

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
March 21, 2021

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



Opening Prayer

You are above me, O God,
you are within.
You are in all things
yet contained by no thing.
Teach me to seek you in all that has life
that I may see you as the Light of life.
Teach me to search for you in my own depths
that I may find you in every living soul.

-John Philip Newell, *Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter*
on the website: www.inwardoutward.org on March 17, 2021

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.

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 Virtual Holy Eucharist 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, John, Robert, Michael, Katherine, Axel, Miyoko, Richard, Emily and Alan.

We pray in loving memory of Gordon Tully, beloved husband of Ellen, who died in Charlottesville, VA on Monday, March 8th. We pray for Ellen and her family as they grieve Gordon's death and give thanks for his life and legacy.

SPRING BOOK DISCUSSION: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson

As a way of deepening our awareness of the racial pandemic raging in this country, you are invited to join others in the parish in reading *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Copies of the book are available for purchase through Eight Cousins Bookstore in Falmouth.

The two groups meeting on Zoom **began March 2nd**: Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 PM (led by Mary Fran Buckley) and Sundays from 4:00 – 5 00 PM (led by Deborah Warner). You can attend either group depending upon your schedule. Please email Deborah (dwarner74@aol.com) so you can receive the Zoom link. Thanks.

- Deborah

IMPORTANT NOTICE and UPDATE ON REGATHERING

At the vestry meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021, the sense of the vestry, in conversation with the rector, was to continue 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 directives sent to each congregation in the Diocese of Massachusetts and 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, while some older members of the congregation are now getting vaccinated, the state’s distribution system still does not allow people younger than 65 to be vaccinated yet. We do not want to demonstrate a preference for one age group and thereby inadvertently discriminate against others. Therefore, we will continue to wait until all adults and young people are eligible to receive their vaccination before *slowly* resuming “in person” worship and only then, doing so when we are in full compliance with the “diocesan regathering in person worship mandates.”

Third, the present virtual service online streaming continues to have very positive results. People from across the country and around the world 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.

Fourth, in an effort to vary our worship experience, on the first Sunday of the month, we will continue to have a communion service. 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. On other Sundays of the month, we will continue to also have Morning Prayer using various resources available through the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion as well as others.

Finally, the Regathering Committee, Vestry and I are taking very seriously our responsibility to be pastorally sensitive to the congregation and community. We are doing so while being scrupulous in our care for each other, the staff and all who come into our midst. We deeply appreciate your support and patience as we continue to navigate this unprecedented time. – *The Rev. Deborah Warner, Rector*

BLESSING OF BRANCHES FOR PALM SUNDAY: Sunday, March 28th

In lieu of the traditional “Blessing of the Palms” this Palm Sunday (March 28th), the Regathering Committee invites you to have some branches with you at the Palm Sunday 10 AM service. I will symbolically bless these as a sign of the power of the Palm Sunday story that heralds Holy Week and ultimately gives rise to Easter Sunday.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you wish to give a contribution to the Easter Flowers in honor or in memory of someone, please do so by sending a check payable to the Church of the Messiah with Easter Flowers on the memo line. The deadline for Easter flower donations is **Monday, March 29th**. The checks may be mailed to the Church of the Messiah, 16 Church St., Woods Hole, MA 02543

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS CAN NOW BE MADE ONLINE

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.

We have also updated our website so contributions may be made online. These can be sent on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual basis. Please go to our website to find out further information or call the church office. www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org Click on the *DonateNow* tab on the upper right of the Home page.

Third, we also have the capacity to receive stock transfers. For further information on any of the above, please call the church office at 508-548-2145 and leave a voice mail.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH'S MINISTRY

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.
And 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.

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

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

Anyone can create a welcoming haven for local wildlife. Turning your yard, balcony container, garden, schoolyard, work landscape, or roadside greenspace into a Certified Wildlife Habitat® is fun, easy, and can make a lasting difference for wildlife.

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify.aspx>



~ Brittany and the Environmental Committee



LENT 2021

Week 6

March 21

Remember your baptism today. What does it mean to you to be baptized? Spend some time praying or journaling about what happens to this sacrament when the world's waters become polluted and inaccessible?

March 22

It's World Water Day. Observed annually, today we recognize how people around the world are affected by water issues:
www.un.org/en/events/waterday

March 23

Visit waterfootprint.org to learn more about water footprint. Say a prayer of gratitude every time you sip water today.

March 24

Nearly half of all food in the United States never gets eaten, while one in eight people in the U.S. suffer hunger. Check out local resources for reducing food waste, and how to help encourage local stores to give to those in need.

March 25

Choose a reusable water bottle and commit to using it instead of purchasing individual, disposable water bottles.

March 26

Plan or plant seeds for a garden, even a window garden, to support a local food system, and to remember hope and new life in Christ:
almanac.com/content/beginners-vegetable-garden

March 27

To show love for our Creator, we respect and protect all of creation. Take a moment today to pick up trash off the street, or from a local stream or storm drain.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE- UPDATED2/10/2021

After much research, discussion, community and Parish interaction, the Church of the Messiah's Vestry decided to sell Fisher House in 2015, use the proceeds to expand the Church's endowment fund, and restructure and expand the original 1852 First Church to house both Parish offices and a large community gathering room. To finance this transformation, a Capital Campaign was launched in 2016, led by Sandra Rodgers, with a goal of raising \$1.55 million, with a challenge goal of \$1.7 million, targets developed in consultation with a development specialist.

Those targets provided the general cost parameters for developing the plans for the transformation of the building. By mid-2018, Sandy and the Committee did an excellent job of fund-raising and were on track to reach the challenge goal. However, due to sharp increases in building material costs and other factors, when actual bids came back, they all were substantially over \$2 million. Clearly a major additional fundraising effort would be required. With profound thanks to Sandy Rodgers and her Committee for the success of the Campaign to date, the Campaign moved into its Phase 2 with Charles Mann appointed as Committee Chair for this final period.

As construction progressed on the PCC, costs continued to escalate and the Campaign goal was reset at \$2.3 million with a stretch goal of \$2.5 million and an end date of January 31, 2021. Even this ambitious target fell short of covering the project's full costs. When all aspects of the project are included — furniture, audio visual equipment, Campaign expenses, and acoustical improvements to the Woods Hole Community Room — the total project cost is \$2.67 million.

When we mailed out the final Capital Campaign outreach letter on November 1, 2020 (All-Saints Day) we believed that we could reach our stretch goal of \$2.5 million, but the \$2.67 total cost of the project seemed far out of reach. Then, in mid-November, we received a response to our May appeal to the Hermann Foundation — one of our largest and earliest donors — news of an additional grant of \$150,000. Raising the full cost of the PCC suddenly was a feasible goal.

Capped by the generous response to our final outreach that ended January 31, 2021, over the five years of the Campaign, 369 individuals, families and foundations have contributed in money and pledges just over \$2.7 million, many contributing multiple times. This generosity provides all the funds needed to pay the full costs of transforming our legacy First Church into the modern and welcoming Parish and Community Center. In addition we have in hand \$32,150 designated by donors towards handicap accessible pathways to link the PCC and the Stone Church.

Recognizing the major contributions from the Hermann Foundation, the Vestry voted on Monday, February 8th to recognize the Hermann Foundation by naming the First Floor and Gallery in the Parish and Community Center in their name. In doing this, the Messiah joins the list of major Falmouth community organizations that honor the Foundation's support: The Hermann Room at the Falmouth Public Library; the Hermann Theatre in the Simon Center for the Arts at Falmouth Academy; the Hermann Gallery at the Falmouth Art Center; the Hermann Garden at the JML Care Center and multiple locations at the Falmouth Hospital.

The Committee, the parish, and the community are deeply grateful to all those individuals, families and foundations that supported the Campaign and have made possible this new community and parish resource.

Thank you, thank you, all!

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

March 2021 - April 2021

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 21 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed) 4:00pm Book Group (Zoom mtg.)	22 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	23 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	24 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	25 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	26 GOOD FRIDAY	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed) 4:00pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	29 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed)	30 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	31 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	Apr 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	2	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY 10:00am Virtual Holy Eucharist (Live-streamed) 4:00pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	5 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am Outreach Mtg. (Live-streamed)	6 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	7 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	8 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	9	10
11 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed) 4:00pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	12 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm W H Meditation (Live-streamed) 5:30pm Vestry mtg.	13 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	14 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	15 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	16	17
18 10:00am Morning Prayer (Live-streamed) 4:00pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	19 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Outreach Comm. Mtg 3:00pm W H Meditation	20 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm Book Group (Zoom Mtg.)	21 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Environmental Comm. Mtg. (Live-streamed)	22 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	23	24



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Church of the Messiah

2021 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 Holden	<i>Treasurer</i>

Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022
Charles Mann	2023	Peg Nicholson	2023
Susan Morse	2024	Rachael Rhude	2024

Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Denise Jay	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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