



## NEWSLETTER

March 2021

### A Message from Reverend Greg

Dear Friends,

*"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer."*

(**Book of Common Prayer**, Liturgy for Ash Wednesday, pg. 265)

Each year we hear this exhortation on how we might keep a Holy Lent. We know how challenging it is. For some, a part of you may want to yell at the top of our lungs, "Have we not suffered enough? Have we not endured more than our share?" Our year has been difficult and for many, their mourning is just beginning. For us who live in this country, the journey of Lent includes not only this on-going pandemic; it also includes the ugliness of racism, the real danger of global warming, domestic terrorist groups and misinformation being scattered countrywide. How can we not enter this Holy Season without self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial?

As a child and young adult, Lent was always the Season where we were encouraged to "sacrifice/give up" something that would be difficult. Whether it was food, sugar, carbonated drinks, coffee/tea, red meat, etc. the intent was a good one, but it lacked one thing: self-examination. After the forty days were finished, what would I have learned about myself that would help another human being?

In biblical days, when the Israelites sinned, to show how sorry they were, they would cut up their clothes (remember *rend* means to tear) to show God how sorry they were for their actions. The Prophet Joel reminds us to 'tear open our hearts' and examine if they are attuned to God: "*Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God.*" (Joel 2:12-13; NRS version). I pray we all rend our hearts to discern the road that we must travel to Easter.

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## “REPENTANCE 2021: TURNING BACK TO GOD HERE AND NOW

The invitation of Lent to repent and return to the Lord is the same every year, but we come to this invitation this year in the wake of the overlapping pandemics of COVID-19, racism, climate change and disinformation. How shall we answer the ancient invitation faithfully in this particular season of our common life?

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston invites everyone to take part in its annual Lenten Preaching Series, via Zoom, on Thursdays at noon throughout Lent. This year’s series lifts up voices of leaders who are fairly new to the greater Boston area or who have come to see the area anew. The sermons will be offered within the context of a brief service of noonday prayer. Conversation with the preacher and other attendees follows, with an end time of 1:15 p.m. Register here to receive a Zoom link.

The schedule of preachers for the remainder of the series is:

March 11: James Rutenbeck, Filmmaker, Lost Nation Pictures

March 18: The Rev. Kate Bast, Rector, Trinity Parish, Melrose

March 25: Dr. Sujin Pak, Dean, Boston University School of Theology

## POETRY

Offered by **Bonnie Bishop**

### **Maundy Thursday, 2020**

I search for the spirit inside the story  
but all I can think about is how much  
I want to have supper with a tableful of friends:

the requisite bread and wine, of course,  
some feta, with a plateful of green  
and black olives, then a big Greek salad,

lamb kabobs and roasted onions, rice pudding  
for dessert, all of us laughing, reminiscing,  
despite the dark thread of the future weaving

among us. Only one knows what  
betrayal, sorrow, hope and love  
await us in the coming days.

## BIBLE STUDY

A small group of congregants have been meeting virtually since Advent of 2020 each Wednesday evening from 6-7 pm. The group has been discussing the Prophet Isaiah. We will end discussion on the Book on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 and discuss what might be of interest to the group following Easter. The Bible Study has been led by Rev. Greg. If you are interested in joining the group, please email him at [gperez@ststephenslynn.org](mailto:gperez@ststephenslynn.org) or call 781-599-4220, Ext. 2.

## SUPPORT CHASE THE CHILL

### Join Our Virtual Sit and Knit at 4 pm on Tuesdays with Heather and Rev. Greg

We had our first virtual meeting this week! Thanks to Charlotte, Marilyn, and Ginny for joining us! The group is putting together kits to make simple fleece lap blankets – all you need is a pair of scissors and a few moments of time. We will be offering the blankets and directions for pick up from the Parish Office. Please let Father Greg or Heather know if you want a kit! We will be showing how to make the blankets at our 2/23 meeting at 4 pm. Join us for crafting and conversation!

Chase the Chill is an organization of volunteer makers in Lynn who collect, knit or sew hats, mittens, blankets and scarves to give to those who need warm items, many of whom are homeless. For about five years, they have organized “scarf bombing” events to allow the warm donated items to get into the hands of those who need them. To see a video of past events you can follow [this link](#). This year, they are distributing items through local service organizations. Kecia Rideout is the lead organizer, and you can view more information at [www.ChasetheChillLynnMA.com](http://www.ChasetheChillLynnMA.com).

Please join Heather Collis Puro and Father Greg at St. Stephen’s virtual Sit and Knit every Tuesday. Details are at the end of the message. Bring your knitting, pattern ideas, and questions!

Priority items are all items suitable for men, lap blankets, and mittens. Please feel free to make or buy items for donation. In addition, Chase the Chill is collecting coats, which will be dry cleaned by Anton’s cleaners before being distributed to those in need. Please contact Heather Collis Puro at [heather@collispuro.net](mailto:heather@collispuro.net) or 781-775-3942 to arrange your donation or with any questions.

See you on Zoom! Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4719621353?pwd=dERURjBvWHlaRUtPWVVqSVdVbEM4UT09>

Meeting ID: 471 962 1353 Passcode: **(Call the office or Rev. Greg or Heather for the password)**

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The Pantry is serving a vital need in our community. Many weeks, we serve twice as many people as we would have in the past. Come help fill the bags (Thursday at 11 AM) or help distribute them (every Friday from 2-4 PM.) We can always use extra help unloading the truck on the second Friday at 11 AM and on the third Thursday at 9 AM. (You can just show up, and we’ll put you to work!) We have been following strict protocols to keep all our volunteers and clients safe. Masks, hand washing, and physical distancing are mandatory. Thank you, Pam Alleyne and Joyce Wallace for chairing this important ministry AND Thank You to ALL of our volunteers.

***PLEASE NOTE: We have just learned that our driver, Charles, got a new job and will no longer be able to pick up our supplies on the second Friday and third Thursday. If you know anyone who can drive a UHaul truck and could use the extra income, please contact Pam Poppe at [pamelapoppe61@gmail.com](mailto:pamelapoppe61@gmail.com)***

## BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM

Do you wonder what you can do about racism? Do you wonder where even to start? St. Stephen's has a wonderful ministry, the Beloved Community Team, which is a multiracial group of men and women from St. Stephen's and from St. Andrew's in Marblehead. Many members have been meeting together for five or six years; others came for the first time very recently. All want to learn from each other and support each other in actions, large and small, to personally unlearn racism and to work to change racist policies and structures. We meet once a month, on the 2nd Thursday of the month, from 7-9 PM. If you'd like to get on the email list for BCT, please email Pam Poppe at [pamelapoppe61@gmail.com](mailto:pamelapoppe61@gmail.com)

## THE WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group is an opportunity for fellowship for women from St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's. We meet on the second Sunday of the month, from 12:30 to 2 PM. To get the Zoom invitation to join the meeting, please contact St. Stephen's office.

## KIDS IN COMMUNITY

For two hours each afternoon, Monday through Thursday, our KIC/MAP after-school program continues to meet virtually with a small group of children, offering them enriching activities such as check-in time, drumming, literacy support through wordplay, crafts, storytime, and multicultural/racial identity learning. When and how KIC will be able to gather in person remains up in the air, as does the opening of summer camp. IF we can have summer camp, we will be looking for teens and young adults to hire as mentors. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact Shannon Morrissey at the church.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/86093922921>

Phone in for audio only dial 1-929-205-6099 — Meeting ID: 860 9392 2921

Recording of Our Sunday services can be found on our website <https://www.ststephenslynn.org/> and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ststephenslynn>

## HELPING OTHERS JOIN SUNDAY WORSHIP

**Have you been missing friends on the Sunday Service on Zoom? How about giving them a call to see if they need help calling in or joining by computer or tablet? If you need a phone number, call Brandi in the office and she can help you!**

## *SAVE THE DATES: SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK*

Whether together in person, or over Zoom, this will be our schedule for Holy Week:

**Palm Sunday, March 28:** 10 am Service of Palms and Holy Eucharist (If we are not able to meet in person, palms will be placed along the fence on Commons and Blossom Streets. If there are no palms, please stop by the office to pick up a palm.)

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week, March 29-31:** 7:15 pm Compline

**Maundy Thursday, April 1:** 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist, BCP

**Good Friday, April 2:** 3 pm Stations of the Cross; 6:30 pm Liturgy for Good Friday, BCP

**Holy Saturday, April 3:** 12 Noon Prayers for Holy Saturday

**Easter Sunday, April 4:** 10 am Holy Eucharist

## ST. STEPHEN'S PHONE SYSTEM

The phones at St. Stephen's have been updated! When calling the main number, you will immediately hear an introductory message, followed by a directory. You can now leave private messages for Rev. Greg, Brandi, Shannon, the Treasurer and a general mailbox.

# MARCH 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>01</b> PIC Sabbath Day	<b>02</b> Virtual Knitting with Heather and Greg – 4 pm Virtual North Shore Deanery Mtg. 6 pm	<b>03</b> Pick-up consecrated wafers 12:30-3:00 pm Virtual Bible Study 6-7 pm	<b>04</b> Pick-up consecrated wafers 12:30-3:00 pm	<b>05</b> Pick-up consecrated wafers 12:00-1:30 pm	<b>06</b> Virtual North Shore Deanery session on Racism 9-10:30 am
<b>07</b> Virtual Sunday Service 10 am PIC & Wardens mtg. 12 Noon	<b>08</b> PIC Sabbath Day	<b>09</b> Virtual North Shore Clergy Lunch 12:30 – 2 pm Virtual Knitting with Heather and Greg – 4 pm	<b>10</b> ECCO Clergy Event Virtual Bible Study 6-7 pm	<b>11</b> BCT 7-9 pm	<b>12</b> Food Pantry 2:30-4:00 pm Cathedral Hosts Compline to honor Bishop Barbara Harris - TBA	<b>13</b> Virtual North Shore Deanery session on Racism 9-10:30 am
<b>14</b> Virtual Sunday Service 10 am Worship Team 11:15 – 12:15 pm Virtual Women's Group 12:30 – 2 pm	<b>15</b> PIC Sabbath Day	<b>16</b> Virtual Knitting with Heather and Greg – 4 pm	<b>17</b> Virtual Bible Study 6-7 pm	<b>18</b> Virtual Hispanic Commission Mtg. 9:00 – 11 am Virtual COVID Clergy Mtg. 11:00 am - Noon	<b>19</b> Food Pantry 2:30-4:00 pm	<b>20</b> Virtual North Shore Deanery session on Racism 9-10:30 am
<b>21</b> Virtual Sunday Service 10 am PIC & Wardens mtg. 12 Noon	<b>22</b> PIC Sabbath Day	<b>23</b> Virtual Knitting with Heather and Greg – 4 pm	<b>24</b> Virtual Bible Study 6-7 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Food Pantry 2:30-4:00 pm	<b>27</b> Virtual Celebration of Passover and Easter w/Bishop Gayle Harris, 5 pm
<b>28</b> PALM SUNDAY Virtual Sunday Service 10 am Virtual Vestry Mtg. 12:00 – 2 pm	<b>29</b> Monday in Holy Week Compline for Monday in Holy Week 7:15 pm	<b>30</b> Tuesday in Holy Week Compline for Monday in Holy Week 7:15 pm	<b>31</b> Wednesday in Holy Week Virtual Bible Study 6-7 pm Compline for Monday in Holy Week 7:15 pm			



# EASTER LILIES IN MEMORY OR THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE WE LOVE

It is time once again to remember your loved ones with an Easter lily. Please use this form to list the names(s) to be printed in our Easter Celebration of Life. Please print clearly! We request a donation of \$25. or more to support our Easter flowers and candles which gloriously decorate the altar for our Easter service. Your names must be submitted no later than Friday, March 26.

Do not detach.

In memory of:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

In thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____
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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town, State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet to the parish office with your donation.  
St. Stephen's Memorial Church, 74 So. Common St., Lynn, MA 01902