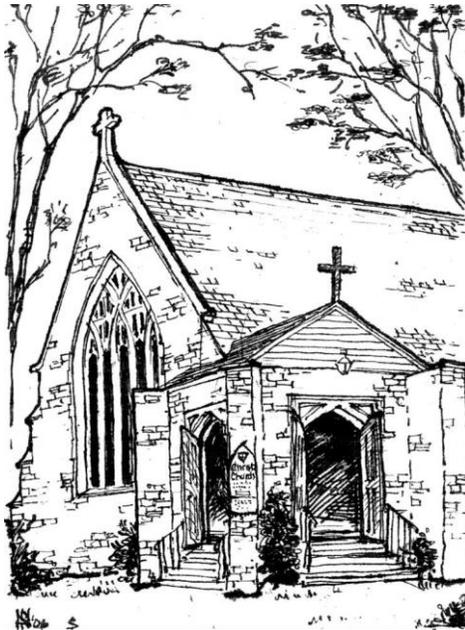


**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL**

5:00 PM

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 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

Kristen Abbott

ENTRANCE HYMN

I come with joy to meet my Lord

1982 Hymnal 304

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

The Song of Mary

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

The following is said, all standing

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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:

Isaiah 58:9b-14

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 103:1-8

Remain seated.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

³He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

⁴He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.

⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

SECOND READING:

Hebrews 12:18-29

The people sit.

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the

mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL:

Luke 13:10-17

All stand.

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

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

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Silence may follow.

The Rev. Deacon Natalie Thomas

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: Healing God, as we gather to express the longings of our hearts, shower on us your mercy and grace as we say, God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Holy God, awaken your church and tumble us out into the world to continue the ministry of Jesus, who brings wholeness to a broken world.

Silence

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Silence

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Move the hearts of this nation and its leaders, that joining together we might build a just and merciful society.

Silence

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to hear your call and empower our hands and feet to move closer to you through our service to others.

Silence

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with awe in contemplation of the glory of your Creation and shake us out of our complacency, that we might be effective stewards and champions of our natural world.

Silence

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend those who suffer, bring to wholeness what is broken, reconciliation to what has been separated, and lift up what has been pressed down. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list and those we name now, either silently or aloud.

Silence

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fulfill your promises to the dying, care for the grieving, and grant us all an entrance into your eternal loving presence. We pray for all our beloved dead and those we name now, either silently or aloud.

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

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Holy God, you have allowed no barriers to your loving action. Hear and fulfill our longings as may be best for us, and grant us your salvation. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Lord, who abides with you and the Holy Spirit forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of Christ 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.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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



OFFERTORY HYMN

Heal me, hands of Jesus

WLP 773

1. Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain: re -
 2. Cleanse me, blood of Je - sus, take bit - ter-ness a - way; let
 3. Know me, mind of Je - sus, and show me all my sin; dis -
 4. Fill me, joy of Je - sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and

store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
 me for - give as one for-given and bring me peace to - day.
 pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.
 heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

SANCTUS

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

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

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

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

What wondrous love is this

1982 Hymnal 439

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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

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

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

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

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us on the way. So make haste to love. Be quick to be kind. And the blessing of the One, Holy, and Triune God be upon you, and all those you love, this day and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

O for a thousand tongues to sing

1982 Hymnal 493

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.**

Anita Chase; Barbara Hulme; Brad Bradley; 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; 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.

Summer Office Hours - In July and August, our church office will be closed on Fridays. We will resume our normal Monday through Friday office schedule in September.

Sunday Worship Schedule Changes - Starting September 7, Christ Church will transition to our regular worship schedule. We warmly invite you to join us for our Saturday service of Holy Eucharist at 5pm or Sunday service of Holy Eucharist at 8am or 10am.

Christ Church Food Pantry – All are welcome to the Christ Church Food Pantry! We are open by appointment: Tuesday 12:00-1:15, 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

Evening Women's Group will meet for fellowship and a dinner hosted by Thrift Shoppe volunteers on Wednesday, September 3rd at 5:00pm in the parish hall.

If you have never attended an EWG dinner, or it's been a while since you have, please consider joining us. Come enjoy dinner, meet new parishioners, connect with old friends, share fellowship, and hear about the Food Pantry and Thrift Shoppe ministries. EWG's outreach activities planned for the coming year will also be discussed.

A traditional or vegetarian option chili and baked potato dinner with a full topping bar will be served. All women of the parish are invited and welcome. Please RSVP drewlench19@gmail.com

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 mediation.

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

Christ Church Thrift Shoppe - It may still be August on the calendar, but at the Thrift Shoppe, the fall season is in full swing, with the clothing racks filled with lots of new selections. So if you want to do a wardrobe update, but don't want to break the bank, be sure to stop by this week.

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

Week At - A - Glance * August 24, 2025 – August 31, 2025

SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Holy Eucharist – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
	10:30 AM	Lemonade on the Lawn
	10:30 AM	Worship Team Meeting
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
	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Food Pantry
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
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Food Pantry
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
FRIDAY	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM	Office Closed
	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
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 Twelfth Saturday after Pentecost
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Holy Eucharist – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
	10:30 AM	Lemonade on the Lawn

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

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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