

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
January 17, 2021

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



For Sound Government

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

To the President and Vice President - Elect and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States and all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

And finally, teach all to rely on your strength and to our accept responsibilities to neighbors that trustworthy leaders may be elected who make wise decisions for the well-being of all in this nation; that all may faithfully serve and honor your holy Name.

- Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer (1979)* pp.821-822 by The Rev. Deborah Warner

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.*

ALL ARE WELCOME: A Word from the Rector and Wardens

As an Episcopal parish, our intention is to welcome any and all who come into our midst whether physically or virtually. In what can feel like uncertain and unsteady times, we are urgently encouraging everyone to be mindful of the importance that all people feel welcome and safe, regardless of who they are. Thanks very much for practicing this art of hospitality.

IMPORTANT NOTICE and UPDATE ON REGATHERING

At the vestry meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021, the sense of the vestry, in conversation with the rector, was to delay “in person” worship in the Stone Church until the beginning of June at the earliest.

While all of us recognize this may be disappointing for many people, we reached this very important decision based on the following considerations:

First and foremost, our primary goal is do all we can to ensure the health of anyone who comes to worship in person. Because a large portion of the congregation is over 60 and others have compromised immune systems, by current CDC guidelines, these individuals are at a higher risk to contract COVID-19. We did not want to put anyone’s health in jeopardy, nor have people feel obligated to attend “in person” worship.

Second, the present virtual service online streaming continues to have very positive results. People from across the country are able to attend the services either live or view them later on our website. Going forward, one piece of our “new normal” will be to continue to live stream our services even after we have “in person” worship so we include any and all who wish to attend, regardless of their location.

Third, in an effort to vary our worship experience, on the first Sunday of the month we will have a virtual communion service. What this means is the service will be a normal communion service, but at the time of the distribution of communion, no one will receive. Instead, we will all share in prayer that underscores our connection through the gift of God’s love as theologically represented in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. We will look forward to hearing people’s response to this service and making our decisions regarding offering a virtual communion service on occasion.

REGATHERING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

As required by the diocesan guidelines, a “Regathering Oversight Committee” has been formed and is meeting every other week. The members are: *Phil Alatalo, Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon, Susan Morse, Heather Shepley, Jean Taft (ex officio) and Matthew Sutherland. Brittany Lord and The Rev. Deborah Warner will represent the staff.* We will be going forward following the detailed diocesan guidelines so that when we regather in the Stone Church and the Parish and Community Center we will do so in full compliance, based on the safety protocols from the diocesan, state and CDC.

On behalf of the vestry and the parish, thank you very much for your continuing support in this unprecedented time.

- *The Rev. Deborah Warner, Rector*

ZOOM AND LIVE-STREAMING INFORMATION

Our Sunday worship services *continue to be* live-streamed at 10 AM via Zoom.

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.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Our prayers are asked for those who suffer from racial profiling, addiction, anxiety, are survivors of abuse or assault; 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. We pray for all who are suffering from or ministering to those with the COVID-19 here and around the world. We offer our prayers on behalf of those suffering from dementia and their families. We pray for those who are victims of natural disasters and changes in the earth's climate.

As children and young people in our families, parish and community continue school or college in person, online or through home schooling, we pray for them and for adults working with them for patience and a shared spirit of wonder and discovery.

In our parish prayer list, we continue to pray for Charlie, Larry, David, Wayne, George, Miriam, John, Robert, Michael, Katherine, Axel, Miyoko and Richard and Barbara.

**The Annual Meeting of the Church of the Messiah
will be held virtually via Zoom
on Sunday, January 31st, 2021
beginning at approximately 11:15 AM.**

Registration information will follow next week.

**All registrants will receive copies of the 2021 Annual Report.
*All are invited to attend.***

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Address to the Episcopal Church on January 8, 2021

And now in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In another time of national crisis, another time of danger for our nation, in 1865 on March the fourth, Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with these words:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

Lincoln knew in that moment, in the moment of a national crisis, a moment of great danger, that such a moment was a moment of decision, when a nation, when a people must decide who shall we be? What kind of nation, what kind of people shall we be? A hundred years later, Martin Luther King faced the same reality. Who shall we be? The civil rights movement was waning. The great victories that had been won had been won. And yet now questions of poverty and economic despair and disparities raised an awesome specter on the nation. We were at war.

We were at war in another country, but there was war on our streets. The nation was deeply divided. Cities burned. There were riots. Riots at national conventions of political parties. The future of the nation was in question, and it was at that time that Dr. King realized that in moments of danger, a decision must be made. And he titled his last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. I believe as he believed, as Abraham Lincoln believed, as I believe you believe, that we must choose community. Chaos is not an option. Community is our only hope.

The truth is Dr. King spoke often of all that he did and labored for was for the purpose of realizing as much of the Beloved Community of God as it is possible on this earth. He spoke of Beloved Community, the Bible, the New Testament, Jesus spoke of the kingdom or the reign of God. Jesus taught us to pray, and to work, and to labor for that Beloved Community, that reign of God's love in our time and in our world, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth just as it is in heaven. Those are our marching orders from Jesus himself.

I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth because I believe that his way of love and his way of life is the way of life for us all. I believe that unselfish, sacrificial love, love that seeks the good and the welfare and the well-being of others, as well as the self, that this is the way that can lead us and guide us to do what is just, to do what is right, to do what is merciful. It is the way that can lead us beyond the chaos to community.

Now, I know full well that this may to some sound naive, to others, idealistic, and I understand that. And yet, I want to submit that the way of love that leads to beloved community is the only way of hope for humanity. Consider the alternative. The alternative is chaos, not community. The alternative is the abyss of anarchy, of chaos, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, and that alternative is unthinkable. We have seen nightmarish visions of that alternative. We saw it in Charlottesville just a few years ago when neo-Nazis marched through the streets of an American city, chanting, "Jews will not replace us." That alternative is unthinkable. We saw it in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a public safety officer knelt with his knee on the neck of another human being. A child of God, just like he was, unthinkable and snuffed out the breath of life that God gave him. The alternative is unthinkable.

And we have seen it this past Wednesday, when a monument to democracy, the Capitol of the United States of America was desecrated and violated with violence by vandals. Lives were lost. A nation was wounded. Democracy itself was threatened. My brothers and sisters, this way of love that Jesus taught us when he said, “Love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.” This way of love that Moses taught even before Jesus. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, it is the way to redeem a nation, to save a world. It is the way of hope for us all. But do not make the mistake of thinking that I speak of a sentimental and emotional love.

Jesus spoke of love most consistently the closer he got to the cross. This way of love is the way of sacrifice, the way of unselfishness, the way of selflessness that seeks the good of the other as well as the self. And that is the way of the cross, which is the way of life. And if you don’t believe me, ask another apostle of love. Not Dr. King, not Abraham Lincoln, ask Archbishop Tutu. Ask one who has given his life for the cause of God’s love in the way of Jesus. Ask him; ask Nelson Mandela in your mind. Ask them what love looks like. They knew that the way of love was the only way that could guide South Africa from what could have become a bloody nightmare and civil war to the way that could build a nation.

And it was not sentimental. Remember truth and reconciliation. They had to face painful truths. They had to do what was just and what was merciful. They had to do what the prophet Micah said, that the motivation and the guide was love. Archbishop Tutu said this:

Love, forgiving, and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back or turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness of the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse for a while. It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring forth real healing. Superficial reconciliation only brings superficial healing.

This is the way of love that can heal our hurts, that can heal our land, that can help us to become one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. So, I would ask you to do two things. I’m asking you to make a commitment, a renewed commitment, to live the way of love as Jesus has taught us and to do it by making a commitment to go out and bless somebody. Bless somebody you disagree with. Bless somebody you agree with. But to go out and bless somebody by helping somebody along the way. Go out and bless somebody by listening to their story and their life. To go out and be an instrument of God’s peace, an agent of God’s love.

And then I would ask you to pray. Pray for this nation but pray with some specificity. Pray that we may have the wisdom and the courage to love.

*God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy pow’r.
Crown thine ancient church’s story,
bring her bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour*

– Harry Emerson Fosdick, *God of Grace and God of Glory*

With malice toward none, with charity toward all. With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive to finish the work, the work that we are in. To bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan. To do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

**A Word to the Diocese of Massachusetts on the violence at the Capital of the United States
on January 6, 2021**

Dear people of the Diocese of Massachusetts,

I want for a moment to share a word as we draw towards the end of this week – a week in which we have been shaken, infuriated, and appalled.

We are shaken by the violence and hatred that played out before us at our nation’s capital. We are infuriated by the incendiary, reckless, and seditious rhetoric of leaders, including a sitting President of our nation, in stoking that violence and hatred. And we are appalled by the larger realities of turmoil and bitter division in our nation which this week’s events do not allow us to deny.

Bishop Gayle Harris, in remarks at an ordination she was conducting on Wednesday evening, reminded us of Abraham Lincoln’s famous application of the words from Matthew’s gospel: *A house divided against itself shall not stand.* [Matthew 12:25] This house, our nation, is bitterly divided, and as Bishop Harris said Wednesday, “We cannot continue in this way, cannot continue with the violence, hatred, and demonization of one another, which is certainly not of Christ.”

Among the numerous evils thrown into high relief by the attack on our Capitol building, we cannot avoid calling out its manifestation of racism and white supremacy. From the Confederate flag carried boldly through the Capitol, to the scaffolding and noose constructed on the plaza outside, to the indisputable contrast between the way invading rioters were treated Wednesday and the way non-seditious protesters have been treated at other points throughout the year past – there is simply no denying the ugliness of racism before us. The work of anti-racism to which we have recently re-dedicated ourselves as a diocese is urgently upon us.

In the past few days many expressions of dismay and outrage have included some version of the cry, “This is not who we are!” I understand this cry as an expression of aspiration: “This is not who we aspire to be.” “This does not represent the values we espouse.” But if we are to move forward as a nation with determination and hope, we cannot begin with a categorical denial – “This is not who we are!” – which is manifestly not true. Rather, we must look ourselves in the mirror and say, “This is part of who we are; let us repent and change.”

The brilliant Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg puts it this way: “Don’t let people who like the approximate status quo drive the narrative ... to be about a few bad apples. We know what they say about the bad apples. We have to talk about the barrel. The orchard. The seeds that were planted. And the soil in which they were sown.” [Instagram post 1/7/21]

Another rabbi long ago spoke endlessly about seeds and soil. We know from our rabbi, Jesus, that God blesses the vineyard which is tended with justice and love. Perhaps all those parables of seeds and vineyards were inspired by this verse from the prophet Hosea:

*Sow with a view to righteousness;
reap in accordance with kindness;
break up your fallow ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord
until he comes to rain righteousness on you.* (Hosea 10:12 – NAS)

I commend to you the message from our Presiding Bishop (*note: the text of which is included above.*) I bid your prayers for our nation and its leaders. I invite you, with me, to rededicate yourself to the urgent work of both peace and justice, in our personal lives, our communities, and the structures of our land.

May we, indeed, “sow with a view to righteousness, and reap in accordance with kindness.” May the Holy Spirit, who descended upon Jesus at his baptism, and ours, descend upon us now with the grace and courage we need.

Yours in Christ,
+*Alan*
The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

January 09, 2021

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

RECYCLE YOUR OLD, BROKEN HOLIDAY LIGHTS!

The Cape Cod Cooperative Extension has partnered with local transfer stations to collect and recycle Christmas lights. All 15 Cape towns’ Transfer stations will be collecting used, unwanted, or broken holiday string lights until January 15, 2020. The lights will be recycled at a local scrap metal facility.

This is a free program of Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Barnstable County municipalities, and Ferreira Iron and Metal Recycling in Hyannis. String lights typically contain copper, glass and plastic, which can be recycled or reclaimed.

Please take the time to dispose of your old lights properly!

https://www.barnstablecounty.org/2020/12/14/recycle-your-old-broken-holiday-lights/?fbclid=IwAR3Yx1CqM0hGHddJ0TJomyh8obreOqPF4RCZycWuqii7XDV4KWQrE_vCd-g

~ Brittany and the Environmental Committee

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

This Circle Should Be Broken

I always liked the phrase, Let the circle be unbroken. It reminded me of the many cycles in our lives, life cycles, the earth, and even outer space. Circles/spheres are so much a part of nature, flowers, sand dollars, the moon, pearls, berries, the sun, and the pupils of our eyes. They all suggest LIFE.

But there are circles that should be broken! For the safety of our neighboring sea creatures these rings are circles of DEATH! We all are familiar with the danger of those plastic six-pack can carriers and those soda can rings. Sadly, they still turn up on beaches, so are probably in the ocean too. But there are others as well. Please be vigilant and snip those other, perhaps not so obvious circular rings, that can trap marine creatures or disrupt life processes.

Here are some that you may not have thought of:

Milk and cream rings on the cartons or jugs. Cut them

Rubber bands, especially now, on disposable masks. Cut them! So many found on beach! Dispose properly.

Rings that are now on metal cans that open without a can opener.

Tied ribbons that may be ripped off presents without untying. (Which reminds me that we still find lots of balloon and their tied ribbons on the beach. Never buy helium balloons or participate in a balloon launch!)

Get the rings off plastic water bottles. It takes some doing, but maybe you shouldn't buy them anyway! Bottle caps are usually not recyclable and are ingested by fish and sea mammals. Cut up those heavy duty plastic bands that come around packages.

Knotted plastic bags break up and make rings. Take home those doggy poop bags! They are routinely found on beaches!!!! (I really want to catch someone doing that!)

Anything that is circular may trap a sea creature. Those plastic rings should probably be discarded in regular trash. They are not recyclable to my knowledge. Neither are gift ribbons as far as I know. So much of America's recycling goes to third-world countries. And what can't be recycled may be dumped in the water allowing all those ringy /circular things to do their damage. Snip any and all plastic circles! Perhaps we could write to the milk companies to come up with a better way to seal containers, or buy milk in glass containers. West Falmouth and Woods Hole Markets sell milk in returnable glass containers. Thanks, everyone in advance for breaking up the deadly circles.

I know I am probably preaching to the choir. (No pun intended.)

Sincerely, Maureen Nolan and our sea friends.

FROM CHRISTMAS CARDS TO GIFT TAGS

Do you still have some of the Christmas cards you received this year? Carol Wagner has been turning the front of cards, with no writing on the back, into gift tags for the following year, and they could be sold at the Renaissance Fair. Please bring any cards to the church and Carol will collect them. Contact her if you would like to get together to work on the project. Thank you.

WOODWELL CLIMATE RESEARCH CENTER HAS AN EXCELLENT NEW WEBSITE!

The *Woodwell Climate Research Center* has an excellent website, helping people of all ages understand current research in climate change. A series of webinars, as well as many interesting and informative articles and upcoming events can be found on the website: www.woodwellclimate.org

LATEST UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

With the completion of the transformation of the First Church to the welcoming and modern new Parish and Community Center, the Capital Campaign will formally end on January 31, 2021, although payments on pledges will continue to flow in. By the end of September 2020, through the generosity of 348 individuals, families and foundations, we raised \$2.428 million against our stretch goal of \$2.5 million. In response to our November 1st letter, as of December 7th, we have donations and pledges from 80 individuals. If contributions continue to come in over the holidays, we will exceed our goal of \$2.5 million and have the funds needed to begin work on handicap accessible pathways to connect the Stone Church and the PCC. If you have not already done so, please remember the Messiah's Capital Campaign in your year-end giving.

Charles Mann, Chair, Capital Campaign Phase 2
Sandra Rodgers, Chair, Capital Campaign Phase 1
Don Aukamp
Carol Casey

Deborah Dougherty
Arden Edwards
Mark Haycock

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 PARISH'S MINISTRY

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.



Please like us on [Facebook](#)

January 2021 - February 2021

January 2021							February 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	
31							28					27	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed)	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm MEDITATION (Live-streamed)	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED		
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31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed) 11:15am Virtual Annual Meeting	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm MEDITATION (Live-streamed)	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00am Virtual Holy Eucharist (Live-streamed)	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm MEDITATION (Live-s-5:30pm Vestry mtg. (Li	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed)	President's Day 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm MEDITATION (Live-s	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	Ash Wednesday 10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed)	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm 4:00pm MEDITATION (Live-streamed)	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED	10:00am 2:00pm OFFICE CLOSED		

Church of the Messiah

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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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