

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL**

10:00 AM

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 29, 2024



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

Hark! the herald angels sing

1982 Hymnal 87

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People **And blessed be his 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

Angels we have heard on high

1982 Hymnal 96

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 147

Remain seated.

¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING:

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

The people sit.

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

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Of the Father's love begotten

All stand.

1982 Hymnal 82

GOSPEL:**John 1:1-18***All stand.*

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON**The Rev. Scott Bellows****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.

Celebrant: Let us pray for ourselves and the world saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Heavenly Father, your love spoke the world into existence and abides with us still. Give your church the hunger to know you, the will to study you, and the heart to be your action in the world.

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, Scott our Supply Priest, and each of us in our vocations and ministries.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord of all nations, bless this nation and all nations this coming year with peace and abundance. May we find new ways of being together in services for the common good.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord of all light, make this a season of good news for all those in the world who are persecuted and bereaved.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord who is constant, grant healing to those who suffer from anxiety and depression, from disease and illness and from all manner of things that affect our body, mind, and spirit. 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.

Lord deliver all the dying and those we name now, either silently or aloud into the comfort of your eternal kingdom, where suffering is gone and where love and restoration are found.

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

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: In thanksgiving to you for the love with which you have formed the world, its creatures and us your people; we end our prayers with the hope of living this life in deep awareness of you, O Father; you, O Son and you, Most Holy Spirit. **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 ANTHEM

DOXOLOGY

1982 Hymnal 380, v3

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:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

1982 Hymnal S 128

Celebrant and People

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 sac - ri - ficed for us.



There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

In the bleak midwinter

1982 Hymnal 112

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 *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* LEVAS 24

Unison

1. There's a star in the east on Christ - mas morn,
2. If you take good heed to the an - gel's words,

1. Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, It will lead to the place where the
2. Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, You'll for - get your flocks, you'll for -

1. Christ was born, Rise up shep-herd and fol - low.
2. get your herds, Rise up shep-herd and fol - low.

Harmony

Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up shep-herd and fol - low, —

Fol - low the Star of Beth - le - hem, — Rise up shep-herd and fol - low. —

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The first system has the lyrics 'Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up shep-herd and fol - low, —'. The second system has the lyrics 'Fol - low the Star of Beth - le - hem, — Rise up shep-herd and fol - low. —'. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

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; 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; Joleen Lutz; 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; 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.

Last Deposit 2024 - Gentle reminder that your final payment for the year of 2024 needs to be in to the church by 12/30/24 so that it counts for this year. Donna Lawrence will be making the deposit on 12/30/24 in the late afternoon so that it gets into the bank on time for 2024.

If you have any questions please contact Donna Lawrence at 508-243-2293 or donnamL21@comcast.net

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

Cookbook Update – We still have a long ways to go before we can submit our recipes for publishing. The good news is that we still have plenty of time without any stress. Please drop off your recipes to the office when possible or submit recipes through the website typensave.com. During these next few weeks, please look at your wonderful recipes you might be using for your holiday meal preparations. Please take a moment or two and share them on the website for our parish cookbook project.

Username: CCParish
Password: garlic547

With much appreciation ~
~Anne & Robin

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 connel@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 Thrift Shoppe - After a most successful year, the Thrift Shoppe will be closed for a winter break from December 22nd thru January 15th. During this time, no donations will be accepted.



May the Peace of Christmas be with you all



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 bettyo2364@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.

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 * December 29, 2024 – January 5, 2025

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The First Sunday after Christmas Day
	9:00 AM	Adult Church School
	9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II – The First Sunday after Christmas Day
	11:15 AM	Coffee Hour
	5:00 PM	Overnights of Hospitality Continue
MONDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM	Office Closed
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
THURSDAY	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Food Pantry
	1:00 PM	Book Study
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
	6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Food Pantry
	5:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Second Saturday after Christmas Day
SUNDAY	7:00 AM	Overnights of Hospitality End
	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Second Sunday after Christmas Day
	9:00 AM	Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5)
	9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Second Sunday after Christmas Day
	11:15 AM	Coffee Hour
	11:15 AM	Worship 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

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