



Grace Notes

Official Newsletter of
Grace Episcopal Church
Norwood, Massachusetts

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Submit your articles or schedules by the Sunday on or before the 20th of the month prior to issue.

JANUARY 31

**Grace Church Annual Meeting
Via Zoom or FreeConference Call
At 11 AM
Make your Vote count**

WARRANT

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Know all persons by these present
that the Annual Meeting of
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS
will be held on

Sunday, January 31, 2021

The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive the Reports of the Officers and Organizations of the Parish; to elect Officers and Delegates for the terms specified for their offices as stated in the By-Laws of the Parish; and to conduct such other business as may lawfully come before this meeting. All baptized persons, sixteen (16) years of age or older, who acknowledge in writing the authority of the By-Laws of the Parish and who declares his or her intention to aid in maintaining public worship therein by regular attendance at such worship and who are contributors of record, are entitled to voice and vote.

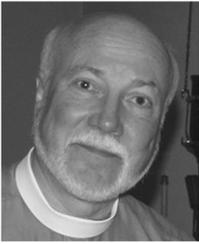
Due to COVID limitations, this meeting will be held via Zoom and FreeConferenceCall.com. Links and phone numbers & passwords will be distributed in the mid-week email later this month.

Katherine Wharton
Senior Warden

David Button
Junior Warden

Time for Reports for Annual Meeting DEADLINE – January 3

Reports are vital to the historical records of our church. All church officers, vestrypersons, committee chairs, and coordinators are kindly asked to submit a report to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 3**. Please kindly turn in any reports to the church office via email. Any questions, call the church office. Those who have already submitted thank you.



FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Office hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 to noon.
Rector by appointment

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Christina Rossetti, 1872, 1st stanza Hymn 112

Christina Rossetti seems to have described our winter of 2021 a hundred and fifty years before it happened: Christmas and Epiphany are over, the lights and ornaments are stowed away, there is no Brady/Belichick Super Bowl beckoning, and no restaurant with a warm fireplace to reflect on our dinners on three-day weekend holidays. It's going to be a long, hard winter in the shadow of COVID.

However, God can do something about this—for as the Angel Gabriel declared to Mary in Nazareth: “For nothing will be impossible with God.” So, let's respond to God's call to gather together this cold winter and share the warm story of Jesus. Let's watch the newest rendition of the story of Jesus told in a unique way. This version of the story is called *The Chosen*.

A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt. A troubled woman wrestling with real demons. A gifted publican ostracized by his family and his people. A religious leader struggling with his beliefs. In this ground-breaking first season of The Chosen see how Jesus reaches each of these and more as He works His first miracles and embarks on His ministry to change the world. See Him through the eyes of those who met Him. The Chosen is the #1 crowd-funded media project in entertainment history and the first multi-season show about the life of Jesus Christ and His disciples. Created and distributed outside of the Hollywood system, The Chosen is rated a 9.9 on IMDB — that's a higher score than scores of mega hit shows.... It shares a similar 99% Audience Approval score on Rotten Tomatoes. Critics are touting the series as smart, original, and moving. (The Chosen is the first media project in history to ever be released globally on its own app, which has been downloaded and streamed in over 150 countries worldwide.) (From the Amazon.com review)

So come join your friends in Grace Church, as well as parishioners at my wife Sarah's parish Trinity Episcopal Church Rockland, my EFM students from Quincy to Duxbury, and any friends* you would like to invite to watch all eight episodes of Season 1 of The Chosen on Wednesday nights at 7 PM on Zoom beginning January 27th. **

We will begin on January 27th as the eight weekly episodes will take us right up to Holy Week in March and prepare our journey through Holy Week on March 24th (we will take one week off on February 17th for Ash Wednesday services).

Our current plan is to open the evening with a short prayer, gathering song or hymn that someone can volunteer to offer. We will then watch the movie on Zoom (the episodes range from 50 to 30 minutes), and then have a short time to discuss what we found to **A** (Amaze us), **B** (Bother us), **C** (Confuse us) or **D** (Delight us). The evening will end with a short prayer or gathering song or hymn that someone can again volunteer to offer. Each evening should end around 8:30. The address for our Wednesday evening meetings is at the end of this letter***.

(concludes on next page)

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti, 1872, 4th stanza Hymn 112

This Winter and Lent perhaps the way you can best offer Him your heart is to join with others safely in this COVID time to learn more about Jesus and those he choose to follow him. And then to wonder and discuss with friends and friends-to-be this “bleak mid-winter” of 2021.

Won't you join us?

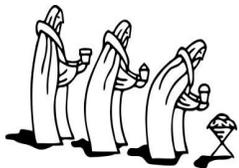
* The DOVE website for family values evaluates the series as follows: “Some cautionary elements of the series include violence involving fighting, swords and other situations. Additional elements include lying, deception, greed, and demonic possession. Due to these cautionary elements, the series earns our Dove-approved for Ages 12+ award for its dramatized retelling of Scripture.”

** Dallas Jenkins, the mastermind behind *The Chosen*, wants to get his work out to the world and parishes. All episodes are currently available for free on YouTube, so we are not violating any copyrights, and, in fact, will be using purchased DVDs. (This means you can cheat and look ahead on your own on YouTube, OR if you can't make a Wednesday night, you can catch up on your own.) Season Two has just been fully crowd-funded so it may be our next Winter/Lent program for 2022. Filmmaker Jenkins hopes viewers will “pay it forward,” by donating so that others around the world can experience the series, which has so far been translated into 50 languages.

*** The Zoom address to tune in each Wednesday is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89311618092?pwd=cC9GUVmwTUy5bFRVTS9oWmRGWXZzQT09>

Father John



Lord Jesus, the Magi brought you precious gifts.
Help me also give you my very best – always.



Please pray for...

- Our new president and Congress; may they be guided by compassion, justice and truth.
- Those suffering from COVID infection as well as those whose lives and livelihoods have been badly hurt by the virus and our attempts to contain it.
- Our Vestry and Wardens as they prepare for Annual Meeting.
- For the recently baptized Layla Scott Hamilton
- For repose of the soul of retired Norwood police officer, Dean E. Raymond
- Those on our parish prayer list: A.J., Ethan, Jose, Olivia, Juliana, Tim, Don Adams, Bill Daly, Holly Foster, Shane Gibson, Tara Guschov, Barbara Hagberg, Joe Harney, Jr., Betsy Hornbuckle, Madeline King, Matt Mackinnon, Roberta McCormack, Carol Misner, Melanie Paulson, Allen Peeler, Ralph Regner, Emily & Doug Rennie, Elaine Rillie, Carol Ringler, Donald Sabourin, Quincy Sousa, Geoffrey & Valerie Stone, Joseph Warren, Stan Wharton, John Whitcomb, Pauline Wilhite and Ann, Aidan Wood, Trish & John Wood, and for those being prayed for on the Grace Church Prayer Line.

Offering Envelopes

2021 offering envelopes are available to be picked up. If you can swing by mornings during regular office hours (Mon-Thurs 9-12) you would be helping the church save \$ on postage. All active parish members are assigned a number. If you haven't used envelopes before, it helps save time when volunteers are counting.

January 3 Stations of the Magi During Sunday 9 AM Zoom Zooming with Grace on all Sundays in January



Zoom is an online interactive meeting space, where you can attend our service each week at 9am. If you have a computer that has a camera/microphone/speakers, you can join online through a web browser. Or you can download the Zoom app to your smart phone, iPad, or tablet.

To Join Zoom Service: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5037830452>

Meeting ID: 503 783 0452

And for those who like to keep it real easy, you can just listen via phone.

Call 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 503 783 0452

Prayer Service via Zoom Wednesday Evening January 6, 13, 20 at 6:50 PM

Using the Evening Prayer Service from BCP (p. 115-126). We use the Mission St. Clare version online which has all the readings already set up with hymns. <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/>

We include time during this 45 minute service to add our own individual prayers and have an informal check-in following the service. To Join via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89311618092?pwd=cC9GUVMwTUy5bFRVTS9oWmRGWXZzQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 1161 8092

Password: 548909

Young at Heart Lunch, January 20



A lively discussion and fellowship for the over 60-set, this luncheon get together meets once a month at noon. To streamline planning, please let Fr. John know you are coming by Sunday prior. Everyone is kindly asked to bring a lunch. Dessert will be supplied by host of the month and a homemade soup will be offered by your favorite secretary.

2021 Parish Directory

A new parish directory currently under construction. Please take a look at your current listing.

If you are new to the parish, please feel free to call Patty in the church office to make sure we have all your information for the directory.

If you have any additions, deletions or changes (maybe your email address changed), please leave a note in the secretary's mail slot, or phone (781 762 0959), or email (Grace.Norwood@Verizon.net).



The Magi's story — and ours

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.



We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

—Travis Cunningham, tvcresources.net

Sanctuary Candle

The sanctuary candle burns continuously 24 hours a day, 365 days a year representing the presence of the Lord. All are welcome to make an offering in memory of a loved one. Please call Patty in the church office. She can let you know what dates are available and take the information for your memorial. Donation checks can be made payable to St. Faith's Altar Guild. Suggested donation \$6.00.



Healing Ministry at Grace Church Norwood in the Time of COVID-19

During this period of safe distancing due to the Corona Virus, Healing Prayers are being offered by phone. You can call any of our Healing Ministers any time: Cathy Noble (781-344-1237), Deb Morton (781-769-4044), Sue Breen (508-404-9887), or Carol Maloof (617-584-2219).

Grace Notes Deadline, January 17

The next newsletter deadline will be on December 20 for the January issue of Grace Notes. All parish members are invited to share with their parish family. Please be sure to have your submittals to the church on time.



Live in the light

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

JANUARY READINGS

- 3 Epiphany Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12
Psalm 72:1-7,10-14
- 10 Epiphany 1:
The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11
Psalm 29
- 17 Epiphany 2
1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17
- 24 Epiphany 3
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20
Psalm 62:6-14
- 31 Epiphany 4
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28
Psalm 111

JANUARY



Happy Anniversary
Ken & Maureen Drew (1/19)

Happy Birthday
Mike Regner
Linda Peeler
Stephen Falcone
Bill Daly
Luke DeMarco
Kirk Mathews
Andrew Maloof
Peter Loescher
Daniel Falcone
Dorothy Sabourin
Pierce Baguma
Nicholas Grant
Isabelle Grant
Michael Falcone



Blue Christmas Thank You

A Special thank you to all TEAM BLUE members who united people through a beautiful outdoor solemn, reflective and hope-filled candle light program on Sat., December 19th. Team members included Fr. John, Patty Begin, John Stanley, Deb Morton, Sue Jarrell, Tracey Johnson, Cathy Noble, Katherine Wharton and Sue Breen. The service provided interactive readings and peaceful music. A Christmas tree with blue lights and a small bonfire provided the means to remember loved ones and dismiss past difficulties.

Christmas Tree Sales

Thank you so much for making the 2020 Christmas tree sale one of the quickest and most profitable on record. Despite all the danger, 28 people signed up to sell trees from folks in their 20s to folks in their 70s. So much is due to your efforts, and to Chris Jordan's and John Stanley's course charting.

SUNDAY MORNING DEVOTION VIA PHONE CONFERENCING

When: Every Sunday for Duration at 10:50 AM
How: Dial-in 605-313-5909, and enter Access Code 744948#
What: We Will Say Together Morning Daily Devotion from BCP (p. 137 or below)
Father John will read the Sunday Gospel and his sermon of the day.
We will have time to include our own individual prayers and have informal check-in with each other (Virtual Coffee Hour) after we do the service, and announcements of parish doings. Runs no more than 45 minutes.

Sunday Morning Devotion 10:50 AM Service Via Telephone

From Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Reading of the Sunday Gospel

Sermon from Father John

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect of the Day

Prayer During COVID-19



Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

JANUARY 2021

27 CHRISTMAS 1 9:00 AM Lessons & Carols via Zoom 10:50 AM Morning Devotion via Conferencecall.com	28 7:00 AM AA Meeting	29 7:00 AM AA Meeting	30 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM "The Shepherd" movie on Zoom	31 7:00 AM AA Meeting	1 New Year's Day 7:00 AM AA Meeting	2 8:20 AM Food Pantry
3 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Pantry Sunday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer with Stations of The Magi via Zoom 10:50 AM Morning Devotion via Conferencecall.com	4 7:00 AM AA Meeting	5 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:30 PM Stewardship Meeting	6 Epiphany 7:00 AM AA Meeting 6:50 PM Evening Prayer via Zoom	7 7:00 AM AA Meeting	8 7:00 AM AA Meeting	9 8:20 AM Food Pantry
10 EPIPHANY 1 9:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:50 AM Morning Devotion via Conferencecall.com	11 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	12 7:00 AM AA Meeting	13 7:00 AM AA Meeting 6:50 PM Evening Prayer via Zoom	14 7:00 AM AA Meeting	15 7:00 AM AA Meeting	16 8:20 AM Food Pantry
17 EPIPHANY 2 9:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:50 AM Morning Devotion via Conferencecall.com	18 Martin L. King, Jr. Day 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM EFM Class	19 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM EFM Class	20 7:00 AM AA Meeting 12:00 PM Young @ Heart Lunch 6:50 PM Evening Prayer via Zoom	21 7:00 AM AA Meeting	22 7:00 AM AA Meeting	23 8:20 AM Food Pantry
24 EPIPHANY 3 9:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:50 AM Morning Devotion via Conferencecall.com	25 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM EFM Class	26 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM EFM Class	27 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Winter/Lent Program: The Chosen, Episode 1 on Zoom	28 7:00 AM AA Meeting	29 7:00 AM AA Meeting	30 8:20 AM Food Pantry
31 EPIPHANY 4 ANNUAL MEETING 9:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 11:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING via ZOOM	1 7:00 AM AA Meeting	2 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:30 PM Stewardship Meeting	3 7:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Winter/Lent Program: The Chosen	4 7:00 AM AA Meeting	5 7:00 AM AA Meeting	6 8:20 AM Food Pantry

STAFF

The Rev. R. John Brockmann, Rector
Paula King, Music Director
Patricia Begin, Parish Secretary
Roy McHoul, Sexton

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Rector by appointment (Tues – Thurs 10-1)

Office: 781-762-0959
Prayer Line: 508-668-7175
Email: Grace.Norwood@Verizon.net
Visit our web site: www.gracenor.org

OFFICERS

Katherine Wharton, Senior Warden
David Button, Junior Warden
Beth Gurney, Treasurer
Carolyn Escher, Assistant Treasurer

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sue Breen
Leslie Grant
Carol Johnson
Tracey Johnson
Bonnie Lowe
John Stanley

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