

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL**

8:00 AM

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Season of Creation

September 21, 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.

Hearing assistance devices are available in labeled baskets by the sanctuary entrances.

OPENING SENTENCE

The Officiant says

I was glad when they said unto me, “We will go into the house of the Lord.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and God’s creation.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you
desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Officiant remains kneeling and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

VERSICLE

All stand

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Officiant and People

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

Alleluia.

ANTIPHON

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: O come, let us adore him.

INVITATORY

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his and he made it, *

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God, *

and we are the people of his pasture

and the sheep of his hand.

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.**

**For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.**

Psalm 113

The people sit.

¹Hallelujah!

Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
praise the Name of the LORD.

²Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

⁶He takes up the weak out of the dust *
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

⁷He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.

⁸He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

At the end of the Psalm is sung or said

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

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Jeremiah 8:18--9:1

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

FIRST CANTICLE

Canticle 1: A Song of Creation

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini

All stand.

**O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

O ye heavens, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye waters that be above the firmament, bless ye the Lord;

**O all ye powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

O ye sun and moon, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye stars of heaven, bless ye the Lord;

**O ye showers and dew, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O ye winds of God, bless ye the Lord; *
O ye fire and heat, bless ye the Lord;
O ye winter and summer, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O ye dews and frosts, bless ye the Lord; *
O ye frost and cold, bless ye the Lord;
O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O ye nights and days, bless ye the Lord; *
O ye light and darkness, bless ye the Lord;
O ye lightnings and clouds, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O let the earth bless the Lord; *
O ye mountains and hills, bless ye the Lord;
O all ye green things upon the earth, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O ye wells, bless ye the Lord; *
O ye seas and floods, bless ye the Lord;
O ye whales and all that move in the waters, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O all ye fowls of the air, bless ye the Lord; *
O all ye beasts and cattle, bless ye the Lord;
O ye children of men, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O ye people of God, bless ye the Lord; *
O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;
O ye servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

**O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord; *
O ye holy and humble men of heart, bless ye the Lord.
Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.**

SECOND READING:

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's First letter to Timothy.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SECOND CANTICLE

Canticle 6: Glory be to God

Gloria in excelsis

All stand.

**Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy,
thou only art the Lord,
thou only, O Christ,**

**with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THIRD READING:

Luke 16:1-13

The people sit.

A Reading from Luke.

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SERMON

The Rev. William Lutz

Silence may follow.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

SALUTATION

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People

**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.**

SUFFRAGES

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R. And grant us thy salvation.
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in thee can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;
R. Thy saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely

trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR MISSION

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The lamp of presence has been given in celebration of Donna and Richard Lawrence's 29th wedding anniversary and in memory of the Christian, Hill, Billingham and Beal families

The high altar flowers have been given in memory of Shaun P. O'Connor and Sash Erksine.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People, all standing

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.**

**We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant and People

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

CONCLUDING VERSICLE

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Announcements

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

Anita Chase; Barbara Hulme; Brad Bradley; Carol MacPhee; for the repose of the soul of Christel Voege; Don Bolt; Donna Eby; Ellen Nordquist; Forrest Berardi; Greta Couter; Jack Willett; Jane Murphy; Jim Kelly; Katharine LiBretto; Kenny Blackwell; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Mark Poster; Norm Harbinson; Peter Trenouth; Raymond Reid; Sandy Underhill; Sharon Steadman; Skip Nielsen; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Sylvia Wade; 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.

Christ Church Food Pantry – All are welcome to the Christ Church Food Pantry! We are open by appointment: 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

Christ Church Thrift Shoppe - If you are looking to add some sparkle to your table, the Thrift Shoppe's special sale this week on glassware will definitely fit the bill. Plates, platters, and pitchers...candy dishes, cake stands, and carafes...vintage vases and goblets galore! Buy one piece, and get a second one at half-price.

If you are more interested in jewelry or clothing, all jewelry, and all men's and women's slacks, are also priced at "buy one, get a second half-off."

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

2025 Season of Creation - From September 6th through October 5th, we at Christ Church will join with parishes around our diocese and with Christians around the world to celebrate the Season of Creation, a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through prayer, worship, conversion, and commitment together.

Engage and pray with materials about the 2025 theme, "Peace with Creation," at seasonofcreation.org, and with the Episcopal Church's Season of Creation resources episcopalchurch.org.

Our worship and formation this season will be Creation-themed. We invite you to take note of these special services (stay tuned for more information as the dates approach):

Sunday, September 28th at 10a (weather permitting): Join us for outdoor worship and the Stations of Creation. While the 10am service will be entirely outside, the 5p Saturday and 8a Sunday services of Holy Eucharist will be indoors, with the option to go outside to pray the Stations of Creation.

Saturday, October 4th at 5p and Sunday, October 5th at 10a: Join us as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals. Your leashed and crated critters are welcome at both services. (the 8am Sunday service will be humans-only)

If you are seeking ways to participate in creation care locally, you can connect with:

Sustainable Plymouth sustainableplymouth.org - a group of eco-conscious local volunteers focusing on environmental sustainability

Our Diocesan Creation Care page diomass.org/creation-care - links and resources for parishes and individuals

If you are interested in creation care ministry at Christ Church, please contact Connie Melahoures.

Faith Based Book Study: For several years now, a small group has been reading and discussing various faith based books; often incorporating music, art, poetry, and audio visual material. We are currently reading through the Psalms using a workbook and reading them from different bible versions. Our discussions are lively and thought provoking.

Our study group meets on most Thursdays from 1pm to about 2:30 pm at the church (space for this year TBD).

Each week a different person opens and closes the meeting with prayers, a reading, or meditation.

If you are interested in joining us please email Debbie Hill at [***hillysfilly@mac.com***](mailto:hillysfilly@mac.com). We will be starting up again on Thursday, 9/11/25, after our summer break. Space is limited.

2025 FALL BIBLE STUDY - Come join us for a Fall Bible study at our home.

HOSTED BY: Dee & Bill Ferguson, 35 Chipping Hill in the Pinehills

TOPIC: Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

DAY & TIME: Sunday 4:00 – 5:30pm

DATES: September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 9

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 7 – 10

This is not a “drop in” study. We ask participants to schedule their calendars to be able to attend most or all sessions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO SIGN-UP: Please call Dee or Bill at 508-224-1680 or email us at fergusondandb@gmail.com.

We look forward to some interesting and lively group discussions!

Week At - A - Glance * September 21, 2025 – September 28, 2025

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	9:00 AM	Church School, Grades PreK-5
	10:00 AM	Morning Prayer – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	11:30 AM	Men’s Group Brunch
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
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
THURSDAY	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Food Pantry
	1:00 PM	Faith Based Book Study
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
FRIDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	5:30 PM	Youth Group
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Food Pantry
	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	5:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Sixteenth Saturday after Pentecost
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	9:00 AM	Church School, Grades PreK-5
	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II, outdoors (weather permitting) – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	11:30 AM	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
Peter Litchfield, Accompanist
Sam Stevenson, Sexton

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