
HOLY HAPPENINGS

April 2021

From the Desk of the Rev. Laurie Rofinot

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” Our modern Easter greeting echoes the words of Mary Magdalene some 2000 years ago: “I have seen the Lord!” She had gone to the tomb where Jesus had been placed, found it empty, and then encountered the Risen Christ himself. “I have seen the Lord!” is what she proclaimed to the disciples (John 20:18). And it has been her testimony, along with that of so many others down through the generations, which help us know the reality of Jesus’ triumph over sin and death, of God’s great love for the world through Christ’s resurrection.

A few years ago our Bishop Alan Gates sent out an Easter message which spoke to my heart about our call to transformation, and sounds about right, just now, during this time of major transition at Church of the Holy Nativity. I share it here with you:

“Framed on my kitchen wall has long been a small watercolor depicting a single brown egg. The shell is lying open, its white interior empty as a winter’s nest. I have tended to think of it simply as a still life painting for the kitchen. But thanks to these words by C. S. Lewis, the painting carries another message: ‘It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for a bird to



Church of the Holy Nativity

OFFICE HOURS

*Mon. thru Fri.
9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

Parish Office 781-335-2030
Interim Priest 617-776-5604

E- Mail:
office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:
www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Laurie Rofinot, Interim

Organist & Choirmaster
Marie-Elise Boyer

Ed Muller, Warden
Ron Russo, Warden
Jim Kimball, Treasurer

Maryann Gurney, Director of
Christian Education
Shirley Devore, Assistant Teacher

Michael McGlynn, Sexton
Deb Robie, Secretary

learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.’ (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)

“Broken and empty places in our lives, like the Empty Tomb itself, are apt to be signs of a new beginning. That is the proclamation of the Resurrection Gospel. The first evidence of Christ’s resurrection is the Empty Tomb. The tomb is empty precisely because somewhere out in the darkness new life has begun! “He is not here, for he is risen.” Perhaps we stand before our broken and empty places with sorrow. But by God’s grace we now stand before them also with hope.

“The Easter Egg is an Empty Tomb, and Easter is its day. The egg has hatched. The bird has flown. The tomb is empty. Christ has been raised. Our empty places manifest endings. Our empty places manifest also new beginnings. Such is the grace of God.

A blessed Feast of the Resurrection to you!”

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates
(April 17, 2019)

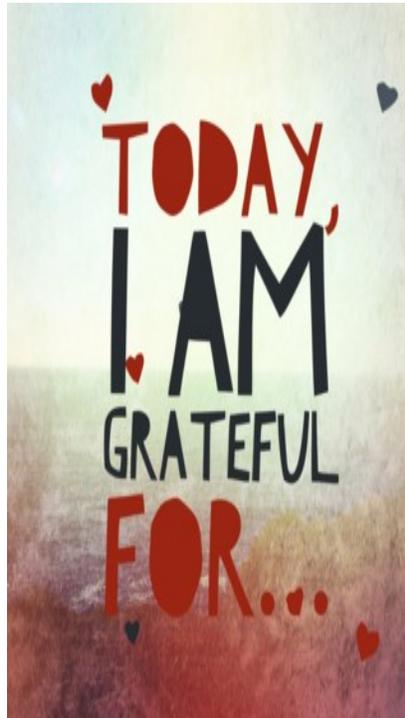
**Gratitude from the Rev.
Laurie Rofinot**

If they haven't happened already, our Holy Week and Easter liturgies promise to be inspirational and uplifting times of worship and praise. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday - these 4 major worship services in 8 days require lots of coordination between several groups and committees.

The **Regathering Committee** organizes all the logistics for safe re-opening of the church, meeting often to ensure all is accounted for - thanks Ron Russo, Heather Hasday, Judy Leamy and the Team!

The **Altar Guild** has lots of work to do to adorn the sanctuary and make it beautiful with several changes of altar and wall hangings, plants and flowers, maintaining altar and Paschal candles and polishing silver and brass to a high gloss. Thank you Dale Critchley, Terry Asher and the Altar Guild, assisted by Jim Kimball! Jim is also the **Tech Team** for each worship service, the steady hand managing everything behind the camera - thanks Jim!

Our **Lay Readers** will be working extra for each of these services and at the moment we have eight who offer their services: Ed Muller, Donna Lucier, Diana



Pet-Sitting/House-Sitting position and/or Room desired for the month of August:

A request has come from a parishioner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brunswick, Maine, for a short-term position or housing opportunity, during her time as an intern at the New England Wildlife Center here in South Weymouth. Emma is 20, a rising college junior, responsible and independent, and will be vaccinated by the summer. Please contact Rev. Laurie if you have something to offer or know of someone who does: LARofinot@aol.com, or 617-776-5604 at home, or 617-335-2994 cell/text.

and Bruce Blakeley-Smith, Steve and Terri Williams, Andrea Ross and Terry Asher. Thank you!

The **Music Committee** is also working long and hard! In addition to selecting and rehearsing lovely anthems on a weekly basis, and three on Easter Sunday, the Committee has been helping me choose hymns for Holy Week and Easter. Judy Leamy, Linda Muller, Andrea Ross, Bruce Blakeley-Smith and Marie-Elise Boyer deserve our hearty thanks.

Finally, none of this would look as coordinated as it is without the faithful work of the **Parish Secretary**, Deb Robie, especially in producing and publishing the worship booklets for 4 major services in a week. Thank you Deb! All in all, this season is a blessing to all (me especially) because of the blessed contributions of so many. I am so grateful!

An Appreciation of the Regathering Committee

Holy Nativity has an exceptionally skilled Regathering Committee: Judy Leamy, Heather Kasday, Terri Williams, Rick Lang, Beryl McFadden, and Pat Demore, and Warden Ron Russo. Working with Rick Collins our Diocesan Regathering Shepherd, they have been working for months to make the church as close to Covid-impervious as is humanly possible!

These are the things they have put in place:

- 1 - UV lights, which scrub the air of pathogens, including Covid, installed in our ventilation system, at significant cost
- 2 - ceiling fans directing air upward into the ventilation system
- 3 - hand sanitizing equipment everywhere: mounted battery powered dispensers, boxes with wipes, spray bottles and paper towels
- 4 - extra masks and gloves on hand
- 5 - pews marked and taped off to allow for distanced seating; taped lines every 6 feet through the aisles
- 6 - trained group of Regathering Ushers to direct traffic, keep people distanced, wipe surfaces down, maintain safe practices
- 7 - sign-in sheets used for contact tracing
- 8 - a forehead thermometer to screen for elevated temperature
- 9 - a strict system in place used for outdoor worship with distanced seating (in place last Fall until the weather turned)
- 10 - a strict system, in current occasional use, of indoor Zoom worship followed by one-way walk-through no-contact Communion
- 11 - trained Altar Guild members who prepare communion wafers in tiny cups on large trays, for no-contact Communion

12 - all worship leaders masked and distanced with individual cameras trained on each, managed by our Zoom host

13 - a plan for Palm Sunday (outdoor and/or indoor) and Easter Sunday (indoor worship). Easter includes 3 services offered by invitation,

and those without computer access call the office to sign up; detailed seating plans to allow for family "pods" at safe distances;

worship that will be brief but joyful, with masked parishioners humming along to beloved Easter hymns; and a plan for safe entry and exits.

Whew! This group of thoughtful, well-prepared faithful parishioners deserves our Thanks and Praise! They are getting us safely through the pandemic, and have made Holy Week and Easter worship possible! Yay! Thanks be to God!

Warden's Report

As it was in our last few articles, once again there is little new to report. We are, however, pleased to announce that there will be indoor services for Easter Sunday. The Regathering Committee and the Executive Committee have been hard at work planning this event. The Regathering Committee in concert with the Diocese has worked diligently in order to create and provide a safe environment for our parishioners. Reverend Laurie has been in contact with the Bishops office, and after listening to her, they gave our church permission to open our doors for Easter Sunday services. I ask that you please read all associated emails from the church office with regard to upcoming Holy week activities.

Spring is upon us and we will need waterers along with Garden Angels to tend the church grounds. More upcoming information will

Search News

Not much to update you on since the last report as we continue to meet (ZOOM) every week discussing the Parish Profile that is being written. As you read this article we are probably now reviewing the draft and making edits/changes to the text to prepare it to submit to our Regional Canon for approval. Simultaneously we are also working on the forms to be posted with the Office of Transitional Ministries to post our opening for a new rector at Holy Nativity.

We look at April to be another big step in the search process when these items get approved and posted. To that end, I have been asked to hold a "Fireside Chat" on Saturday, April 24th at 5pm in order to talk about where we are at that time and what to expect as we move forward in the search process. I hope you will be able to attend as I can explain how this search process has differed from those in the past and a glimpse into the future.

As always, the committee appreciates all of your support and prayers. Peace to you.

On behalf of the Search Committee, respectfully submitted by,

Steve Williams
Committee Chair

Vestry

The next Vestry meeting will be Wednesday, **April 21** at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Cont. from page 3 Wardens Report

soon be provided on this subject.

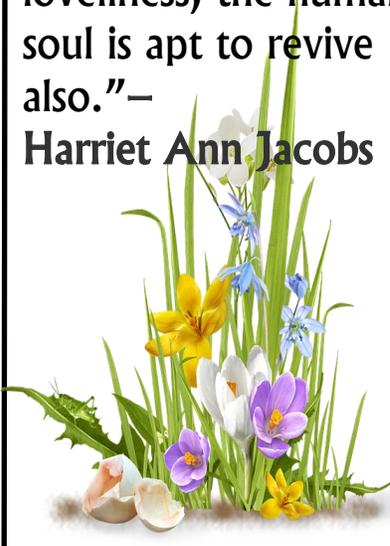
The winter storms were tough on our church properties and some tree removal is required to keep the property safe. Some of the aging trees next to the rectory will require the attention of professional tree services, along with removal of some of those trees that are in serious condition.

Luminaries -

“Congratulations and Hats Off” to Maryann Gurney and Company for the presentation of such a beautiful display of “Love and Light”.

“The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.”—

Harriet Ann Jacobs



The Walk for Sharing, Inc.

To my supportive parishioners,

I will be walking again on Good Friday for SHARING, Inc., and this year I will fortunately be in Florida where my son lives!

If you would like to give a little to the cause, you may leave a check made out to the Kemetic Institute with Deb at the church and I will pick it up and deliver to Kay Doherty after Easter.

Thank you so much!

God Bless!

Shirley Hayes

Kemetic Institute

Founded in 1992 and located in Mound Bayou MS, the site of the original Co-op that inspired the first Good Friday Walk in 1972, the Institute was founded by Attorney Alma “Chris” Campbell, a member of the extraordinary Luther and Annyce Campbell family.

Through its programs, services, and special projects, including field trips, the Institute has touched the lives of thousands of young people promoting the connection between self-esteem and cultural awareness as a means of achieving positive outcomes. In addition, the Institute advocates, connects and strengthens youth ties to their communities by encouraging community service projects.

Sunday School

March was a busy month! The Sunday school would like to thank all the people who supported and donated to the St. Patrick's Day Drive By – Food Drive. Not only did we have music, dancing, costumes, and fun in a socially distanced safe way, but we collected A LOT of food that was delivered to the Weymouth Food Pantry for which they were extremely grateful. We were learning about Jesus and his disciples and how he made them "Fishers of Men". Having the Food Drive was a tangible way for the children to know that they are disciples of Jesus and that by helping others they are walking in his footsteps. We also had a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon of kite flying at Union Point. Fifteen children and various family members had a great time flying kites despite the fact there was not much wind! The lesson was "Jesus Lifts Us Up" and he certainly did that afternoon!

During the month of April we will be discussing Earth Day and being good stewards of the Earth. Although the Community

Sunday School Cont..

Garden will not be planted with vegetables this year, the Sunday school will plant sunflowers in the Community Garden. We will learn that just as the sunflowers face the sun to grow, we need to turn our faces toward the Son of God and to follow His light to live a happy, purposeful life.

There will be no Sunday school on April 4th Easter Sunday.

Book Club

The Book Club members are reading *The Last Romantics* by Tara Conklin. It is a story of four siblings. Their father unexpectedly dies when they are young children, their mother goes into a deep depression and the four siblings learn to survive on their own. In doing so, they form a deep, unbreakable bond amongst themselves.

Told through a retrospective lens, the tales of these four carry an almost mythological weight, and Conklin's wise, sharp prose makes this book the sort you want to press into the hands of someone you love as soon as you finish.



**As a Parish,
We pray for:**

Anne, Aaron, Audrey, Bertha, Brian, Carly, Carol, Christine, Cindy, Claire S., Corinne, Denise, Dot, Dot D., Ed, Eleanor, Elie, Eliza and Family, Ernie, Ewen & Pat MacDonald, Frank, Fredrick, Grover, Hazel Brunelle, Helen Holbrook, Helen, Steven M Haley, James Schofield, Jessica, John Murphy, John, Joan, Billie Greene & family, Judy Ridge, Julie, Kathleen, Katie, Kelly M., Liz, Marcia, Matt, Maureen, Maureen Doyle, Merieme, Mim, Myrtle Perkins, Nancy Crosby, Nancy Mermet, Nate, Paige, Pat and her family, Patty, Phyllis Collari, Ray Clark, Roberta, Rocky, Ruth K., Shirley, Sophia, Tim, and Tommy L.

Note from Jim Kimball....

Thank you for your continued pledge commitment during these most trying times of COVID19. We are so grateful for your generous giving to support Holy Nativity. As we slowly start to regather, your pledge support now is even more important. We are currently behind our budget for pledging, so please, if you can, catch up to you pledge commitment. Your pledge is a tangible expression of a strengthened commitment and connection to God, to one another and our church.
Stay Well



INCOME	FEB	YTD	YTD	Budget 2021
PLATE OFFERING	-	100.00	100.00	5,000.00
PLEDGE	7,280.00	8,371.00	15,651.00	100,000.00
PROPERTY USAGE	2,315.00	5,005.00	7,320.00	30,000.00
SPECIAL DAYS & OFFERING	70.00	25.00	95.00	2,500.00
SPECIAL EVENTS	56.00	-	56.00	16,000.00
Total	9,721.00	13,501.00	23,222.00	153,500.00
MUSIC FUND	-	97.00	97.00	
INT. & DIV. INCOME	7.61	312.37	319.98	
SPECIAL PURPOSE	770.00	15,730.00	16,500.00	
totals	10,498.61	29,640.37	40,138.98	

DISBURSEMENTS	FEB	YTD	YTD	Budget 2021
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-	-	-	200.00
CLERGY PENSION POOL	689.52	3,447.60	4,137.12	8,274.24
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	-	-	-	13,034.00
ELECTRICITY	-	542.77	542.77	6,000.00
EQUITY ACCOUNT	-	-	-	-
GAS	1,052.18	-	1,052.18	7,000.00
GEN. PARISH	23.36	-	23.36	700.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	-	2,232.50	2,232.50	9,500.00
GENERAL MAINT.	50.94	55.97	106.91	750.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	311.20	35.00	346.20	3,734.52
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	500.00	500.00	1,000.00	6,000.00
MAINT. CONTRACTS	-	-	-	-
MUSIC SUP: SUB ORGANIST	-	75.00	75.00	500.00
MUSIC SUPPLIES	-	-	-	300.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	324.72	-	324.72	2,000.00
OUTREACH	-	-	-	200.00
PRINTING & BULLETINS	149.59	177.59	327.18	2,000.00
SALARY: CLERGY	3,330.66	3,330.66	6,661.32	39,968.00
SALARY:ASSIST. CLERGY	-	-	-	-
SALARY: DIR. OF MUSIC	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	12,000.00
SALARY: SECRETARY	850.00	890.00	1,740.00	11,160.00
SALARY: SEXTON	720.00	720.00	1,440.00	8,640.00
SALARY:DIR. OF CHRISTIAN ED	444.46	444.46	888.92	4,000.00
SEARCH COMMITTEE	-	-	-	2,000.00
SPECIAL EVENT EXP.	-	-	-	-
STEWARDSHIP	-	-	-	400.00
STOKES LOAN	207.65	207.65	415.30	2,491.80
TAXES	644.80	773.03	1,417.83	2,500.00
(less withheld taxes)	(436.88)	(417.81)	(854.69)	
TEL. TV & INTERNET	-	264.64	264.64	2,500.00
TRASH	-	119.00	119.00	1,400.00
TRAVEL	-	-	-	1,000.00
WATER	-	-	-	1,500.00
Sub Totals	9,862.20	14,398.06	24,260.26	149,752.56
SPECIAL OFF. UTOW		-	-	
SPECIAL PURPOSE	865.00	2,369.04	3,234.04	
Totals	10,727.20	16,767.10	27,494.30	

From the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Pastoral Letter on addressing violence against people of Asian decent.

March 19, 2021

The shootings in Atlanta this week are yet one more manifestation of violent hatred and racism in our nation. While details of the tragedy will yet emerge, any attempt to avoid confronting the racist dimension of these attacks ignores the toxic intersection of racism with misogyny, xenophobia, and the epidemic of gun violence.

Asians and Asian-Americans have faced violence and racism in America since the mid-19th century, from patterns of horrific vigilante attacks, to exclusionary immigration policies, to forced camp internment. A recent wave of anti-Asian violence and hate crimes has been unleashed, targeting women and the elderly, in particular. Inflammatory language normalized by political leaders has scapegoated Asians during the pandemic, with hate speech inevitably leading to violence.

We decry this normalization of hate speech, as we decry all forms of verbal and physical violence manifesting racism. We call upon all members of our diocese to rededicate ourselves to the work of anti-racism and genuine transformation.

Last month both of us participated in a joyous celebration of Chinese New Year, led by members of our longstanding Chinese congregation at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Our life together is enriched by the presence of that congregation, as well as the clergy and lay people of Asian descent throughout our diocese. We rejoice that they are a part of us, and we a part of them. On behalf of our diocese, we stand with them and with all people of Asian and Pacific descent in this moment of vulnerability and grief.

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan

From the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Declaration of Climate Emergency

March 23, 2021

Dear People of the Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts,

With the advent of spring, our thoughts turn with renewed gratitude to the great gift of God's creation. "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

Our thoughts turn also to the devastation of that created order which continues to unfold around us. With the prophet we ask, "How long will the land mourn, and the grass of every field wither? For the wickedness of those who live in it the animals and the birds are swept away." (Jeremiah 12:4)

Each year on Ash Wednesday we offer the Litany of Penitence, decriing "our self-indulgent appetites and ways, ... our waste and pollution of (God's) creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us." (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 268) In our stewardship of God's creation, we are thus called into the fullness of gratitude, repentance, and amendment of our lives.

What follows is a Declaration of Climate Emergency by your bishops. We urge you to read it thoroughly, thoughtfully, and prayerfully, receiving it as both challenge and invitation, and responding with commitment, in the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Please go to Diomass.org to see the full declaration*)

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher,
Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates,
Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris,
Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Massachusetts

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

On **Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 7:00 PM**, there will be a Zoom Communion service with homily, with Marie-Elise's piano music and Judy Leamy's anthem, Purcell's "Man that is born of a woman." The service will end with the Stripping of the Altar, accompanied by meditative singing. ***Look for the email Zoom link, to be sent prior to this service.***

On **Good Friday, April 2nd at 7:00 PM**, there will be a quieter, more meditative service (no music) on Zoom. We will offer the Good Friday Proper Liturgy, with Stations of the Cross from Mary's Perspective, led by Terry Asher. ***Look for the email Zoom link, to be sent prior to this service.***

Every morning throughout Holy Week - Monday, March 29th through Friday, April 2, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon - the church sanctuary will be open for **quiet, individual, socially-distanced in-person prayer**, we hope accompanied by piped-in music. Regathering ushers will be on hand to guide people if needed. If anyone would like to offer an **individual Confession** during that time, Rev. Laurie would be happy to hear it - please contact her by the previous evening via email or home phone: LARofinot@aol.com or 617-776-5604. ***No online invitation is necessary to participate in these offerings, just come to the church between 9:30AM and noon.***

Holy Nativity welcomes you to join the church in person on Easter Sunday, 4 April, 2021 at one of the following services: 8am, 10am, and 12pm.

On **April 4th, Easter Sunday, the Feast of the Resurrection**, Holy Nativity welcomes you to join the church community for in-person worship in the church. There will be 3 services, at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 PM. We will offer socially-distanced Communion, and are planning for an anthem by our gifted singers at each service, as well as festive hymns for a few to sing and the rest to hum joyfully together. Attendance is by invitation only, via Evite, as we need to limit the number of people indoors at the same time. For those without computers/email, please call Deb Robie at the church office: 781-335-2030. She will make sure you are added to the invitation list.

Please register here to attend in person one of our three Easter Sunday worship services:

8:00 AM:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holy-nativity-church-easter-service-8am-tickets-145772153435>

10:00 AM: FULL only taking wait list

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holy-nativity-church-easter-service-10am-tickets-146187036361>

12:00 AM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holy-nativity-church-easter-service-12pm-tickets-146191293093>

The church continues to follow Covid 19 guidelines and each service has a limited number of seats available due to social distancing. Each attendee (including additional family members) is asked to register for the service of their choice with the Eventbrite links above or call the church (see number above) to reserve a seat or seats. If the service of your choice is full please choose another service.

If you do not register for a service but arrive in person the church may not be able to admit you so early registration is encouraged.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you.

Many blessings to all,
Rev. Laurie and the Regathering Committee

HOLY HAPPENINGS

Church of the Holy Nativity
8 Nevin Road
South Weymouth, MA 02190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED
March 29, 2021

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Mission Statement

The family of the Church of the Holy Nativity is called to be a caring community, committed to spiritual development; encouraging growth in each member's personal relationship with God, through Christ; by providing educational opportunities for youth and adults as well as Christian Formation for all, going forth to share God's message of love and forgiveness.



Important Dates

Vestry meeting
April 21 at 7PM
via Zoom

No Sunday School
Easter Sunday
April 4th

Next Fireside Chat
via Zoom
Saturday, April 24th
at 5:00 with Steve Williams.