



# The Nativity Scene

## OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

### Weekly

**Sundays**  
 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist  
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 with Sunday School  
 and Nursery Care

**Wednesdays**  
 12pm Noonday Prayer and  
 Holy Eucharist

## FROM PASTOR CHAD'S DESK

Dear Nativity Family,

Greetings in the name of the Lord! As we are now experiencing, much of New England has moved into Phase 2 of reopening and by now, I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some of the reopening opportunities available. With that being said, I ask you to remember that, while you are out and about, remain vigilant and safe (as we are not out of the woods yet) and keep vigilant so we can make sure the progress we have made keeps sustaining.

Since the onset of COVID 19, society (and in particular the church) has had to make many adjustments. We as the body of Christ can lead by example in showing the love of God in Christ to our neighbors, friends, and community. We have faced many challenges in adjusting to this new "normal" but through the abundance of God's unfailing grace, we continue to be the body of Christ. Though we have been unable to gather physically, we have had many beautiful moments of gathering virtually. We have been gathering for worship twice a week, held Sunday School weekly. We have been enjoying "Tiny Desk Concerts" with our musicians on Tuesdays, Story time, Bible study and Coffee hour. We have done site upgrades, and even scheduled clean up days. God has been so good to us here at Nativity and it is because of the generosity of your spirit during these unrepresented times under divine providence.

As the Commonwealth has entered Phase 2, you may be wondering when we will be resuming in person gatherings as some other churches that are not Episcopalian are doing. I would like to update you to our progress thus far.

Over the past few months Deb Heseck has formed and led a reopening team that is supplementing the work of the diocesan team. Under the current protocols, we are in Stage 1 of reopening and unable to have on site gatherings. The roadmap to in-person gatherings, "A Journey By Stages", has a very conservative reopening process that includes not only reopening the diocese but reopening by Corridors.

What is a Corridor you ask?

You see, the Diocese of Western Massachusetts is divided up into smaller regions (in some places throughout the Episcopal Church they are called Deaneries or regions). In this area, they are called Corridors that usually encompass a county; we are part of the Worcester Corridor. Under the plan, the diocese can get a "green light" to move into the next phase but each corridor may not. Confusing right? Let me try to clarify. So, for example, the Berkshire Corridor might have 10 cases of COVID 19 and that could mean that a parish after the Rector and Senior Warden verify they have met the requirements under the diocesan plan and after meeting with the Corridor leader can begin to have

(conclusion on page 3)



*"We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it."*

William Faulkner



*Embraced  
 Equipped  
 Empowered*

## Four Ways to Give: How to Make the Most of Your Pledge

Help prepare for the reopening of Nativity and the return of our ministries by keeping up with your pledge. Four ways to pay:

**Greatest benefit** – *Automatic bill pay* simplifies your financial life and costs nothing. Choose the amount, frequency, and start date. Then set it and forget it. **Nativity gets 100% of your donation.** Automated payments ensure a steady flow of income to Nativity each month.

**Super easy** – *EFT is an electronic fund transfer* from your bank account directly to Nativity. As above, you set it and forget it. **The church pays a nominal fee (<1%) each month** yet can count on regularly scheduled income. The amount and frequency are set by you.

**Old school** – *Leary of automated payments?* Write a check! **Nativity gets 100% of your donation.** The downside is you have to remember to write the checks. It's also easy to fall behind on your pledge when you miss church.

**Most convenient** – *Paypal.* It's so quick and easy. Just visit Nativity's website and click "Give > Online." You'll have a choice to pay via Paypal or credit card. Note, however, the convenience comes with a hefty price tag.

**Paypal keeps 3 to 4% of every dollar you give online!**

For questions about any of these payment methods, contact Cathy Terwedow, [cterwedo@gmail.com](mailto:cterwedo@gmail.com) or [cterwedo@churchofthenativity.org](mailto:cterwedo@churchofthenativity.org).

	Pros	Cons
<b>Automatic bill pay</b>	Online setup 100% to Nativity Steady source of income to Nativity	None!
<b>EFT</b>	One-time setup 99% to Nativity Steady source of income to Nativity	Church pays a small fee (<1% of every donation)
<b>Check</b>	100% to Nativity Good if you're concerned about online/electronic payments	Easy to forget or miss a week Easy to fall behind on your pledge
<b>Paypal/credit card</b>	Easy	Paypal keeps 3-4% of every donation



**Do you know a Massachusetts parent who goes above and beyond for their family?**

Nominate them to win a \$300 gift card to a local spa or a \$300 Amazon gift card. O'Connor Family Law is hosting the remarkable Parent Nomination until September 30th.

To nominate a parent you know who deserves this award, please go to:  
<https://familylawma.com/remarkable-parent-nomination/>

*This, then, is the state of the union: free and restless, growing and full of hope. So it was in the beginning. So it shall always be, while God is willing, and we are strong enough to keep the faith.*

Lyndon B. Johnson

## FROM PASTOR CHAD'S DESK (Conclusion)

in person gatherings. Meanwhile, the Worcester Corridor might have 1000 cases of COVID 19 and after following the process outlined above, we might be able to open for outdoor gatherings or not at all because of geographic scenario.

I wanted to inform you of this process because I want you to be able to stay abreast of where we are in it. Working in concert with our reopening team, we have spoken with Mother Aileen who heads the Worcester Corridor and will be submitting our request to open for in person outdoor gatherings. We will start with one Sunday a month of outdoor gathering to begin the process and ensure we get this done right and will not risk the safety of anyone in the process to "be together". COVID 19 has shown that it is not gone yet, and we will not risk public safety, we have come so far and sacrificed so much to allow this virus to surge back.

When will we be starting outdoor worship on Sunday morning Pastor Chad? Once we have approval and a firm date, we will notify everyone. Prudence would dictate that we don't commit to dates until after the diocese grants us permission first and we have the Sunday morning on site team trained and ready to go.

My hope with this letter is that it encourages you that we have been active here at Nativity, in properly and thoroughly ensuring that all steps for reopening are followed in accordance with good practices, diocesan and state protocols to ensure a safe reentry into in person gatherings here at Nativity.

Stay holy, stay blessed, stay safe.



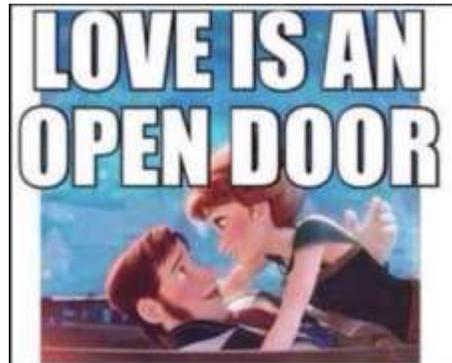

## Extraordinary People

Our #Extraordinary person of the month is Jenny Otto. Jenny is our Jesus And Me (JAM) Sunday school teacher. She has gone above and beyond during this time teaching her class via zoom on Sunday mornings. Please thank her for her dedication to this ministry.



BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND  
GENTLE; BE PATIENT, BEARING  
WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.

EPHESIANS 4:2



The shawls, lovingly created by the Nativity Prayer Shawl Ministry, were blessed by Pastor Chad during the Noonday Prayer Service on June 17.





Trinity Episcopal Church in Shrewsbury has an open position for part-time Sexton.

The primary responsibilities of this position are to:

1. Maintain the interior of all parish facilities, keeping them in a clean and orderly condition.
2. Perform *annual* cleaning of certain areas within the church buildings.
3. Order and monitor inventories/supplies associated with cleaning and maintaining church premises.
4. Set up (and break down) for various parish functions and functions of users of the property.

Estimated work week will average 12-20 hours and includes paid vacation time and paid holidays.

If interested in applying, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact:

trinitysecretary@townisp.com.



**COMMUNITYMEALS**

**INTRODUCING  
COMMUNITY  
MEALS  
CURBSIDE  
PICK UP.**

Every Wednesday, 6pm – 7pm on the Trinity Church parking lot. Please drive up and park. Your to-go meal will be delivered to your car. Please remain in your car, wear your mask and respect social distancing guidelines.

Community Meals has been resurrected in a to-go manner and the organizers need your help. They order \$5 meals from various local food establishments and distribute them to the community meals guests to-go. Various organizations have committed to monetary donations for these entrees. But, you can't have a meal without servers, water and dessert. The organizers are looking for volunteers to sign up to donate a case of water or 2 dozen individually wrapped desserts and/or stand in the parking lot and deliver the meals to guests in their parked cars. If you are interested in helping, please see the available opportunities and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c49aba822a1f58-summer>



**PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE VIGIL AT  
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN SHREWSBURY:**

On Tuesday, June 23rd, Pastor Chad and Nativity members joined the local community for a vigil. Pastor Chad started the event with a beautiful litany. People will continue gathering every Tuesday for a peace and social justice vigil. The vigil is in front of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Shrewsbury. Bring your own signs to show your support for peace and social justice in our nation. The weekly vigil will continue until August 26.

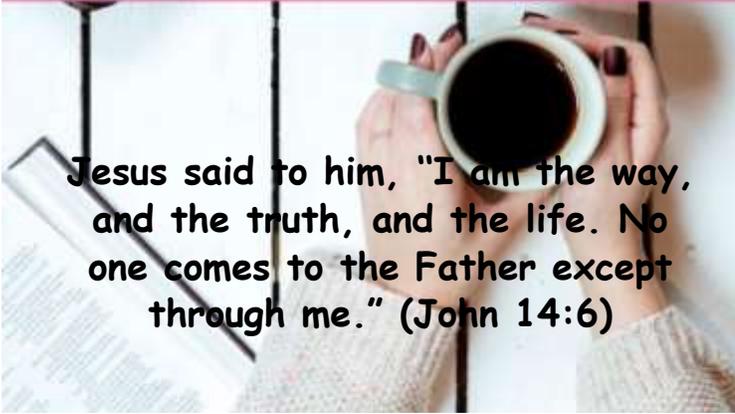
**PSALM 121:8:  
"THE LORD WILL WATCH OVER  
YOUR COMING AND GOING  
BOTH NOW AND  
FOREVERMORE."**

# Memorize

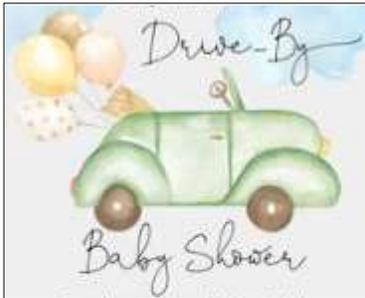
## ONE VERSE

## EACH MONTH

July 2020



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

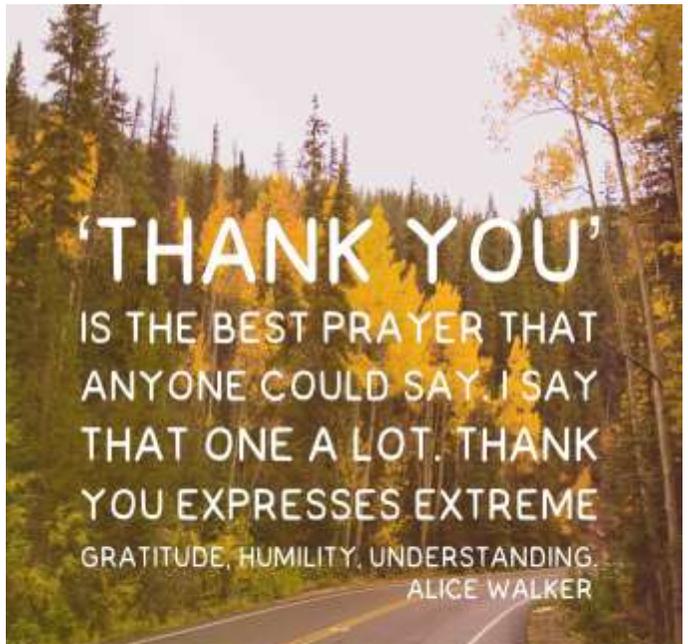


On June 27, the Altar Guild made a surprise visit to the Ting home for a baby shower parade in honor of the upcoming birth of their second baby.

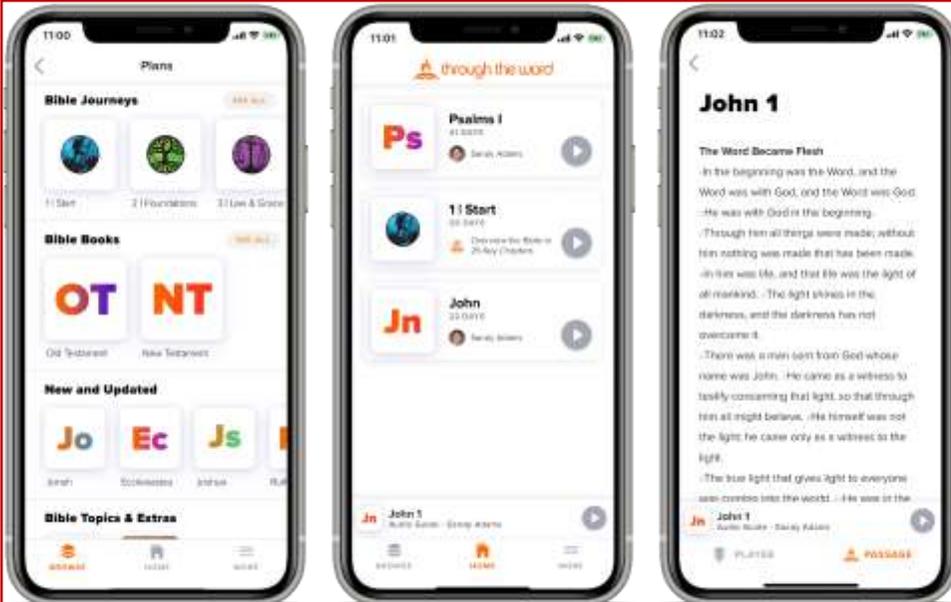
Nativity is so proud and excited for the Ting's and wanted to say thank you and celebrate during this sacred time.



that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. - ROMANS 1:12 NIV



"We have a chance to do something extraordinary. As we head out of this pandemic we can change the world. Create a world of love. A world where we are kind to each other. A world where we are kind no matter what class, race, sexual orientation, what religion or lack of or what job we have. A world we don't judge those at the food bank because that may be us if things were just slightly different. Let love and kindness be our roadmap." **Johnny Corn**



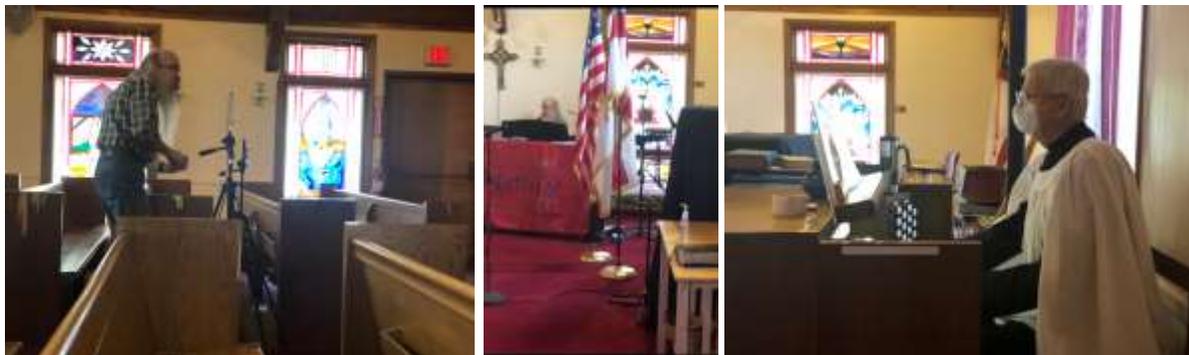
online <https://throughtheword.org/> or by using the Through the Word app from Google play or the Apple app store, and it's free. It's also a reading and journaling app that will equip you to read the Bible, understand it, apply it, and make it a habit. All that in just minutes a day. You can listen to the guide on a walk, at the gym, commuting really anytime. The app has an audio Bible so you can listen to the Bible chapter first or after the audio guide you decide. There are many plans to help you get started just explore the website and or the app to decide how you would like to begin. You can even ask a friend

to begin a plan with you so that you will have someone to discuss the insights that you have received. I hope that you find this helpful and you will begin your journey through the Bible one chapter at a time.

Peace and Love

Deb Hesk

Through the Word is a concise audio guide to the entire Bible, one chapter at a time. It can be accessed



*Thank you, Larry and Glen for helping with live virtual worship!*





*Thank you, Lisa Phelps and Suzanne Duncan, for the back-breaking work, weeding the labyrinth!*



*Thank you, Jeannie Hebert, for all your work beautifying the prayer garden!!*



*The renovation of the hall is almost completed! Thank you to all the volunteers!*



*Congratulations, Ethan, on your graduation!!*



*Always pitching in! Pastor Chad cut the church lawn with a push mower when our big mower was at the shop for repair!*

**The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.**

**Proverbs 13:4**



### **Beautiful Resource Shared by the nativity Preschool:**

Standing Up to Racism, a CNN/Sesame Street town hall for kids and families, designed to help kids and families discuss racism and the protests taking place nationwide, build empathy and embrace diversity. Find the entire video program on the CNN website.



## Announcement from the Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher



### We Must Confront Racism Within and Without

May 30, 2020

To the faithful of Western Massachusetts,

Tomorrow we gather to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. I hope you all plan to be part of this diocesan service at 10:00 AM tomorrow morning. My sermon was prerecorded several days ago, so I want to say something to you about the events in Minneapolis – what I would say to you as part of my Pentecost reflection.

The killing of George Floyd points to the racism that is part of our society, embedded in our history, systems and institutions – including the Church. People of faith cannot ignore the unconscious racism that dwells in our own hearts and minds. We must confront it within and without. Mr. Floyd's murder is yet another in a centuries-long line. Not decades, but centuries. Our Presiding Bishop, in a joint statement with the Bishop-elect of Minnesota, reminded us that we are not powerless in the face of racism. "We are not, however, slaves to our fate ... unless we choose to do nothing."

We have all been traumatized by the footage of one man's death. We have also seen people of every color take to the streets to give voice to their anger and frustration. This moment asks something of all of us. More than ever, we need God to breathe on us. We need the courage of the Holy Spirit to stand up against the brutalization of black lives. I bid your prayers for Mr. Floyd's family, for the safety of all those giving witness to his murder, and for those police officers doing their jobs to keep the peace. As we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in this troubled time, I ask us to recommit ourselves to the work of justice and peace.

It is good that we will be together on Pentecost morning as a diocese to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. That afternoon at 4:00 PM, the Union of Black Episcopalians will host an online prayer vigil for racial justice and the healing of the nation. I plan to attend that event and pray that many of you will be able to join me. It will be an outward sign of the work to which the Holy Spirit calls us - work for which the Spirit empowers us. We must all find ways to express our sorrow for our complicity in the sin of racism. The Gospel calls us to the work of racial healing and to the hard inner work of personal transformation. That work begins with prayer that speaks the truth. I offer this prayer written by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the summer of 1953.

Let us pray:

Most Gracious and all wise God; Before whose face the generations rise and fall; Thou in whom we live, and move, and have our being. We thank thee for all of thy good and gracious gifts, for life and for health; for food and for raiment; for the beauties of nature and the love of human nature. We come before thee painfully aware of our inadequacies and shortcomings. We realize that we stand surrounded with the mountains of love and we deliberately dwell in the valley of hate. We stand amid the forces of truth and deliberately lie; We are forever offered the high road and yet we choose to travel the low road. For these sins O God forgive. Break the spell of that which blinds our minds. Purify our hearts that we may see thee. O God in these turbulent days when fear and doubt are mounting high give us broad visions, penetrating eyes, and power of endurance. Help us to work with rewed vigor for a warless world, for a better distribution of wealth, and for a brotherhood that transcends race or color. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

+ Douglas Fisher