



REV. SUZANNE WADE, Priest in Charge  
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TRINITY CHAPEL  
184 CENTER RD. SHIRLEY, MA 01464  
VESTRY MEMBERS  
SENIOR WARDEN: Lyn Doran,  
JUNIOR WARDEN: Stephanie Hooper  
TREASURER: Chester Hooper  
ASSISTANT TREASURER: Donna King  
CLERK: OPEN Betty Mahon, Nancy Sawyer, Marge  
Halloran, Sherley Thom. Jim Spall,  
Nan Gulliver

**DECEMBER 2021**



### **A Psalm for Advent**

#### **HALLELUJAH!**

**PRAISE the Lord, O my soul!**

**1. I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

**2. Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.**

**3. When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

**4. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! Whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

**5. Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;**

**6. Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.**

**7. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**8. The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

**9. The Lord shall reign for ever, you God, O Zion, throughout all generations.**

**HALLELUJAH!**



*Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)*

In the Congregational church I grew up in, Advent marked the start of the Christmas season. We hung the greens on the first Sunday of Advent, and sang Christmas carols until Christmas Day. So it was a shock to me when I arrived in the Episcopal church, and found Advent marked with the purple colors of Lent, somber music, and an emphasis on penitence! It was not a change I embraced wholeheartedly.

Advent, though, is much more than just a "little Lent." As I've learned more about Catholic and Anglican tradition, I've discovered that this is a season with many characteristics. The somber, penitential mood I first noted is just one aspect of Advent. The practice of keeping a fast during Advent originated in France, Spain, and Germany, where it was intended as a spiritual preparation for keeping one of the church's primary Feasts, the Feast of the Nativity. In Rome, however, the season before Christmas was a festive time. There was no established fast, and the season was considered a joyful one. Eventually, the church harmonized its liturgies and its seasonal celebrations, and the result was a season that combined features of both traditions – a penitential character in a season that also looks forward with joy.

Still, it does sound rather contradictory, doesn't it? How can one be penitent and joyful at the same time? It wasn't until the Advent when I was nine months pregnant with my daughter, who was born on Dec. 26, that I really began to grasp the spirit of the season.

Late pregnancy is a time of many strong emotions. There is joyful anticipation as you eagerly wait to for the new life you are carrying to enter the world. There's anxiety and even a little fear as you contemplate the difficulty and pain of labor. There's a certain amount of surrender, as late pregnancy's demands on your body means you are no longer fully in control of it. And finally, there is preparation for an event that will turn your life upside down in ways you know you cannot fully imagine.

I think this is a good way to think of Advent. We are joyfully anticipating the coming of the Light into the world, and the return of Christ in glory. There may be some anxiety, because we know from the Gospels that the passage from our current age into the Kingdom of God will not be without pain. We surrender to God, recognizing that we cannot fully control what happens in our lives or in the world, and trusting that God will see us through this passage. And we prepare our hearts for an event that will surely turn our lives upside down in ways we cannot fully imagine.

Penitence in Advent is all about preparing our hearts for Christ's coming, much the way we prepare the nursery for a new baby. Pausing to remember and confess our sins allows us to move them out of our hearts, to leave them at the foot of the cross, so that we have space to receive the forgiveness and love God offered to us through a child in a manger. And that is surely a cause for celebration!

Suzanne



## Planning for Advent and Christmas

### Greening the Church

Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> – After worship and a lunch, there will be a field trip to Marge's property to gather greens.

Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> – After worship, a group will hang the greens around the building. By then, we will be able to use the red bows.

We will not try to have a tree this year.

See Nancy Shepherd if you want to donate money for a poinsettia in memory of someone and it will be left at the altar for three weeks, and then you can take it home.

### Advent Decorating

The theme for November 28<sup>th</sup> is Hope, December 5<sup>th</sup> is Love, December 12<sup>th</sup> is Joy, December 19<sup>th</sup> is Peace

Nan will make the Advent wreath.

Nancy Shepherd will look for a set of Advent readings that folks can do at home.

We will put out the pieces of the creche a little at a time.

Meredith and Nan will provide small Advent theme tree decorations to take home each week.

Meredith will prepare readings for each week in Advent and look for couples to do the readings and to light the candles.

### Christmas

At this time, we do not know if group singing will be allowed, but we will try to at least have a cantor. Members of the congregation may hum or sing quietly with their masks on. We will try to include every Christmas carol at some time during the season. Hopefully, some of our instrumentalists will also volunteer to help out.

Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> - Family Service at 4:00 pm – Suzanne will be in Westford for their Christmas Service. Meredith will find volunteers to do readings that imagine the human reactions to the Christmas story by the people who were there at the first Christmas Eve. Let Meredith know if you plan on attending and are willing to read. Nancy Shepherd will officiate at Eucharist.

Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> - Traditional Candle-Lighting service at 10:00 pm.

Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup> – Service of Lessons and Carols. Readers will be needed.

Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany





Our long time friend at Trinity Chapel, Nancy Sawyer, would like to spread the word that she has her poetry in *Quabban Quills Anthology*.

Called **BEYOND THE PATHWAY**

It is ready for you to read on Amazon.

Peace and blessings from **NANCY SHEPHERD**

It's hard to believe that December is here and it is great to be planning our indoor services for Christmas Eve.

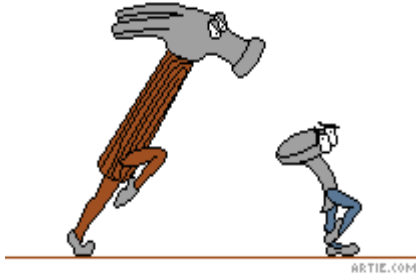
As usual, I will be buying Poinsettias and other flowers with which to donate to Trinity Chapel. If you would like to contribute to these decorations, please make out a check to Trinity Chapel, with a "Christmas Flowers" in the memo section. You can place it in the offering plate or mail it to *Trinity Chapel, PO Box 1488, Shirley, MA 01464*.

If you would like your donation to be in memory of or in honor of someone, please write a note that effect and put it in an envelope with your check.

The deadline for the check and the request will December 19 (whether you put it in the offering plate or mail it to the PO by that date. Donna King will be compiling the list for the Christmas Eve Program.

Thank you so much for your gifts. If we have leftover donation money, we will be able to buy flowers at other occasions during the year.



**RECTORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, FRIDAY****NOVEMBER 12, 2021**

PRESENT: Karla Leonard; Lyn Doran; Stephanie Hooper; Chet Hooper; Jean Read; Meredith Marcinkewicz; Nan Gulliver; Nancy Shepherd; Sharron Pothier; and the Rev. Suzanne Wade.

**WORK AT THE RECTORY:**

Stephanie reported that Bret has sent a link to the photo he took of the Chapel at Night which she will have printed and then give to Robert Adam and Mark Davidson as a thank you for the amazing restoration work they did on the back of the rectory.

Chet has gone around the outside of the rectory with the painter, Bill Lombardi, and has noted what needs to be fixed before Bill can paint the rectory. Bill commented that some window sills need to be repaired and a few loose boards replaced. Bret has agreed to repair the window sills this winter.

Bret will smooth over the area in the parking lot where the dumpster used to be with the extra stones piled there. We will get an estimate from Guthrie Brothers about the cost of putting stones along the bottom of the wall in the restored section of the back of the rectory and also the cost of leveling this area so the water can drain away from the house.

Bret has commented that his wife has heard something chewing behind the wall of the upstairs bedroom. Stephanie will ask Montachusets Pest Control to come back to bait both the rectory and the chapel. ( Note—Montachusets Pest Control will meet Stephanie and Chet at the Chapel November 24<sup>th</sup>).

Chet will check with Mr. Quinty at Shirley Fuel and Gas to see if the furnaces need to be cleaned in both the rectory and the Chapel. He also will check to see whether there is a filter on the furnace in the Chapel as people have been complaining about dampness in the building, especially in the vestibule outside Shepherd Hall. We also may need to consult a professional to look at the dampness problem.

Bret will insulate the kitchen pipes in the rectory.

The Adopt a Window Campaign is going well. Through the Adopt a Window Campaign we have already raised over a third of the total cost of restoring the thirty- five windows in the Chapel building. Fred has already begun work on these windows but does not want to be paid until he has finished painting and restoring all the windows. Money continues to come in to help cover the cost of \$100 a window, and Stephanie and Chet have agreed to pay the difference of any money that is needed at the end of the job.

**RESTORATION FUND:**

We are looking for a new Chair for the Capital Campaign and will discuss this need at the next vestry meeting.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN.**

Chet, Jim Spall, Donna King, Lyn Doran and Suzanne are on the Finance Committee, and Suzanne agreed to set up a date for a meeting soon to discuss the Stewardship Campaign. She offered to send around an email giving different possibilities for a time for the Committee to meet

Rectory Committee minutes continued

**DISCUSSION WITH THE REV. SUZANNE WADE ABOUT FUTURE USES FOR THE RECTORY ONCE IT IS MADE SAFE AND SECURE.**

- 1) The Vestry will have to talk about the future possible use of the rectory once it is safe and secure. There was a discussion about whether Suzanne could have her office there even if she is not living there but Suzanne said she did not need an office there. Her office at home is quiet.
- 2) If we were to rent the rectory, we would probably have to pay taxes, although the rental fees might offset that.
- 3) Another problem with renting the rectory is that it could be difficult to find someone to repair and fix a sudden problem.
- 4) We have a lead paint problem as the rectory is old. It would be illegal for anyone under five to live there because lead paint has been used.
- 5) It was noted that it would probably be a year before we have to decide what to do with the rectory.
- 6) We talked about discussing further the use of the rectory at the Annual Meeting in January.

**SUGGESTION BOX**

Nan has put a suggestion box in the vestibule, but not many people have put suggestions into it. Meredith will put a note in the Weekly Eblast, urging people to put their comments or concerns into this box. Lyn, our Senior Warden, will then read these comments and decide what to do with them next.

**NEXT RECTORY COMMITTEE MEETING:**

**Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hooper

## Announcements

### **This Week's Worship Schedule**

9 a.m. St. Mark's in-Person Indoor Service, facemasks required.

11 a.m. Trinity Chapel In-Person Indoor Service, facemasks required. Live streamed via YouTube.

Daily Compline Service Monday-Friday 9 p.m.

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEcL-R4RICNJs0MsDmsJppQ>

**Pastoral Visits.** Want to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Just want to talk to the priest? Rev. Suzanne is available for pastoral visits via telephone, Zoom, and in-person (with COVID precautions). You can contact her about a visit via email at [revsuzannewade@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzannewade@gmail.com), phone/text at 508-472-9656, or the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.

### **Collaborative Efforts:**

**Sundays @ 7.** Beginning Nov. 7, there will be a weekly Zoom gathering of members of St. Mark's and Trinity and our friends and neighbors at 7 p.m. The topic will vary week-to-week: the schedule through the end of the year is:

Dec. 5 — Bible Stories that Bother Us

Dec. 12 — Holy Ground Book Club

Dec. 19 — Blue Christmas Prayers of Love & Support for those hit hard by the holidays.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89506295937>

**Bible Stories that Bother Us.** The Bible is full of inspiration and wisdom -- but it's also full of stories that set our teeth on edge and make us wonder what we are supposed to take away from them. From Old Testament stories of patriarchs and kings behaving badly to teachings that emphasize judgement and exclusion instead of love and inclusion, there are plenty of passages that make us uncomfortable at best, unsure of our faith at worst. In this monthly discussion group, we'll confront some of those stories head on, talking about context, translation, culture, and how we keep our faith in a loving God when reading the Bible doesn't help. Participants are invited to submit a passage or story from Scripture that they find uncomfortable or unsettling to Rev. Suzanne for discussion. We'll choose one to get us started each week, and then open the floor to questions about others as time permits. E-mail the Bible stories that bother **you** to [revsuzannewade@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzannewade@gmail.com).

**The Holy Ground Book Club** will be reading Tim Schenck's book: "Holy Grounds: The Surprising Connection Between Coffee and Faith" This lively and entertaining book invites reflections on coffee, faith, social justice, and how small changes can make big differences in the lives of others. The author will also join us via Zoom for an "Author's Night" in January! The book is available in e-book formats through Amazon and Barnes and Noble: If you'd like to purchase a paperback copy, you can order one through Rev. Suzanne by emailing, texting, or phoning her by Nov. 1: The publisher offers a significant discount on the purchase of 6 or more books.

**Prayers for Healing.** Rev. Suzanne will be at Trinity Chapel at 11 a.m. on the first Friday of the month to offer prayers for all in need of healing, both those who are part of the church and those in our wider community. **The next prayer time will be Dec. 3.** All are invited to join her in the sanctuary for this time of prayer, whether they have need of prayer for themselves, know someone in need of prayer, or simply feel called to pray for those in need of God's healing. Members of Trinity Chapel are encouraged to invite anyone in need of prayer to submit a prayer request by clicking this link: <https://forms.gle/8vxRLpYr7ZxkDTNc8>

**Trinity Chapel (All are welcome to participate)**

Trinity Vestry Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m..

**Greening of the church:** Join us on Dec. 19 after worship as we decorate for Christmas.

**Christmas Flower Donations:** See Nancy Shepherd if you want to donate money for a poinsettia in memory of someone and it will be left at the altar for three weeks, and then you can take it home.

**Theology on Tap:** Wednesday, Dec. 15, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Bull Run. Join us for an informal conversation about God, church, and whatever else you want to know! You are welcome to join Rev. Suzanne in eating dinner, or just bring your questions and join us for a drink or snack.

**Lura White School Snacks Collection:** Trinity Chapel is once again collecting nutritious snacks for students at the Lura White School in Shirley for in-school and take-home weekend brown bags. Donations granola bars, cheese crackers, 100 % juice boxes, boxes of raisins, snack packs of 100% fruit and similar nutritious snacks (not nuts or peanut butter, please!) can be left in the basket at the entranceway at Trinity. St. Mark's parishioners who would like to participate in this program may drop off their donations in the office on Wednesday, Thursday, or Sunday mornings and Rev. Suzanne will deliver them to Trinity.

**Loaves & Fishes Soup Collection:** Trinity continues to collect donations of hearty soups for the Loaves & Fishes food pantry. Collection basket can be found in the foyer.

**St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Salad:** Trinity parishioners supply the ingredients for salad when our collaboration partners at St. Mark's serve the meal at St. Paul's Soup Kitchen in Lowell. The next meal is **Wednesday, Dec. 1.** If you would like to be added to the online sign up, please email Rev. Suzanne at [revsuzannewade@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzannewade@gmail.com).

**St. Mark's (All are welcome to participate)**

Next Vestry Meeting: Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

**Toy Drive:** During this Advent season, St. Mark's is once again partnering with Westford Preschool in the participation of "For the Love of Erika" toy drive. This project was started by Taylor Leong in memory of Taylor's friend, Erika Gould, who was a student at Westford Preschool. Please consider donating new, unopened, unwrapped gifts for children ages 0-18 years old. They are especially in need of Legos, Barbies, and Learning toys. There will be a collection box in the narthex through Friday, December 10. Gifts will be delivered to hospitals, shelters, and the Department of Children and Families. Please contact Chrissy Hemingway with any questions ([chrissyhemingway@comcast.net](mailto:chrissyhemingway@comcast.net) or 978-460-3065)

**St. Mark's Chocolate Festival Reimagined—We need your help!** The St. Mark's Chocolate Festival is back, but in a new format that will allow us to raise money for local food pantries in a safe way. The Chocolate Festival (Reimagined) will take place on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., but we need to start our planning process NOW. Please join us for a kickoff meeting of the planning committee on Monday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., on Zoom



**Announcements continued**

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**Friday Bible Study.** St. Mark's Friday Bible study meets every other week to discuss the lectionary readings for the week. New members are welcome! Next meeting Nov. 19. If you'd like to join, e-mail Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com to request the Zoom link and the readings

**Bridges Worship Ministry.** The next service will be **Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 3:45 p.m.** Our monthly service at Bridges includes prayers, singing some old favorite hymns, and distribution of communion. We welcome St. Mark's members to join us in the ministry by worshipping alongside the residents and assisting as singers, musicians, lay eucharistic visitors, and readers. All ages are welcome; community service hours are offered for young people who need them. **You must be fully vaccinated to participate in this ministry and must bring your vaccine card with you to show to the staff at Bridges.** Bridges is also conducting rapid covid tests upon arrival. Facemasks are required at all times. If you would like to join us, please let Rev. Suzanne know for the week.



### THOSE IN OUR MILITARY

JONATHAN OAKES, ALEX CORMIER, ANDREW CULLEN, DENNIS HARD, DUNCAN SCHAF, BRANDON HARSCH, AIDAN CANFIELD, TOM STRICKLER

Angie

Ann

Anderson, Ross

Branden (Donna's grandson)

Bonnacolta, Patricia

Boyd, Jane

Carter, Mickie

Carter, Mikel

Conners, Margaret

Cristy, Ann

Dean, Susan

Desler, Ray (Sharron)

Faucher, Emilie

Gassiraro, Mike (Lyn's Son in law)

Glazer, Pam (friend of Lyn)

Gole, Bob

Gracey, Ariana (Jean Reed's granddaughter)

Gray, Marilyn (daughter of Fran Gray)

Gray, Martin (son of Fran Gray)

Guadalupe, Mellisa

Hoff, Chris (cancer friend of Stephanie's)

Halloran, Mike and Marge

Hamilton, Katie

Harron, Robin

Holly

Jefferson-Tate, Rene

Kerrigan, Jim (Lyn's partner)

Leonard, Charlie & Jim

Mahon, Betty

McKenna, Bill

Mezick, Margaret

Meyer, Maureen

Naugler, Christopher

Naugler, Cindy

Naugler, James

Panetta Paul (Maureen's brother)

Panetta Mary (Maureen's niece)

Panetta, Maureen (recovering from surgery)

Pellerin, Kerry (friend of Amy's who has M.S.)

Pothier, Mark (Sharron and Vince's son)

Phil (friend of Nancy Sawyer)

Ray and Marge

Reed, Izzy

Reed, Nicki

Richardson, Elaine

Sarah, (grandchild of a friend of Jean's mother)

Schmidt, Keara (chorus member with Maureen)

Sanft, Judy (friend of Karen)

Stacks, Wendy, (Nan's Daughter)

Stires, Henry

Stetson (Jean Reed)

Sullivan, Paul (Karen's cousin's son)

Sutton, Joe S

Wales, Edith (Lyn's cousin)

