



# Grace Notes

Jan/Feb 2021

## From the Rector

By Rev. Chris Morck

Although it is not a competition, among the many rather unpleasant, uncomfortable, derailing (the adjectives could go on) surprises that 2020 had in store, for me personally a heart attack feels like the most unexpected of all. Or, at the very least, it was the most recent. Yet, as startling (and humbling) as it was, there were, and continue to be, many gifts within this whole experience.

One incredible gift has been this parish. I have been so very touched by your cards, notes, words of encouragement, well-wishes, and prayers. Even though I may not have responded to you personally, please know I have read each of your messages more than once and took time with each one. They have meant so much and I truly am grateful for every one of them.

Your heartfelt good wishes and prayers, and even your expressions of solidarity in similar experience or shared surprise, have been sustenance during this time. Thank you!

Another incredible gift has been given through the leadership of this parish. Our ordained, paid, and volunteer leadership has been outstanding during these very unexpected circumstances, as they collaborated, above and beyond, in all the ways that the situation needed. I am still finding out about all the planned and unplanned work (ministry) that they have undertaken while I was away.

Outside of a heart attack, I have been blessed time and time again by the solid, wise, and caring leadership of Grace Church. And then once more I feel this gift so strongly as they took even more of the helm of leadership during my absence.

I am deeply grateful to Melissa and Ran, to our worship team (and I

include our new A/V Club as ministers here), our staff, and our vestry officers. Not only did Grace not miss a beat, but they created a space (and, because I am not a great patient, they enforced it!) where I could have the best possibility for recovery.

Although the list is long of gifts I have experienced within this situation, for now one more that I want to include is both St. Luke's and Charlton Hospitals. Although I am quite familiar with both hospitals, it had never been as a patient, and being on the other side of the hospital bed, so to speak, was eye-opening.

I feel abiding gratitude to all the many staff at both hospitals who were involved in my care. Whether they were nurses, doctors, janitors, food service, administrators, or administrative assistants, to a person each one was kind, skilled, attentive, friendly, and compassionate. They were phenomenal!

The excellent attention that I received during this time renews a prayer within myself that everyone - regardless of economic situation, employment status, race, or any other category or condition - would be able to access quality medical care with the ability to afford it. As you continue to hold me in your prayers through this continued recovery, please also pray with me that we would have the courage and compassion to transform our health care system into one which equitably provides health and healing to us all.

Gratefully,  
Chris +



## Seeking and Finding Sacred Space

As we enter winter, we might feel a sense of hunkering down, this year even more so than others, necessarily, as we limit our travel and movement to keep others safe. Where might we seek and find spaces of refreshment for our souls during this time? Here are a few ideas:

**Stations of the Nativity** - In January, during the last weekend of Christmas and on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the Epiphany season, we are welcomed into Grace's chapel and sanctuary to walk and pray the stations of the Nativity, a series of scripture readings paired with stations set up throughout our church space that invite us into the stories of Jesus's birth. One

household or individual at a time may sign up for a 30-minute afternoon slot to pray the stations, or simply to sit in our church home and be. Look for information on how to reserve a slot via email, or to reserve by phone, please call the church office and leave your name and number, and someone will help you to make a reservation.

**Getting out in nature** - It has been a gift to meet outdoors during the fall with our Grace youth group. We have gone to all sorts of places around the South Coast, to beachcomb, hike, scavenger hunt, and simply enjoy fellowship with one another in the great cathedral of God's creation. The youth group plans to continue to get out this winter whenever the weather will allow, and if you feel called to get outside, too, we recommend taking a look at the Buzzard Bay Coalition's website for wooded trails and beach walks in the area:

<https://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/>

**Sacred space in your home** - Another sacred space this fall was found in our small group ministries at Grace, both in-person and online. In one of our small groups, we talked about the practice of creating a prayer space in our homes, a small corner of quiet refuge for connecting with God. If you feel drawn to creating a space like this in your home, more information on this practice can be found here:

<https://www.episcopalcafe.com/diy-tabernacling-holy-objects-holy-space-at-home/>

With warmth and prayers for our awareness of God's presence with us, this winter and always,

Melissa †

## Three unique opportunities this January!

This January, we will be able to come together in three unique ways, not only virtually but also safely, in-person.

### Stations of the Nativity

Weekends beginning January 2 and 3, we will open our church doors to offer the opportunity to enter once again into our sacred space. This will be a way for individuals or individual households to spend time in prayer in our church while reflecting on the stories of Jesus's birth. Parishioners will be provided with scripture passages for a more guided meditation or they can use the time to pray or be present in the church in their own way. Reservations will be required. More information, including how to sign up, has been sent via email. If you do not have email and would like to participate, please leave us a phone message or a note at the Grace Office.

### The Epiphany: Wednesday, January 6th

Join us in the celebration of The Reverend Melissa Howell's Ordination to the Priesthood! "God willing and the people consenting," Bishop Gayle Harris will ordain Melissa at a special service on the Feast Day of the Epiphany at 6pm. Given our need for safety and our state's COVID-19 gathering restrictions, in-person attendance will be limited to the altar party, presenters, and family, but this will be livestreamed through Grace's Facebook and YouTube pages. Melissa has been called to the priesthood by God and the community of the faithful. Please

offer your prayers and support by joining us on the livestream.

### First Sunday after the Epiphany: Sunday, January 10th

The 10AM service will be Melissa's first celebration of Holy Eucharist as a priest. Please join us for this special occasion through the livestream on Grace's Facebook and YouTube pages. Along with Melissa as our celebrant, The Reverend Ran Chase will be our preacher. After the service, we will cross the street to the parking lot of the Wamsutta Club to distribute Holy Communion - in the form of the Body of Christ - to all who wish to receive. We will be there until 12:30PM to give parishioners time to fully participate in the livestreamed service and arrive in-person to receive communion. For those in our community who wish to receive communion but must remain in their residence and are unable to be present at the Wamsutta Club, please leave us a phone message or a note at the Grace Office and we will arrange a brief visit to offer you communion. (Our snow date will be Sunday, January 17.)

Faithfully,  
Chris + and Melissa +

## Liturgy & Liturgical Ministry

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

### Season of Epiphany

We start the month of January with the **Second Sunday of Christmas** on January 3. This weekend will begin The **Stations of the Nativity**. This is a way for individuals or individual households to spend time in prayer in our church while reflecting on the stories of Jesus' birth. **Reservations**

**are required.** More information, including how to sign up, will be sent via email. The following Tuesday ends the short 12-day season of Christmas.

Wednesday January 6 is the **Feast of the Epiphany**. We are all familiar with the story, which only appears in St. Matthew's Gospel, of the three Magi from the east, sometimes called the three "Kings." The word "Magi" is the plural of the Latin word "magus." This word is from the same root as the word "magic." Rather than kings, it means "priests" or "sorcerers," a tradition has it that they may have been Zoroastrians, an ancient religion associated with the Babylonians. Their earliest pictorial renditions show one to have been Black. Their traditional names were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Their gifts (to a poor family, forced to give birth in a stable) somehow seem highly impractical - except perhaps for the gold. But these gifts are highly symbolic and are well-explained in the hymn "We Three Kings of Orient."

Gold recognized Christ's kingship, incense His godhead, and myrrh (a rare aromatic resin used for embalming in the ancient world) His ultimate death and resurrection. These men were not Jews, they would have been considered Gentiles. Their advent calls to mind that Jesus' Word was to be spread throughout the world, to all people, and not just His own tribal group. They certainly frightened King Herod when they appeared before him and stated their mission; he feared for the loss of his own earthly power, though Jesus' kingdom was not of this earth.

This year for Grace, the **Feast of the Epiphany** will take on a special significance, for that evening a service that has seldom been celebrated in our church, will take

place. Our wonderful Deacon, **the Rev. Melissa Howell, will be ordained a priest**, a joyous and happy occasion for our parish, as she has been a great addition to our Parish Family.

The following Sunday, January 10, **The Baptism of Jesus**, after the 10AM virtual service, Holy Communion will be distributed in the parking lot of the Wamsutta Club across the street from the church. January 17 will be the Second Sunday after Epiphany and we return to ordinary time, the color of which is **green**. January 24 is the Third Sunday after Epiphany, and January 31 the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany has been traditionally celebrated at Grace as **Outreach Sunday**, when our faithful volunteers who cover our outreach services are honored.

February 7 and 14 will be the **Fifth and Last Sundays after Epiphany**. The season officially ends that Tuesday (Mardi Gras). Ash Wednesday, this year February 17, officially begins the season of **Lent**, and the last two Sundays of February which will be the First and Second in Lent. In the next article we will learn more about this season and its significance as we follow Jesus through Holy Week and to His death and ultimate Resurrection.

We are still in the midst of the pandemic, which in the last months has become more pervasive and virulent. It is highly unlikely, if not impossible, for us to return to in-person worship. We will continue to broadcast Sunday's 10AM Eucharist and pray that the New Year will gradually bring us to better times and a state of normality. Let us pray that we be delivered from this calamitous health crisis.

## Children's Ministry

By Charlene Ryder, Coordinator

Members of our Church School community had a fun time working on our virtual Christmas Pageant! It was awesome seeing how our virtual Christmas Pageant came together and viewing the final video.

Claire Morck will be joining our Children's Ministry as a Church School teacher. Claire has been one of our readers during 'Storytime' and part of our pageant. Welcome Claire!

We look forward to beginning our children's zoom church school time in mid-January. Details will be announced as plans are finalized.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time by phone, text, or email at: 508-728-4374 or [cryder@umassd.edu](mailto:cryder@umassd.edu)



## Food & Faith

By Trish Morck

I write this as we prepare for the Christmas season, and even though everything else seems upside down in our lives and world, there are still some things we can continue to enjoy. For me that has been some of the same cooking and baking I do each year at this time. The mixing, kneading, and shaping all give me a space to be quiet and aware of what is before me and going on around me.

Some of the same cookies I make each year also provide a connection to those who have gone before me, like my grandmother. Each year I make her sugar cookies, with a small modification, but what a feeling to know that I am making the same cookies she made each Christmas years and years ago. I share the recipe below, as well as the icing recipe I got from the New York Times. They pair together beautifully.

### Grammie's Sugar Cookies

2 ½ c. sifted flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
½ tsp. nutmeg  
½ c. shortening (I use butter)  
1 c. sugar  
2 eggs, well beaten  
1 Tbsp. cream  
Preheat oven to 400°

Mix flour, baking powder, and nutmeg. Cream shortening/butter thoroughly, add sugar gradually, and cream until light and fluffy. Add eggs and cream and beat well. Add flour mixture gradually; beat until smooth. Roll to ¼" thickness and cut into desired shapes using cookie cutters. Place on an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 7-9 minutes.

### Royal Icing

3 egg whites  
1 lb. powdered sugar  
a few drops lemon juice

Beat all ingredients together with a stand mixer with whisk attachment until soft peaks form. Do not overbeat. Add food coloring as desired and use small paint brushes to decorate cookies.



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\* If you don't receive it already, you can subscribe to Grace Church's weekly e-news by going to [www.gracechurchnb.org](http://www.gracechurchnb.org) and clicking the "Subscribe" button at the top of the homepage.

\* You can also subscribe to the monthly e-mail newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, published the third Wednesday of the month. To subscribe, enter your e-mail address at <http://www.diomass.org/subscribe>.

## Gifts November-December 2020

### **Community Breakfast**

Gifts of Edith Lauderdale, Pamela & David Mello, James Bisagni, James Family Charitable Fund, Ran Chase, Ken & Mary Lou Garrett, James Ring

Gift of Debbie Clark **in memory of Norma Bossé**

### **Laundry Love**

Gifts of Edith Lauderdale, Gerry Lopes

### **Martha's Pantry at Grace**

Gifts of Susan & William Keho, Patricia & Gerald Bedard, Deborah & Robert Huckabee, James Family Charitable Fund, Alyson Niles, James Whiteside, James Ring, Robert & Barbara Betchel, Chase Farm Veterinary Hospital, Charlene Nelson, Ran Chase, John & Katherine Townley, Ken & Mary Lou Garrett, William & Ellen Mandly

Gift of Barbara Santos **in memory of her husband Daniel Santos**

Gift of Anne Tremblay **in memory of her mother Myra LeValley**

Gift of Priscilla Guillemette **in memory of Agostinho Gonsalves**

Gift of Norma Dyer **in memory of Louise & William Dalzell, John J. McKenna, John D. McKenna**

Gift of Pamela & George McNamara **in memory of Miriam Quinn**

Gifts of Kathy & Roger Lafland, Nancy Krueger, Robert & Jane Walker, Daniel & Judith Medeiros, Norma Dyer, Gerry Lopes, Loren & Rick Boudreau, Michael & Julie Vargo, Jeanne & Richard Greenhalgh, Priscilla Guillemette, Edward & Eleanor Begley, William Reed, Alfred Smialek, Joan Swain, Debbie Clark, Robert & Barbara Betchel, Chase Farm Veterinary Hospital, Pauline Roderiques, Jane Mandly, Sharlene Begley, Roland & Harriet Shaw, Rosalie Hutchinson, James & Susan Thompson, Thomas & Lois Lynch, John & Candida Howcroft **in memory of Dennis Beck**

Gifts of New England Corvette Club, William Reed, Pam & Peter Asacker, Alfred Smialek, Alan & Jane Zexter, Sandra Giammalvo, Sue & Andy Chlebus, Kristen Klein, Zoraida Bohn, Janet Allain, The Blanchard Family, Ann & Robert Marshall, Martin & Mary Ellen Flinn, John & Candida Howcroft **in memory of Alden Taylor**

Gift of Karen Maciulewicz **in honor of Len Boyce**

### **Flower Fund**

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of Robert Owen Boardman, Norma L. Bossé, Muriel Pehrson**

Gift of Travis Bowie **in memory of Richard Bowie**

Gift of Geraldine Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes**

Gift of Mei Mak **in memory of Man Nui Lung**

Gift of Janet & Kingsley Doe and James & Diane Doe **in memory of Berniece Miller, James Miller, Mazelle Tilton, Judith**

### **Phelps**

Gift of Amy & Brett Nadeau **in memory of Alden Taylor**

Gift of Doug & Ann Dailey **in memory of Diana Ukleja**

Gift of Shirley Beck **in memory of Dennis Beck Sr., Eli & Gwendoline Beck, and Lloyd & Gertrude Duane**

Gift of Charlene Ryder **in memory of Norma E. Ryder**

Gift of Priscilla Guillemette **in memory of Ronald Guillemette and Hugh & Stasia Green**

Gift of Cheryl Gammell **in memory of Joyce M. & James F. Doyle**

Gift of Jean Brown **in memory of Family and Friends**

Gift of Cynthia & Michael Shea **in memory of Clayton Taylor Jr., Alden Taylor**

Gift of Nancy & David Faria **in memory of Henry P. & Anna Brindle, Paul & Mary Faria**

Gift of Pam & George McNamara **in memory of Regina & Graham Walker, Cecile, George F. & Donald McNamara, Bonnie Skane, Keats Boyd, John Moriarty**

Gift of David & Janice Baker **in memory of Lloyd & Ruth Baker, Edward & Grace McConvill, Joan Ann Niles**

Gift of the Watkins Family **in memory of Verna Johnson**

### **Rector's Discretionary Fund**

Gifts of Barbara Santos, Travis Bowie, James Ring, Donald Driesen

## Gifts November-December 2020

### **Harvest Altar**

Gift of William Reed & Family **in memory of Martha Shaw Reed, Clare & Ralph Reed, Louise & Percy Shaw, Joan & Richard Reed**

### **Memorial Fund**

Gift of John & Zelinda Douhan **in memory of Dr. Richard Warburton**

Gift of William Reed, Judy Knox **in memory of Norma Bossé**

Gift of Arie Hodge **in memory of George Hodge**

Gift of David & Janice Baker **in memory of Edward Wooler McConvill**

Gift of Donald White & Family, Nina & Ken Willever **in memory of Ellen White**

Gift of The Decker family **in memory Mary Davis Virtue, Paul Edward Virtue, Mary Bernhardt Wolfe Decker, and James DeWitt Decker, II**

Gift of Norma Dyer **in memory of Blanche Hardy, Freda Heptonstall, Florence & Howard Dyer, Sr., Howard C. Dyer, Jr.**

Gift of Susan Kenyon **in memory of Rick Bowie**

### **Pastoral Leadership**

Gift of Pauline Roderiques

Gift of Pam & Robert Mirick **in memory of Richard Warburton**

### **Audiovisual Equipment**

Gifts of Chase Farm Veterinary Hospital, Michael & Caroline Blais

### **Operating Expenses**

Gifts of Eric Braitmayer, The Karina Foundation, Nancy & David Faria

### **Miscellaneous**

Gifts of Diane Gallant, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Frazee

Gifts of Pearl Corbett, John & Patricia Oliver **in Thanksgiving**

# SAVE THE DATE

Grace Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 28th

☞ ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS ☞

CRÈCHE

Virgin Mary & St. Joseph, original Christ Child 1963

Christ Child, 1977

Original Shepherd and Donkey, 1977;

*Gift of Lulmira Handy in memory of Jacob Handy.*

Subsequent Christ Children

1999 *Gift of the Rev. Sarah K. Hague*

2008 *Gift of Jerré Croteau*

Original Magi, 1979

*Grace Memorial Gifts Fund*

New Statues for the Handy Memorial Crèche, 2014

*Gift of Jerré Croteau, Travis Bowie, Priscilla Guillemette, Geraldine Lopes,*

*Alfred Smialek, Nina Catelli Vincent, Michel Jodoin & John Masson*

*in memory of Robert O. Boardman, Richard Bowie, Ronald Guillemette,*

*Norman Lopes, Adele Smialek, Una Vincent and Dorothy & Penry Warr*

ADVENT WREATH & CANDLESTAND, 1994

*Gift of Mr & Mrs. Alfred Smialek, Peter & David Smialek*

*In Thanksgiving*

BLUE ADVENT BURSE, VEIL & HANGINGS, 2000

*Handwoven Gift of Patricia Nieman*

ANGEL/CHRISTMAS TREE

CHURCH WREATHS, GREENS & TRIMMINGS, 2000

*Gift of Jerré Croteau & Robert Boardman in memory of*

*Kennedy Shaw, Richard Hagan & the Rev. Clifford Kolb*

PEW CANDELABRA, 1947

*In Thanksgiving and Memory of*

*William Gordon, Rehnberg Wingate & his son, Catherine Beattie, David T. Wilbur, James J. Miller, Departed members of the Evening Auxiliary, Margaret A. Tupper, Walter G. Thompson, William Orr, Irene Barrett, Kenneth R. Smith, John E. Wood, John A. MacLeod, Alice Blacklidge, Robert Hazeltine, Jr., James L. Lemos; Edward, Henrietta Charles, Beatrice, Harry & William Bly; Frank & Elizabeth Congdon, Delphine E. Sturtevant, William H. Broadbent, Dorothy M. Upton, Kate A. Arden, Julia Lattimer, Lucy J. Stowell, Florence P. Eldridge, Henry D. Cornell, William H. Brown, Alice W. Goodwin, Alfred S. Dunham, Michael Bendikson, Marion Wordell, William & Hannah Huston, Departed Grace Church Mothers, Sheldon Gardner, Robert C. Kirby, Alfred Bradley; Louis, Lillian & Anthony Sears; Winona & Frank Hanna, John Chartier, David Kinghorn, Lydia Whitehead, Departed members of the Woman's Guild, Mildred Sturtevant, Frank & Laura Moody, Philip & John Threshie, John Harwood, Sanford Read, Daniel Smith, Joseph & Mary Ellen Marsh, Elizabeth Nelson, Emma Harwood, Henry Dixon, Harriet Gunning, Richmond Wood, Ralph Bardsley, Minnie Abrams, Irving Cartwright, John G. Kennedy, Grace & Henry Wood, Departed members of the Woman's Auxiliary, Manuel & Lucy Avelar, Charles Goulding, Martha Rowand, Harry Allen, Julia A. Rodman, Edith Morgan Wright, Ruth Ellen Jennings and by many people in thanksgiving.*

*Metal for Candelabra donated by the Klarén Family*

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Rector	Rev. Christopher Morck
Curate	Rev. Melissa Howell
Director of Music	Brian Roderick
Parish Administrator	Katie Brengle
Verger	Gérald Croteau

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Junior Warden	Charles Green
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Assistant Treasurer	Roberta Iglar
Clerk	Betsy Pye

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Beth Sharp  
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