

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

NATIVITYSCOTTSDALE.ORG



THE NATIVITY SCENE

March
2021

Everyone is Welcome!
No Exceptions



I would like to announce that our new Music Director is Tyler Pimm. Tyler's first Sunday with us will be March 14, the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Here is a bio that Tyler shared so we could get to know him:

Tyler comes to Nativity with nearly a decade of church music experience, having served various Catholic and mainline Protestant congregations. He brings a passion for all sacred music with a particular interest in Anglican choral music, Lutheran hymnody, the masses of Rheinberger, contemporary organ music, and anything Bach.

Hailing from Wisconsin, Tyler recently moved to Phoenix and is eager to enjoy the area's artistic offerings and opportunities. In his free time, he likes cooking, exploring the great outdoors, and traveling.

I would like to add that Tyler has a Bachelor of Music degree in Theory and Composition with Honors and a Master of Music degree in Composition. Tyler will begin a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance at ASU in Spring 2022. Tyler's resume is nine pages long with many distinguished awards and performances in his background. We are very blessed to have such a stellar new music director.

The choir, the Music Director Search Committee and I are excited about Tyler's call to be our next Music Director. Tyler has amazing talent and will be able to adapt quickly to the culture of Nativity as we continue to honor quality music in our worship.

Please welcome Tyler when you have a chance. His new church email is:

tylerpimm@thenativity.net

I would like to thank our Music Director Search Committee: Chair Mark Dobbins, David Bolger, Charles Cornner, Mary Ann Rank, Jo Taylor, and Christa Van Zant for all of their hard work in reading resumes and listening to the music of the 15 candidates who applied for the position, as well as interviewing four semi-finalists on Zoom, and interviewing again, along with the choir, our two finalists.

I also would like to thank our Interim Music Director Charles Cornner for leading us through the first few months of 2021, ensuring that music was prerecorded for our online service as well as providing music for the in-person outdoor service for the last two months.

Please thank Charles for agreeing to serve as our Interim Music Director when you see him or send him an email to his church email address: charlescornner@thenativity.net. Charles will continue in the choir and will help Tyler transition into his new position.

On another note, after Easter we will reassess the Covid numbers in order to plan to meet back inside the church building for worship. In the meantime, may 2021 be a year of good health and happiness as we honor our tradition of having excellent music at Nativity. We welcome Tyler to lead us musically this year and beyond!

Faithfully in Christ,
The Rev Scot McComas
Rector



Nativity's Contacts



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Mandy Hodges,
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Tyler Pimm
Director of Music,
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Mina Rafferty,
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Nativity Vestry

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Darrell Spencer	480-540-5229 darrellwspencer@yahoo.com



Sundays, 9:00 am
Power Bible Study

Sundays, 9:30 am
Children's Chapel Live

Sundays, 10:00 am
Sunday Service



If you would like information on the meeting or would like to join, please contact Fr. Scot at scotmccomas@thenativity.net.

Sundays, 11:00 am
Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays, 11:00 am
Middle School Zoom

Sundays, 11:30 am
High School Zoom

1st Tuesdays 6:00 pm
Outreach Meeting

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm
Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 10:30 am
Fr. Scot's Book Group

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm
Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
Bible Study with Dr. Wayne

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
Virtual Choir Meeting

Thursdays, 10:00 am
Knitting Group





Wayne's World March 2021

“Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past . . .” So goes the opening line of the Liturgy of the Word for The Great Vigil of Easter. When the Great Vigil is observed, according to the Book of Common Prayer, “it is celebrated at a convenient time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Morning.”

2021 is a year The Great Vigil will not be observed at Nativity hence, the first service of Easter Day will be at 10 am on Sunday, April 4. At this point you might be screaming to me, “But this is March! We’re still in Lent. Why are you talking about Easter?”

Why? Because during the Wednesday nights of Lent in March (3,10,17,24) we will be doing a systematic study of the 9, yes count ‘em, 9 texts of the Vigil’s Liturgy of the Word.

- March 3 features the texts in Genesis of the creation and the flood.
- March 10 gets into the gnarly narrative of Abraham’s near-sacrifice of Isaac, and Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea.
- March 17 turns to Isaiah’s prophecies of God’s presence in a renewed Israel and salvation offered freely to all.
- March 24 concludes the journey with Ezekiel’s prophecies about a new heart and a new spirit, and the valley of dry bones, as well as Zephaniah’s prophecy of the gathering of God’s people.

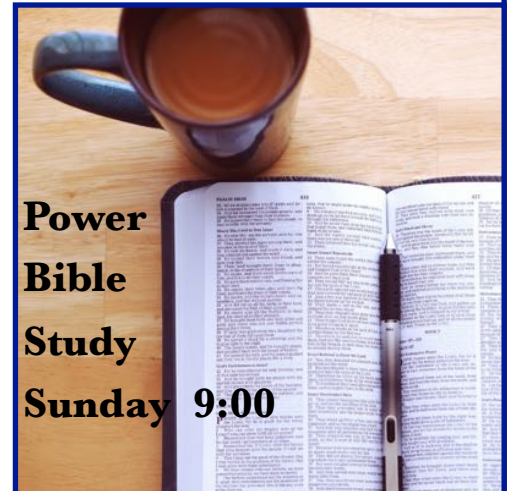
In the darkness that pervades before dawn, it is important to ask the key question, “How did we get here?”

Join Dr. Wayne for Bible Study Wednesday (BSW) during Lent in March. Every BSW is available on both the Facebook and YouTube platforms on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm.

Pax et Lux,
Dr. W+

The Rev. Wayne V. Whitney, PhD
Associate Rector





Sunday Morning Power Bible Study

Sunday Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne features all 4 of the week's lectionary texts in about a half-hour's time. Tune in before Sunday worship to get related to God's word for the week.. Join Dr. Wayne online at 9:00 am on Nativity's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalchurchofthenativity> or the Nativity General YouTube channel.

Lenten Bible Study Wednesday

How did we get here? What do the Scriptures tell us God did to make salvation happen? Clues to the answers to these questions, and more, are found in the 9 Old Testament texts of The Great Vigil of Easter. During the Lenten month of March each Bible Study Wednesday features these texts from Genesis to Zephaniah. Dr. Wayne leads these studies on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm on the Nativity Facebook page and also the Nativity General channel on YouTube.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

The ancient and venerable rite of Evening Prayer is streamed every Wednesday at 5:30 pm on Nativity's Facebook page. This service features a weekly commemoration of a historical Christian witness. If you would like to participate in the rotation of leaders for this ministry contact Dr. Wayne at waynewhitney@thenativity.net. Be sure to set yourself a 'reminder' by clicking on the event on the Nativity Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalchurchofthenativity>.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meets Tuesday evenings at 6 pm via Zoom. Contact Bill Bailey for a zoom invitation. Contact williambailey70@yahoo.com for further details or questions.

Fr. Scot's Wednesday Book Group

Please join us Wednesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom. We will be delving into Ethics, also known as Moral Theology, and reading the following book, which you can order at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218>.



Saturday March 13th at 1:30 pm

Refresh your prayer life this Lent! Join Deacon Martha for a short hour with the Anglican Rosary. We'll explore the broad history of this ancient practice and try out different styles of prayers. Need prayer beads? Let me know and I'll get them to you. Email me for a zoom invitation. Marthadurham@thenativity.net.



Children & Youth Ministry Update

We are hoping for the luck of the Irish this month to bring us good news about regathering this spring! For the time being though, we continue with online gatherings for our children & youth.

We are focusing these next few weeks on Lent, with new lessons and activities each week about Jesus' amazing life and ministry. Zoom links for our calls come out in a Friday email blast each week and can also be found under the LEARN tab on the website.



Children's Chapel Zoom

- 9:30am
- All ages!



Middle School Zoom

- 11:00am
- Grades 5 - 8



High School Zoom

- 11:30am
- Grades 9 - 12



Memories!

Making hot cross buns in Lent 2019



Photo taken by Mandy in Ireland

St. Patrick's Prayer

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
 Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
 Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
 Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
 Christ in the eye that sees me,
 Christ in the ear that hears me.
 I arise today through the mighty strength
 Of the Lord of creation.



Dear Friends,

The time for summer camp will be here before we know it. There is a greater need for financial support to the Chapel Rock Campership Fund than there has been in years past. It is Diocesan policy that no child gets turned away from attending camp due to a lack of funds. 2019 was the last summer we ran our residential summer camp program, and over \$45,000.00 was awarded to campers in need of financial aid. The ability to provide that amount to our campers is impossible without the kind support from congregations and individual members like you.

Whether a camper is here for the first time or the 13th summer straight, they all have an opportunity to have an experience like none before. Chapel Rock's summer campers have a chance for acceptance, and to become a part of a unique Christian community. They have an opportunity to explore their faith and hopefully even embrace the love of Jesus Christ and their fellow cabin mates. There is no better time than now to be part of helping children have this potentially life changing experience. Every year, when we read camper evaluations, camper after camper says, "That was the best week of my summer!"

The goal of the Chapel Rock Campership Fund is to make sure that no child is turned away because of financial means. Chapel Rock offers an early bird discount for summer camp registrants prior to March 31st. We also work to keep costs low and offer an affordable rate! Your gift, of any amount, will be greatly appreciated and will help make a transformative difference in the life of a child. Please help us by making a contribution to the Chapel Rock Campership Fund, either by making a cash donation at your church, writing a check at your church and noting "Chapel Rock" in the memo line, or by donating on our website at www.chapelrock.net.

It is anticipated that this summer will be a record year for tuition assistance and we need to be prepared.

Blessings and many thanks,

Kelly Wood
Executive Director
Chapel Rock





Lent is upon us. Usually the big seasons sneak up on me catching me off guard, but this year I am present on Day 1, Ash Wednesday. I have a word for this season this year: PLAIN. It took me a while to get there.

At the beginning of COVID YEAR, enforced time in the house alone filled me with dreams of all the things I had never done, I wanted to do them and do them perfectly. Increase my time of swimming laps. Strengthen that weak shoulder. Cook plentiful healthy meals overflowing with vegetables. Train the dog. (that was a dream for sure) Organize my 35 years of photos of married and family life, and generations of photos before. The list went on.

As I settled into a rhythm of life in semi isolation, every one of the things on my list dropped away. I had my nose in a book all the time, or I binge watched on Netflix while I knit. Depression reigned. I think this was not uncommon. I was down in a deep dark hole hiding from a world changed in climate - the hottest summer ever by all standards; Covid - a dangerous disease - widespread in the community; unavoidable health issues that hit us all at some point; the airwaves and public reflecting an angry political time; unable to visit friends and family far and near. I begged God to send down a ladder for me to climb out.

I did climb out, one step on the ladder at a time, a long way up. And I am much more settled and calm and happy and probably nicer to be with. And my daily motto is PLAIN. Lent is a perfect time to be plain, to strip off the excess layers and hold the essence of life in our hands and heart. Here's one way I am plain right now.

I love my daily prayer practices and I love all the different ways to practice them. From ritualistic Daily Offices in the Prayerbook, complete with Daily Lectionary, to Labyrinth work, Praying through Mandalas, Celtic Prayers, Years of meditation. When you love all these different practices it is easy to end up doing nothing. I know I am not alone here. So, I now have the simplest of daily prayers. I do the Anglican Rosary, modified to satisfy my need for modern language. I do ONLY one round of the prayer beads. Sometimes I close my eyes, and sometimes I don't. Sometimes I do it walking. Sometimes the dog sleeps on my lap. He seems to like to hear me muttering. And inevitably, that 11 or 12 minutes of prayer resets my day. No lightning bolts, no grand revelations. But a bit of a smile and a much better perspective on the work I am trying to do.

I invite you to join me in a simple, plain prayer every day in Lent. Leave the elaborate stuff for another season. Let's be Plain. If you are intrigued, I will share my Rosary prayers with you. I even have a few Rosaries made of olive wood to share. They are plain too. Next month I'll tell you a bit about the history of the Rosary in its simplicity and how it drew me in, and filled my heart with Plain.

The Rev. Martha Durham
Deacon



Au Revoir

These past six months have flown by and it is time for me to return to my home parish. But first, a word of gratitude to the members and clergy of Church of the Nativity. Thank you for accepting me so readily into your flock. Thank you for the wonderful baked goods at Christmas. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your worship – inside the Sanctuary, outside in the parking lot, and by video. Thank you for allowing me to join the Wednesday Evening Prayer team. Thank you for sharing your Advent Quiet Day with me. We did all this during the highest COVID-19 case counts of the year. It just shows the strong spirituality and dedication of this church. You are awesome!

I could not have designed a better intern experience. I learned so much from you. Even when I made mistakes, I was held up in love. I felt as if I belonged at Nativity. You will always have a special place in my heart. Truly, I will miss you.

I leave you saying “Au Revoir” instead of “Good-bye”. The English language has a number of shortcomings and one of them is in parting ways. So, I chose a better phrase, “au revoir”. In French it literally means until we see (each other) again. I pray our paths will cross in the future. Some of you, I will see at Diocesan Convention this October. If ordination to the Holy Order of Deacons, my “God Willing” service, is my path, I will see the clergy in various Diocesan functions. Therefore, this is not a permanent good-bye, it is a temporary parting. “Au Revoir”, my brothers and sisters in Christ. May you go in peace and be the Church.

With much appreciation and love,
Jean Hawkins
Deacon Intern



Nativity's Film Club

The film club is an open group of people who come together two times a month and discuss a film. You see the film in advance and then join in the discussion and community on the first and third Saturday via ZOOM at 6 pm. We see a wide variety of films and all are available through streaming services such as Amazon or Netflix. You are welcome to come as often as you would like or just join in for films that are interesting to you. Contact Darrell at darrellwspencer@yahoo.com for more information or the ZOOM link.

March 6: News of the World



March 20: Searching for Bobby Fischer



Knitting News

Even during COVID lockdown our knitters keep knitting for others. This time we were able to put together a small gift bag of premie hats to keep the newest Nativity member, Matthew Graves, warm as he grows. All our love and knitting prayers surround Matthew, brother Jimmy, mom and dad Jillian and Aaron, and grandparents Joyce and Jim.





Arts at Nativity

SUN | MAR 14 | 3 PM |

Beethoven

This all-Beethoven program will guide you through the composer's three compositional periods with works performed by violinist Izayah Dutcher, cellist Jennifer Son, and pianist Neilson Chen.

For more information visit:

<https://artsatnativity.org>



NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The Outreach Committee is looking for an additional ministry to be added to our roster. As you can see there are several criteria to be met before we can add another ministry to our Outreach program. We are all working hard to help our community and those beyond and pledge to continue to “Love Our Neighbors, No Exceptions.” If you have a particular ministry that you feel would be appropriate for our committee and parish to participate in, please fill out the application below and return it to Nativity, attention: Cindy Cohen.

Application for a new Nativity Outreach Ministry Application must be received by March 25, 2021

Name of Nativity parishioner to lead ministry:

Name Email Phone #

Name of ministry:

Describe the ministry and the need that it addresses.

How will Nativity members be involved?

How will our parishioners interact with those being served?

Provide any supporting documentation that you desire.



Nativity’s Virtual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was a blast - tallest stack - 14 cakes!

AmazonSmile - Funds for Nativity

You can contribute without costing you more money via Smile.Amazon.com! Contact Mina Rafferty (minarafferty@thenativity.net) for more info. Use our unique link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218> When first visiting AmazonSmile, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer.

Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

We would like to know when your birthday and/or anniversary is coming up so we can pray for you by name during the birthday and anniversary prayers and blessings each week. If you would like your name mentioned, please email the dates and information to Fr. Scot at scotmccomas@thenativity.net or call him at 704-779-6113. Or maybe you have a family member or friend you'd like us to pray for. Please let us know.

Prayer Team

If you or someone special to you are in need of prayers you have several options to let the prayer team know of the request. Please let one of the clergy know. There also is a book for prayer requests on the table by the entrance to Christopher Hall, or you may email Joyce Graves at jbjlgaves@cox.net or call 602-885-8828. All prayers are kept confidential within the prayer team. We also ask that you give us an update preferably every month or so about the person or persons you have asked us to pray for.

Name Tags

Name Tags - If you are attending the Church of the Nativity but do not have a name tag at present, please stop by the Welcome Counter and give us your name so we can have one made for you. You can also contact Mina Rafferty at the church office, 480-307-9216 or via email at minarafferty@thenativity.net with your information.

Forward Day by Day

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author. These booklets in both regular and large print are available on the Welcome desk or if you would like one mailed to you, send Mina Rafferty an email at minarafferty@thenativity.net.



Food Boxes Packed at St. Mary's Food Bank!

Nativity members, their family and friends helped pack food boxes on Saturday February 27. We had 7 folks turn out for this past Saturday's volunteer event at St. Mary's. Thanks Gayle, Kathy, Ron, Ramona, Andy, Janyce and Sara! We will be returning on Saturday March 27th at 8AM to continue our mission there. Call me if you're interested in participating, Jeff Jameson, 480-262-7957.





The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!

The Bishop of Arizona, the Right Reverend Jennifer Reddall, will be joining us for the Maundy Thursday service on April 1 at 12 pm. She will preach and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

Normally this is the service where foot washing occurs every year. However, due to Covid and the six-foot social distancing health guideline, we will not be doing foot washing.

However, foot washing reminds us of service to others. So instead, please bring a selection of canned or dry goods or toiletries for women/men to church that day or drop them by the church anytime that week. I will ask the bishop to bless them.

We are so fortunate and yet there are people still hurting during this time. May we do our small part to lessen the suffering of our neighbors on the day Christ washed the feet of his disciples.

Palm Sunday, March 28

The Passion Narrative from the Gospel of Mark
10 am in-person, outside
10 am online

Maundy Thursday, April 1

12 pm in-person, outside Bishop Reddall
will celebrate
12 pm and 7 pm online

Good Friday, April 2

12 pm in-person, outside
12 pm and 7 pm online

Easter Morning, April 4

10 am in-person, outside
10 am online





Nativity Greeters

Do you remember your first visit to Nativity? I do! I was greeted at the door by Jennie Dobbins and again after the service. The positive impression Jennie made is a large part of the reason why I chose Nativity as my church home. First impressions are critical and I'd like to see Nativity continue making great impressions even during these difficult times. We could use more

greeters, so if you're interested in showing your passion for Nativity, please let me know. I'd love to add you to the team!

Thomasina Tafur at thomasinatafur@hotmail.com



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WELCOME!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Everyone Is Welcome!
No Exceptions

