



All Saints'
Memorial Church
674 Westminster St., Providence RI

December 17, 2020 Parish messenger

Come and worship
Rejoice in fellowship
Love and serve the Lord!



This photo shows a Christmas cactus that sits in the church “outer” office. More precisely, the plant is a Thanksgiving cactus **or so Wikipedia says**. Regardless of name, this soft pink flowering cactus is vigorously blooming right now. The unexpected beauty is a delightful gift since I have given the plant scant attention in the last year. Every few months I soaked the plant with water in the sink, but that is the extent of care it has received since last February.

I like to think that this plant, full of life and beauty, is a symbol of what is going on at All Saints’ this Advent. Take, for example: Tuesday of this week. The church was filled with life, outside and in, in our socially-distanced way. **City Meal Site** volunteers were preparing the Tuesday

take-out dinner for guests who would soon come to pick up a meal outside in the parking lot. Parishioners dropped off Angel Tree toys and gift cards. Two Outreach members arrived to organize donations of toys and cards and bring them to the **West Broadway Neighborhood Association**. The sounds of the organ drifted downstairs amidst this liveliness. A staff member of **Rhode Island Parent Information Network** arrived to pick up Angel Tree gift cards. The weekly food collection was being packed up for delivery to **Crossroads Family Center** and **Better Lives Rhode Island**.

As all of this was going on, part of my job was reminding everyone to keep safely apart. Not the ideal job! And not our normal way of being a church. It is so difficult to keep our distance, and merely wave to beloved sisters and brothers whose company we have sorely missed over these many months. Social distance, however, is what we must practice for a while longer.

We are blessed by this Advent giving and the daily kindnesses that happen among us. We are graced by the faith-filled and loving community of saints who fill our church and neighborhood with life and beauty, preparing the way of the Lord. Thanks especially to Linda Johnson, Gloria Perry, and Pattie Marshall for leading the Angel Tree project this year! Thanks to all who donated toys and gift cards!

May our Advent waiting be filled with the same spirit of love and beauty. “Almighty God, who made the impossible possible through the obedience of your servant Mary, give us grace to live in active obedience to your will that we may discover the blessings that come in being a blessing to others, through the power of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*”

(from James A. Harnish, *Rejoicing in Hope Advent Study for Adults*)

Advent Peace,
Julie

Upcoming Services - ZOOM only

Given the high number of COVID-19 cases at this moment, starting this Sunday, our services will not include Holy Eucharist. We continue to ask that you participate in services via Zoom. Links for each service may be found below and on our website.

Please feel free to pass these Zoom links along to friends and family who would like to join us in Christmas worship from their homes. Please join our Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom for the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Here is the Zoom link for this Sunday's Service:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Service

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKekorMGVzMFFeclFiUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 8400 6164

Passcode: 674674

Here is the link to the service program:

http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org/uploads/1/1/7/4/117437355/service_bulletin_advent_4_december_20_2020.pdf



Christmas Services 2020

Please be aware that each Christmas Service has a unique Zoom link. The Christmas Eve service will also be **live streamed via Facebook.**

Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, December 24: Unique Zoom link:

All are invited to join our Christmas Eve service via Zoom. A program of music, Christmas Preludes, begins at 6:30 p.m. The Christmas Eve Service begins at 7:00 p.m. We will have a five-minute break between the Christmas Preludes and the Service. You may join at either 6:30 or 7:00.

Topic: Christmas Eve Music and Festal Service

Time: Dec 24, 2020 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86056550612?pwd=eFE4Mm5McTZyVXVLUk10em12ZzVkZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 5655 0612

Passcode: 674674

Christmas Day Service, Friday, December 25: Unique Zoom link:

All are welcome to join our Christmas Day Service via zoom at 9:30 a.m. (please note that there will be no music).

Topic: Christmas Day Service

Time: Dec 25, 2020 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86759063544?pwd=MzkoTHooSVQ1b1RNbkVPdDE1RohlQTo9>

Meeting ID: 867 5906 3544

Passcode: 674674

Service of Lessons and Carols, Sunday December 27, 9:30 a.m.—Same Sunday Zoom link:

Join us for this Service of Lessons and Carols. Bring a request for your favorite Christmas carol. Join in the singing of carols from your home.

Please use the regular Sunday Service zoom link:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Service

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKekorMGVzMFFeclFiUTo9>

Meeting ID: 854 8400 6164

Passcode: 674674



Holiday Hours

The office will be closed Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1 for the holidays.



Christmas Flowers

The church will be decorated for Christmas with poinsettias and other flowers. To give these flowers as memorials for loved ones who have died, or in thanksgiving for special persons or events in your life, please email asmcri@verizon.net or drop off a note in the mailbox by Sunday, December 20. Suggested donation for the flowers is \$25—\$35. Please make checks payable to "All Saints' Memorial Church."

2021 Pledges and Annual Giving

Our deepest thanks and gratitude for those who have already pledged for next year!

If you haven't returned your 2021 pledge card yet, please do so by December 20, to allow for the preparation of envelopes and the annual budget.

Wednesday Noon Prayer and Bible Study

Next Wednesday, we will discuss Chapter 3 in the Book of Esther.

Please note there will be no Wednesday Noonday Service and Bible Study, December 30.

Here is the link for Noon Prayer and Bible Study:

Wednesday Noon Service

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84955593827?pwd=akNZeTlmSCtTb1BoUU9hcWQrZk5xZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 5559 3827

Passcode: 674674

Here is the link to the service program:

http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org/uploads/1/1/7/4/117437355/order_of_service_for_noonday_wednesday_december_23_2020.pdf

Rejoicing in Hope Advent Book Discussion

Sunday, December 20th after our 9:30 a.m. Service

Our book discussion will be Sunday, Dec. 20th via Zoom right after the service.



Giving Opportunity in 2020

Our church building is beautiful and historic. From time to time we need to attend to some rather large repairs. We recently had an estimate for badly needed masonry work. The contractor identified an "Immediate Maintenance Attention Option" (see photo) for \$12,400. Now this is

much better than the longer-term option (\$216,480), to be sure.

However, even the smaller amount is a more than we have in our Capital Fund (\$3,523).

With this masonry work in mind, here is some tax information that applies only for 2020 giving that may be helpful; All Saints' is considered a public charity.

- For those who no longer itemize, the CARES Act allows individual taxpayers to deduct donations to charity of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax return, even though they take the standard deduction. Married-filing-jointly taxpayers will get an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600.
- The CARES Act temporarily removes the adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations on charitable deductions for cash gifts to public charities in 2020. Now, a donor may claim a charitable income tax deduction up to 100% of AGI for cash gifts, meaning you would pay no federal income tax. Previously, the donor would have had to limit deductions to 60% of AGI. The 100% limit is reduced dollar-for-dollar by other itemized charitable deductions. This means that a donor who deducts 30% of AGI in long-term appreciated asset gifts (stocks, mutual funds, real estate) will be able to also deduct up to 70% of AGI for cash gifts, for a total deduction of up to 100%

of AGI. Donors should consult their tax or financial advisor about these issues.

Regardless of the size of your donation, All Saints' accepts donations of cash or via credit card and check. In addition, we are able to accept donations of appreciated stock or mutual funds. For that option, please contact Becky Silliman for more information (rsillima@bu.edu or 401-946-3562).

Help us fix this crack by Spring! Thank you.



Food Collection

Each week All Saints' collects food to be distributed monthly to food pantries in our area. We welcome donations of any pre-packaged, non-expired food.

- December: canned vegetables
- January: canned pasta
- February: peanut butter

Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming Events

- **Dec 20:** Rejoicing in Hope Advent Book Discussion—immediately after our 9:30 AM Service.
- **Dec 23:** Bible and Lunch via ZOOM, 12:30—1:15 PM.
- **Dec 24:** Christmas Eve preludes from 6:30—7:00 p.m.; Festal Service will be at 7 p.m. Service will be via a unique Zoom link, and streamed via Facebook.
- **Dec 25:** Christmas Day Service 9:30 a.m. via Zoom (please use the unique link); office will be closed.
- **Dec 27:** Service of Lessons and Carols, 9:30 a.m.
- **Dec 30:** There will be no Wednesday Noonday Service and Bible Study

- **Jan 1:** Office will be closed for New Year's Day.
- **Jan 13:** Vestry meeting, 6 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Jan 31:** Annual meeting, immediately following service.

Keeping up with Your Pledge in These Times

While we are limited in the number of worshippers we can have in church, we ask that you keep up with your pledge as you are able.

There are three ways for you to do so.

- Give online - it is easy and secure. Here is how:
 1. Go to our website—allsaintsmemorial.org—our home page.
 2. Below the "Coronavirus Update" section on the home page, click on the Donate button.
 3. You can either sign in to ChurchTrac or give as a guest.
- Make out a check and send it by mail to the church:

All Saints' Memorial Church

674 Westminster Street

Providence, RI 02903

- Place your sealed offering envelope with check or cash in the mailbox outside the office door. To open the mailbox, tug on the knob on the front side, and pull the door down. Deposit mail through the slot that is revealed. Please close the mailbox door when you are finished.

If you have questions, please email me (rsillima@bu.edu) or call me (946-3562).

-Thank you,
Becky

PRAYERS

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Alice, Gus, Ernie, Ruby, Marie, Trish, and Virginia. We also pray for Dorothea Evans Gordon, Eric and Irene T., Mary Tryforos, Joan, Maribeth Sneddon, Margaret Barney, Carolyn, Michael Blake, Clarence Scott, Germaine, Naida Thomas, Merynn Flynn, and Teresa Clinton.

Celebrating a birthday this week: Sarah McBurrough, Paul Connors, Ryan Mott, and Neb Amaechina.

We pray for all who work for peace and members of our armed forces, especially Matthew Degree.

We pray for all healthcare workers, first responders, and those who are in public spaces such as pharmacies, grocery stores, and other vital services in these times.

Share All Saints' With Friends



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Forward

SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16, Anne Tait

Response: Psalm 89:1-4,19-26, Lyndsey Wells

Prayers: Dan Mechnig

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10, Becky Silliman

Response: Psalm 98, Musa Goll

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4, Nnenna Amaechina

Prayers: Chip Smith

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Publishing information:

The next regular edition of the e-messenger will be emailed on Tuesday, Dec 22.

The deadline to submit information and articles for this edition is Monday,

December 21. Please submit any articles or info you may have to ReeRee at

asmcri@verizon.net.



Websites:

**All Saints' Memorial Church
Diocese of RI · The Episcopal Church**

Contact information:

**All Saints' Memorial Church (Episcopal)
674 Westminster St
Providence, RI 02903**

Parish phone: 401-751-1747*

online office hours: 10 a.m.—2 p.m., Tuesday-Friday
*please use **asmcri@verizon.net** for urgent questions

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Hanavan, Priest-in-Charge
revjulhan@gmail.com

Dr. Barry Turley, Director of Music
401-751-1747

Newsletter submissions:
asmcri@verizon.net

The Vestry:

Senior Warden

Monika Kraemer

Junior Warden

Dan Mechnig

Treasurer

Becky Silliman

Clerk

Anne Tait

Finance Chair

Robert Wells

Members

Maryann Darbeh

April Donahower

Agnes Fox

Musa Goll

Charles Smith

Elizabeth Toby

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