

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:

ANNE WINCHESTER WILL BE RECEIVING YOUR ORDER REQUEST(S) FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND WILL BE PLACING THE CHURCH'S ORDER WITH THE FLORIST THIS YEAR. YOUR REQUEST WILL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED BEFORE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. PLEASE USE THE ENVELOPES IN THE PEWS, SPECIFYING YOUR CHOICE OF RED, PINK, OR WHITE AND INDICATE WHETHER THE PLANT IS BEING PLACED IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF SOMEONE, PROVIDING THAT/THOSE NAME(S). INCLUDE YOUR PAYMENT OF \$12.00 PER PLANT. YOU MAY PLACE THE ENVELOPE IN THE COLLECTION PLATE OR GIVE IT DIRECTLY TO ANNE.

FREE MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12th at 6:00 P.M.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12th AT 7:00 P.M. SHARP, FOLLOWING THE COMMUNITY MEAL

DECEMBER 19th **“BLUE CHRISTMAS” SERVICE** AT 6:00 P.M.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED TO SIGN UP TO HELP WITH OUR COFFEE HOURS FOLLOWING WORSHIP AND OUR FREE MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS.

IN THE EVENT OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT:
REV. TERI MOTLEY AT (603) 903-5091

MINISTERS – THE CONGREGATION

CHURCH TELEPHONE: (978) 283-2817
FACEBOOK PAGE: WEST GLOUCESTER TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH ANNETTE LEISSNER, PAGE MODERATOR

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.WESTGLOUCESTERCHURCH.ORG](http://www.westgloucesterchurch.org)
BRIAN SPINNEY, WEBMASTER

COVENANT

OUR COMMITMENT AS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH

WE, THE CONGREGATION OF THE WEST GLOUCESTER TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON IS BELOVED OF GOD, A SPECIAL AND UNIQUE CREATION MADE IN GOD'S OWN IMAGE. THEREFORE, WE DECLARE OURSELVES TO BE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) CONGREGATION. WITH GOD'S GRACE, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO EMBRACE DIVERSITY AND ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS OF EVERY GENDER, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, AGE, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ABILITY, AS WELL AS RACIAL, ETHNIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND.

WE WELCOME ALL PERSONS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, TO SHARE IN THE FULL LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THIS CHURCH BOTH LAY AND ORDAINED, INCLUDING FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS; IN THE SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEWARDSHIP AND LIVING IN A COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP; IN THE SHARED BLESSINGS OF THE RIGHT TO MARRY OR CELEBRATE A COMMITMENT TO A PERSON OF ONE'S CHOOSING, IN THE RIGHT TO CELEBRATE A LOVED ONE'S LIFE IN A MEMORIAL SERVICE; AND TO RECEIVE PASTORAL CARE.

AT THE WGTCC WE BELIEVE IN GOD'S INCLUSIVE LOVE FOR ALL WHICH MEANS THAT NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. RECOGNIZING THAT WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER BY GOD TO FOLLOW IN THE WAYS OF CHRIST, AND RECOGNIZING THE WORDS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE (COLOSSIANS 3: 12-17 AND 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 12-24) WE COVENANT WITH ONE ANOTHER TO LIVE TOGETHER IN LOVING RELATIONSHIPS. WITH GOD'S HELP, WE WILL HOLD OURSELVES AND ONE ANOTHER TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES AND GUIDELINES AS WE SEEK TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

- WE SEEK TO BUILD EACH OTHER UP AND NOT TEAR DOWN.
- WE RESPECT AND HONOR OUR PASTOR AND LAY LEADERS.
- WE SEEK TO COMMUNICATE CLEARLY, LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER AND HONORING WHAT THE OTHER IS SAYING.
- WE OFFER OUR OPINIONS WITH CHARITY AND HUMILITY.
- WE MAKE POSITIVE INVESTMENTS IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES BY RECOGNIZING ONE ANOTHER'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND SEEKING TO NURTURE THEM.
- WE SEEK TO DISCOVER NOT WHAT MAY BE BEST FOR THE INDIVIDUAL OR THE SMALL GROUP BUT WHAT IS BEST FOR GOD'S CHURCH AS A WHOLE.
- WE ACCEPT DISAGREEMENT, CONFLICT AND EVOLUTION AS NORMAL AND NATURAL AND WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM IN A KIND, OPEN AND LOVING WAY.
- WE COMMIT TO BEING INCONVENIENCED FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL.
- WE SEEK TO RESPECT PEOPLE'S LIVES, AFFIRMING THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO COME TO CHURCH AND JUST BE.
- WE SEEK AND EXTEND GRACE AND FORGIVENESS IN RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER.

Adopted by vote of the congregation: March 19, 2017

LUKE 21: VERSES 25-36 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

COMMUNION LITURGY:

PRAYER OF CONFESION (UNISON):

FAITHFUL GOD, WE CONFESS THAT TOO OFTEN WE LET OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH BECOME A SLOG. TOO OFTEN WE ARE DISTRACTED, BY CRITICISM OF EACH OTHER, OR CHASING AFTER THE THINGS OF THE WORLD, FROM THE HUMBLE RECOGNITION OF OUR OWN SIN. WHEN WE ARE BEDEVILED BY CARES AND WORRIES, IT IS HARD TO RAISE OUR EYES TO SEEK OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU. HELP US TO FIND OUR BEARING WHEN WE HAVE WANDERED AND ARE LOST. HELP US TO TRUST THAT YOU WILL FIND US, GUIDE US AND BRING NEW LIFE INTO US. THIS WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, THE HOPE OF THE WORLD AND OUR HOPE. AMEN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON):

LORD, THANK YOU FOR REFRESHING US AT YOUR TABLE WITH THE GIFT OF THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST. STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH, INCREASE OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, AND SEND US FORTH INTO THE WORLD IN COURAGE AND PEACE, REJOICING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR. AMEN