



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818 | 401-884-4116 | stlukeseg.org | @stlukeseg

The Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 20, 2020

Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two

The people's responses are in bold.

Prelude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland Johann Sebastian Bach
(based on Hymn 54, "Savior of the nations, come")

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near:

People **Come let us adore him.**

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

Officiant and People

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near:

People **Come let us adore him.**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Officiant and People

1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel 7:1-11, 16.

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took

you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16 **The Song of Zechariah** *Benedictus Dominus Deus* Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
 shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans 16:25-27.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Anthem

In Our Midst

Cindi Lovejoy

Ben Lovejoy and Arielle Rogers, soloists arr. Benjamin Lovejoy

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 1:26-38.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. For Michael our presiding bishop, Nicholas our bishop, for all bishops and other ministers; and for the clergy and lay staff of our parish. We join with communities throughout this diocese and pray for St. Thomas, Alton; St. Thomas, Greenville; and St. Stephen's, Providence.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your care all of those who work for justice, freedom, and peace. We pray for those in our Armed Forces.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for Karen Cesaro, Aimee Welch, Sue Tingle, Margaret Pinney, Lois Hunter, Piero, Shirley Monks, Joan Ruberg, Bud & Natalie Cockrell, Ted & Pat Hallenbeck, Liz McClintick, Pete Fornal, Heather M., Wendy, Sue & Mel Awes, Sam Hopp, Bob Schulman, Urba Burton, Mackenzie C., Neil & Tracy, Spencer Collins, Robbin Mackie, Kusum Singh, Suzie Woodward, Hannah's Family, and Gerald.

And during this time of global pandemic we pray: God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Silence

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

Hymn 56 stanzas 5-8



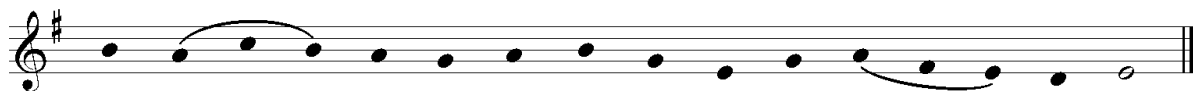
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

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Participants

Preacher/Officiant	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Tanya Watt, Assistant Rector
Minister of Music	Rodney Ayers
Soloists	Ben Lovejoy and Arielle Rogers
First Reading	Sarah Curtis
Second Reading	Cindi Lovejoy
Gospel Reading	Joe Serdakowski
Prayers	Deborah Collins

THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

Sunday, 12/20

Worship with us online at stlukeseg.org
5 pm Christmas Party via Zoom

Monday, 12/21

10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard

Wednesday, 12/23

10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard

Thursday, 12/24

Worship with us online at stlukeseg.org for **A Celebration of Christmas and Lessons & Carols Services (As Of Noon)**

Friday, 12/25 – Christmas Day
Office Closed

Sunday, 12/27

Worship with us online at stlukeseg.org

Come one, come all!



**You're invited to the St. Luke's COVID-Christmas Party
5:00PM, Sunday, December 20**

Zoom in prepared to share a personal Christmas favorite-- a favorite Christmas song (singing optional), a favorite Christmas poem (recitation preferred), a favorite Christmas drink (recipe required), a favorite Christmas drinking vessel, a favorite Christmas tradition, a favorite Christmas movie, a favorite Christmas sweater, or any other favorite Christmas tradition you might like to share!

It's only for an hour but let's see how many Christmas favorites we can pack in to those 60 minutes. And let's not let this Grinch of a pandemic steal our Christmas cheer!

Zoom Meeting Information:

Meeting ID: 810 7183 7277

Passcode: 828948

Find the link in our Weekly email!



From the Treasurer

I was in the checkout line the other day, waiting for my turn to approach the register, masked and socially distanced by the stick on feet placed on the floor. It brought me back to the annual meeting last year, where our floors (and walls and many other places, so it seemed) also had stick on feet for that year's commitment drive theme of taking our next step. Who knew we would be trend setters.

October and November were solid months financially. Pledges and gifts have continued in your support of our Parish. With all the good news of vaccines coming, and a potential return to less sickness and a less restrictive lifestyle, there is a reason to hope.

And hope sounds like a pretty good Christmas gift for all of us.

If you can, please help us close out 2020 on a positive note.

	2020 YTD	Budget	%	2019 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$382,778	\$400,000	95.69%	\$419,131	(\$36,353)
Loose Plate	\$17,960	\$17,700	101.47%	\$31,321	(\$13,361)
Other Personal Inc.	\$65,165	\$68,819	94.69%	\$130,517	(\$65,352)
Total Personal Inc.	\$465,903	\$486,519	95.76%	\$580,969	(\$115,066)
Total Other Inc	\$110,133	\$94,533	116.50%	\$47,201	\$62,932
Total Income	\$576,036	\$581,052	99.14%	\$628,170	(\$52,134)
Staff Expenses	\$384,676	\$391,199	98.33%	\$408,644	(\$23,968)
Facilities Expenses	\$102,289	\$111,926	91.39%	\$144,990	(\$42,701)
Program Expenses	\$21,825	\$29,296	74.50%	\$22,739	(\$914)
Outreach Expenses	\$12,067	\$7,506	160.76%	\$7,036	\$5,031
Total Expenses	\$607,610	\$626,658	96.96%	\$668,302	(\$60,692)
Net Income	(\$31,575)	(\$45,607)	69.23%	(\$40,132)	\$8,557

Peace,
Michael Sullivan

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!



Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

Join Us in Virtual
Worship, Reflection,
and Song

www.stlukeseg.org
Facebook & YouTube

- *Morning Prayer Services -- Each Sunday of Advent*
 - *Daily Advent Blog -- Nov. 29 through Dec. 24*
 - *St. Luke's Christmas Concert -- as of 5pm, Sat., Dec. 12*
 - *Christmas Eve Day -- as of Noon*
 - *A Celebration of Christmas -- Stories, Songs and Prayers for Children & Families*
 - *Lessons & Carols -- Scripture Readings, Seasonal Prayers, Christmas Music, and Sermon*
-

Resources For Your Advent Journey

From Forward Movement - forwardmovement.org:

“Waiting and Watching”

“A Way to the Manger”

“O Wisdom – Advent Devotions on the Name of Jesus”

“I Witness” Kate Moorehead

“What Are You Waiting For?” Christine McSpadden

“Expecting Jesus” Danielle Elizabeth Tumminio

“Joy of Heaven, to Earth Come Down” Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

From Amazon:

“Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Henri Nouwen”

“The Soul of Christmas” Thomas Moore

“Preparing for Christmas” Richard Rohr

“Our December Hearts” Anne McConney

“Faithful Celebrations” Sharon Ely Pearson

Advent Blog

During the season of Advent we experience the longing for Christ's presence among us, the call to wait and to endure faithfully because we know God is faithful to us and the inbreaking of Christ into our world is so very near. This year, Advent has a special resonance; we are enduring and waiting in a way that we never have before. As we live into this season of longing and hope, we are physically apart. But while we are apart, we are able to be together, to hear each other's voices, through our Advent Blog. We are so glad to offer a resource for reflection and connection with one another, to hear the voices of the saints of St. Luke's through their reflections on the scripture for the day. Our Advent Blog is just one click away: <https://stlukeseg.org/advent-blog/>

12 Days of Christmas Blog!

Our cup is truly running over, and the enthusiasm for our Advent Blog has spilled over into the coming season of Christmas. During the 12 Days of Christmas, we will have the opportunity to continue to hear from members of our faith community as they reflect on the scripture for the day. We have seven open slots for writers. Please consider contributing your voice to the chorus of reflections! You don't need to be an expert or even have any experience writing about Scripture; just an open heart and willingness to share. If you would be willing to write a short (1-3 paragraph) reflection, email Mother Tanya at tanya@stlukeseg.org and she will send you a set of daily readings and some more detailed instructions.

The Diocese of Rhode Island is offering a Blue Christmas Service

The longest night of the year occurs during Advent, this year on December 21. The Diocese of Rhode Island is offering a Blue Christmas service via Zoom on that night. Blue Christmas services recognize the deep griefs that people may be bearing while also orienting us to the promise of hope that marks our shared faith.

The Service will be held on December 21 at 7 pm at this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/98551264816#success>

Deck Your Halls with Dazzling Bonuses for St. Luke's!



Looking for an easy way to shop for and send gifts? RaiseRight ecards and gift cards will help on both accounts! Purchase now to lock in 'Dazzling Bonuses' that will earn up to 17% for St. Luke's. Not only can you lock in these bonuses for Christmas, but they will also apply for early shopping purchases you might consider for upcoming birthdays, special occasions, or general shopping needs. You can even purchase your Giving Tree Walmart gift cards through RaiseRight! With new bonuses every week, there are ample possibilities ...



12%



16%



17%



10.75%



13%



15.75%

So, please, add the RaiseRight app to your phone today and help raise additional funds for St. Luke's! Scan the QR code below to get more details on the app. Most importantly, when downloading the app, please enter the following enrollment code to specify St. Luke's as your charitable organization of choice: FEB88LAC73L81



Create opportunities for what matters most to you—right from your phone. Buy gift cards from 750+ brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's simply the right way to fundraise.



Use the Holiday Gift Guide and take advantage of increased bonus rewards during the upcoming holiday season. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting opportunity to support St. Luke's.

Thank you,
Mark & Susan Cordle, Deborah Collins & Jeremy Stowe
Your Faithful RaiseRight Project Team

Stained Glass Window Books and Note Cards

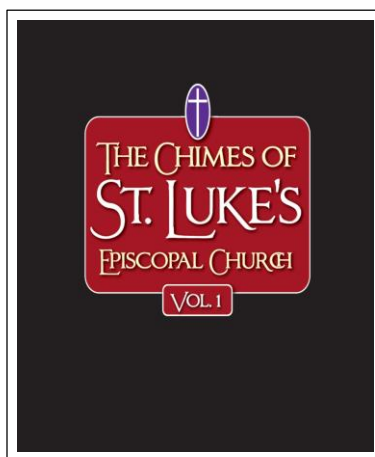
If you are missing church, here is an idea that will lift your spirits!

The Pastoral Care team will be selling The Stained Glass Window Books and Note Cards. They make wonderful Christmas gifts! The cost for our book is \$25 each or two for \$40. Shipping cost is \$2 if books are mailed to the recipient. The cost for our cards is \$10 for a package of 5 cards. They can also be picked up at the church office. Please call the office or email Christina, cimondi@stlukeseg.org, if you would like to purchase these. We accept cash and checks made out to St. Luke's Church. All proceeds go for the restoration and maintenance of our beautiful windows!

Thank you!



Another Great Holiday Gift Idea



Many of you may have heard the chimes playing from our church tower on Sundays after services or on many a Tuesday evening over the last year. Now, a recording of 31 hymns is available on CD! Selections range from 'old chestnuts' such as *Rock of Ages*, patriotic tunes--*My Country 'Tis of Thee*, gospel songs--*It's Me O Lord*, to traditional favorites like *O Praise Ye the Lord*. Contact Christina Imondi, Parish Administrator, at cimondi@stlukeseg.org to obtain a copy. There is no set price—rather, a donation to St. Luke's would be gratefully accepted.

St. Luke's Choirs Sing for You!

As a special gift from the Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel Choirs to our St. Luke's family and friends, choir members compiled a special 'arrangement' of "How Can I Keep From Singing". The music is from an American folk song originally composed by Baptist minister Robert Wadworth Lowry in 1868 with the four-part arrangement published by Jeffrey Honoré in 1991. The choirs performed this piece at their 2019 Spring Concert and happily recreated that performance in this video. Here is the link: <https://stlukeseg.org/virtual-hymn-2020/> (It is also available on St. Luke's website and Facebook page).

Use your phone to scan this QR code to make an online donation to St. Luke's!



Pastoral Care Ministry

Prayer is a powerful way for us to support each other and build community. If you would like to add someone to our parish prayer list, please use the online Prayer List Request Form. It is available on our website under our Parish Life tab and in our Weekly Newsletter. The prayer list is updated weekly. The Pastoral Care Ministry continues to pray for all on the prayer list and send cards to the homebound and those in the hospital. By filling out the information on this form, you will help us to keep in touch.

Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

Big Brothers and Big Sisters Donations



In our continuing efforts to be a good neighbor and serve our local community, we have added a new addition to the St Luke's parking lot! The clothing bin is a result of joining in a new partnership between the Episcopal Diocese and Big Brother Big Sister of Rhode Island. It will serve as a collection point for community donations of clothing, shoes and other cloth items. Please drop off your bagged items at your convenience.