

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL**

5:00 PM

The Second Saturday after Christmas Day

January 4, 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

ENTRANCE HYMN *Once in royal David's city* 1982 Hymnal 102

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.**

OPENING ANTHEM

The following is said, all standing

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty," says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84

Remain seated.

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

²The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

⁹For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹⁰For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *

he will give grace and glory;

¹¹No good thing will the LORD withhold *

from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

The people sit.

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 2:1-12

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Melissa Howell

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: As we continue our rejoicing in the incarnation of Christ, let us lift up our prayers to God asking humbly for God's mercy and grace saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the people of God throughout the world; that our joy in Christ's presence might inspire our unity in mission as the undivided body of Christ.

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 the nation and those holding civil authority; that they might exercise their authority with wisdom and equity, seeking to serve only the common good.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For our local communities, that we might endeavor to make them places where we and our neighbors can live with dignity and purpose.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the natural world, the vehicle of God's abundance; that we might be effective stewards and ceaseless advocates for its sustainability.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those in our lives who are suffering and in distress; that Christ's healing presence might be made manifest in their lives. Especially we pray 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.

For those who have died and those we name now, either silently or aloud; that they may rest in your loving care and that we may be reunited with them in the coming age.

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

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Loving God, who hears our cries and knows our needs before we are even aware of them; answer our prayers and lead us into goodness and light that we might be your people and the body of Christ. **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

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

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 ANTHEM

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 God thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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 and 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 as you pass by the cup bearers to return to your seat.

If you would prefer a blessing, come forward, cross your arms across your chest, and the minister will bless you.

COMMUNION HYMN

O sisters, too

1982 Hymnal 247

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. 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

Good Christian friends, rejoice

1982 Hymnal 107

DISMISSAL

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

Announcements

Please keep the following people in your prayers during the coming week.

Any names added this week are in bold.

Amy Dunlap; Anita Chase; Bea Estes; Caleb Eaton and family; Carol Owen; Cindy Boyer; Darlene Parnass; David Greene; Dianne Powers; Don Bolt; Donna Eby; Doug Perry; Elaine Christian; **Ellen Nordquist**; Fred Thornton; Gail Elliott; Greta Couter; Harvey LeSueur; John Davidson; Karen Guerra; Karen Romero; Kate Taylor; the family of Kent Kopke; Kim Fillian; Jack Bersani; Jim Davis; John Crosby; Lauren Parnass; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Linda Garrone; Louise Woodruff; Lynne Neeley; Maryanne Kerrigan; Rev. Melissa Howell; Michelle and Michael Almeida; Nicole Smith; Norm Zinger; Owen Smith; Paula Darsch; Polly Chadwick; Ray Rogers; Ron Kleiner; Sandy Burgess; Sam (Samantha) and Mike (Michael); Sam Barry; Sharon Steadman; Steven Mills-Price; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Suzanne Williamson-Vico; Tim N.; Tina MacAllister; Tyler Christian; **Ursula Gari**; 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 - The Thrift Shoppe leaders are pleased to announce Q4 outreach designation in the amount of \$2500 to Hope Floats Healing and Wellness Center in Kingston.

Hope Floats is a non-profit foundation whose mission is bereavement support and education for adults, children, teens, and their families who are grieving, dealing with illness, or facing other life challenges.

The center offers free support services including yoga, meditation, group discussion, retreats, and mini-body treatments that bring hope and healing to those in need. For more information, visit them online at hopefloatswellness.org or call 781.585.4221

Overnights of Hospitality - Starting Sunday, December 1st, The Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness, in collaboration with the Fr. Bill's and Mainspring (FBMS) organization, will offer winter emergency shelter to 20-25 single individuals through Saturday, April 5th. We can't continue this important ministry without your help.

We need folks to serve as Shelter Volunteers and Meal Providers. Shelter Volunteers commit to give one evening of their time from 4:45 to approximately 8 PM. They provide support to the FBMS staff. Meal Providers prepare meals at home to serve at the shelter.

By volunteering we show our unhoused neighbors that they are not forgotten. We who have volunteered in the past have been touched by the appreciation shown by many of the guests. It has been a very rewarding experience!

The shelter rotates weekly among three congregations beginning Sunday, December 1st through Saturday, April 5th - Christ Church, First Baptist Church and St Mary's and St Joseph Collaborative at St Mary's Parish Center, using the fellowship halls. Orientation is provided.

To sign up as a Shelter Volunteer or Meal Provider, go to <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/k4w5gd>. Slots for Meal Provider tend to fill up quickly. To review the Shelter Volunteer and Meal Provider guidelines, go to <https://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org>

Questions? Call Connie Melahoures, President of the Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness at 508.367.0516 or email conmel@aol.com or call Kat Libretto, our shelter coordinator at 201.286.5591 or email katlibretto@gmail.com
The first two weeks of the shelter season begins at Christ Church on December 22nd through Saturday, January 4th. We especially need Shelter Volunteers representing CCP for those first two weeks.

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.

Leave a message if you wish to donate non-perishable food and household items, or you may leave your donations under the mailboxes outside the office or in the front entrance to the sanctuary. Squirrels like to get into any bags left on the porch of the food pantry!

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



Bedtime Chapel Podcast

Nightly Family Prayer & Weekly Bible Study

Deuteronomy 11:18,19

Bedtime Chapel helps families draw nearer to Jesus by gathering for nightly prayer and deepening their understanding of the Gospel. The podcast includes:

- A 5-Min nightly prayer service
- Weekly companion episodes that explore the themes of the gospel readings of the upcoming week for family members with longer attention spans

Pray with us on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or Audible.

Scan the QR Code to find us online

or visit our website:

www.bedtimechapel.com



Week At - A - Glance * January 5, 2024 – January 12, 2025

SUNDAY	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Overnights of Hospitality End Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Second Sunday after Christmas Day Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Second Sunday after Christmas Day Coffee Hour
MONDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Companions Group Fore & Aft Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM 12:00 AM – 3:00 PM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 6:30 PM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Office Closed Fore & Aft Vestry Meeting
THURSDAY	10:00 AM 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 Fore & Aft Food Pantry Book Study Food Pantry Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft Youth Group
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM 5:00 PM	Food Pantry Holy Eucharist Rite II – The First Saturday after the Epiphany
SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM 11:15 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The First Sunday after the Epiphany Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist Rite II – The First Sunday after the Epiphany Coffee Hour Nominating Committee

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

Bill Ferguson, Senior Warden
John Steele, Junior Warden
Ray Rogers, Treasurer
Brenna Buckley, Clerk

Wil Bernard, Barb Hurney, Kat LiBretto, Judy Lutz, Makenzie Manchester,
Ellen McTighe, Becky Metzger, Amanda Peterson, and Jack Willett

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Scan here to visit our website:

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



Office Hours

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