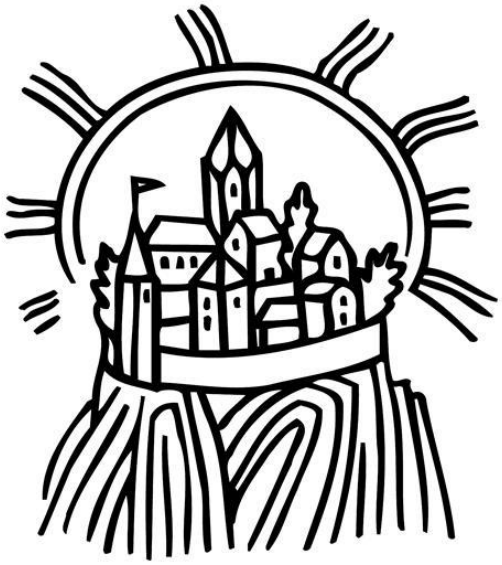
CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL

10:00 AM

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026



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

ENTRANCE HYMN ***Thy strong word did cleave the darkness***
1982 Hymnal 381 vs 1 & 2

OPENING ACCLAMATION
The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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
There is a longing in our hearts **Voices Found 147 vs 1**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 58:1-9a**
The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day

they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

Silence may follow.

Psalm 112:1-10
Remain seated.

1 Hallelujah!
Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last forever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the LORD.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

The people sit.

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

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have

received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN ***O day of God, draw nigh*** **1982 Hymnal 601**
All stand.

GOSPEL: **Matthew 5:13-20**
All stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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: God of Love, arise, and shine in our hearts as we offer our prayers and praises to you, saying God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant to the church wisdom to discern the presence of God in our midst and the courage to follow wherever it leads us. We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Julia, Ian and Mary our Bishops, Melissa our Priest, James and Natalie our Deacons, and each of us in our vocations and ministries. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for:
Churches and ministries of the Boston Harbor Deanery, including
St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain (Boston)
Northeastern University Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry
St. Cyprian's Church, Roxbury (Boston)
Building Bridges Ministries
And for all Retired Clergy in our diocese.
Silence
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bestow your blessing upon our nation, give our leaders loving hearts and concern for the least among us, and embolden us to act out our faith in our common life.
Silence
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with us today and every day that your glory might show forth in our lives.
Silence
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
We give thanks for all the gifts and blessings we have received, especially those we name now, either silently or aloud.
Silence is held for a time as people share their thanksgivings.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your creation. Help us to cultivate gratitude in our hearts and souls, that we might harvest generosity and love toward one another and all your creatures.
Silence

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

Be present for all who suffer. Give courage to the fearful, hope to the despairing, healing to the sick and injured, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list and for 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.**

We pray that all who have died may rest in your eternal care, and that we too may one day enter into the glory and heavenly peace of your presence. We pray for all our beloved dead, remembering especially The Rev. Bill Underhill 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: Manifest God, hear our prayers, refresh and embolden us by your Holy Spirit, and help us to follow the example of Christ as our guiding and transforming beacon of hope**. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

DOXOLOGY **1982 Hymnal 380, v3**

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

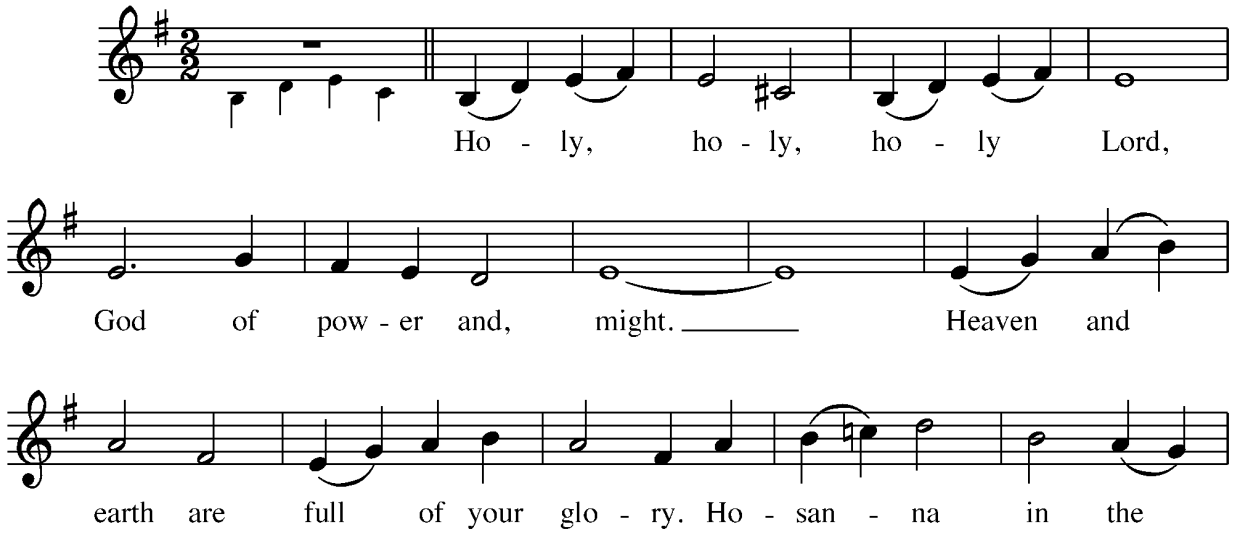
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

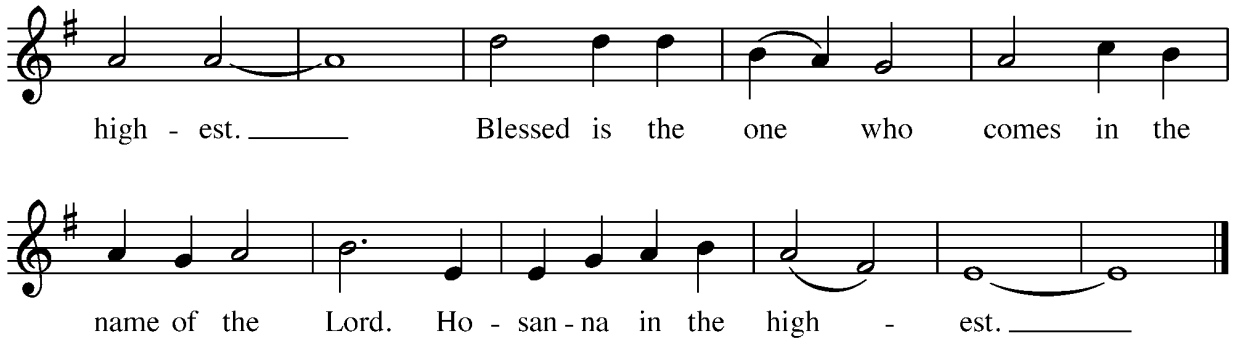
Celebrant

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 sing:

SANCTUS ***Holy, holy, holy*** **EOM1 59**

Celebrant and People





Setting: William Bradley Roberts, from **Mass for St. Philip's**, © 1995 William Bradley Roberts.
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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**
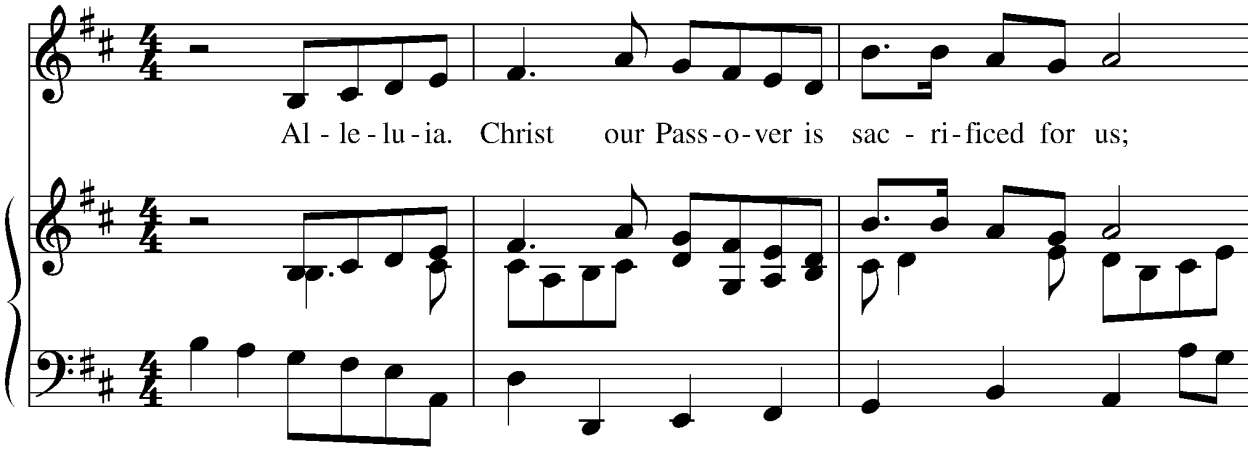
THE LORD'S PRAYER
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

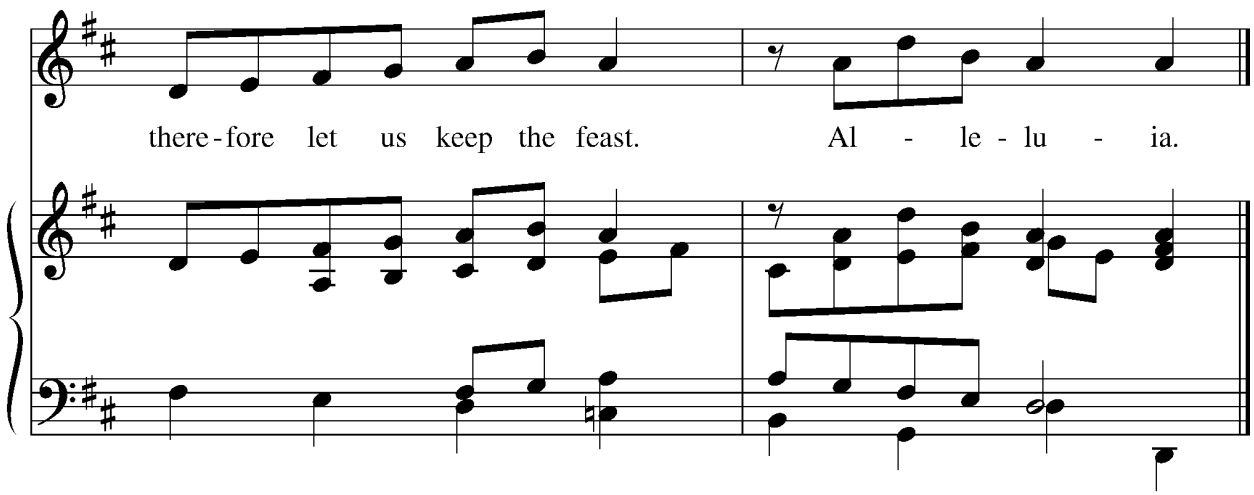
People and Celebrant

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 ***Christ our Passover*** **WLP 865**





INVITATION

The Presider invites the people to Communion with these or similar words:
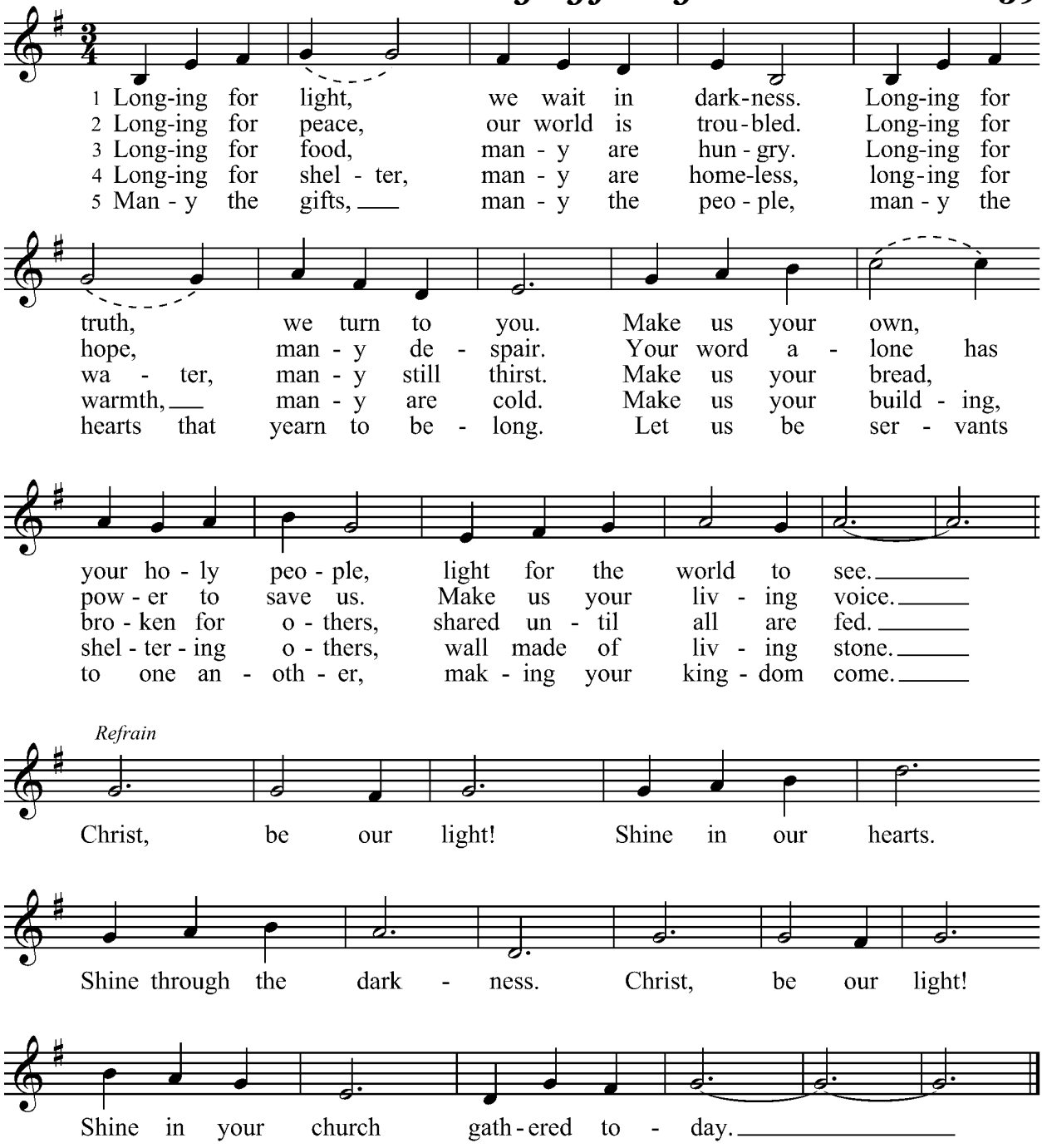
Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

To receive the Sacrament, come forward in two lines down the center aisle, to either the main altar or the chapel altar rail. Please fill in all the spaces along the rail. Standing or kneeling, hold out your hands. The minister will place the bread in your palm. You may then receive the wine by drinking from the larger cup or intincting (dipping) the bread in the smaller cup. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms across your chest as the cup bearers come to you. If you would prefer a blessing, come forward to the rail, cross your arms across your chest, and the minister will bless you.

At the main altar, once you have received, stand and exit through the side door closest to you (either left past the organ or right through the choir room) to walk around and back into the sanctuary, using the side aisles to return to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMN ***Longing for light*** **MHSO 59**



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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.
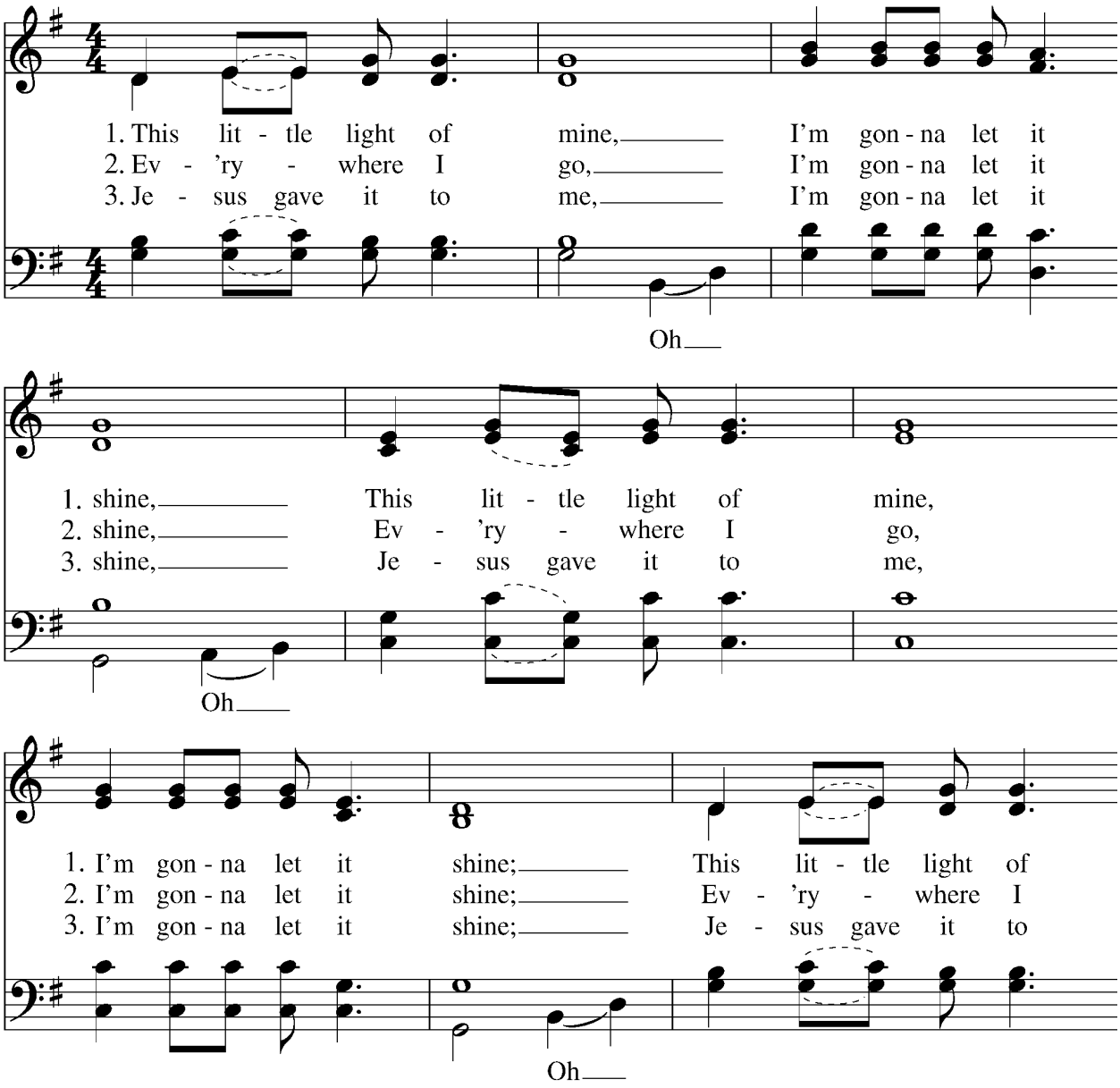
If Lay Eucharistic Visitors are being sent out to bring the Sacrament to those who cannot be with us in-person, the following is said as the Visitors are handed the bread and wine:

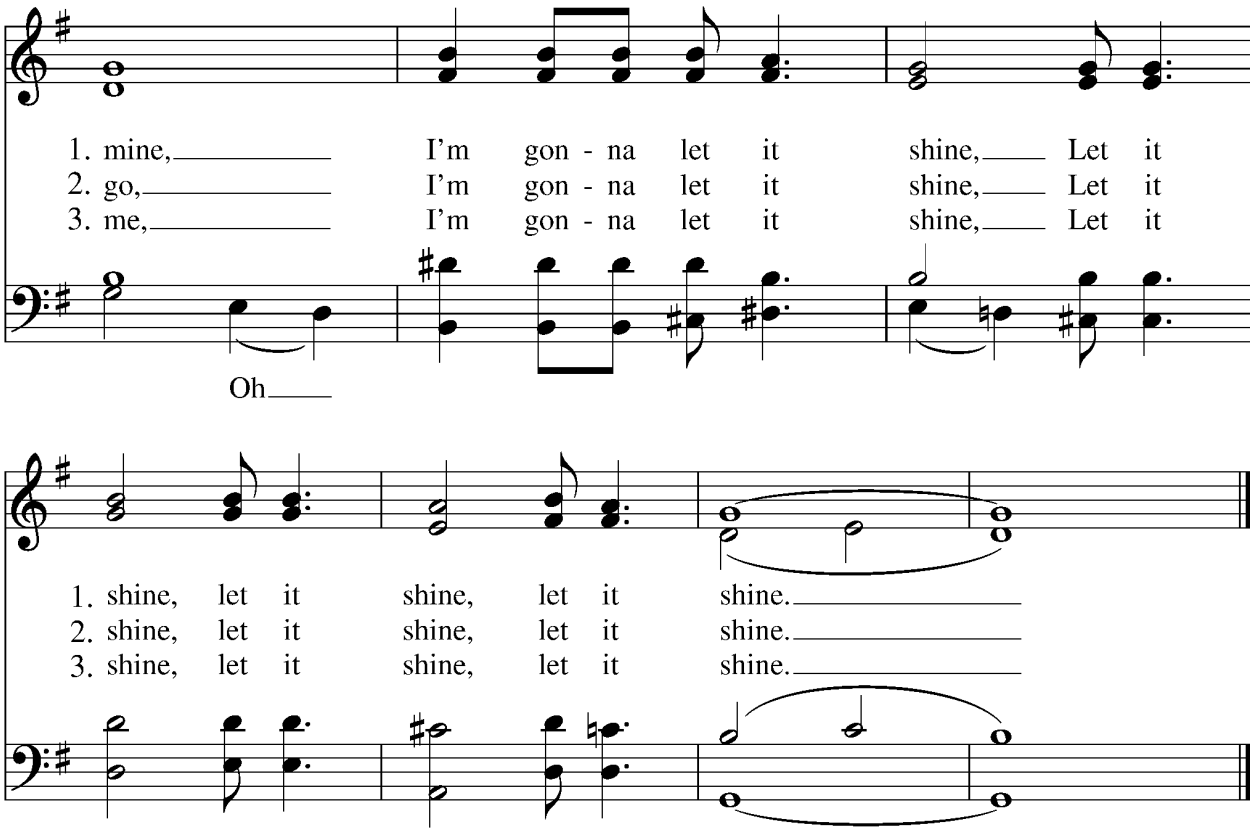
Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.
People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread and one cup.**

BLESSING
The Priest blesses the people, saying

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and upon all those you love, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN ***This Little Light of Mine*** **LEVAS 221**





DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the people.
The people respond: **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of Christ Church Parish of 149 Court Street in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 11:30 AM.

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; Bob Pirie; Carol MacPhee; David Flynn; David Mann; Don Bolt; Donna Eby; Ellen Nordquist; Evelyn Ferioli; Forrest Berardi; Greta Couter; Jack Willett; James Elksnin; for the repose of the soul of Jane Murphy; Jim Kelly; John Powderly; John Steele; Karen Guerra; Katharine LiBretto; Kathy Rust; Kenny Blackwell; Kim Stevenson; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Mark Poster; Nancy Dixon; Peter Trenouth; Polly Chadwick; Raymond Reid; Sandy Underhill; Skip Nielsen; Stephanie "Petie" Blanchard; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Sylvia Wade; Theodora; Mark Ouellette; Valerie B. Pflock; **for the repose of the soul of 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.

Bible Study - Our Thursday morning Bible study is beginning the Gospel of John. We meet from 10:00 - 11:30am in our Hospitality room. We have space for 2-3 more participants. No knowledge of the Bible is required. Our focus for all Bible studies is relating the passages to our everyday lives.

If you would like to join us or have questions, please call (508-224-1680), text (609-240-8640) or email (fergusondandb@gmail.com) Dee and Bill Ferguson.

Services for The Rev. William Underhill - The funeral service for The Rev. Bill Underhill will be held on Saturday, February 14th at 11am here at Christ Church

All are welcome to Ash Wednesday services – Wednesday, February 18th, 2026
12p – Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes – a quiet, meditative service with no music
7p – Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes – a service with music and hymns

Sharing Our Grief Journey –

Save the Dates
The 3rd Friday of every month from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19.
Meeting in the Christ Church Hospitality Suite

Christ Church is offering a series of get togethers designed for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, whether the death is recent or in the past. Participants will have the opportunity to share where they are on their grief journey, receive mutual support, share ways to cope, and may, through prayer and meditation, find new strength and hope to continue on their healing journey. Please join us for one session or all.
Question? - Please contact: Margery Buckingham 617-710-0174 morganbuckingham@msn.com , Ann Fowler 207-751-2004 dafowler2@comcast.net, or Louise Woodruff 508-380-2922 Lwoodr1451@aol.com .



Week At - A - Glance * February 8, 2026 – February 15, 2026

SUNDAY	**8:00 AM**	**Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany**
	9:00 AM	Church School, Grades PreK-5
	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 AM	Youth Formation
	10:00 AM	**Holy Eucharist EOW – The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**
	11:30 AM	Annual Meeting
	5:00 PM	Overnights of Hospitality Begin
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
	5:30 PM	Finance Committee
WEDNESDAY	**9:00 AM**	**Morning Prayer –** Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	6:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
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
SATURDAY	**11:00 AM**	**Funeral for The Rev. William Underhill**
	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Food Pantry
	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	5:00 PM	**Holy Eucharist EOW – The Last Saturday after the Epiphany**
SUNDAY	7:00 AM	Overnights of Hospitality End
	8:00 AM	**Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Last Sunday After the Epiphany**
	9:00 AM	Church School, Grades PreK-5
	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 AM	Youth Formation
	10:00 AM	**Holy Eucharist EOW – The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**
	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