

# PARACLETE

DECEMBER 2020

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org) • Website: [www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org)

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



## Your holiday shopping can benefit Holy Spirit Parish!

If you plan to shop at Amazon for the holidays, consider shopping through the AmazonSmile website. When you do, and designate Holy Spirit Parish as your favored charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to help us provide all our ministries at Holy Spirit. AmazonSmile is the Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Use this unique charity link for Holy Spirit:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0257611>

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## Holiday Market 2020

### Online sale for one week only!

Link in now to browse, so you'll be all set to make your purchases beginning Friday, November 27 through 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3. Find gifts for everyone on your list – all created or donated by Holy Spirit parishioners. Ready for pick up at the church on Saturday, December 5. Bid on auction items throughout the week, too. And, be sure to pick out something just for yourself! A link to the sale is available now through the Holy Spirit Website – under Parish Life on the Holiday Market page.

Get ready for a ride on a personalized wooden name train. Or, choose personally-designed, initialed, wooden ornaments for everyone on your list. You may pre-order any of Bob Wattenberg's personalized wooden items NOW by contacting Bob at [krwattenberg@msn.com](mailto:krwattenberg@msn.com). Imagine yourself or a lucky gift recipient wrapping up in a warm holiday afghan

or gorgeous quilt. How about a hand-woven rug or wall hanging for that very special someone? An apron for a favorite grandchild or neighbor – complete with one of your own recipes tucked in the pocket? Jewelry. Gnomes. Scarves. Hats of all sizes. Just a few of the hundreds of items available this year – for ONE WEEK ONLY – November 27-December 3.

Please share this information and link with all your Facebook friends. Add it as an attachment to everyone you contact between now and December 5. It's a different Holiday Market this year, and we're counting on your support in every way possible to help it succeed. Remember, nothing will be shipped. Buyers must pick up their items at Holy Spirit on Saturday, December 5, or have a designated Missoula area friend to do just that.

Let's do this, Holy Spirit Friends!

*Check out the Holiday Market Auction site at this link:*

<http://charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/holy-spirit-virtual-holiday-market-15658>

## HOLIDAY MARKET ONLINE SALE

November 27 through December 3

## OUR STAFF

### Clergy:

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger,  
Rector

[revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org)

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,  
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[Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org)

The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis,  
Deacon

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### Organist/Choir Director:

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## NEWSLETTER

*Paraclete*, from the Greek meaning 'Holy Spirit,' is published monthly, September through May, by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. All material is due by the fifteenth of the month preceding the month of publication.

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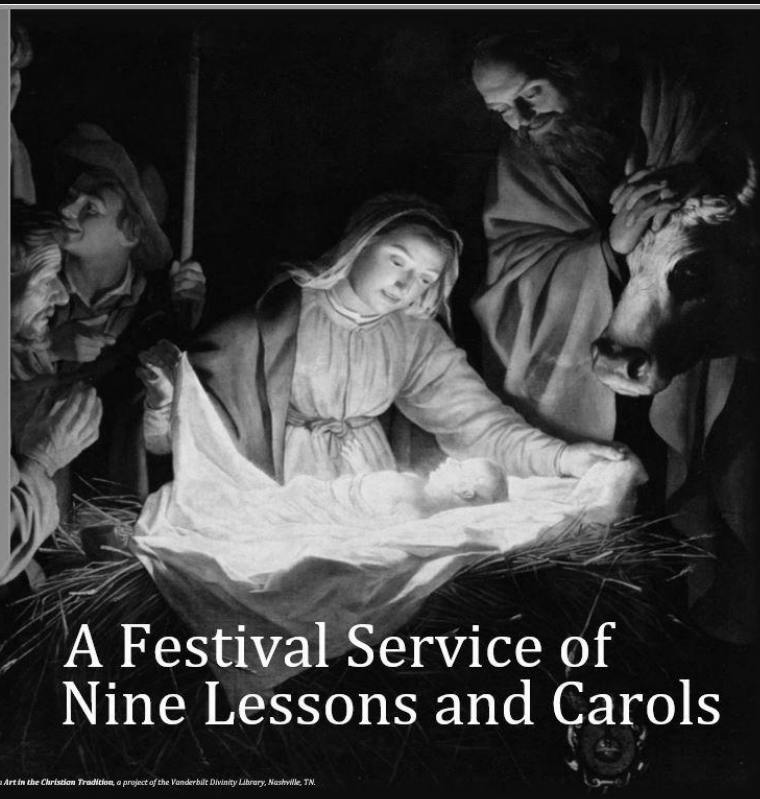
## *The Christmas Story in Word and Song*

**Sunday,  
December 20  
7 p.m.**

*An online service this  
year*

**Holy Spirit Episcopal  
Church**  
130 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Missoula, MT 59801  
406.542.2167

[www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org)



## A Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Our celebration begins on December 20

## Join us for Lessons and Carols

The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols has been a wonderful part of our introduction to the Christmas Season for years and years, and the challenges of COVID are not going to keep us from celebrating, albeit in a new and different way. The beautiful carols and anthems that have become familiar to us over time will be heard again; Bishop Marty will again join us from Helena; singers and readers will participate from home, hearth, or the great outdoors.

The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which began in England in the early 1900s, is now a part of Anglican and Episcopal worship throughout the world. The service is made up of lessons alternating with the singing of congregational and choral

music. Beginning with the story of Adam and Eve, the lessons trace the prophecies of the Nativity and end with the beautiful passage from John: "In the Beginning was the Word...."

I invite all of you to join the choir on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and in the words of the beautiful opening prayer,

*to hear again the message of the  
angels, and in heart and mind to  
go even unto Bethlehem and see  
this thing which is come to pass...*

The link to the Lessons and Carols service will be sent out via email on the Saturday before and the Sunday of the Lessons and Carols service, just like we do for Sunday worship. Look for it in your email!

—DR. NANCY COOPER

ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

*Join us online this year for Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m. on  
Sunday, December 20!*

# ADVENT

## Church School 2020

### Advent: a time to start fresh and pay attention

It is always interesting to start the beginning of the church year as our calendar year is winding down. I guess I kind of like it. I like the way the church can jar us, setting our methodical paces on edge and calling us to look up and pay attention. I don't know about you, but this year in particular I'll take as many fresh starts and early starts and new beginnings as possible!

I love the way that the church year starts before the action. The new church year kicks off with four weeks of Advent, a time of quiet reflection and preparation for Jesus's birth. It's just so churchy, isn't it? We jump into the new lineup . . . by taking some quiet time to prepare—countercultural—deeply spiritual! I guess the church wants us to know that the quiet is part of the action.

What does this mean for 2020? Maybe you're sick of quiet time? Maybe you're exhausted and over extended? Maybe you're anxious and unsettled? Wherever you are in that gamut, it seems that Advent will not have the same hectic cultural pace pushing up against it this year. This does present an opportunity in a month that we have come to expect will be crazy-busy. The question is: can we use this time and space for our spiritual benefit?

This morning I remembered an article I read last year in the *Christian Century*. The author described reading Toni Morrison during the season of Advent. She described the way Morrison's novels call our attention to the margins, to vulnerable populations like shepherds and unwed mothers, and to the way her fiction speaks of mystery

and blessing and the presence of God in ordinary life. The author wondered if the patient, attentive gaze of a novelist could inspire us to do our own deep observation during Advent. I am going to try it—reading a Morrison novel—over the next 4 weeks, and paying closer attention to life, the world around me, and God, surprisingly in the middle of it all.

This set me on a course this morning, wondering what others read during this time of year. I reached out to all kinds of churchy friends and colleagues. I asked: do you have a favorite read for Advent? Here are some of the books that were suggested, both traditional Advent devotions and non-traditional works of fiction, in case you want to check out one of these for your Advent reflection.

*Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*, Plough Publishing House

*God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*, by Fleming Rutledge

*A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens

*A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving

— THE REV. GRETCHEN STROHMAIER  
ASSISTANT PRIEST

## Here's what is happening in Church School this month

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Intergenerational Virtual Worship led by Deacon Dorcie Dvarishkis

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Virtual Children's Worship with Rev. Gretchen  
*John Proclaims Jesus is Coming*

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Virtual Children's Worship with Charlotte Orr  
*Angels Visit*

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Virtual Children's Worship with Deacon Dorcie Dvarishkis  
*Jesus is Born*



## Student musicians welcome for Christmas Eve!

If you have learned a Christmas song on your instrument -- a non-secular one, please (no "Here Comes Santa Claus!") -- you are most welcome to have your parents record you and submit the video for use in our Christmas Eve or December 27 services; if you have a duet with a sibling, that'd be great too!

**The deadline for video submissions is 5 p.m. on December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Questions? Write Nancy Cooper:  
[nancy.cooper@umontana.edu](mailto:nancy.cooper@umontana.edu)





## Explorations:

Opportunities  
to cultivate,  
challenge  
and live our  
faith

Race and Faith continued

## Join us as we wrap up our 2020 Lenten series on Race and Faith

Our Lenten program was put on pause last spring when everything was shut down. We are using three Wednesday evenings in December to finish that series via Zoom. More details will be coming your way. For now, you'll want to get it on your calendar.

**Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm via Zoom**

The Montana Racial Equity Project, will present, *The Black (Non)Accrual of Wealth and Reparations*. This session will study the history and causes of Black-white racial wealth inequality and the call for reparations.

**Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm via Zoom**

Professor Tobin Miller Shearer will present, *Formation: Anti-Racist Practice as Spiritual Discipline*. In this interactive session, we will work with a series of case studies to learn best practices for interrupting racism when

we encounter it in our daily lives and interactions. The wisdom of the spiritual disciplines will guide our discussion.

**Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm via Zoom**

U of M Professor David Beck, of the Native American Studies program, will present, *Tribal Sovereignty and American Indian Religious Freedom*. American Indian tribes have a unique political relationship with the United States due to their status as nations within a nation. Yet they continue to struggle to exert the “tribal sovereignty” that is theirs under law. At the same time, the United States claims to be a nation founded on the idea of religious liberty. Yet the first Americans have historically been denied the right to practice their religions, and this is also something with which they still struggle. This talk will look at the intertwining of tribal sovereignty and American Indian religious freedom.

Christmas pageant plans

## Join us for a special treat on Christmas Eve

We won't have a pageant this year as we stay close to home and work to keep our community safe from the coronavirus. But, do you remember in 2017 when we created a Christmas movie? That Christmas movie will be a part of our Christmas Eve service this year. You probably haven't seen it or thought about it in a while. But I think it might be even more fun to watch now than it was when we created it in 2017. Tip of the day: As you watch, see if you can count how many roles Journey (Rev. Terri's dog) plays in the movie. I bet you'll be surprised by how much everyone has grown and changed in the last 3 years!

— REV. GRETCHEN





From the Rector

## How will we say, "Merry Christmas?"

One of the joys of our Christmas Eve services comes at the very end when everyone comes through the church doorway and wishes one another a joyous Merry Christmas! How will we do that this year? The staff and I gave this some thought, and we'd like as many of you as possible to send in a photograph or very short video wishing a Merry Christmas from your household to all. Our technological specialist, James Gartner, is planning to receive your photos and videos and to create the means by which we will be able to once again offer a blessed Christmas to one another. Please send in your photos to [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org) and

videos to [jameswgartner@gmail.com](mailto:jameswgartner@gmail.com) by Friday, December 11.

Want to participate but need some help getting a photo or video taken? Let us know by calling or emailing the office soon. If there is a need for this, we will do our best to set up a day to schedule photos or recordings outside the church doors (for example). So, let everyone know that even if they can't make it home this Christmas to see family and friends in person, there will be a way for everyone to share Merry Christmas from wherever they are, and we'd love to share that experience together!

— REV. TERRI

*Deadline for submission of photos and videos is December 11.*

*Send photos to [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org) and*

*videos to [jameswgartner@gmail.com](mailto:jameswgartner@gmail.com).*



# Merry Christmas!

## Patterns

Forgive us, God,  
when we live our lives  
within the lines,  
when we say  
this is the shape of our  
work  
this is the boundary of our  
habitation  
these are the limits to our  
love  
these are the lines of our  
vision  
these, and none other.

Draw us beyond our patterns  
into yours:  
shifting, moving,  
curving, spiraling,  
many-colored, ever-changing,  
stretching, pushing,  
challenging, renaming,  
unsettling, disturbing,  
casting forth,  
and welcoming home.

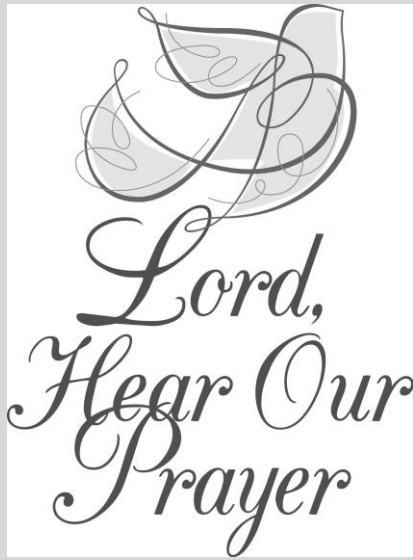
— Jan L. Richardson,  
*Night Visions*



## Hope's Disguises

We see the signs  
but cannot always  
divine their meanings.  
You call us to move forward  
not always knowing  
whether what we grasp  
in our hands  
will prove to be  
a seed of hope  
or a thorn in our flesh.  
Train our fingers,  
that what brings life  
we may with persistence hold,  
and that which wastes  
our souls  
we may with grace release.

— Jan L. Richardson,  
*Night Visions*



### We're updating our Prayer List

An important part of our worship at Holy Spirit is the opportunity to pray by name for people in need. We pray for members of our congregation and for many others for whom our prayers are requested. **On January 3, we will make a fresh start with the Prayer List included in the Sunday Prayers of the People.** In order to keep our prayers current and meaningful, we are asking for your help. If there is someone whose name you would like to have on the list, please give that information to Judy Parock ([office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org)). The renewed list will include only the names which have been sent to us and the names of our shut-in parishioners. We will renew the list again in six months' time. People may remain on the Prayer List for as long as necessary because we know and understand that many needs are ongoing. However, when someone is ready to be removed from the list, we ask that you let us know. Thank you for your help and for your understanding.

— JUDY PAROCK

Start saving those donations now!

## Socks, gloves and hats needed for homeless men and women

While many of us may have been feeling confined to our homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, we also are ever grateful to have homes that we can be confined within. The Poverellos center, Missoula's shelter for homeless men and women, provides that safe haven for people without homes of their own. To support the wonderful work of the Pov, Holy Spirit Parish is again conducting a drive for socks, hats, gloves and scarves to be given to Missoula's homeless residents, who spend many hours out on the streets in the cold, wind and snow.

Our drive for winter apparel will not begin until the first week in January, but we wanted everyone to know that the collection is coming in order to begin buying or knitting or regifting these critical items. With church not scheduled to be back in session by early January, we shall be collecting these items in a bin on

the porch of Holy Spirit Parish and in bins on several covered porches of generous parishioners who live around the city. We shall publish those addresses in the *Spirited Times* as we get closer to the collection dates.

In the meantime, we appreciate any socks, hats, gloves and scarves you can donate. Please remember: socks should be made from wool or synthetic fabrics such as Thermolite. Please, NO cotton. Cotton does not keep out the cold and fails to wick away moisture, making feet feel cold and damp.

Thanks so much for your help with this important drive. Questions? Please email Lucia Solorzano Work at [lucia.solowork@gmail.com](mailto:lucia.solowork@gmail.com).

— LUCIA SOLORZANO WORK  
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

## Help provide socks and gloves for Missoula's homeless

# WARM HANDS, warm feet!



### Collection begins in January!

## Community Ministries

# Something's up at The Parenting Place!

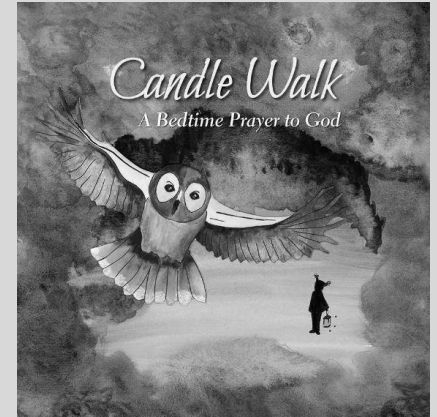
When you pull up to the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Catlin these days, you will notice that something's up at The Parenting Place (PP)...the front entrance has been rebuilt, a taller privacy fence surrounds the play yard, and a Planet Kids sign has been added to the pole out front. PP now leases the main building for some hours each day to Planet Kids, a program of the YWCA that offers assistance in arranging continued contact between non-residential parents and their children, and provides a safe, comfortable, and confidential place for parents and children to build positive relationships. This kid-friendly location offers wonderful opportunities for this important service.

PP has also become a Kids Study Hub for neighborhood kids in third grade through high school Monday through Friday from 10AM to 3PM. Students can use laptops, get a snack or

meal, and safely hang with their peers and caring adult mentors.

Parenting classes continue to safely support those in jail, the pre-release center, and across the community. What challenges COVID has brought have been met with nimble and thoughtful responses. We appreciate your prayers for the leadership, children, and families of PP, and know that any year-end gifts will put them on an even stronger and more responsive path for 2021. To learn more, contact me or visit their website at [parentingplace.net](http://parentingplace.net).

WITH GRATITUDE, AS WE  
CELEBRATE SPIRIT ON THE MOVE,  
– THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA  
DVARISHKIS  
[dorcied@gmail.com](mailto:dorcied@gmail.com)  
406-239-7655 text/cell



## A Family Resource

Are you looking for spiritual formation practices to do at home with your children? Suddenly, parents and caregivers are on the hook for all sources of education and support, just when we may be feeling extra pressure in our work lives too. Consider this book I recently learned about, *Candle Walk: A Bedtime Prayer to God*, by Karen Holsinger Sherman. I love this book for four reasons. One, it's a picture book meant to be read at night before bed. You probably already read to your kids at night; slipping this book into the lineup is EASY. Two, it integrates the language of the Compline service from the Book of Common Prayer into daily life for a child. This is a powerful resource for any human, no matter the age. Three, I love the pictures and the little line drawings. Four, older children may be able to reflect on their day as you read this book with them. Here's an excerpt:

"Creak, creak, dance the trees. Our eyes are closed as we remember our day. Did God move through our branches today? Or did God's breath feel far away? Did someone seek the shelter of our shade? Is there something that made us sorry?"

I hope this book can help as you support your children and together build practices that can sustain them for a lifetime.

– REV. GRETCHEN

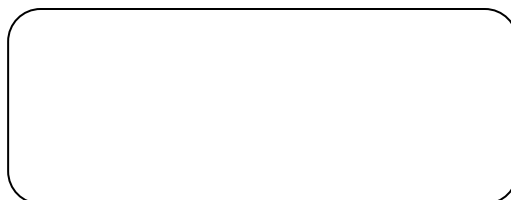


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November 27 through December 3

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