



Grace Notes

Jan/Feb 2022

From the Curate

By Rev. Melissa Howell

Dear Grace Church,

Epiphany is a feast day and a season when we celebrate and ponder all of the ways that Jesus reveals who he is and what he has come to do and to share. In our worship this winter, we will hear stories of wise sages following a bright star to bring gifts to the baby Jesus, of John baptizing Jesus in the river Jordan, of Mary urging Jesus to turn water to wine for the guests at a wedding feast, of Jesus teaching and fishing, and of Jesus on a mountaintop with his disciples, transfigured in glory. Jesus is never alone in these stories. He is always with others—witnesses, disciples, prophets, bystanders, family members. All of these people, in the midst of their various journeys, encounter the wild grace and power of Jesus, and they are changed. Many are so changed that they begin to witness and testify about their experience. They begin to name who Jesus is for them—Savior, Healer,

Prophet, Teacher, Messiah. These witnesses are our forebears in the Church.

I am grateful for these witnesses, and for all of you witnesses at Grace. These last months of my recovery post-surgery, you have been Jesus's hands and heart for me, through your cards and messages of support, nourishing meals, and prayers. Thank you for your care and for being the Body of Christ, accompanying me on the rocky, wild, and grace-filled road of healing.

As we enter our Epiphany journey together, amid much uncertainty in our lives and in the world around us, I want to share a poem that a dear friend shared with me last year before my ordination to the priesthood, which was on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th. This feast day, in some cultures, has been traditionally known as Women's Christmas and set aside as a day of rest and celebration for women, who are often working hard to make preparations and provide hospitality

for the festivities leading up to and during the twelve days of Christmas. I share this poem because it names the ways I have felt accompanied by God and by God's beloved community throughout these last months and throughout my own life. I share it with the hope that you will know that you are accompanied on your path and that you are beloved of God.

With peace,
Melissa †

*The Shimmering Hours—A
Blessing for Women's Christmas
by Jan Richardson*

There is so much
I want to say,
as if the saying
could prepare you
for this path,
as if there were anything
I could offer
that would make your way
less circuitous,
more smooth.

Once you step out
you will see for yourself
how nothing could have
made you ready for this road
that will take you
from what you know now
to what you cannot perceive
except, perhaps,
in your dreaming
or as it gives a glimpse
in prayer.

But I can tell you
this journey is not
about miles.
It is not about how far
you can walk
or how fast.

It is about what you will do
with this moment, this star
that blazes in your sky
though no one else
might see.

So open your heart
to these shimmering hours
by which your path
is made.

Open your eyes
to the light that shines
on what you will need
to see.

Open your hands
to those who go with you,
those seen
and those known only
by their blessing, their benediction
of the road that is
your own.

<https://sanctuaryofwomen.com/WomensChristmasRetreat2014.pdf>



Liturgy & Liturgical Ministry

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

Season of Epiphany

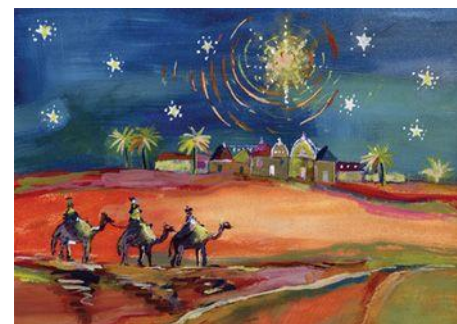
As we move into the month of January, we complete the twelve-day **Season of Christmas**, which ends on January 5. A new liturgical season begins with the **Feast of Epiphany** on January 6.

On January 2, the **Second Sunday of Christmas**, we will celebrate the old Grace Church tradition of the **Festival of Lights**, which originally was a separate afternoon service; part pageant, part evensong. Over the past few years, we have incorporated the Eucharist. This year, because of the continued Covid restrictions and the increase of cases of the epidemic, we have had to seriously alter some of the traditional elements of this service.

It used to require over 35 Acolytes, plus lectors and choir, to fill all the necessary roles traditional to this service. Under current guidelines this is impossible. We have retained all the traditional readings and hymns and have incorporated a minimum of Lectors and Acolytes. The final reading, the Calling of the Apostles, will be read as a spoken recessional anthem, with the Ministers recessing and then the congregation will be dismissed after this reading. The philosophy behind this service is the

dissemination of Christ's Word to all humankind, as exemplified by the readings descriptive of the Magi and the Calling of the Apostles. We regret the loss of the pageantry, but in the future we hope to be able to revive the whole service as it was originally intended.

On Thursday January 6, **The Epiphany**, the last of the service of the **Stations of the Nativity** will be held at 7pm.



The following evening, January 7 at 4pm, volunteers are invited to help with the **De-greening of the Church**.

The weekend of January 8-9 is the **Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**, at which services will be featured the Baptismal covenant.

On January 15-16, the **Second after Epiphany**, the color changes from white to **green**, as the rest of Epiphany is considered "ordinary time;" the Sunday Eucharist will be **Children's Liturgy**. The weekend of January 22-23, the **Third after Epiphany**, will have the regular Eucharist Services. The **Fourth after Epiphany**, January 29-30, is traditionally called **Outreach Sunday**, at which time we honor all of our Outreach Service Volunteers.

February 5-6, the **Fifth after Epiphany**, there will be regular Eucharist Services; Sunday's service will be in memory of Lead Acolyte Nathan King. The **Sixth after Epiphany** is a normal Sunday; the **Seventh after Epiphany** will be



Children's Liturgy. February 27-28 marks the end of the **Season of Epiphany**. **Lent** begins the following Wednesday.

Liturgical Ministry

To all Acolytes, Acolyte Parents, Lectors, Usher-Greeters and

Subdeacons: The schedule is now published through the Last Sunday of Epiphany. The next schedule cycle is for the Lent, Holy Week, and Easter season, which runs from March 2 through May 29. Please get your requests, limitations, and schedule preferences to Jerré by February 15, in order for them to be incorporated into the original schedule. Thank you all for your service to God and your Parish Family.



Food & Faith

By Trish Morck

2022? Really? I know we are all asking ourselves the same question – where did 2021 go? But gone it is, and for some of us, entering a new year means thinking about certain things in a new way. What is going to be different this year? What do I want to stay the same? And in terms of Food and Faith, what kind of choices can I make this year that will

demonstrate care and concern for God's Creation and my role in it? Here are some ideas for ways we can make 2022 better for our bodies and the earth:

Cook more! Cooking from scratch with healthy ingredients reduces waste and nourishes our bodies and spirits. When cooking, be intentional and thoughtful about each ingredient, where it comes from, and how you're preparing it.

Eat less meat! If meat is regularly consumed in your home, try preparing a meat-less dish one night a week. Again, reducing your consumption of meat is better for the earth and lowering your intake of meat can improve your heart and circulatory health.

Make your own coffee! This may be a tough one for some, but think about the money you will save and waste you won't produce if you brew your own cup at home each morning. (Bonus – it makes the kitchen smell really good!)

Drink less bottled water! If you want to be really radical, drink no bottled water! This reduces the demand for plastics and all the materials and energy that go into making the plastic bottles, and it will save you money. Consider using a Brita or similar pitcher at home instead and utilizing a reusable water bottle.

Remember the reusable bags when you go shopping! And when you do use or have excess plastic bags at home (and other forms of plastic wrapping on toilet paper, bulk goods from stores like BJ's, etc.), remember to return them to the store to be recycled or donate them to Martha's Pantry!

Consider joining a CSA and/or getting your produce at a local farm or farmer's market! Don't worry, I'll have more info in the spring about how and where to sign up for CSAs and find these farms.





Stewardship

By Beth Sharp-McKay, Stewardship Chair

Since the 2022 pledge campaign started in the end of September, we have received several responses from parishioners answering the questions: Why do I give financially to Grace Church and its ministries? How have I been impacted and how have I impacted the church and our neighbors with my financial gifts?

We have shared them during the church service both live and recorded version, through the Grace Notes, and more recently through a letter sent to entire parish this past November. The stewardship committee felt that the words spoken anonymously through the different entries explained so well why parishioners at Grace Church give generously to our ministries.

Here are a few more responses we received:

I enjoy supporting Grace Church with my pledge because of all the ministries we support! --Anonymous

Grace's steeple is among the tallest points in our region, is a Light on the Hill for us all. Grace touches so many across our community, through our kitchens, Laundry Love and so many impactful outreach services to those in need. Chris, Melissa, and Ran remind of what's important in our topsy turvy world. In the COVID pandemic and all times, Grace is a rock, a light of support, making a difference more than ever! Thank you! --Anonymous

If these responses strike a chord with you, please consider expressing your thoughts and ideas and sharing your words with the parish either anonymously or with permission to use your name by emailing it to stewardship@gracechurchnb.org, fill out the form on Grace's website at <https://gracechurchnb.org/give/#pledge>, or mail it to the office at 133 School Street, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Thank you to those who have already turned in their pledge card for 2022 year. If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, please do so. Your written financial commitment goes to supporting all the ministries at Grace and allows us to create new ministries to care for our parishioners and others in our community.

**As of December 15, 2021,
118
Grace parishioners have pledged
\$222,291**

What are your perfect gifts? How are you going to share them with your church family and surrounding community?

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. Amen.

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Christmas and Epiphany at Grace

Christmas and Epiphany this year will offer us opportunities to worship together in-person as well as virtually. We continue to be grateful for the ways that community, technology, creativity, and most of all God's love for us and our love for one another will bring us together as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Eve**Friday, December 24th****7pm and 11pm**

We will be following all diocesan guidelines for these two services of Holy Eucharist, including spacing from other households/pods and mask wearing throughout the service.

All participants will be seated by our ushers.

Since capacity will be significantly limited by the necessity of being spaced apart, not all those who wish to attend will be able to do so *if* capacity is reached.

If capacity is reached, the chapel will be offered for limited overflow seating.

Both services also will be livestreamed and available on Facebook & YouTube.

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Stations of the Nativity

Experience the stories of Jesus's birth through art, prayer, quiet, and our sacred church space. This season, participants will all move through, listen, and pray the stations together. This will take approximately 45 minutes, with 15 minutes of silence at the end for those who wish to stay and return to particular stations for quiet prayer. No reservation is required. We will begin in the chapel for the first four stations.

There are three opportunities to participate:

Christmas Day**Saturday, December 25th****10am****First Sunday of Christmas****December 26th****10am**

(Also, Bishop Alan Gates will offer a sermon for The First Sunday After Christmas from our diocesan YouTube channel, available after December 22nd:

www.youtube.com/ediomass)

The Epiphany**Thursday, January 6th****7pm**

We will be asking participants to read at each station. If you know you will be attending a particular Stations service and would like to volunteer as a reader in advance, or as a greeter at the door, please contact Melissa: revmelissahowell@gracechurchnb.org

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Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ**Saturday, January 1st****5pm**

Join us for Holy Eucharist on a day when we celebrate and contemplate the name of our Blessed Savior.

The Festival of Lights**Sunday, January 2nd****10am**

This annual service, begun very early in Grace's history, now incorporates Holy Eucharist. The readings and hymns are traditional to this service. In it, we witness the anticipation of the Incarnation, as well as the spreading of the Gospel to all peoples, symbolized by the coming of the Magi.

This is an in-person service and also will be livestreamed and available on Facebook & YouTube.

Gifts November-December 2021

Community Breakfast

Gifts of James Bisagni, Gerry Lopes, The Kimley-Horn Foundation

Martha's Pantry at Grace

Gifts of Lisa & Kenneth Delaney, Linda & Edward Massa, John Buck, Gerry Lopes, Ermelinda Silva, Judith Yard, Robert R. Orr, Poyant Signs

Gift of Andrew & Susan Chlebus **in memory of Earle & Shirley Davis**

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

Gift of Theresa Nowell, Audra Riding, Michael Moynihan, Christopher Larue, Jacob Miller, Eddie Curtis, and Debbie Rocke **in memory of Elizabeth**

A. Montigny

Gift of Jack Whiteside **in memory of James & Ethel Whiteside and Rita Whiteside**

Gift of Polly-Ann Mort **in memory of David H. Mort**

Gift of Roland & Harriet Shaw **in memory of departed loved ones**

Gift of Rosalie Hutchinson **in memory of Richard Cormier**

Laundry Love

Gift of Gerry Lopes

Gift of Pat Asay **in memory of Deborah Bowers**

Memorial Fund

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

Rector's Discretionary Fund

Gifts of Randall & Bernardine Correia, Donald Driesen, Barbara Santos, Jean Brown, Barbara & Jim Trecker, Michael Medeiros

Flowers & Flower Fund

Gifts of Nancy & David Faria, William & Diana Bullard

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

Gift of Theresa Nowell **in memory of Muriel R. Foster, Stephen J. Nowell, Lucinda Pelletier Gagnier & Gustave LaStaiti**

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes**

Gift of Maureen & Allen Decker **in memory of Mary & Paul Virtue and Mary Bern & James Decker**

Gift of Kingsley & Janet Doe **in memory of Berniece Miller, Mazelle Tilton, Ann Weidner, Allen Doe, Judith Miller Phelps and Richard Phelps**

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

Gift of Jeanne & Richard Greenhalgh **in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Greenhalgh and Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Lamontagne**

Gift of the Mingola family **in memory of Alex Mingola**

Gift of Marcia Anselmo **in memory of Alden Taylor and Lois Ainsley**

Gift of Jim McKay & Beth Sharp McKay **in honor of Kerry Lonergan and Bob & Carolyn Sharp, in memory of Frank Lonergan**

Gift of Patricia Oliver **in memory of Eunice & Bill Zelle, Stanley Murray, Jr., Stephen Murray, Mary & Joseph Oliver**

Gift of Michael & Cynthia Shea **in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Taylor, Jr., Alden Taylor, Lois Ainsley**

Gift of George & Pam McNamara **in memory of Regina & Graham Walker, Cecile, George & Don McNamara, Bonnie Skane, Keats Boyd, John**

Moriarty

Gift of Judy & Harold Isaksen **in thanksgiving for our loved ones, family, and friends- past and present**

Gift of Paula & Tom Cabral **in memory of Stanley & Charlotte Ingersoll, Mac & Olive Cabral**

Gift of Polly-Ann Mort **in memory of Anne & Harold Cotter**

Gift of Gwendolyn Skinner **in memory of Austin Skinner, Joan Miller**

Gift of Barbara & Albert Hines **in memory of Mary E. Taylor, Gary & Scott Steedman, Allen & Helen Hines**

Gift of Joan Swain **in memory of Tom & Alice Walsh, Paul Swain**

Gift of Jack Whiteside **in memory of James & Ethel Whiteside and Rita Whiteside**

Harvest Altar

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

Unrestricted Endowment

Gift of the Karina Foundation – Eric Braitmayer

Miscellaneous

Gifts of Mark & Stacie Hess, Mr. & Mrs. J Andrew Frazee

Gift of Kristin Cler **in honor of Jerré Croteau's research help**

Gift of Highland Street Foundation **for winter clothing for the Community Breakfast**

☞ 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

SAVE THE DATE

Grace Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 13th

Church Staff

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

Wardens & Officers

Senior Warden	Jean Pitcairn
Junior Warden	Charles Green
Treasurer	Sharlene Begley
Assistant Treasurer	Pamela Mello
Clerk	Betsy Pye

Vestry Members 2021

Travis Bowie
 Sean Corwin
 Rob DaSilva
 Maureen Decker
 Jim Doe
 Cheryl Gammell
 Nadine Gomes
 Eric Jaikes
 David King
 Beth Sharp
 Lisa Thibeault

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