

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
May 17, 2020

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



What Is Your Gift?

The most important thing each of us can know is our unique gift and how to use it in the world. Individuality is cherished and nurtured, because, in order for the whole to flourish, each of us has to be strong in who we are and carry our gifts with conviction, so they can be shared with others.”

–Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. (Milkweed, 2013). p.134 (taken from the website www.inwardoutward.org on May 11, 2020)

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 NOTICES: The Church of the Messiah and the Parish and Community Center are closed for all services and meetings. *The bishops have extended virtual worship through July 1st.* We will keep everyone informed when we know more. The staff will be working remotely unless their responsibilities require them to be on the church premises. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call the rector, The Rev. Deborah Warner at 508-259-1570.

Our Sunday worship services are 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 email tomorrow.

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.

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.

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.

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

DIOCESAN GUIDELINES AND PRACTICES DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Note: This information was edited by The Rev. Deborah Warner so it contains only information that pertains to the Church of the Messiah. It was originally sent to clergy in charge of congregations and parish lay leaders. Further information may be found on the diocesan website: www.diomass.org

Worship You should now plan for **no in-person public worship services until at least July 1st**. **Online and live-streamed services from church buildings remain permissible**, as long as *fewer than 10 people* are present, *physical distancing* is maintained and *strict hygiene measures* are observed. Our current listing of churches providing online worship is available through the diocesan website: www.diomass.org.

Private funerals and memorial services may proceed as long as *fewer than 10 people* are present, *physical distancing* is maintained and *strict hygiene measures* are observed. An outdoor graveside option is strongly recommended.

Mental health and domestic violence resources

During this time, ordinary channels for mental health support may be disrupted and support groups, like 12-step meetings, may not operate at the usual places and times. Those under quarantine, sheltering at home or feeling isolated or fearful may need additional support. The risk of domestic violence may increase. Stay in touch with people in your congregation through phone calls, video chats and notes. Find resources for additional support listed on our diocesan [COVID-19 Updates](#) page.

Financial and operational matters

COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund: We have established a **COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund** to respond to emerging, urgent needs in our congregations and affiliated organizations, and in support of collaborations with ecumenical, multifaith and community partners. The fund will address critical community needs and congregational sustainability during the time of the pandemic. A grant application with more guidelines will be available soon. The fund is now open to receive online gifts at www.diomass.org/give-now. We are deeply grateful for your sacrificial generosity. "*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*" (Galatians 6:2)

2020 EASTER OFFERING: An Exceptional Year with Extraordinary Needs

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, at our May 4th vestry meeting John Nolan, our treasurer, reported that we had received \$9,525 in our 2020 Easter offering. As promised in our initial request, this money will be divided in the following manner:

\$2,000 to the Falmouth Service Center

\$2,000 to Maya Childcare, Inc. in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

The remaining balance will go to the operating account of the Church of the Messiah.

Here is brief information on the recent work and focus of the Falmouth Service Center and Maya Childcare, Inc.

Falmouth Service Center: www.falmouthservicecenter.org

* Since the “Coronavirus Response” began, 7074 bags of food have been distributed to 1035 households.

* From April 1st -10th, they distributed 1144 bags of food which have benefited 306 Upper Cape households, including signing up 37 new households in the first six days of April for food distribution;

* By actively partnering with the Falmouth Senior Center in the hopes that the Service Center can keep most seniors safe in their homes. They are picking up and delivering bags of food for approximately 50 senior households/week.

* The Service Center is continuing to offer ‘drive thru’ distribution Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 – noon.

Maya Childcare, Inc., working through the Acorn Childcare Center: www.mayachildcareus.org

- Serving children living in poverty who are may also suffer neglect because of the poverty;
- Providing
 - A safe environment
 - Active learning for children ages 2-6 years old
 - Nutrition and clean water
 - Parental support
 - Medical care
- Serves as a beacon of hope and belonging to children and families being served.

As you already know and clearly recognized by your generosity, the time in which we are living is exceptional. It is also an extraordinary reminder of our clear interdependence and strength as human beings.

On behalf of those whom your generous gifts will benefit, thank you.

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner
Rector

Nancy Rea
Warden

Jean Taft
Warden



We are delighted to let you know that all our families and all our staff in Quetzaltenango are healthy and safe at home. With your support, we are continuing to deliver essential resources to each family so that they have enough food to eat and all the educational supplies they need to be able to join in the daily activities from their teachers.

Every weekday our teachers have been sharing a short video sent by phone with educational activities children and parents can do together. Families are incredibly grateful.

This month children have been learning about different kinds of animals – pets, farm animals, wild animals, and sea creatures.

Their teachers shared songs, facts, and stories, and showed children how to do the craft activities with their parents at home.

These daily activities offer some reassuring routines, help parents and children spend creative time together, inspire learning and serve as a huge source of encouragement and emotional support for families at home.

We deeply appreciate all your support and generosity — it is a real lifeline for our families during this time. Thank you!



WELCOME TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE'S CORNER CHAT:

A few updates from the committee: As a group, we have decided to explore some must-read books on the topic of climate change. We have selected our first book, *Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future* by Mary Robinson. Mary Robinson is the former President of Ireland and the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change. The book details how everyday people are fighting against the global climate crisis. Please feel free to join us for further discussion on this timely topic. Copies of the book may be purchased through Eight Cousins Bookstore in Falmouth. Please contact Maureen Nolan if you are interested in joining this discussion, or better yet, the Environmental Committee! Our next online meeting is Wednesday, May 13th at 10:30 AM. **Please contact the church office for the Zoom meeting information.

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.

4. Don't Pre-Heat Your Oven:

Unless it's absolutely essential, for example if you're making bread, you don't need to preheat the oven. You can just set it away when you are ready to start cooking. Bonus tip: When checking the food, look through the door rather than opening it until the final check.

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.

MANY THANKS TO DICKY ALLISON FOR HELPING US "TEAM UP"

We deeply appreciate Dicky Allison's incredible efforts in helping us divide our parish membership into neighborhoods as part of our "Disaster Preparedness Plan" (also known as "Neighbor to Neighbor Plan"). Each neighborhood has two convenors who will be reaching out to those in the parish who live nearby each other. As needs arise, convenors will be contacted and will be able to reach out to others nearby who might be able to assist or call the rector if a pastoral care call is needed. In a time when we are keenly aware of the stark reality of the importance of "physical and social distancing," knowing who is our parish neighbor is even more important as away of breaking down the possibility of social isolation.

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](https://www.facebook.com/)

May 2020 - June 2020

May 2020							June 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 17 10:00am Morning Prayer, Live-streamed	18 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streaming)	19 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	20 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am Environmental Comm. Mtg. (Live-st	21 Ascension Day 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	22 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	23
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
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7 10:00am Morning Prayer, Live-streamed	8 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	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

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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