CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL

8:00 AM

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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.

The Word of God

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 AND GREAT COMMANDMENTS
The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

TRISAGION
The following is said three times, all standing

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we

may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 2:1-5**
The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 122
Remain seated.

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

5For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

6Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

7Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

8For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

9Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: **Romans 13:11-14**

The people sit.

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

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: **Matthew 24:36-44**

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days

before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O 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
O God, who calls us to prepare, to pay attention, and to actively wait for the many arrivals of your Son Jesus among us: Heed our voices as we say, God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, that we may never become settled in comfort but that we might always be on pilgrimage serving those we encounter.
Silence
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We pray for those who hold authority over us, that they might escape from their fears and hatreds and govern in the glory of your mercy and wisdom.
Silence
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for each other in this parish community, that we might discern our own calls to be Christ in all the places our day-to-day lives take us.
Silence
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the natural world and for our own stewardship of your creation, that we might advocate and take action to leave a healthy earth to future generations.
Silence
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need of healing and relief from their burdens, sufferings, worries, and fears. We remember especially those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now, either silently or aloud.
Silence is held for a time as people offer their intercessions.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died, remembering especially [_____ and] those we name now, either silently or aloud.
Silence is held for a time as people offer their intercessions.
We pray for all those who are grieving. Hasten the day of Christ's return that we might be reunited with all whom we love and see no more.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant prays:
Almighty God, you have entered into our world and blessed our lives through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. As we prepare and wait for his arrival among us, continually bless and inspire us by your Holy Spirit to follow your will and become the people you call us to be. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN
The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE
All stand.

Celebrant	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 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!

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	**And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	**We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	**It is meet and right so to do.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS
Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do

celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS
The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. 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

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of God’s blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May Christ, whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and upon all those you love, this day and always. **Amen.**

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; Arnie Kaupp; Barbara Hulme; Carol MacPhee; David Flynn; Don Bolt; Donna Eby; Ellen Nordquist; Forrest Berardi; Greta Couter; Jack Willett; Jane Murphy; Jim Kelly; John Powderly; John Steele; Karen Guerra; Katharine LiBretto; Kathy Rust; Kenny Blackwell; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Mark Poster; Norm Harbinson; Peter Trenouth; Raymond Reid; Sandy Underhill; Skip Nielsen; Stephanie "Petie" Blanchard; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Sylvia Wade; Theodora; for the repose of the soul of Thomas Salmon; Mark Ouellette; 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, Peter Leone

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 Wojtklewicz at 617-291-4634, or by email at barbara.wojtklewicz@gmail.com

Advent Wreath Making - Families and parishioners are invited to learn about the tradition of the Advent Wreath and create your own family wreath. All materials are generously provided by Lynne Neeley. The activity takes place Sunday November 30th from 9-10 am in the Parish Hall. If you are not able to attend at 9 am, there will be materials and "to-go" kits available at coffee hour.

Special Advent Collection and Offering - *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." – Hebrews 6:19*

As an act of sharing God's gift of hope this Advent, at all three services on both the weekends of December 7th and December 14th, all non-designated plate offerings and online donations will be split between:

- The Rector's Discretionary Fund, which provides financial support to individuals and families in need in the wider Plymouth community. So far in 2025, the fund has provided over $8,500 in direct support to over 30 households and individuals.
- The purchase of grocery gift cards, which will be mailed to parishioners who may be in need of extra support this Christmas season.

When making your gift by paper check or online at our website, please write or type "Advent offering 2025" in the memo line. Thank you for all of the ways you generously and prayerfully support our neighbors.

Christmas Toy Drive - As we know, the holidays can be a particularly challenging time for many families in our community. Christ Church will be partnering with the Salvation Army to provide Christmas toys for neighboring families who need our help in ensuring a magical Christmas for their children.

Beginning Sunday, November 30th through Sunday, December 7th, please visit the decorated Christmas tree in the parish hall. Choose a tag/tags that describe a specific toy for you to purchase. Please then deliver your unwrapped gift to the Salvation Army at 52 Long Pond Road in Plymouth. All gifts must be delivered by Thursday, December 11th.

We are grateful for this opportunity to partner with the Salvation Army and thank you for your support and generosity.

Please contact Heidi Hunter for questions. Gopinkgirl505@gmail.com

Evening Women's Christmas Gathering - The Evening Women's Group will be gathering for its annual Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd at 5PM at Connie's house, 15 Fremont St. Bring a sock filled with trinkets ($15 limit).

All women of the parish are invited to attend with a suggested of up to a $10.00 donation.

Please RSVP by email to Connie or call 508.746.3805

2026 Stewardship Campaign

Shining Our Light

Support Christ Church and its Ministries



Week At - A - Glance * November 30, 2025 – December 7, 2025

SUNDAY	**8:00 AM**	**Holy Eucharist Rite I – The First Sunday of Advent**
	9:00 AM	Advent Wreath Making
	10:00 AM	**Holy Eucharist Rite II – The First Sunday of Advent**
	11:30 AM	Coffee Hour
MONDAY	**9:00 AM**	**Morning Prayer –** Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:00 AM	Companions Group
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
WEDNESDAY	**9:00 AM**	**Morning Prayer –** Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Office Closed
	5:00 PM	Evening Women's Group
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
	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
	11:00 AM	Funeral for Thomas Salmon
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 Second Saturday of Advent**
SUNDAY	**8:00 AM**	**Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Second Sunday of Advent**
	9:00 AM	Church School, Grades PreK-5
	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 AM	Youth Formation
	10:00 AM	**Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Second Sunday of Advent**
	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

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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