we do not.

It does, however, represent the absolute conviction that remote consecration of elements at a distant location would constitute a significant change in our theology and practice. And in our church such important changes are not made *individually, locally or impulsively*. Rather, we consider such changes *collectively, communally and deliberately*. The time and deliberative process required by such an understanding of church can be frustrating, even painful. But it is a mark of our earnest effort as Anglicans to value both tradition and innovation, as well as to uphold the democratic councils of the Episcopal Church which make such decisions.

I want to underscore my hope that this discussion be cast not in terms of a lay/clergy divide. The majority of clergy are themselves abstaining from receiving the Eucharist, even if they are consecrating it during online liturgies. I encourage such abstinence precisely from a sense of pastoral solidarity with those who cannot receive. Neither Bishop Harris nor I has received holy communion since mid-March. The clergy are right alongside the whole people of God in lamenting this sacramental fast and longing for its end.

Meanwhile, how do we endure this time of pandemic-imposed abstinence? How else might we be nourished by the riches of God's grace? As we seek and find such sources of nourishment, I commend in particular the tradition of Agape meals. The Agape Feast was an early church practice

of a communal meal which, while not itself the liturgy of Holy Eucharist, provided an occasion to recall the meals Jesus shared with his disciples, and to manifest the fellowship enjoyed by the followers of Christ.

The church defines a sacrament as “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace”—something that we can see, or taste, or touch, which communicates to us the ineffable grace and love of God. Through history the church has identified particular capital-S sacraments. But those in no way limit the sacramental quality of an infinite number of other experiences we may have.

I have been recollecting a story. Some years ago the parish I was serving in Chicago maintained a partnership with an Arapaho congregation in Wyoming. Members of both congregations traveled back and forth. Deep respect developed between them. A young participant in the partnership, Robin, once described a moment in which she and a friend from the other congregation—one whose life experiences were so very different from her own—had sat beneath a shade tree on a hot afternoon and talked, sharing between them a soda and a bag of chips. “I realized,” said Robin, “that we were having communion.” When Robin and her friend shared that moment of reconciliation, fellowship and nourishment, it was not the church’s Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, but it was surely sacramental.

Here in our diocese, one congregation’s recent experience with an Agape Feast is reflected in the pastor’s description: “Parishioners are glad to see their friends, but they also enjoy praying with them. These are sacramental Christians, and they like having something to do with their senses during worship. They can eat and feel that they are surrounded by their beloved community. It is not the Eucharist, but it ... is filled with the spirit of our Lord: with his priorities, his love and his ministry.”

Likewise, another priest of our diocese recently described the virtual worship his congregation had shared. “Last Sunday, with the Gospel focused around Jesus revealing himself with the breaking of bread, I asked members to bring their breakfast and we all shared our coffee, tea, sandwiches and bread during the Morning Prayer liturgy” on Zoom. Surely this, too, was a sacramental moment.

* * *

I am certain that, even while we consider the possibility of future changes in our eucharistic practice, these moments of God’s grace are available to me and to you in today’s virtual worship, whether during a live-streamed Eucharist, a Zoom Morning Prayer, an Agape meal or even a Zoom coffee hour. In these and so many ways, God’s grace can nourish us sacramentally.

Finally, in all of this, I bid your charity and patience. We live in sad and anxious times—and so we are sad and anxious. It is understandable that since we cannot direct our frustration towards a virus, which is disembodied and indifferent, we may find ourselves directing it at one another. Let us take care that our continuing discussion and debate not devolve into disparagement of one another. This is not the way of Christ. This is not the Way of Love.

I thank you for your faithfulness and your patience. I thank you for your creativity in shaping community, and your devotion to caring for others. I thank you for your support and trust, even as we entrust ourselves and one another to God’s enduring grace.

May God bless you and keep you.

Faithfully and fondly,

+*Alan*

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

A PRAYER FOR OUR FUTURE

As our capital campaign continues, we invite you to join together in praying the following prayer that was composed by members of the parish and the rector.

O God, Giver of all good gifts,
we thank You for the grace of serving You by serving our neighbors.
May our hearts be kind and generous.
May our ministry be rooted in love and bold in imagination.
Having transformed the Parish and Community Center, may our lives
and the lives of all who join us, continue to be renewed by Your love and the
power of the Spirit. Amen.

UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

While most of the response to our Fall 2019 campaign outreach was in hand by the time of our January Annual Meeting, we do continue to receive significant donations. To the gifts, pledges, and bequests reported at the Meeting, we have since received from both new and earlier donors, additional gifts of \$23,225 bringing our total to date to \$2,418,000. We will continue fundraising through August. We continue to welcome pledges as well as checks. The dream outcome would be raising the full \$2.7 cost of the completed building. As most of you know, even under the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 emergency, through the power of Zoom our new Parish and Community Center remains a focal point for a wide range of activities from committee meetings to meditation sessions.

Charles Mann, Chair, Capital Campaign Phase 2
Sandra Rodgers, Chair, Capital Campaign Phase 1
Don Aukamp
Carol Casey
Deborah Dougherty
Arden Edwards
Mark Haycock



Please like us on [Facebook](#)

May 2020 - July 2020

June 2020							July 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 24 10:00am Morning Prayer - Live-streamed	25 Memorial Day (United States) 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	26 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	27 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	28 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	29 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed)	Jun 1 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	2 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	3 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	4 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	5 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 10:00am Morning Prayer, Live-streamed	8 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed) 5:30pm Vestry Mtg - LI	9 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	11 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	12 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 Flag Day (United States) 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed)	15 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	16 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	17 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	18 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	19 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 Father's Day (United States) 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed)	22 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	23 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	24 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	25 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	26 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed)	29 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	30	Jul 1	2	3	4 Independence Day (US)

Church of the Messiah, Administrative Assistant

Church of the Messiah

2020 Vestry

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Jean Taft	<i>Warden</i>
Nancy Rea	<i>Warden</i>
Winifred Dick	<i>Clerk</i>
John Nolan	<i>Treasurer</i>

Susan Morse	2021	Mary Fran Buckley	2021
Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022
Charles Mann	2023	Peg Nicholson	2023

Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Carol Casey	Deanery Representative

Staff

The Rev. Deborah Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Brittany Lord	<i>Music Director, Organist</i>
Nancy McDonald	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Jennifer Kelly	<i>Bookkeeper & Financial Recorder</i>
Bruce Bagley	<i>Church Sexton</i>
Doug Amon	<i>Cemetery Sexton</i>
Jessica Morrison	<i>Webmaster</i>

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner

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