

“Blessed are you...”



Watercolor by Monica Welch

Church of St. Mary of the Harbor
January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Where the land, the sea and the sacred meet

Welcome to the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor

A warm welcome to you! Here at St. Mary's, we welcome you with open arms and open hearts, to share with you the love with which Christ has welcomed us. Whoever you are, wherever you may be in life, there is a place for you here. In this beautiful place, you will find sojourners like yourself who are searching for truth, meaning, and purpose. And we invite you to explore and experience the gift of God's love in this place where the land, the sea, and the sacred meet.

Worship Guidance

Everything you need to guide you through today's service will be found in this leaflet, or in the hymnals in the chair just in front of you. You are invited to join in prayers and responses when the words are in **bold-faced** print in the leaflet. Most hymns may be found in *The Hymnal 1982*, the large blue hymnal. Occasionally hymns may be drawn from the green hymnal *Wonder, Love, and Praise* (abbreviated WLP in your leaflet), or from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (abbreviated LEVAS).

Holy Communion

Our worship is centered in the sharing of Communion, and no matter what your background, you are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this Table. For health reasons you may wish to receive only the Bread. Please be assured that you have made your full communion whether you receive the Bread only, or if you receive both the Bread and the Wine. Eager to do all we can to protect one another's well-being, we entrust you to take whatever health precautions seem best to you. Masks continue to be preferred throughout our worship services.

Hospitality after Sunday Services

There will be hospitality immediately after today's service in Nicholson Hall. New hosts for future Sundays are welcome, and may sign up on the kitchen pass-through counter. Hosts are needed for February 19 and 26.

Stewardship Update

We are grateful to all of you who have already sent in your pledge for 2023. As of Wednesday, we have received 63 pledges. This means we are 84% of the way towards our goal of 75 pledges. If you are still reflecting about your pledge for this year, we would welcome your pledge as soon as possible.

In Case of Need

If pastoral needs should arise, please contact the Reverend William W. Rich, Interim Rector, at 774-383-1236 or WWRich53@protonmail.com. Please make us aware of any needs for a pastoral conversation or visit.

Winter Lunches

Winter lunches for our hungry neighbors are being offered here at St. Mary's on Saturdays in January and February. Your help is welcome. A sign-up sheet is on the pass-through counter between the kitchen and the parish hall. You may also call the parish office (508-487-2622) to make known your desire to help.

Supporting Our Neighbors – First Sunday Food Focus

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of February. As a visual reminder of the needs of our neighbors, on the first Sunday of each month we will be carrying to the altar the basket of donations that you make to the "Little Free Pantry," hosted by our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House. That pantry provides non-perishable grocery and toiletry items for anyone in need. Please consider picking up an extra item or two when you shop. Items may be left in the basket by the baptismal font at any time. Please, no perishables, no glass containers and *please check expiration dates*. The Pantry cannot use expired items.

Upcoming Weeks at St. Mary's

Saturday, February 4 – 8:30 am

Strength for the Journey

An online lay-led service of contemplation and healing. Contact Gerri Spinella (gerri.spinella@gmail.com) if you'd like to be included in the email invitation to each week's service.

Saturday, February 4 – 12 noon

Winter Lunches

Sunday, February 5 – 10 am

Holy Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Church of St. Mary of the Harbor

517 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657 Phone: 508-487-2622

stmaryoftheharbor.org smothoffice@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday (9-12), Wednesday (1-5), & Friday (9-5)

Julia Perry, Office Manager – smothoffice@gmail.com

This Sunday's Leadership

Interim Rector, Preacher, and Celebrant – *The Reverend William W. Rich*

Deacon for the Gospel and Intercessions – *The Reverend Bruce Mason*

Organist – *Bill Carlson*

Crucifer – *Andrea Sawyer*

Lector – *Harry Ellsworth*

Healer – *Maghi Geary*

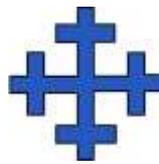
Ushers – *Peter Falconer and Harry Ellsworth*

Altar Guild – *Priscilla Jackett*

Hospitality – *Pat and Phil Penza*

Livestream – *John Carroll-Yagel*

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Vestry Officers

Pat Penza, Senior Warden

Tim Brown, Junior Warden

John Loftin, Treasurer

Gerri Spinella, Clerk

Vestry Members

Harry Ellsworth

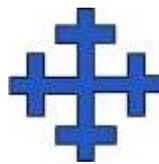
Andrea Sawyer

David Griffiths

Michael Sutila

Anita McGahan

John Carroll-Yagel



Search Committee

Bill Glass, Chair

Sharon Inger

Joan Gibbons

Julia Perry

The Search Committee may be contacted via email: smothsearch@gmail.com

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude **Ostinato on *Germany***

Dennis Janzer

Hymn 440 **Blessed Jesus, at thy word**

Liebster Jesu

Celebrant Alleluia. O Christ, you call us to follow you.

People Give us the grace to follow where you lead. Alleluia.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 711 **Seek ye first the kingdom of God**

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Allelu, alleluia!

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

read responsively by the half verse

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 160

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow

Cross of Jesus

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend William W. Rich

I believe in God almighty

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the

things that be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens,
 cru - ci - fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied -
 saints with - in one church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly,

Keep - er of the sky and sea. I be - lieve in
 True Life there had tru - ly died. I be - lieve that
 where for - give - ness frees from sin; in the bod - y's

God's Son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ of the Spir - it
 on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed
 res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's

and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993); © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: *Arfon* (Major), Welsh hymn melody, harm. Carlton R. Young, alt.
 arr. © 1964 Abingdon Press
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The Prayers of the People

~ from *Intercessions for the Christian People*, edited

- Deacon* For the church and for all your creation, we pray to you, Holy God, saying: Teach us your Way, O Christ.
- Deacon* Blessed are the poor in spirit; because of them comes heaven's reign. And so we pray: Unite the church, guide Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Alan Gayle, and Carol, our Bishops; and all its leaders; let us show the world the love of Jesus.
- People* **Teach us your Way, O Christ.**
- Deacon* Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God. And so we pray: Give your people the will and the courage to value serving you above all lesser goods.
- People* **Teach us your Way, O Christ.**
- Deacon* Blessed are the peacemakers, God's own children. And so we pray: Bring peace to the world, security to the nations, and safety from violence to all.
- People* **Teach us your Way, O Christ.**
- Deacon* Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. And so we pray: Remove from us prejudice and injustice, and raise up among us those who will labor for the good of all whom you have made.
- People* **Teach us your Way, O Christ.**
- Deacon* Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Be present with those who are sick, imprisoned, or in distress, especially the people of Ukraine, the people of Russia, Elizabeth, Monique, Mike Sutula, Joan Boudreau, Joyce, Sandra Powell, Julie, Ken Barry, Towanda deNagy, Bobby Taylor, Kent Taylor, Carol Studley, Ron Kershaw, Cecelia Hall, Diana Hardy, Scott Ashley, Sam Adams, Frank Milby, Priscilla McChesney, Maureen Cronin, Michael Mason, Terry Monaghan, Donna Pickener, Deidre Malloy, Ollie Ahmuty, Joan Walter, Phebe McPherson, Joan Marshall, Marcia McClure, Duane Steele, Chip Bailey, John Mikorenda, Jim Neely, Ann English, Kristine Hopkins, and those whose names are spoken on our lips, those who are known to us in our hearts, and those known only to you.
[pause for names to be added]
- Make us quick to love and serve our neighbors.
- People* **Teach us your Way, O Christ.**
- Deacon* Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. And so we pray for all who have witnessed to your love with their lives, and we pray for all who have died, especially
[pause for names to be added]
- Give us strength to witness to Christ before the rulers of our own day, by lives of justice, kindness and humility.
- People* **Teach us your Way, O Christ.**
- Celebrant* Holy and gracious God, you have taught us to do justice, love kindness, and practice humility before you; make our faith active in love, that your name may be praised and your people served throughout the earth, through Christ our Lord.
- People* **Amen.**
- People* **Spirit of the living God:
Guide us as we journey together in search for a new rector.
Grant us patience to listen and wisdom to understand each other and ourselves.
Equip us with open minds and truthful hearts.
Anchor us in faith, hope, and love during this transition and always. Amen.**

The prayers are concluded with Hymn 608, verse 1

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave, who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep: O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

The Confession and Absolution *from Enriching Our Worship 1*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory (Susan Mitchell, soloist) *O how beautiful the sky* Danish Folk Melody, arr. Pooler

The Presentation of the People's Gifts

Hymn 445 **Praise to the Holiest in the height**

Gerontius

In celebration of the coming of Christ among us, we are once again offering the chalice at Communion. Gluten free hosts are available. At the altar rail, please tell the clergy if you would like a gluten free host, or if you would rather receive grape juice than wine.

The Holy Communion
Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Sanctus

857

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928) from *Freedom Mass*. Based on traditional African melodies.
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Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O God,

Celebrant & People

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____] and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours. Almighty God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *traditional form*

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant This is the Living Bread, born of Mary, and given for all Creation.

People **All who eat this Bread share in Christ's Body.**

Communion Hymn

WLP 803 **These three are the treasures**

Song of Lao Tsu

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Holy God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn 556 (omit 6&7) Rejoice, ye pure in heart

Marion

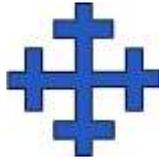
The Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude **No. 2 from Sessanta Pezzi per Organo**

Luigi Bottazzo



Search Committee Report - January 22, 2023

The Search Committee has been busy since we last communicated with you about the parish survey back in October. Since then, we have used the information you provided in the survey and small group meetings to fill out the required Diocesan forms and develop a Parish Profile, or description of the church. The forms have now been filed and accepted and the profile has been written and published.

That means that as of the announcement this past Sunday, we are entering the next phase of the search process, which is receiving applications for the position of rector. For the next six weeks, until March 5, we will accept applications.

When the applications are in, the Search Committee will evaluate the candidates with the ultimate goal of recommending one to the Vestry to be called as St. Mary's next rector. The timing for that is hard to estimate since it depends on the number of applications, scheduling interviews, arranging to listen to sermons, checking references, and not least, coming to a consensus as a Search Committee. We can assure you that the Search Committee will proceed as expeditiously as possible, while keeping in mind that the right decision is better than the quick decision.

This part of the process is strictly confidential. We are making decisions that could affect people's careers and some candidates will not want people at their current position to know they are looking elsewhere. Though you are unlikely to hear from the Search Committee again until we have completed our task, there are things you can do to join with us and help out.

- First, continue with the Search Prayer in the Prayers of the People. Maybe it has gotten a little repetitive by now. Give it some oomph! We need to attract the attention of the Holy Spirit and it is uplifting and reassuring to the members of the Search Committee to hear all of you pray together for the search process.
- Second, read the Profile. This is the public face of the search and contains the information you provided in the small group meetings and the parish survey, including the complete results of the survey. The Profile may be accessed via the Parish Profile button on St. Mary's home page. Look especially at the section entitled Expectations. This is where we list what you told us to look for in a new rector and, in return, what you told us to offer a new rector on your behalf.
- Third, spread the word. We have been told to expect fewer applications than in the past because there is a shortage of priests so we want the availability of the position to be known as widely as possible. If you know a priest or know someone who might know a priest who could be interested, ask them to read the Profile and if they think there might be a match, to apply.
- Fourth, please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to prod and motivate the right priest to be the next rector of St. Mary's to send in an application...by March 5th!
- Fifth, and finally, while you're at it, please ask the Holy Spirit to give your Search Committee the guidance and the wisdom to recognize and select that priest.

The Search Committee

Bill Glass, Chair
Joan Gibbons
Sharon Inger
Julia Perry