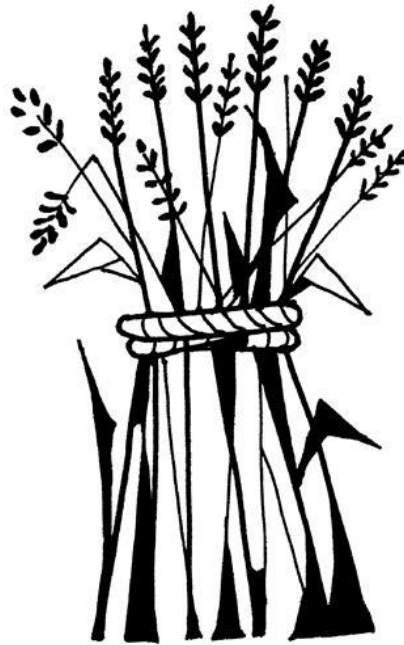


CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL

10:00 AM

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2025



WELCOME

Christ Church is an Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Massachusetts. We welcome and honor the God-given gifts that make us unique as individuals and strong as community. You and your family are welcome regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status or prior religious affiliation.

A Note to Parents and Caregivers with Children in Church

Thank you for bringing your children to church. We are so glad you are here!

We know it can be difficult at times to manage little ones during the service.

For that reason, we have provided some resources which we hope will make it easier for you and your family to enjoy worship together.

You will find books and coloring pages at the back of the Mary Chapel. Please feel free to utilize these at any point during the service.

We have installed a TV in the nursery! You are welcome to visit the nursery with your child during any portion of our service and join us via our livestream.

It is okay to take breaks. If you need to step out with your child, our parish grounds are a great place to get the wiggles out.

Above all, please remember: You and your family are very welcome here!

Though your children may be squirming, talking, or making noise, they are also observing, copying, and learning. Children are a gift and an important part of our community; we are grateful to have them worship with us.

The Word of God

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling

1982 Hymnal 657

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost

1982 Hymnal 612

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Remain seated.

¹Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

⁴Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.

⁵Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.

⁶He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.

⁷Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.

⁸Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁹Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

¹⁰For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.

¹¹In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

¹²But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.

⁴¹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴²The LORD will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.

SECOND READING:**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50***The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Now the green blade riseth
All stand.

1982 Hymnal 204**GOSPEL:****Luke 6:27-38***All stand.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who

takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Bill Lutz

Silence may follow.

THE CREED

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**

and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

Deacon or Celebrant: Sustaining God, you have promised to turn our hearts from stone to flesh; to give us life through the power of your love and hear our hopes and needs. Answer these prayers lifted to you as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the people of God everywhere, that they might wield their power for the common good and with respect for the dignity of all people.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

For the churches in our diocese, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Julia and Carol our Bishops, Melissa our Priest, James and Natalie our Deacons, and each of us in our vocations and ministries.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those with authority in our communities, nation, and world, that they might wield their power for the common good and with respect for the dignity of all people.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those in our lives who have caused us pain and hurt; lead them to an awareness of their impact and lead us to the path of forgiveness where those hurts have no hold on us.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For local communities – our neighbors, our co-workers, and our classmates, help us to sow the seeds of your kingdom in our daily interactions.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For our beleaguered earth, the garden where you have placed us; grant us wisdom as we discern how to be worthy stewards of this gift and give us strength and courage to persevere in its preservation.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all who live in pain, in sickness, in fear or dread; sustain them with your grace that they might bear their suffering and grant us an awareness and a willingness to be their companions and caregivers. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now, either silently or aloud.

Silence is held for a time as people share their intercessions.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hold in your care those who have died. Raise and welcome us into your eternal arms when our time comes. We pray especially for those we name now, either silently or aloud.

Silence is held for a time as people share their intercessions.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty God who is the Sower of love, mercy, and hope; let us be the seeds of your salvation; growing in love ourselves that through us your hopeful mercy might be known and established everywhere, and hear our prayers, those spoken and those held quietly in our hearts that we might know grace and live into the people we were created to be. All this we ask through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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.**

The Priest stands and says

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 PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*If you wish to make a gift to support the ministries of Christ Church Parish, you may place your offering in the plate, or scan the QR code to the right to donate online.
Thank you!*



OFFERTORY HYMN

I want to walk as a child of the light

1982 Hymnal 490

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and

wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

1982 Hymnal S 125

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM *Christ our Passover* **1982 Hymnal S 151**

INVITATION

The Presider invites the people to Communion with these or similar words: Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

To receive the Sacrament, come forward in two lines down the center aisle, to either the main altar or the chapel altar rail. Please fill in all the spaces along the rail. Standing or kneeling, hold out your hands. The minister will place the bread in your palm. You may then receive the wine by drinking from the larger cup or intincting (dipping) the bread in the smaller cup. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms across your chest as the cup bearers come to you. If you would prefer a blessing, come forward to the rail, cross your arms across your chest, and the minister will bless you.

At the main altar, once you have received, stand and exit through the side door closest to you (either left past the organ or right through the choir room) to walk around and back into the sanctuary, using the side aisles to return to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMN

Brother, sister, let me serve you

Voices Found 124

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

If Lay Eucharistic Visitors are being sent out to bring the Sacrament to those who cannot be with us in-person, the following is said as the Visitors are handed the bread and wine:

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread and one cup.**

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

I come with joy to meet my Lord

1982 Hymnal 304

DISMISSAL

*The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the people.
The people respond: Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

Announcements

**Please keep the following people in your prayers during the coming week.
Any names added this week are in bold.**

For the repose of the soul of Alan Watson; Barbara Hulme; Christy Godfrey; Donna Eby; Greta Couter; Jack Willett; Jim Stanne; Katharine LiBretto; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Linda Garrone; Norm Zinger; Sharon Steadman; Steve Blanchard; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Valerie B. Pflock; William Underhill

We ask your prayers for those serving in the military and their families:
Aidan McKinney, Andrew Barton, Austin Vico, Harry Morini, Joel Carveiro, Josh Zabin

From the Office

In order to have your announcements included in the weekly bulletin and *Keeping Connected*, please send them to the office by 12 Noon on Wednesday. They should include date, time, place, description of event and contact information and should be written exactly the way you want them to appear.

Resources for Families in Church: Just a reminder that there are activities for kids, including a small table and chairs, in the back of the church. We are also providing special bulletins for kids that are aligned with the week's lessons at the front and back entrances. These bulletins have a variety of coloring, brain teasers, puzzles, and other fun activities. For students in grades PreK-1, Su will be available in the nursery to monitor young students who need a separate space during the church service. We hope that these resources will support family attendance at the 10 am service. Please let us know if you have any other ideas for ways to welcome children and families at Christ Church: education@christchurchplymouth.org

Christ Church Thrift Shoppe - Vestry members have approved the Thrift Shoppe's request to appropriate remaining 2024 outreach funds. Designated recipients are Christ Church Food Pantry \$2500 and Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for California fire assistance \$5000.

All future proceeds in 2025 will be shared equally between in-reach to CCP budget and outreach designated by Thrift Shoppe volunteers.

We have many volunteer opportunities and welcome all. If interested please provide your contact information at Office.christchurchplymouth@gmail.com

Shoppe Hours
Thursday and Friday 10-4
Saturday 10-1

Prayer Chain - Our prayer chain consists of devoted parishioners who, in confidence, pray daily for the needs of our parish family. Our mission is to live up to God the prayers of people in need, in joy, or in thanksgiving.

All prayer requests are said for a period of 2 weeks, and all requests are kept in strict confidence. If you would like a prayer said for yourself, a member of your family or friends, please reach out to Robyn Lench Whittles 781-291-9459 or email to betty02364@gmail.com

Christ Church Food Pantry – All are welcome to the Christ Church Food Pantry! We are open by appointment: Tuesday 4:00-5:15, Thursday 12:00-1:15 and 4:00-5:15, and Saturday 10:00-11:15. Call the pantry message line: 508-746-4959, ext 6, BY 1 PM THE DAY BEFORE YOU WISH TO PICK UP YOUR ORDER. Our volunteers check messages and return your call from their homes to ask you what you need.

If you wish to volunteer, contact Eileen Paris at eileenpca@aol.com
For more information, please contact Barbara Wojtkiewicz at 617-291-4634, or by email at barbara.wojtkiewicz@gmail.com

The Food Pantry is looking for someone with grant writing experience to help with occasional funding opportunities. Please contact Barbara Wojtkiewicz at barbara.wojtkiewicz@gmail.com

Week At - A - Glance * February 23, 2025 – March 2, 2025

SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Men's Group Brunch
MONDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Fore & Aft Pastoral Care Food Pantry Buildings & Grounds Committee
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 4:00 PM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft Parish Nursing Ministry
THURSDAY	10:00 AM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM 6:00 PM	Bible Study Thrift Shoppe Fore & Aft Food Pantry Book Study Food Pantry Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY	9:00 AM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Thrift Shoppe Fore & Aft
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	Food Pantry Thrift Shoppe Diocesan Working Group Retreat Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Last Saturday after the Epiphany
SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM 5:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Burning of the Palms Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Coffee Hour Overnights of Hospitality Begin

Christ Church Parish
Seeking Christ in Ourselves * Serving Christ in the World

JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

MINISTERS

All the people of Christ Church Parish

Staff

The Rev. Melissa Howell, Rector
The Rev. Deacons James & Natalie Thomas
David Tyler, Parish Administrator
Lea Tyler, Choir Director
Su D'Ambrosio, Sunday School Coordinator

Officers and Vestry Representatives

Robb Pflock, Senior Warden
John Steele, Junior Warden
Ray Rogers, Treasurer
Amanda Peterson, Clerk

Wil Bernard, David Greene, Don Hill, Barb Hurney, Kat LiBretto,
Judy Lutz, Makenzie Manchester, Melissa Pechey, and Nancy Ricks

149 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
Phone: 508-746-4959
E-mail: office.christchurchplymouth@gmail.com

Scan here to visit our website:

<https://www.christchurchplymouth.org/>



Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM