

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL**

10:00 AM

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 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

Lord, who throughout these forty days

1982 Hymnal 142

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

All kneel.

The Celebrant says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

What wondrous love is this

1982 Hymnal 439

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Exodus 3:1-15

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters.

Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 63:1-8

Remain seated.

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.

⁵My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

The people sit.

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

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN***Go Down, Moses*****LEVAS 228***All stand.*

1. When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;
2. The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
3. They jour - neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;
4. Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

1. op - pressed so hard they— could not stand, let my peo-ple go.
2. to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
3. and come at length to— Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.
4. and let us all in— Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

Go down,— Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;—

tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

GOSPEL:**Luke 13:1-9***All stand.*

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

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON**The Rev. Melissa Howell***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: Loving God who is our refuge and our strength; hear us we beg you; listen to our words and the longings of our hearts as we turn to you in prayer, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Give strength to your people across the whole earth, that we may be the lights of the world in our generations.

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.

Give mercy to those in authority over us that they might be leaders in service to the well-being of all people.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give hope and courage to this congregation, that together, we might be bold and courageous in taking up Christ's ministries as our own.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give wisdom and determination to us and to all people, so that we might create a sustainable future for the equitable use of the abundance of creation.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give wholeness to those bent and broken by sickness, pain, fear, oppression, or abuse, that they might hold on to their own dignity as your beloved children. 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.

Give comfort to those who grieve and care for those who have died, and grant that we might all know and enter the new life of your Son's Resurrection. 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: God of creation and salvation; you have promised to answer when we knock. We offer these prayers and all the intentions of our own hearts in the confidence of your promises, and we ask these through our advocate and Lord, Christ Jesus. **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

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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 130***Celebrant and People**The People stand or kneel.**The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People***Christ has died.****Christ is risen.****Christ will come again.***The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

Jesus, Lamb of God

1982 Hymnal S164

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.

Celebrant: Behold what we are.

All: **May we become what we receive.**

Celebrant: 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

Rock of ages, cleft for me

1982 Hymnal 685

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.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

The Deacon or Celebrant says,

Let us bow down before the Lord.

The People bow or kneel. The Celebrant says

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness that may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

The glory of these forty days

1982 Hymnal 143

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.**

Barbara Hulme; Christy Godfrey; Donna Eby; Greta Couter; Jack Willett; Jane Murphy; Katharine LiBretto; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Linda Garrone; Norm Zinger; Sharon Steadman; Skip Nielsen; 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 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

Help Wanted ~The Altar Guild is looking for someone who loves to do handwashing and ironing or who would love to learn the ministry of handwashing and ironing the fair linen used for offering the Holy Eucharist at all services.
Previous experience is not required; training will be provided by Robin Nielsen, ministry leader.
If interested please call Robin @ 774-454-2776; or come into the sacristy following a Sunday 10:00 service to inquire about this special ministry.

Brass Polishing - The Altar Guild is inviting anyone who wishes to participate in the Brass Polishing of all of our sacred holy hardware in the sanctuary, in order to get us ready for our Easter celebrations.

Saturday April 5th beginning at 9:30 until 12:30; come anytime during that period, giving an hour or more or just 1/2 hour...many hands make light work with an opportunity for fellowship while doing good work for our beautiful sanctuary.

Creation Care - Now that we have reached the goal of installing solar panels, it is time for the Creation Care Committee to reconvene to determine what our next steps/focus should be. We will meet after the 10 AM service on Sunday, April 6th. We are inviting others, including young people, to attend to share ideas. Contact Connie (conmel@aol.com/508.746.380) for further information.

Are you Episco-curious? Consider being part of our Inquirers' Class (The Episcopal Church 101) - Are you interested in becoming confirmed or received in The Episcopal Church? Are you a newcomer who would like to learn more about The Episcopal Church? Or, are you a long-time member who would like to re-connect with what it means to be a practicing Episcopalian? For all the Episco-curious, Melissa will be facilitating an Inquirers' Class, running for 5 weeks from the end of Lent into the season of Eastertide.

Thank you to everyone who took the survey on timing! The class will be held at the church (room TBD) from 6p-7:30p on the following Tuesday evenings in April and May: April 8th, 15th, (off April 22nd and 29th); May 6th, 13th, and 20th

If you took the survey or already emailed us, you are on our list. If you haven't reached out but are interested in attending, please email Melissa or David in the office to register by Sunday, March 23rd. Please note that this is not a drop-in class... participants must register in advance and be able to attend at least 4 of the 5 sessions.

Christ Church Thrift Shoppe - Spring is in the air~ Come by and check out our large selection of newly donated seasonal clothing, Easter decor, housewares, home furnishings, books, jewelry, and more.

Volunteers are always welcome. Please provide your contact information at office.christchurchplymouth@gmail.com

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

The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal - Next week is our "Ingathering Sunday" for the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal - Please place your gift in the Offering on "Ingathering Sunday," March 30. You may also mail it back directly to the diocesan office. The appeal newsletter and donation envelope are available at church or by contacting the parish office. Thank you for your generous support.

Week At - A - Glance * March 23, 2025 – March 30, 2025

SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Third Sunday in Lent Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Third Sunday in Lent Men's Group Brunch and Ministry Minute: Pastoral Care, Altar Guild, and Prayer Chain
MONDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Fore & Aft Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft
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 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Organ Tuning Thrift Shoppe Fore & Aft
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM 5:00 PM	Food Pantry Thrift Shoppe Evening Prayer – The Fourth Saturday in Lent
SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Morning Prayer – The Fourth Sunday in Lent Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Matins – The Fourth Sunday in Lent Coffee Hour

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

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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