



THE THREE CROWNS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

December 18, 2017

70 Church Street
Winchester, Massachusetts
781.729.1922

He was Born to See Us



Beloved Community,

We hear many stories during this season of Advent, this season of waiting and anticipation. We know some of the stories by heart. The passages of scriptures that many of us heard last night at our Lessons and Carols service are etched on our hearts, as are many of the carols that we sing during this beautiful and holy season.

Recently, I stumbled upon a book in my library at home that made me pause to pick it up again. It is called, *Tracks in the Straw: Tales Spun from the Manger* by Ted Loader. Ted is a Methodist Minister and prolific writer of poems and prayers. One of the chapters in his book entitled "Trillia Minor," is about a swallow that happened to fly into an ancient barn on the night that Jesus born. This common bird describes the scene:

"That's how it was that night for me, an ordinary swallow. He saw me, Trillia, the only Trillia that ever was or will be. And when he did, there was a rush of fire and wonder in me that, ever since, I've poured out in a song that I taught other birds to sing. To me, it was as though that was why he was born. It was to see me; and to see everyone else in that stable, every other creature on the earth, to see us so we would forever know we are seen."

We would forever know we are seen. The Christ that is in the world, that dwells in each one of us, see us in all our glory and brokenness, our joys and our grief, and our struggles. And in turn, Christ invites us to see each other - to see beyond our well-put-together selves, our "Sunday best" selves. Christ invites us to see those who are invisible in our culture: the unhoused person on the street, the hourly wage workers who serve us politely at restaurants, the gas station, the grocery, and so many other places of our privileged lives. Christ invites us to see those who are incarcerated, those whose religious and political practices differ from ours.

And so, as we approach the Feast of the Incarnation in one short week, I wonder how we will prepare our hearts and minds for Emmanuel - God with us. How will our lives change? I pray that God will give us the eyes of Christ - that we will see one another and the stranger with compassionate and loving eyes, that when we greet one another and look into others' eyes, we will be as the Christ Child was to that little bird, Trillia, on

the first Christmas. May we say to everyone we meet, "I see you, just as the tender, loving Christ does, I see you."

Faithfully,



Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve, Sunday, 24 December

8:00am *No service on this day*

10:00am Holy Eucharist with Christmas Lessons

4:00pm Family Service with Holy Eucharist & Children's Pageant

7:00pm Holy Eucharist with Parish Choir and String Quartet

10:00pm Holy Eucharist with Parish Choir and String Quartet

incense will be used

Christmas Day, Monday, 25 December

10:00am Holy Eucharist with hymns, soloist and organ music

First Sunday after Christmas Day, 31 December

10:00am Holy Eucharist - *no 8:00am service on this day*

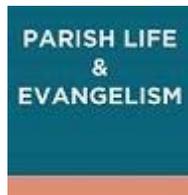




Advent Giving Tree



There are still ornaments on the tree in Hadley Hall. On each ornament is a specific Christmas gift request. These gifts help those in need and who come to us through the many organizations with which Epiphany is involved. Please be mindful of the various instructions and due dates of each gift. If you have any questions, please contact [Celia Ceruolo](mailto:Celia.Ceruolo@epiphany.org) at 781.729.6209.



Deliver Christmas Flowers



Monday, 25 December after the 10:00am worship

Volunteers are needed to deliver poinsettias following Christmas morning's service. It is Epiphany's tradition to deliver the plants that decorate our Altar to those who are homebound, have lost a loved one, or have celebrated a wedding or baptism in the past year. It is a wonderful way to share the spirit of Christmas with others in your Parish family. If you can help, please pick up a plant and card at the conclusion of the service. It's easy to pick a delivery for someone in your neighborhood or for someone with whom you want to connect.



Neighbor to Neighbor Update



Thank you to everyone who has generously committed to help fund Epiphany for the coming year.

We are happy to report that as of 12 December we have received \$778,651 in commitments from 240 parishioners. That leaves us 35 pledges and \$81,000 to go to meet our goal of \$860,000 from 275 pledges.

If you haven't made a commitment for 2018, we would be very grateful if you took a moment this week to do so. Annual pledges support everything we do at Epiphany including our worship services, pastoral care, formation, and outreach along with providing for the clergy, staff, and facilities that make those efforts possible.

Thank you for your part in helping to sustain this worship community in the coming year. Your pledge represents a faithful commitment to Epiphany's mission and its role in God's work throughout the world.

If you need another pledge packet, please contact the [Parish Office](#) at 781.729.1922. You can also download a pledge packet here or pledge directly online by [clicking here](#). The Stewardship Committee thanks you and wishes you a peaceful and Holy Advent.



Report on the Diocese of Massachusetts Annual Convention



In his recent newsletter article, the Rev. Ran Chase described many of the highlights of the Diocesan Convention. What follows is a brief summary of the meeting from Epiphany's lay delegates to the convention, Carolyn Pershouse and Scott Street, along with some web links for those who want additional information.

The 232nd(!) convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts was held on 5 November at St Paul's Cathedral in Boston. Epiphany was represented at the convention by clergy delegates the Revs. Miriam Gelfer and Ran Chase, and by lay delegates Carolyn Pershouse and Scott Street. Also in attendance from Epiphany were Lisa Garcia (Diocesan Treasurer), interim Cathedral Organist Louise Munding, Intern Paul Shoaf Kozak, and parishioners the Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas and Brett Johnson. [Read More](#)



Finance Committee Members Wanted

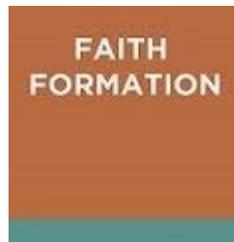
The Finance Committee is looking to increase its membership in 2018! The Committee is responsible for overseeing the business side of operating the Parish, providing fiscal guidance and oversight to the Vestry, and preparing the Annual Operating Budget. We are looking for individuals who are interested in supporting this Parish in this very important work. We meet monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, in the evening. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact [Cherie Collin de Casaubon](#) at 617.721.4500.



Have You Heard



Brett Johnson has been invited by Bishop Alan Gates into postulancy for Holy Orders. This marks a significant step in Brett's call to become a priest in the Episcopal Church, and affirms the Parish of the Epiphany's careful discernment with Brett. Congratulations Brett!



Epiphany Minicourses

Adult Formation Minicourses for the season of Epiphany.

Classes meet for four weeks and you are invited to attend a different class each week or select a topic of interest to you and stay with it for the session. More detailed descriptions of each class will follow in the coming weeks.

Class dates are:

Sundays at 11:15am; 14 January, 21 January, 4 February, and 11 February

Classes are

1. *The Personalities of the Disciples*, facilitated by Gabrielle Stott
2. *From the Back Bay to the Suburbs: A Christ-centered Spirituality for Right Now*, facilitated by Thomas Brown
3. *A Study of the Salem Witch Trials as an example of discipleship*, facilitated by Michael Chesson
4. *Abraham: A Life*, facilitated by John Jenke
5. *Praying as a Family*, facilitated by Thea Keith-Lucas

This Week at Epiphany

Monday, 18 December	
6:00pm & 7:30pm	AA
Tuesday, 19 December	
7:15am	Men's Group
6:00pm	Pray the Parish Prayer List
Wednesday, 20 December	
7:30am	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
Thursday, 21 December	
9:00am	Contemplative Prayer
9:30am	Thursday with the Gospels: Bible Study
5:30pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 22 December	
9:30am	Parent/Child Playgroup Group
Sunday, 24 December	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
10:00am	Holy Eucharist
3:00pm	Participants arrive for the Pageant
4:00pm	Family Holy Eucharist with Children's Pageant
7:00pm	Festival Holy Eucharist
10:00pm	Festival Holy Eucharist

Parish Office is Closed from December 25 to January 1

For more information

Our website can be [found here](#)

Information on our [Worship Services](#) can be found here

If you are [new to Epiphany](#), click here

Our complete [Parish calendar](#) can be found here

Sign-up for [on line pledge payments](#) here

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[Unsubscribe](#)