

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
February 13, 2022

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



A Prayer for the End of Slavery

Give peace in our day we beseech thee, O thou God of peace!
and grant, that this highly favoured country may continue to
afford a safe and peaceful retreat from the calamities
of war and slavery, for ages yet to come.

- *The Rev. Absalom Jones, first African – American priest in the
Episcopal Church. Born into slavery 1746, purchased his freedom in 1784,
ordained into the priesthood in 1802, died on February 13, 1818.*

*The wheat on the altar represents
a donation to the Falmouth Service Center,
in loving memory of
Mitchell T. "Mitch" Alberts,
from Ginny Alberts and his brothers, sisters and children.*

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. We are delighted to have you here. Welcome!

ZOOM AND LIVE-STREAMING INFORMATION

Our 10 AM Sunday worship service will be live-streamed 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 Sunday services at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/632447285> We suggest you plan on getting to our virtual church at 9:45 AM 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.

REMINDER: WE ARE NOW OFFERING TWO SUNDAY SERVICES: 8 and 10 AM

In an effort to combat the psychological isolation and depression that is increasing from the rise in COVID infections, as long as the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts allow us, the rector and technology team at the Church of the Messiah are committed to continuing to gather safely and offer two services in person on Sundays: 8 AM and 10 AM. Unless, otherwise noted, both services will be Holy Communion.

The 10 o'clock service will also be available on Zoom for all who wish to attend the service virtually.

ALL SAFETY PROTOCOLS WILL CONTINUE: including practicing social distancing, wearing a mask throughout the service and giving your name and contact information (if we don't have the latter) for contact tracing purposes.

RE: HEAT AND DOORS Because everyone has been very conscious of following the safety protocols above, the vestry and rector agreed that doors can remain closed (unless the nave is close to capacity, in which case a door will be opened), windows in the chancel will be open, the heat and overhead fans will be on during services.

Thank you very much for your continuing patience as we share in the worship of God as a community caring for one another whether in person and online.

~ The Vestry and the Rev. Deborah Warner

THE REV. CANON KELLY O'CONNELL TO SPEAK AT MESSIAH: SUNDAY, FEB. 13TH

On Sunday, February 13th, the Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell will be preaching at the Church of the Messiah during the 10 o'clock service. She will speak with the parish and vestry following the service about the transition and support system in place by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts for parishes undergoing transitions in clergy leadership. This visit will give everyone an opportunity to begin to get familiar with the transition process and to ask questions. Please make every effort to attend the service either in person or on Zoom.

ANNUAL MEETING: LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD WITH GRATEFULNESS

On behalf of the parish, I wish to thank Nancy Rea and Jean Taft for their years on the vestry as well as their service as wardens. I also want to thank Don Aukamp for his extraordinary generosity of time and energy over several years – as the treasurer, serving on the vestry or as a committee member.

Many thanks to those people who were elected to terms on the vestry: Peg Nicholson and Michael Kasparian as wardens, John Holden and Winifred Dick continuing as treasurer and clerk, respectively; Denise Jay and Paul Graney who will be serving on the vestry for three years; and Patti Dibella who will begin her service on the vestry for one year (completing Peg Nicholson's unexpired vestry term.)

We also thank Dicky Allison and Helen Gordon who were re-elected as parish Diocesan Convention and Deanery Representatives; and Jean Taft who will be a third Deanery Representative as well as the Diocesan Convention Representative Alternate

We deeply appreciate all the time and effort that went into writing, presenting and summarizing all the reports and committee work at the meeting.

Finally, as always, we are very grateful to the staff for their tireless efforts to further our ministry and work with one another and the broader community.

In the coming weeks and months, in addition to celebrating our ministry together and as you move ahead into the clergy transition process; considerable effort will go towards implementing a process to begin to live into the strategic plan that the parish and vestry have designed.

For all of this, please know of my deepest gratefulness and appreciation.

- The Rev. Deborah Warner

SCAMMING AND PHISHING TARGETING

As some of you already know, there has been an increase of scamming and phishing to members of the parish. Often times, the "sender" has an email that appears to allegedly come from Deborah Warner.

Please do not open these up. The only emails from me which you should open up are either from the Church of the Messiah messiahfisher@comcast.net or my email: dwarner74@aol.com.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PBS television is offering a wide variety of programming associated with Black history and experiences of people in the Black community. It is yet another way to continue to engage in understanding the history and diversity of this country. I encourage you to join me by intentionally taking time to watch and learn from these programs and presentations now and in the future... – *The Rev. Deborah Warner.*

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Our prayers are asked for those who suffer from racial profiling, addiction, anxiety, abuse, dementia, cancer, emotional distress, are suffering from or ministering to those with COVID-19 here and around the world. We pray for all who are unemployed or homeless, are refugees seeking safety and security in this and other countries and for all who are ministering to their needs and for those in the armed forces. We pray for those who are victims of natural disasters and changes in the earth's climate and for the people of Afghanistan, and Haiti. We pray for all who serve in the diplomat corps and in the armed and peacekeeping forces.

In our parish prayer list, we continue to pray for Charlie, Larry, David, Robert, Miyoko, Emily, Steve, Janet, Bunk, Sarah, Johnny, Bruce, Betsy, Amy, Bob, Sandra, Helen, Guthrie and Jennie.

PATHWAYS UPDATE

Complications mostly related to the Covid-19 pandemic substantially delayed construction of the planned new pathways linking the Stone Church with the new Parish and Community Center. In October, the Vestry created a new Pathways Committee (Paul Graney, Charles Mann, Susan Morse, Terry Soares, Jean Taft) with a mandate to review plans and move the project forward.

Following the Committee's on-site review with PCC project landscape architect, Tom Lee, the Vestry has commissioned Lee to develop detailed plans for the construction of the pathways and schematic designs and sketches of potential replacements for the existing wooden ramp to include stairs. The new structure would accommodate the expanded use of the Stone Church's side entrance that provides the most direct approach to the PCC patio and the preferred access door to the Woods Hole room. At some point, it will be necessary to remove the aging rhododendrons that have grown up against the present ramp, but their removal will be delayed as long as feasibly consistent with the demands of the project. The Capital Campaign raised some funds specifically earmarked for the pathways, but how far these will go will depend upon completion of the project plans including options for replacing the ramp structure.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS CAN NOW BE MADE ONLINE

Contributions may be made **online** through Vanco Payment Solutions. These can be scheduled on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual basis. If you wish to donate now, please go to the church website: www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org and click on the *Donate Now* tab on the upper right of the page.

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.



Church of the Messiah,
16 Church Street,
Woods Hole, MA 02543

January 24, 2022.

Dear friends at the Church of the Messiah,

Thank you so much for your very generous gift of \$787.50 to Maya Childcare, Inc. We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support.

Your generosity means that families in crisis can continue to nourish their children with nutritious meals and that they have the basic healthcare supplies they need to stay as healthy as possible. It means that children receive encouraging videos each day from their teachers, with songs, stories and craft activities to do at home. It allows staff to keep in touch with families by phone, offering reassurance, sharing ideas for play, and giving emotional support. It is helping us to prepare the Center so we can safely welcome children back, once the government and the situation in Guatemala make that possible.



Your help makes a world of difference to children and families that are struggling to get by. Their warmth and gratitude is hard to fully convey, but please know that you are deeply appreciated!

With many, many thanks,

Rachael Rhude

All of the administrative costs of Maya Childcare Inc. are covered by the directors themselves, so all donations go directly to support the children and families served by the Acorn Childcare Center. Maya Childcare Incorporated (EIN 45-4237167) is a charity recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3).

Maya Childcare Inc. • 44 Oakwood Avenue • Falmouth, MA 02540
E.I.N: 45-4237167

**Jan. 6, 2022: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's address to the nation
A Moment of Peril and Promise**

The nightmare of last January 6th was not just an event. It was a revelation. It was a revelation of deeply dangerous divisions in our nation—some political, some ideological, some racial, and some disguised as religious.

But it was also a revelation that there are forces intentionally seeking and working to divide us. Left unchecked, unaddressed, and unhealed, this can lead to the decline and deconstruction of our nation and make it impossible for us to strive to be *“one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”*

The nightmare of January 6th was not just an event; it was a revelation. But it was a revelation in another sense. That day, and our response to it, contain potential for both peril and promise.

The peril is the possibility of the decline, deconstruction, and even destruction of our nation and its most cherished values. But that peril is only an inevitability if, as William Butler Yeats said in another context, *“the best lack all conviction while the worst are filled with passionate intensity.”*

But the promise is the revival and renewal of the United States as the multiracial, multiethnic, pluralistic, democracy that our founders envisioned when they began this experiment. That promise becomes a real and greater possibility if enough of us will summon the spiritual courage necessary to claim it.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we are living in a moral moment of spiritual peril and promise.

Such a moment demands moral vision that sees beyond mere self-interest and beholds the common good—a spiritual strength stronger than any sword.

Let me suggest three spiritual keys to this.

Renew our relationship with God

First, we must renew our relationship with the God who the Bible says, “is love.” With the God who is the Creator of us all. We must each find our path to connect with God in ways that are loving, liberating, and life-giving. I do so as one who strives to follow Jesus Christ and his way of love. We must each find the path that is authentic to us.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for example, prepared a set of moral and spiritual principles in the 1950s, which he invited those committed to the nonviolent way of change to study and to live by.

They included such principles as these:

- Remember the nonviolent movement seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory
- Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love
- Pray daily to be used by God that all men and women might be free
- Sacrifice personal wishes that all might be free
- Observe with friend and foes the ordinary rules of courtesy
- Refrain from violence of fist, tongue and heart

I would dare say that we could use those principles today. But his first principle was: Before you march, meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus

The wisdom behind this was that to truly be an instrument of unselfish, sacrificial love—to truly seek justice and not mere revenge—to truly labor for the realization of God’s Beloved Community for all of us and not just some of us, here on earth as it is in heaven, to truly be an instrument of love, we need the very energies of love from the source of all love to help us become instruments and vessels of that love.

To truly love, to truly do justice, to truly love mercy, as the prophet Micah said, we must humbly walk with God. To truly live by love, we need connection to the very energy of love itself. However you do it, whatever your path, find a way to a loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with God.

Revive our relationship with each other

Second, we must revive our relationship with each other as children of the God who made us all, and therefore as brothers, sisters, siblings, as the human family of God. The late Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, “If you want peace, you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.” How we both treat and relate to others is a decision.

In the last century Martin Buber taught us that we can either relate to each other and the world itself as I-It or I-Thou. If other people and indeed the created world itself are seen and treated as IT, then they are dealt with as things, as objects to be used and even abused. They exist for our whims. But if the other person and the created world itself are seen and treated as THOU, as holy, as sacred, then they are loved, honored, respected, cherished and cared for. How different would our politics be, how different would our relationships with each other be, how different would our nation be if we would work at getting to know and cultivate relationships with our brother, or sister, or siblings.

Resurrect our commitment to the ideals we share

Third, we must resurrect our commitment to the ideals and values that we share. We do have some generally accepted ideals and values. Flawed as he was, Thomas Jefferson gave voice to one of those ideals when he wrote in the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Abraham Lincoln gave voice to these values when he said in the Gettysburg Address:

“Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Every one of us was taught these words of a lofty ideal as children in school.

*I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
And to the republic for which it stands
One nation, under God, indivisible
With liberty and justice for all*

We may and will disagree on many things. We may and will strive and fail and wound one another and beg forgiveness along the way. But we do have some ideals and values that we share. And one of those ideals, I believe, is our experiment in democracy itself, our representative form of government, based on the promise of liberty and justice for all, which itself is based on the hope that we may be one nation, even with our many differences.

To be sure, no form of human government attains perfection. Only God is perfect. The Preamble to the Constitution wisely reminds us that each generation must continue the work of forming “*a more perfect union*.” No, our democracy is not perfect, but it offers the best hope yet devised for government that fosters human freedom, equal justice under law, the dignity and the equality of every human being made, as the Bible says, in the image of God.

Reinhold Niebuhr said it well: “*Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible; but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.*” Democracy itself is a shared ideal and value that we must uphold and labor to defend.

A near-sacred cornerstone of this ideal of democracy is the vote. The individual’s right to vote, and our respect for the collective will of the people expressed in their votes, are foundational to the temple that is democracy. The vote and the collective will of the people must be upheld as sacred and inviolate; it must be respected and protected, “*that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.*” Let us be people of conviction and choose the promise that is before us.

We don’t think of it this way very often, but unselfish, sacrificial love for each other may well be the supreme value on which democracy depends. On the Great Seal of the United States, above the bald eagle, are banners on which the Latin words, “*e pluribus unum*” are written. Those words mean, “*from many, one.*” One nation from many diverse people.

But do you know where those words come from? They come from the writings of Cicero, who lived during the time of the Roman Republic. Cicero said, “When each person loves the other as much as himself, it makes one out of many.” In other words, when each person loves the other as much as he loves himself, it makes one out of many possible.

That’s what Cicero wrote about democracy. Moses and Jesus identified love as the supreme law of God for life.

This is indeed a moment of both peril and promise. But if love is indeed the supreme law of God for life, as I believe it is, then God’s way of unselfish, sacrificial love for each other could well be the key to the life of a nation, and the world itself. That way of love could well be the key to our truly becoming “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Therein is the promise!

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For more info contact:

Amanda Skofstad

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Please like us on Facebook

February 2022 - March 2022

| February 2022 | | | | | | | March 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---|--|--------|----------|
| Feb 13 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual) | 14 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual) | 15 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 5:00pm Vestry Mtg. (Virtual) | 16 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 10:00am Environmental Comm. Mtg. (Virtual) | 17 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC) | 18 | 19 |
| 20 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual) | 21 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 10:00am Outreach Comm. Mtg (Virtual) 3:00pm W H Meditation | 22 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open | 23 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open | 24 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC) | 25 | 26 |
| 27 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual) | 28 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual) | Mar 1 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open | 2 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open | 3 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC) | 4 | 5 |
| 6 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual) | 7 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual) | 8 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 11:30am WHWC (WH Room/PCC) | 9 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open | 10 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal (PCC) | 11 | 12 |
| 13 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual) | 14 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 3:00pm W H Meditation (Virtual) 5:00pm Vestry mtg. | 15 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open | 16 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 10:00am Environmental Comm. Mtg. (Virtual) | 17 Saint Patrick's Day (United States) 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 6:00pm Choir rehearsal | 18 | 19 |

Church of the Messiah

Church of the Messiah

2022 Vestry

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| The Rev. Deborah M. Warner | <i>Rector</i> |
| Peg Nicholson | <i>Warden</i> |
| Michael Kasparian | <i>Warden</i> |
| Winifred Dick | <i>Clerk</i> |
| John Holden | <i>Treasurer</i> |

| | | | |
|--------------|------|---------------|------|
| Charles Mann | 2023 | Patti Dibella | 2023 |
| Susan Morse | 2024 | Rachael Rhude | 2024 |
| Denise Jay | 2025 | Paul Graney | 2025 |

Deanery Representatives

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Dicky Allison | Diocesan, Deanery Representative |
| Helen Gordon | Diocesan, Deanery Representative |
| Jean Taft | Deanery Representative, Convention alternate |

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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