

The Church of the Messiah's
Good News
December 25, 2022

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



God is the Fracture

*I used to need to know
the end of every story
but these days I only
need the start to get me going.*

*God is the crack
where the story begins
We are the crack
where the story gets interesting*

*We are the choice of
where to begin
the person going out?
the stranger coming in?*

*God is the fracture
and the craic in your voice
God is the story
flavoured with choice*

*God is the pillar of salt
full of pity
accusing God
for the sulphorous city.*

*God is the woman who bleeds
and who touches
We are the story
of courage or blushes.*

*God is the story
of whatever works
God is the twist at the end
and the quirks*

*We are the start
and we are the centre
we're the characters
narrators, inventors.*

*God is the bit
that we can't explain
maybe the healing
maybe the pain.*

*We are the bit
that God can't explain
maybe the harmony
maybe the strain.*

*God is the plot
and we are the writers
the story of winners
and the story of fighters*

*the story of love
and the story of rupture
the story of stories
the story without structure.*

*The Cypress trees on the altar for the Advent season
are given to the Glory of God
in honor of Laura Kelly, for her many years of service to the
Church of the Messiah's Cemetery Committee and Altar Guild.*

*The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of
Carole Costa,
by Peg Nicholson.*

***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!

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, Helen, Dicky, Bobby, Lydia, David, Ralph and Warfield.

NEWS FROM THE WARDENS

News from the Wardens

We are so thankful to Nawrie Meigs-Brown for jumping into the breach and leading our services last Sunday and now so thankful that Storm has recovered enough from her battle with the flu to lead our Christmas services.

We are also very thankful for all of you who are the Church of the Messiah. Christmas blessings to one and all!

Dear Parishioner,

Christmas is where our story and God's story intersect in a unrepeatabe, world-stopping, world-starting way. God bridges the gap between divinity and humanity, not only in a new way for us, but a new way for God, through the incarnation of Christ. Christmas tells us that the story of God, is now intimately woven with the story of humanity, and that God's story is in and through our story.

This Christmas also sees another transition in the life of Church of the Messiah. It is my privilege to celebrate these services for the last time as your Bridge Priest. As I was appointed a Bridge Priest in May, with the initial likelihood of being here for a couple of months, I gave myself over to what felt like a unique role. I was neither the Rector, nor the Interim, but someone who was called to be alongside you to bridge the role, liturgically and pastorally, between the retirement of the Rev. Deb Warner, and the appointment of the Interim.

Being here for what was going to be a short time meant that I did not "curb my heart" or my choices as a priest, but gave myself over to being a temporary part of the Church of the Messiah story. I learnt from you, many of the unique things about being a Church in a small town with great scientific institutions, and how your story got shaped and reshaped by living through a global pandemic. I learnt from the faithfulness of Deb and others from the past, who have claimed that our faith, liturgy, and practice is a living tradition and way of living, and not participation in a Church-club. I have learnt from the ways scripture, tradition, and reason have been lived out here, from the intersections of the communities that have rented space at Messiah, to claiming God's spirit in what have been seen as 'secular' readings. I have been shaped by the faithful practices of a caring and thoughtful community, and it's dedicated and competent Wardens, Vestry, and staff. I have been changed by you, as you have invited, supported, and welcomed me as part of your story, in the pulpit, behind the altar, at the bedside, and even on the beach. Woods Hole for me, is no longer bridge through from ferry to Falmouth, but a bridge deeper into myself, and into the story of God in this place.

I have meditated deeply on bridges for my time here at Messiah. It is a Church between two bridges. You have to cross over or under one of them to get here. Sometimes, it might smell like trolls are under the bridge, other times, we need to stop there are read the words of performance, or pain, or pleasure in the graffiti, and those that transverse that way. The Church being in a place of bridges is not only a practical reality but a rich metaphor. I have come to conclusion, that as Christians we are all called to be bridges of faith, just as shepherds, wise ones, and others were at that first Christmas, and the disciples were in the years to follow. We are called to connect what we do on Sundays, with all the other parts of our lives during the week, as part of the story of God in Woods Hole, Falmouth, and beyond. We don't believe that God is a God for the some, or even the many, but a God that incarnated in love for all people. On this side of life, in a multifaith world, we are not so naive as to think that all people will see that. But we can continue to hope, that in the fullness of time, God's love is the end of the story. At Christmas we see the humble beginnings of this part of the story that has rippled through time.

As we live into the next ripple in time for the Church of the Messiah, we can trust that God continues to be part of this story. We can trust the humble ways we gather, and the earth-shattering mission of which we are a part. We don't need to be anxious about these changes, but to bridge them with hope and anticipation for the next chapter as it unfolds. I am profoundly grateful for my time with you all, and wish you every blessing in the next part of the story of the Church of the Messiah.

May God feed you with God's Grace,
fire you with God's love
confront you with God's justice,
and make you one in the body of Christ
with all who share Christ's gifts of love.

[NZPB=HMOA, p.470.]

Peace always,

Storm+

LINKS TO RON CLARK'S TALK

Ron Clark gave a talk at Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 11th, sharing his journey to here. The Outreach Committee is going to be offering more talks at Coffee Hour from now on as part of a Racial Justice series. If you missed the talk and want to see it, here are the links. The .mp4 is 500MB and the .pdf is 35MB. You will have to download the .mp4 because it's too large for Google to open. The .pdf starts with a photo of Ron giving a talk at the NY Public Library and continues with the document he presented during his talk.

<https://bit.ly/3HCpAHY> .mp4 The video.

<https://bit.ly/3WgdXuf> Ron's Document

The video sound is very faint and you must turn your computer volume to max. We will make that better next time. Problems: email dickyallison39@gmail.com and we will figure it out.

SERVICES IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 1st, 2023

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

Note the change:

*Beginning on Sunday, January 8th, 2023
the service times will be*

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist (In-person)

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist (In person & Virtual)

NEW COURSE ON SUNDAYS – Beginning January 8th, 8:45-9:40 AM

Starting Sunday, January 8, the Rev David Rider explores the spiritual DNA that binds our vision of divine accountability, cosmology, human anthropology, social justice, and postmortem survival as witnessed in the Old and New Testaments. A weekly one-page set of notes will tee up the theme, avoid lecture, and stimulate conversation.

More information and a list of topics was sent separately by e-mail on Monday and a link is in this week's e-mail 'Virtual Worship & Good News'.

Copies can be found on the table in the back of the church and in the office, Mon.-Thur. 10AM – 2 PM.

JANUARY PARISH INTERIM CONVERSATIONS

Building on two December parish conversations, the Rev David Rider will host two additional meetings in January to jump-start 2023. Our meeting times are:

- Thursday, January 5, from 7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82685190772>
- Sunday, January 8, from 11:30-1:00 in our Parish and Community Center

These meetings seek to build community as we share perspectives and listen respectfully to each other. More specifically as an interim exercise, they help us articulate our parish's strengths, challenges and the specific skills we need from our next rector to thrive in the coming years. To what extent do we want to hold down the fort, and to what extent do we re-imagine God's hand at work at the Church of the Messiah? Future rector candidates definitely will want to know our common answer to this question, so let's begin to formulate it now.

Our December meetings began this conversation with insights into liturgy/preaching, models of pastoral care, community outreach, and our relation to the scientific community surrounding us. But more people and perspective deepen our wisdom while clarifying our priorities.

For January, we'll focus the first 45 minutes on big-picture parish culture dynamics and the second half on particular program priorities like adult formation, outreach, and pastoral care.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The newly assigned Search Committee Consultant, Rev. David Rider, has begun his work with the Committee. The Committee has begun to update and inform Rev. Rider of the prior functions and actions of the Committee. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 13th at 5:00 PM.

The Search Committee will continue going forward with analysis of the parish wide survey and building the Parish Profile used by interested applicants.

The Search Committee welcomes the addition of Rev. Rider and his talents and experience to further develop the information and processes in seeking our new rector.

The Search committee members contact information is listed below:

- Rev. David Rider 917-288-0187 david.rider1207@gmail.com - Consultant
- Julia Alling Co-chair 978-257-6331 allingjulia@gmail.com
- Frank Gormley Co-chair 808-291-7018 fxgormley@gmail.com
- Mary Fran Buckley 508-540-0948 maryfran55@earthlink.net
- Debbie Dougherty 774-487-0570 ddough1999@gmail.com
- Jim Galloway 434-249-8629 jng@virginia.edu
- Denise Jay 240-515-1512 djaycc58@gmail.com
- Terry Soares 508-566-5442 mtscapecod@gmail.com
- John Vose 508-548-8251 johntvose@gmail.com
- Steve Wagner 508-548-0971 spcawagner@comcast.net

Thank you for your thoughts and input as we continue the search process.

WOODS HOLE INSIGHT MEDITATION COMMUNITY

The Woods Hole Insight Meditation Community meets every Monday from 3 – 4 PM. The format includes 10 minutes of introductions, 30 minutes of sitting with brief instructions, a 10-minute break for questions and a closing 10 Loving Kindness meditation. Our leaders include people who are experienced meditators and have done some teaching. Due to COVID, the group has been meeting online and recently introduced an in-person masked option. Further information can be found on our website:

www.woodsholeinsightmeditationcommunity.com.

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](#)

December 2022 - January 2023

January 2023							February 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28				
29	30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 25 Christmas Day (United States) 10:00am Holy Eucharist	26 Office Closed	27 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 11:00am WHWC BOD Mtg. 5:00pm Search Comm.	28 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	29 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	30	31 New Year's Eve New Year's Eve (United States)
Jan 1, 23 New Year's Day (United States) 10:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person & Virtual)	2 Office Closed	3 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	4 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	5 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 7:00pm Parish Conversation (Zoom)	6	7 10:00am Memorial Service
8 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 8:45am Sunday Course 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:30am Parish	9 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 5:00pm Vestry mtg. (WH Room)	10 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 11:00am WHWC 5:00pm Search Comm. Mtg.	11 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	12 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	13	14 Memorial Service
15 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 8:45am Sunday Course (PCC) 10:00am Holy Eucharist	16 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	17 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	18 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	19 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	20	21
22 8:00am Holy Eucharist (In-person) 8:45am Sunday Course (PCC) 10:00am Holy Eucharist	23 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	24 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 11:00am WHWC BOD Mtg. 5:00pm Search Comm.	25 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handchime Rehearsal	26 10:00am - 2:00 pm Office Open	27	28

Church of the Messiah

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12/21/2022 1:11 PM

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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