

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

E-Messenger, May 26, 2022

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



Dear All Saints' Family,

Today we mark Ascension Day - Christ *ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things* as we pray in the collect for today. This is our faith: Christ fills all things, abiding with us on earth and in the heavens, eternally through all time *in glory everlasting*. Christ is here among us weeping with us, sharing our aching heart for the terrible loss of lives in Uvalde, Texas; Christ greeting those precious children and their teachers with loving arms in heaven.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

As witnesses of this unbearable violence in our communities we want to know why - why this heartbreaking violence is allowed to happen to innocent people.

Our faith requires us at times to carry on without answers trusting in God's promises of loving presence, mercy, and life eternal. Like the people of Israel in the wilderness in *Exodus*. Like the disciples gathered in the locked room after Jesus' crucifixion. Like the disciples who followed Jesus to Bethany and witnessed Jesus' ascension.

When the disciples returned to Jerusalem from Bethany they went back to the upstairs room where they had been staying since Jesus had been crucified. This small community of Jesus' followers joined together, "*constantly devoting themselves to prayer (Acts 1:14).*"

Let us pray together as a congregation, remembering the people of Uvalde and Buffalo and all those who have died from gun violence:

God, our hearts are broken with pain at the senseless deaths caused by gun violence. Families mourn, children live in fear, and some in our nation respond by arming themselves with more guns with greater capacity to end life. Our disconnection and alienation has caused some to turn to guns for protection and safety. We ask that you touch our hearts with your love, heal our brokenness, and turn us away from violence toward peace. Help us to transform our own hearts and to seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences. Let our hands reach out and connect with those who feel alone, those who live in fear, and those suffering from mental illness. Let our voices be raised asking our legislators to enact gun laws to protect all in our society, especially those most vulnerable. Let our pens write messages demanding change while also scripting words of hope and transformation. We ask this in the name of the God who desires that we live together in peace. *Amen* (A prayer from the *Sisters of Mercy*).

One of the many joys of serving at All Saints' is our adult faith formation program. This month as our Faith Inquirers group finishes up reading *Exodus*, we have been graced with reflections from the participants. Today, Becky Silliman offers her musings on *Exodus*:



That I May Dwell Among Them

My understanding and appreciation of our Jewish faith and cultural origins has been deepened by Jewish friends; books read; visits in Europe to synagogues, concentration camps, the Jewish ghettos of Krakow, Poland and Venice and Pitigliano, Italy; and the recent reading by our Faith Inquirers group of Genesis and Exodus.

“Have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). So did God instruct Moses, giving him explicit directions on how the Tabernacle and its contents were to be made, of what materials, and who should make them. One of the key components was the Ark of the Covenant, in which the tablets with the Ten Commandments resided. After the Tabernacle was completed and furnished, God entered it and led the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land.

As we know, their time in the Promised Land was characterized by exiles and all manner of upheavals, dating from the 8th century BC. The most permanent exile occurred after the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD, and thus the end of Jerusalem as the symbolic center of Judaism. From that time onward, and particularly during the Middle Ages, Jews increasingly migrated to Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The Jews of Europe became divided into the Sephardim of Spain and Portugal (and eventually Italy), and the

Ashkenazim of Northern and Eastern Europe. Much of their migration within those areas was forced by persecution. For example, the Jews of Spain were expelled in 1492 during the Spanish Inquisition, with some fleeing to Italy. Throughout all of their travels the Jewish people took with them their prayers and rituals, and built houses of worship - their synagogues. Synagogues date at least from the 3rd century BC and their contents always relate to the Tabernacle described in Exodus. Each has, for example, the Torah Ark, a symbol of the Ark of the Covenant. It is positioned so that those facing it are facing Jerusalem. The Ark is the holiest spot in the synagogue, equivalent to the Holy of Holies, and enclosed by ornate curtains.

Because of continued persecution as well as a desire to preserve their way of life and religion, Jews lived in tight-knit communities set apart from their Christian neighbors. One of these communities was in Pitigliano (pictured left above), a frontier town between Tuscany and Rome where Jews fleeing Rome and Spain settled. In the late 1500s, the forward thinking rulers of that area welcomed Jewish traders and craftsmen to help boost the local economy. There in 1598 they built a synagogue (see Torah Ark in photo right above) and thriving community, the so-called Little Jerusalem, that included a bakery, butcher shop, a communal oven, and a ritual bath. They were carved from the tufa rock, a type of limestone, of which the town was originally built. Unfortunately, as everywhere, the Jewish community here was subject to the whims of

future leaders; today only one Jewish person lives in Pitigliano. Yet God's Holy of Holies, given in the instructions to Moses, continues to abide with Jewish believers wherever in the world they live and worship.

~ Becky

All are warmly welcome to our Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist:

Zoom link: Sunday, May 29, 9:30am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKek0rMGVzMFFEcIFiUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 8400 6164

Password: 674674

Service Program Link, May 29:

http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org/uploads/1/1/7/4/117437355/service_bulletin_easter_vii_sunday_may_29_2022.pdf

Peace,

Julie



Healing of Creation Garden Update

On Saturday, 11 of us gathered to weed and to plant 12 different kinds of native perennials and grasses. We will complete this phase of planting in early June, with the addition of five more perennials and grasses. Soon after, we will have a complete site map so that you can identify the plants and watch them grow (far end of the parking lot). Although we have chosen plants that bloom in the spring, summer, and fall, they may not bloom this year as they get settled. Next year they should be lovely. Our dream is that butterflies, bees, and birds will find them.

As part of our recognition of Rogation Sunday, we gathered after church for a special blessing of the new garden. Finally, All Saints' received a grant from the Creation Care Ministry of the Diocese. These funds, as well as donations, will support the building of rain gardens as well as the

removal of non-native shrubs in the fall, paving the way for the planting of more pollinators along the south side of the church and in the courtyard gardens.

The next Churchyard Redesign Work Party is Saturday, June 11th, 9:00-10:30 am. All are welcome!



For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Lord, you open your hand and fill all living things with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; send forth your breath, and renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may yield its increase; and save us from selfish use of what you provide, that the poor and needy may give thanks to your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (adapted from p.828, BCP).

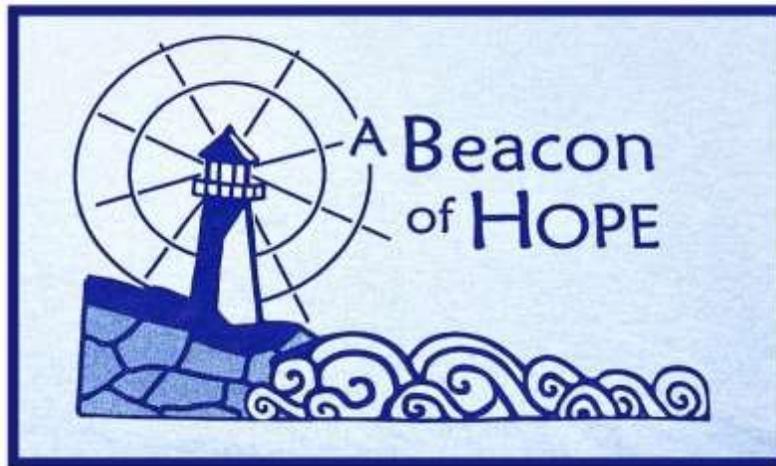
*Wednesday Noonday Prayer and Faith Inquirers
Discussion 12:00 - 1:00pm*

Wednesday Noonday Prayer and Faith Inquirers Discussion continues on Wednesday, June 1st..We will discuss Chapters 32-40 in the Book of Exodus. All are welcome to participate.

You may join us on

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84955593827?pwd=akNZeTlmSCtTb1BoUU9hcWQrZk5xZz09>) or in-person in Rose Hall (12:00pm-1:00pm).

Outreach News



Crossroads Family Center Needs Full Size Sheets

If you have an extra set of new or gently used full size sheets, please consider donating them to Crossroads Family Center. Please bring the sheets with you to church and Outreach will deliver them to Crossroads Family Center.

Outreach 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. Thank you for your generosity!

- June: Packaged Rice
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Easter morning sun shining on the organ pipes

Photo by Ryan Mott

Upcoming Events

June 1: Noonday Prayer and Faith Inquirers, Rose Hall/Zoom at 12:00pm

June 1: Choir rehearsal

June 5: Feast of Pentecost, wear

red!

Work Party, 9-10:30AM

Blessing of graduates

June 11: Churchyard Redesign

June 12: Trinity Sunday,

PRAYERS

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Gus, Marie, Trish, Victor, Rose, Susan, Gloria, and Dan Nagle. We also pray for Dorothea Evans Gordon, Mary Tryforos, Margaret Barney, Michael Blake, Clarence Scott, Germaine, Naida Thomas, Merynn Flynn, Karen L., Stephen, Barbara K., Rena, Lusaynie Sirleaf, Victor, Charlie Moss, and Jaime Bernardo.

We pray for those who celebrate birthdays this week especially Rosetta Evans and Barry Turley.

We pray this Memorial Day for those who have died in the service of our country. We pray for those in the armed forces of our country.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Forward

SCRIPTURE READING

May 29, 2022

First Reading: Acts 16:16-34 Nnenna Amaechina

Response: Psalm 97 Nnenna Amaechina

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 Rosetta Evans

Gospel: John 17: 20-26

Prayers of the People: Susan Goodnough

June 5, 2022

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21 Barbara Badio

Response: Psalm 104:25-35,37 Barbara Badio

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17 Ed Boyer

Gospel: John 14:8-17

Prayers of the People: Wilmar Jennings

Publishing Information

The next regular edition of the e-messenger will be emailed on Thursday, June

2. Please submit any articles or info you may have to

allsaintsprovidence@gmail.com



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Diocese of RI · The Episcopal Church**

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Musa Goll

Junior Warden

Chip Smith

Treasurer

Becky Silliman

Clerk

Anne Tait

Finance Chair

Dan Mechnig

Members

Rosetta Evans

Charlotte Burgess

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