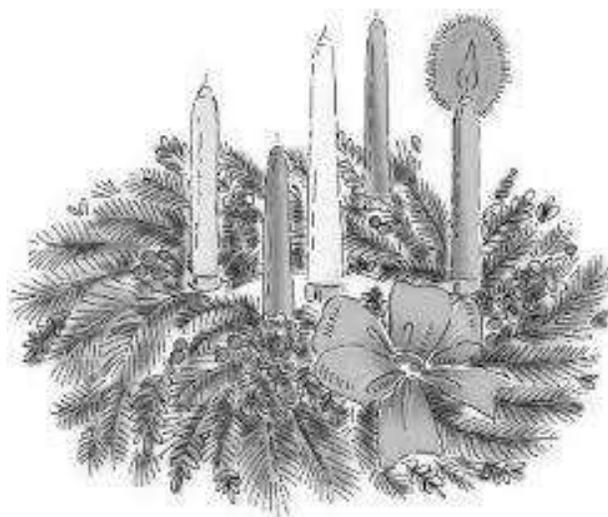


**Church of the Messiah  
Woods Hole, Massachusetts**

**A Liturgy of Morning Prayer  
First Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 2020**



## Welcome

## Opening Hymn 57 "Lo, he comes with clouds descending"

Helmsley



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

## Opening Sentences

Watch , for you know not when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. (*Mark 13:35, 36*)

- *Book of Common Prayer (1979)* p. 75

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite."  
 (*Isaiah 57:15*)

- *Ibid.* p.78

**The Third Song of Isaiah** *Surge, illuminare*  
*Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.

- *Ibid*, p. 87-88

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

**Second Reading**      **A reading from “Little Gidding” from *the Four Quartets* by T S Eliot**

What we call the beginning is often the end  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from.

. . .

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this  
Calling

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.  
Through the unknown, remembered gate  
When the last of earth left to discover  
Is that which was the beginning;  
At the source of the longest river  
The voice of the hidden waterfall

And the children in the apple-tree  
Not known, because not looked for  
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness  
Between two waves of the sea.  
Quick now, here, now, always—  
A condition of complete simplicity  
(Costing not less than everything)  
And all shall be well and  
All manner of thing shall be well  
When the tongues of flame are in-folded  
Into the crowned knot of fire  
And the fire and the rose are one.

- T. S. Eliot, *The Complete Poems and Plays 1909-1950*. New York:  
Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc. 1962. Pp. 144-145

### Third Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

### Profession of faith

Leader	We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.
All	<b>In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.</b>
Leader	We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and humanity.
All	<b>In Christ God is breathing, in Christ God is living, through Christ we are reconciled.</b>

Leader We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.  
All **In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.**

Leader We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.  
All **In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.**

- *written Per Harling, adapted by DMW*

## The Prayers

### The Lord's Prayer

### Collect for the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### A Prayer for the Morning

God,  
you are our beginning and you will be our end;  
we are made in your image and likeness.  
We praise and thank you for this day.  
This is the day on which you created light  
and saw that it was good.  
This is the day in whose early morning light  
we discovered the tomb was empty,  
and encountered Christ, the world's true light.  
This is the day you have made;  
we shall rejoice and be glad in it. *Amen.*

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 106

### Prayer for the Absent

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We pray that you graciously behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 830

### **For those who are sick**

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 461

### **Prayer for the Baptized**

Heavenly Creator, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace. Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

- *Ibid.* p. 308 *adapted by DMW*

### **For Young Persons**

God our Creator, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *Ibid.*, p. 829 *adapted by DMW*

### **For Quiet Confidence**

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God. This, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 832

### **A Prayer attributed to St. Francis**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

- *Ibid*, p. 833

### **Concluding Collect**

God of peace,  
let us your people know,  
that at the heart of turbulence  
there is an inner calm that comes  
from faith in you.  
Keep us from being content with things as they are,  
that from this central peace  
there may come a creative compassion,  
a thirst for justice,  
and a willingness to give of ourselves  
in the spirit of Christ.  
*Amen.*

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 464

### **Concluding Sentences**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia*

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Matthew Potts, Ph.D.**

### **Offertory Sentences**

**Offertory Anthem**

**“Never weather-beaten sail”**

*by Thomas Campion*

## Litany for Advent

Week One

We enter into this first Sunday of the Advent season, turning our attention to You, God. We acknowledge the darkness that is within us, and that permeates the world.

**Creator, heal us.**

We acknowledge the suffering, tragedy, and pain by which humanity is afflicted, which can at times overwhelm us.

**Draw near to us, O God.**

We consider the mystery of your ways, that you might choose to send our Savior as an innocent baby and not as a warrior or a king; as one who humbly accepted suffering and humiliation and called it glory.

**Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.**

We choose in this moment to focus our attention on HOPE; the hope of Jesus Christ and all his coming represents for suffering people, the hope for restoration of all that is broken in the world, the hope of new life and resurrection.

**Hope is the light we wish to see by.**

Grant, O God, that when he comes, Christ may find us waiting in expectation, our souls quieted, our hearts soft and open.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

Amen

- *Litany by Fran Pratt: [www.franpratt.com/litanies/2015/12/25/litany-for-Advent-week-1-hope](http://www.franpratt.com/litanies/2015/12/25/litany-for-Advent-week-1-hope) - adapted by DMW*

## Closing Prayer of Offering

Almighty God;  
you give seed for us to sow,  
and bread for us to eat;  
make us thankful for what we have received;  
make us rich to do those generous things  
which supply your people's needs;  
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book (1988) p. 141*

## A Prayer for Our Parish's Ministry

O God, Giver of all good gifts, we thank You for the grace of serving You by serving our neighbors. May our hearts be kind and generous. May our ministry be rooted in love and bold in imagination. Having transformed the Parish and Community Center, may our lives and the lives of all who join us, continue to be renewed by Your love and the power of the Spirit. *Amen.*

## Benediction

## Greeting

### Hymn 68

### “Rejoice! rejoice, believers”

*Llangloffan*

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

## Postlude

### “Herr Christ, der einge Gottes-Sohn, BWV 601”

*by J. S. Bach*

## Dismissal

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God  
by Phil Alatalo and Heather Shepley  
in celebration of the baptism of their granddaughter  
Leia Philip Shepley-McTaggart*

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

### Liturgical Leaders

Officiant

Jean Taft

Preacher

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Organist

Brittany Lord

Musicians and Readers

Helen Gordon, Julia Alling  
Dicky Allison

Technology

Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon

Altar Guild

Nancy Babin, Judy Coonley  
Sally Hauck, Susanne Mann  
Patti Riccardelli

## Church of the Messiah

### 2020 Vestry

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Jean Taft	<i>Warden</i>
Nancy Rea	<i>Warden</i>
Winifred Dick	<i>Clerk</i>
John Nolan	<i>Treasurer</i>

Susan Morse	2021	Mary Fran Buckley	2021
Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022
Charles Mann	2023	Peg Nicholson	2023

### Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Carol Casey	Deanery Representative

### 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 &amp; 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

Cell: 508-259-1570, E-mail: [dwarner74@aol.com](mailto:dwarner74@aol.com)

**Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 10 AM – 2 PM**

Phone: 508-548-2145, FAX: 508-548-2134

E-mail: [messiahfisher@comcast.net](mailto:messiahfisher@comcast.net)

or

[comwoodshhole@gmail.com](mailto:comwoodshhole@gmail.com)

Website: [www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org](http://www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org)