



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# *The Trinitarian*

December 2020

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## A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

We usually begin Advent with the challenge to avoid the lure of holiday shopping and the frantic preparations for holiday parties and gift-giving. But this year, the challenge will be different. The challenge this year might be to accept that what we can give is enough, and that time spent apart from the people we love will deepen relationships we may have taken for granted. Most important, perhaps, at a time when the headlines warn us of a dark and difficult future, we may be more open to the promise of a midnight star.

With this promise comes a quiet excitement, a tentative stirring of our hearts, a glimpse of unlimited and unexpected possibility.

By the light of this star, we clear away the clutter in our hearts—  
our doubts and fears about the future  
our attachment to what other people think  
our fantasy of what the holidays *should* be  
our illusions about what perfect families do  
our resentments, our regrets, our failures.

By the light of this star, we see the Christ waiting to be born in each person, and in our own hearts. A new lightness of being, awe at the exquisite beauty of the ordinary. And with the wonder of newborn faith, we say the words that God has been waiting to hear from the beginning of time . . . *Welcome, Beloved One.*

### ***The Star Signal* by Andrew King**

*Not every journey toward the Christ  
starts like the magi's in darkness,  
but there might come  
a time when, in the empty hours  
of an otherwise unremarkable night,  
you have happened to look up at the usual sky,  
and noticed, almost by accident, between*

*passages of gray beasts of slow-moving cloud  
the bright bloom of a strange star flowering,*

*and something begins to open a little  
somewhere beneath your skin,  
as if that new wedge of light in the sky  
had inserted itself into your soul,  
not enough to cause you any hurt, but just  
enough that you feel a pang, the twinge  
of something like longing, as if your eyes  
in the silence have become ears  
in the darkness, and you are hearing  
a holy summons,  
distant but ringing like a silver trumpet  
in the chambers of your listening heart.*

*Mother Judith+*

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## DURING THIS TIME – ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

### The Sundays in Advent

Our worship will continue on Zoom throughout the winter.

For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will include Holy Communion that you can share at home.

<b>November 29</b>	<b>Advent 1</b>	Commissioning of Liturgical Ministers
<b>December 6</b>	<b>Advent 2</b>	Youth readers. A Visit from St. Nicholas
<b>December 13</b>	<b>Advent 3</b>	Prayers for the Christmas season during the pandemic
<b>December 22</b>	<b>Advent 4</b>	Vestry discussion
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD</b>	
	We will have ONE Service of Holy Communion with carols on Zoom @ 4pm	
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD</b>	
	We will have ONE Service of Holy Communion on Zoom @ 9 am	
<b>December 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The First Sunday after Christmas:</b>	
	A Service of Lessons & Carols on Zoom @ 9am	
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	An Ecumenical Service of Evensong for the New Year @ 6 pm	
<b>Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Epiphany Sunday:</b>	
	A Christmas Pageant on Zoom @ 9 am	

### Deanery Blue Christmas Service

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM: The Rev. Laura Goodwin, Officiant</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM: The Rev. Deacon Beth Washburn, Officiant</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7 PM: The Rev. Judith Lee, Officiant</b>

### How are we Preparing for New Ministry?

- ✓ The Profile Committee is writing the Parish Profile, to be presented to the Vestry in February 2021

- ✓ The Property Committee is exploring ways to make air filtration in the sanctuary safe for indoor worship in the long term.
- ✓ A Vestry Committee is exploring ways to improve virtual worship and to prepare for livestreaming worship after we return to in-person worship
- ✓ The Community Meals Team continues to serve meals every Thursday and we have received grants from the Worcester Community Food Bank and from the Milford Lions Club.
- ✓ Fridays @ Noon Bible Study will resume in January
- ✓ Sacred Ground will continue in January beginning on **January 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

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## THE JESSE TREE 2020



There will be a Jesse Tree this year, but it will be a bit different. The deadlines are earlier because the gifts must be quarantined at the church for two weeks before distribution. As you read this, the deadline for requesting items has passed, and now it is time for fulfilling those requests. Instead of a tree with tags, there will be a Sign-Up Genius for parishioners to sign up for the items. When you click on the link, which is in the

Thursday e-news, it will bring you to the signup. Select the item(s) and enter your name and email address (email addresses will not show). You can select more than one item if you wish.

Items should not be wrapped, and they can be dropped off at the church Monday - Thursday between 10:30am and 1:00pm. There will be a box at the bottom of the stairs for Jesse Tree items. If you select a gift card, please place it in an envelope and drop it off in the Mission Committee folder outside Mother Judith's office. Please put a note on the item with your name so that the Mission Committee will be able to match up the item from the sign-up with the family requesting the item. The deadline for dropping off items is 3pm on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> (there will be someone at the church on **December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 3** to receive items).

If you have any questions regarding the item(s) you sign up for, please contact Maryellen Yaroshefski ([ayaroshefski@yahoo.com](mailto:ayaroshefski@yahoo.com)).

Thank you!

*The Trinity Mission Committee*



Thank you for placing your orders online! We are doing well, but we need to advertise more widely by sharing with our friends and on our Facebook pages.

Items and takeout lunches can be picked up at Trinity on Saturday **December 5<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 1pm**. Our *12 Days of Christmas Fair Raffle* is a new take on our usual raffle table. One ticket, for \$10, qualifies you to win all the big prizes for a drawing every day for 12 days-December 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. If you prefer to sell paper tickets to your family and friends, please call Ann Marie Lockwood at 508-981-

5223 and she will get you as many as you like! We are looking for volunteers to make deliveries and help with pick-ups on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact Gayle Ruscitti [jrgrrus@yahoo.com](mailto:jrgrrus@yahoo.com). **Please spread the word!**

Thank you,

*Gayle Ruscitti and Mary Ellen Yaroshiefski*



## ROMEOs LUNCHEONS

The Romeo's lunch group will meet on Zoom at 12:30 on Friday, **December 11, 2020**. Mother Judith will send a computer link over email when we get closer to that actual date. If you would like to attend, please contact Dave Clinkman at [clinkman@comcast.net](mailto:clinkman@comcast.net) or 508-634-8996 by Wednesday, December 9. Romeos is a social group for retired men and other men who wish to join us at lunch time.

JULIETs luncheons will resume when we are able to meet indoors at a restaurant. Please contact Pat Keppler for further information.

## A REFLECTION ON STEWARDSHIP

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer. [19:14]*

To be God's faithful steward requires that we all be cheerful givers. We are only stewards of that which God has given us. So, we must be:

- Vigilant
- Givers of our time
- Givers of our faith in Him
- Givers to our families, and to our community and to all those souls who, when we look at them, we see God's light in them.

We must be God's light to all those we meet, even if their faith is different from our own.

*There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard!* [Psalm 19:3]

God made us in His image so that when I look around, I see Him in all things.

*O Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever!* [Psalm 107:1]

Trinity's image in the community is of a giving church that supports the people in its community: through outreach, ministering to the sick, and joining other Houses of Faith so we can enrich many more lives than those we can reach out and touch by ourselves.

We support families through giving food and clothes donations, with donations that provide some assistance with laundry, and we provide support to the homeless. Through this, we show God's providence and stewardship with His people.

These aspects of stewardship--faith, support, love and ministry--enable us to mirror those qualities of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and they encourage us to go forward with a message of hope and love consistently.

Give of yourself, be it in service or monetarily, lending a helping hand to those in need as you travel the path on which God has enabled us to travel.

*Let us all magnify the Lord for He is worthy to be praised. Hosanna, Hosanna, Blessed be the Rock of our Salvation. Amen.*

*--Valerie and Stephen King*

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## A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

With the holidays fast approaching, I've been thinking about Thanksgiving and about giving thanks. Like many of you, I've had to accept that Thanksgiving and Christmas will be celebrated without a lot of family and friends gathering together. Parties, visits, theater productions, caroling, and church services will be curtailed. When we do get together, we'll be doing it virtually. That just doesn't feel like the holidays as I've experienced them and at first, I felt dispirited about the whole thing.

But as I continued to consider the changes that are the new reality, I decided that I was looking at things the wrong way. Instead of focusing on what was missing, I needed to focus on what I had. What do I have to be thankful for in this time of a terrible pandemic?

Well, thus far, my extended family and most of my friends are healthy and free of coronavirus. I may not be able to celebrate with all of them, but I live comfortably, and I can still decorate my house and enjoy those decorations without having to worry about paying the rent or mortgage. I may feel that it's a nuisance to wait in line to get into a grocery store, but I don't have to worry about not having an income to buy food. I may not be able to go anywhere, but I don't have to worry about not having a reliable car if I need it. I may not be able to attend church and be with my fellow parishioners, but I can join with them virtually to share prayer and conversation. I may feel a sense of isolation at times, but I can pick up my phone and call or text or facetime and be connected. I'm not alone, just at a distance.

So, what can I do to show my thanks for all my blessings? Because of my age and health issues, I'm reluctant to take part in many activities in person. However, I can make my contribution virtually and share in the various aspects of community that make up Trinity Church, whether Morning Prayer, Vestry, Bible Study, or Coffee Hour. More importantly I can make a pledge, a financial contribution to support the work and ministry of Trinity. My pledge is a way of expressing my thanks for being a part of the Trinity community and a means of sharing my resources with those who need them.

I hope that you too have much to be thankful for in this challenging time.

*Ginny Starkis*  
Senior Warden

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## NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<p>We are ahead in income by \$23,311 and underspent by \$14,152, putting us ahead about \$37,000. A large Faith Funding donation covers some delinquent pledges. We should anticipate considerably less Christmas Fair income than the \$14,000 budgeted.</p> <p>The proposed budget for full funding in 2021 is \$226,744. This is about 20K less than 2019, the last year with a full-time Rector.</p> <p>There was an unexpected expense for a big leak from the dishwasher that caused a small flood. Repairs are underway!</p> <p>A motion was approved to spend up to \$2,000 on technology related to live streaming, with the understanding that it will be reimbursed through a Diocesan grant. We will need someone to operate the equipment.</p>
<b>Stewardship Campaign</b>	<p>Stewardship Chair Kevin Keppler spoke. As of November 13<sup>th</sup>, we have received pledges from 21 families totaling just over \$37,000. An email will be sent highlighting how to pledge online.</p>
<b>Warden's Report</b>	<p>Mother Judith, Ginny Starkis, Beth Stochaj, and Mary Johnson attended Diocesan Convention virtually. Ginny encouraged listening to the Bishop's ten-minute address that has been linked to our Website. (The text is also available to read.) A new diocesan Mission was approved for the Latino Community operating out of St. Mark's in Worcester. A new initiative called "Good News Gardens" is being started encouraging parishes to start gardens to grow food for the food-insecure.</p>
<b>Community Meals</b>	<p>We distribute a minimum of 75 meals every Thursday. We will discontinue with giving out groceries and donate our supplies to the Milford Food Pantry. We received a donation of food staples from the Bose cafeterias that are closing. Three grant applications are in progress to provide funding through the winter months. Justin Varteresian and Dave Scott are preparing Thanksgiving dinner for delivery &amp; pickup. Glen Peterson is negotiating with Johnny Jacks to get vouchers for breakfast during Christmas week to distribute to the Grab N' Go community.</p>

<b>Christmas Fair</b>	<p>The website for the Christmas Fair went online early last week. We have had 12 orders for \$471 as of November 13<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Parishioners need to share the link with friends and family asking them to support the fair.</p>
<b>Profile Committee</b>	<p>Parish meetings have been taking place and information is being compiled by the committee, which meets every Thursday evening. The Website has been expanded so that all parish activities, events, and ministries have been described. The Profile Committee has a layout in progress for the written Profile document. Special thanks to Grace Prevelige and Brandon Kee for running a great meeting for the youth.</p>
<b>Advent Activities for Families</b>	<p>Sarah Prevelige talked about family activities associated with Christmas preparation such as decorating an Advent Wreath or Advent Calendar to celebrate the season. Advent Baskets are being put together to assist families with these activities: kits for projects to be done together along with prayers to be said together. There will be a video with each activity.</p>
<b>Leadership 2020</b>	<p>We need to fill several Vestry positions in January, including Senior and Junior Warden. Several Vestry members are willing to run again, but several must step off because of term limits. This is an important year as the 2021 vestry will select our new rector. The wardens will work closely with him/her.</p>
<b>Mother Judith's Report</b>	<p>Mother Judith is working on Christmas Services. There will be a virtual Family Service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve. Lighting of the candles and singing of <i>Silent Night</i> will be included. She would also like to have a virtual Christmas Pageant. There will be a COVID-friendly Jesse Tree that Mary-Ellen and the Mission Committee are working on.</p> <p>Mother Judith is working on a new format for the weekly email.</p>



Dwight Kee for cleaning up the minor flood from the dishwasher leak.

Grace Prevelige and Brandon Kee for hosting a virtual meeting with the young people of the parish to share their thoughts on a new rector.

Randy Bloom and Jeff Lukas for providing our Sunday morning music.

Ann Marie Lockwood, Wayne Stochaj, and Kevin Keppler for their technological support for Sunday Morning Prayer.

Mary-Ellen Yaroshefski and Cathy Ellis for preparing the altar for our 8am service

Rachel Carpenter for her direction and guidance with online Sunday School.

Sarah Prevelige for developing an Advent program for our families.

Wayne Stochaj, Kim Stochaj, and Maddie Stochaj for many hours of work developing our new website.

Charlie Johnson and Touie Jackson for their weekly visits as stewards of the offering.

Glen Peterson, Patricia Peterson, Ruth Warner, Alice Jacobson, Dwight Kee, and Mother Judith for their ongoing work providing meals for those in need.

Mary-Ellen Yaroshefski for creating a virtual Jesse Tree.

Dave Scott and Justin Varteresian for organizing and providing Thanksgiving dinners for those in need.

The Profile Committee, Leigh Martin, Dave Clinkman, Mary Beth Sweet, and Peach Warren, for all their work putting together the profile for the rector search.

Gayle Ruscitti and Mary Ellen Yaroshefski for putting together a virtual Christmas Fair.

Mother Judith for her guidance and hard work in keeping Trinity going through a difficult time.

The Stewardship Committee, Kevin Keppler, Pat Keppler, Valerie King, Beth Moeller, and Susan Edmondson for leading the stewardship campaign.

All of you who have provided financial support through your pledges and special donations to keep our ministries alive and vibrant.

*--Valerie and Stephen King*

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## CREATION CARE TIPS

This "Covid Christmas" offers a good opportunity for eco-friendly shopping and gift-wrapping. Be creative with wrapping paper that is recyclable. Make bows from ribbon and string. Deliver gifts rather than mailing them. Give gifts for the environment: Plant a tree in someone's name, or name a star; give a gift of seeds, flowers, or plants that someone can watch grow during the coming months. Donate to non-profit organization in someone's name.

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## SACRED GROUND

I was delighted when I attended Diocesan Convention on Zoom and the Bishop announced that there are several churches in the Diocese that have started Sacred Ground groups. He sounded happy. I am proud that Trinity, Milford is one of the churches that has started a group! Our Sacred Ground has participants from our congregation joining with members of United Parish of Upton and St. Matthew's in Worcester. We gather on Zoom in two separate groups. We have our Sunday afternoon group and our Tuesday evening group (like 8 o'clockers and 10 o'clockers), they both gather to worship, but kind of keep to their own). The Sunday group and the Tuesday group are separate but address the same questions. Each group has set its own guidelines for how the group would like to "be-together". Everyone has agreed that this is not so much a "safe" space to speak freely, as it is a "courageous" space to speak freely. It takes courage to talk deeply and honestly about race and social justice in our society and in our own lives. These are difficult topics. We also all agreed to confidentiality within each group. The conversations that come out in this environment are rich and thought-provoking.

Before we meet, we individually read assigned readings and watch assigned videos. We are assigned chapters from two different books. One is *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman and the other is *Waking Up White and finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. The videos and written articles to read are found on the Sacred Ground website. When we gather together, we discuss our thoughts and feelings about what we have read and seen. We look at recent American history as well as world history from as early as the 1300s. We talk about different cultures and how the labels we use when we talk about race were developed. Each group is unique because we all have our own life experiences, our own relationships, and our own individual perspective on what we were taught and what we have learned in life.

We plan to meet five times before Thanksgiving and then to resume after the New Year for five more meetings. We have had a few people drop out, mostly because they are too busy to devote the time to the homework. The folks that continue to participate have expressed appreciation of all that we are learning and for the conversations that we have had. I know I have enjoyed looking at history from a completely different perspective than I ever did when I was in school. It has been eye-opening. The feedback I have received from people who are participating makes me think we will be starting new groups for studying Sacred Ground in the future. I think more people will want to have these kinds of deep, open, thought-provoking conversations.

Respectfully,

*Mary Johnson*

participant and co-facilitator

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## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We will meet on the first Sunday of every month @ 7 pm on Zoom.  
Watch for more information about our **December 6<sup>th</sup>** meeting

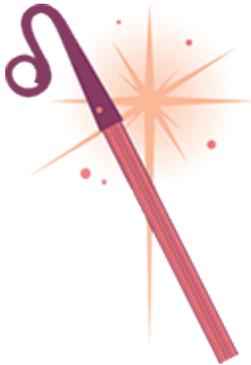
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## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Three long-standing members of Trinity have moved! Margaret Myatt has moved to Kennebunkport, Maine, Peggy-Ann Berube has moved to Charlton, and Dianne Belamarich has moved to the Cape. Although they will stay in touch by mail and email, we wish them well in their new adventures. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like their addresses or phone numbers.

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## A SACRED SUMMARY



The simple shepherds  
heard the voice of an angel  
and found their Lamb;  
the wise men  
saw the light of a star  
and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen

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## A FRESH LOOK

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*

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NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the January edition of *The Trinitarian* is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter. All articles should be sent to: [news@trinitychurchmilford.org](mailto:news@trinitychurchmilford.org).

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**From the Editor**

While 2020 has been a year of sorrow and hardship for many, there is much to be grateful for. I for one am happy to be alive and sitting here typing this. I am grateful for my family and friends; however physically distant they are. Take comfort in small things during this holiday season. Happy Holidays to all!

*Elizabeth Kfisiewicz, Editor*  
[news@trinitychurchmilford.org](mailto:news@trinitychurchmilford.org)

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Worship Schedule	Wednesday, 10am Sunday, 9am

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