

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
July 17, 2022

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



Psalm 19: The World's Glory

The being and beauty of the universe
declares the Glory of God.
No words are necessary.
Contemplation of nature revives my soul.

When I view this as unspoken teaching, I am wise.
When I align myself with Love my heart rejoices
This enlightenment is more to be desired than gold.
It is sweeter than honey, and my great reward.

Cleanse me of my secret faults and presumptuous sins
"Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
Be acceptable in thy sight, O God my strength
and my redeemer".

*Rewritten by Christine Robinson,
'Psalms for A New World.'*

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
by Jeannette Fullerton
"Remembering Ken with love"

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 Bridge Priest and the 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!

NEWS FROM THE WARDENS

The wardens have been meeting with Randy Evans and Doug Amon in an attempt to improve the access from the bike path to the PCC parking lot. If we can make this access path safer, we will shut off access through the cemetery in order to maintain it as the quiet and sacred space it is intended to be.

At the request of the Vice Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee in town, we wrote a letter to them asking for their assistance in this matter. You may have read about the outcome of that request in the Falmouth Enterprise. The committee did not want to take any leadership or ownership of the project. We are now trying to schedule a meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair to re-open this with the committee or determine the appropriate next steps to pursue with other town officials.

We have three goals: (1) to provide safe access from the bike path to/from the Parish and Community Center and the church for residents of Woods Hole and members of the parish; (2) to provide safe access from the bike path to/from Church Street for walkers and bikers so they do not have to walk or ride along Woods Hole Road; and (3) to eliminate the need for any walkers and riders to traverse the cemetery to travel between Church Street and the bike path.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE NEWS

During these hot and often hectic months, we invite you to pause and take advantage of one of the numerous benches while you are walking in the church grounds and the cemetery. You can enjoy looking at the sweeping view from the bench near the back of the PCC down across the Vale. You can view Little Harbor or look down across the Pasture to the Whitney barn from the benches near the large parking lot and in the Pasture.

From the PCC to the rise near the large parking lot to the Nims section or the Memorial & Herb Gardens areas, there are many places to rest your body and your spirit.

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. We pray for those who are victims of natural disasters and changes in the earth's climate. Along with so many around the world, we pray for the people of Ukraine as they continue to suffer from Russia's invasion. Finally, we pray for all who serve in the diplomatic 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, Sarah, Bruce, Betsy, Amy, Bob, Debby, Sandra, Helen and Dicky.

Dear Parishioners,

This week we are invited ever deeper into that theological paradox of what it is to be a species who believes in the divine in a vast universe.

I don't know about you, but I often experience that paradox when I look at the stars, particularly in a place like Woods Hole, with little 'light pollution' – where you can experience the dimensionality of the night sky, that I feel at once *so insignificant*, and at the same time, *so deeply connected* to the divine. This is so beautifully captured in with words of the Psalmist, written perhaps some 3000 years ago, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows God's handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1) I think of the Psalmist looking up at the night sky and experiencing that feeling. What is amazing for us, today, is that the images from the *James Webb Space Telescope*, released this week by *NASA*, are looking back in time, past the view of the Psalmist, perhaps some 13.4 billion years ago!

I am no astrophysicist, but those who are will remind us that both sound and light take some time to get from the originating event, to the one who experiences it. In fact, the light from the Sun takes approximately eight minutes to get to us here on this blue planet, the 'third rock from the Sun.' When we view stars in the night sky, the light we see has taken a lot longer to reach us as they are so much further away, so in a sense, we are already looking back in time. When we look at our closest star, *Proxima Centuri*, we are actually seeing its light from over four years ago. The Webb Telescope, exponentially magnifies the ability to see objects whose light began so far back in time. And the images are stunning. Whether you are looking at a deep field of galaxy clusters, the 'Cosmic Cliffs' of the Carina Nebula, or 'Stephan's Quintet,' a stunning cluster of galaxies, one can be overpowered by the extra-ordinary beauty, and the reality that we are viewing this from a small planet, in a small solar system, orbiting a star, in the outer spiral of one arm, in one medium sized galaxy, amongst hundreds of billions of others.

When I was in Seminary, one of my spiritual crises was about this reality. I remember trooping up the spiral staircase of my theology professor and advisor, whose office was the most inaccessible amongst the faculty, after reading a book by a former Old Testament professor and theologian, who was a 'Christian a-theist,' that devastated my somewhat simplistic theology. With all the angst that a second-year theology student could muster, I exclaimed something like, 'How can we be so presumptive to think that God incarnated on this little planet, in this insignificant part of the universe, so far from the center of anything?' My theology professor, with all the 'non-anxious presence' that I would end up teaching my own students decades later, said in calming response, “Wherever God is, is the center of the universe.” This, for me, although not answering all the questions about theism, was a reassuring model of a theologian whose understanding of God was big enough to contain the universe, rather than a Sunday school theology that saw the Earth as the center of reality. It was enough for me to go back to wrestling with paradox, knowing that was both a theological task and an act of faith, but that God was 'big enough' to take it.

I don't know what you experience when you look at the stars, or will think when you see these stunning images from the Webb telescope, but I encourage you, if you are in need of it, not to disconnect them from your life of faith, but to engage, wrestle, wonder, in speech or silence, at the awe-some reality of our universe. These wrestlings are age-old, and new with each discovery. Again, the Psalmist says, “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, what are mortals that you should be mindful of them, their children that you should seek them out?” (Psalm 8.) Such contemplation is the stuff of life, a faith, in a breathtaking universe. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Storm+

Bridge Priest

NOONTUNES SUMMER CONCERT SERIES HAS BEGUN



Noontunes Summer Concert Series

Wednesday, July 13th, 12:15pm
Jeanne Prendergast, soprano
and Mark Lawlor, organ

Wednesday, July 20th, 12:15pm
Schola Cantorum

Wednesday, July 27th, 12:15pm
Sarah Bach, soprano
and Emily Murphy, piano

Church of the Messiah
22 Church Street
Woods Hole, MA

(508) 548-2145

www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org

*A free-will offering will be collected
to support the church music program*

ZOOM INFORMATION

Our 10 AM Sunday worship service will continue to be virtual 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. When you join, you will be looking at the sanctuary until the service begins.

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS as of April 1st

Based on the recommendations of the Regathering Oversight Committee, on Monday, March 14th the vestry voted the following COVID protocols based on the latest diocesan directive sent to clergy and lay leaders on March 7, 2022. The directive allows for local discretion.

- Masks are to be worn for indoor worship. (*See News from the Wardens on pg. 2*)
- A quadrant of seating has been set aside for people wishing or needing to maintain physical distancing. Others are invited to sit there as long as the physical distancing procedure is followed.
- With the exception of the seating set aside for people wishing or needing to maintain physical distancing, kneelers have been placed on the floor.
- Communion is offered in both kinds: the larger chalice for those who wish to drink from the common cup, and a small chalice for those who wish to receive communion by intinction. We are using unwrapped communion wafers.
- Hosts are needed to prepare the coffee and tea which will be served in the Woods Hole Room after the 10 o'clock service. The room is to be properly ventilated – with windows and the door to the balcony open. Masks are to be worn to the degree they do not interfere with consuming beverages. Purell will be available.
- Weather permitting, coffee hour will be held outside on the patio.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS TO THE CEMETERY MAY ALSO 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* tab on the upper right of the Home page and follow the top link.

Donations to the Cemetery Annual Appeal and Perpetual Care Fund may also be made online, via PayPal. Click on the *Donate* tab and follow the bottom link to PayPal. Please indicate if you wish to donate to the Annual Appeal or the Perpetual Care Fund.

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.



Please like us on [Facebook](#)

July 2022 - August 2022

July 2022							August 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	15	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	22	23	24	25	26	27
								29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 17 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual) 4:00pm Lecture &	18 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 5:00pm Vestry mtg.	19 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (W. H. Rm.)	20 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 12:15pm Noontunes Concert (Stone)	21 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	22 3:00pm Interment	23
24 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	25 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	26 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (W. H. Rm.)	27 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 12:15pm Noontunes Concert (Stone)	28 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	29	30
31 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	Aug 1 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	2 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 5:00pm WHHM Annual 7:30pm WHCC	3 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	4 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	5	6
7 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	8 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 5:00pm Vestry mtg. 6:00pm Children's	9 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (W. H. Rm.)	10 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	11 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	12	13
14 8:30am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	15 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	16 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (Stone)	17 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	18 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open 7:00pm WHCC Rehearsal (Stone)	19 7:00pm WHCC Dress Rehearsal	20 5:00pm Holy Eucharist 7:30pm WHCC Concert (Stone Church)
21 FALMOUTH ROAD RACE 4:00pm WHCC Concert (Stone Church)	22 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	23 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	24 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	25 10:00am - 2:00 PM Office Open	26	27

Church of the Messiah

2022 Vestry

The Rev. Dr. Storm Swain	<i>Bridge Priest</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. Dr. Storm Swain	<i>Bridge Priest</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>

Rev. Dr. Storm Swain

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