CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL

10:00 AM

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 11, 2024



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.

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN
Songs of thankfulness and praise **1982 Hymnal 135**

OPENING ACCLAMATION
The people standing, the Celebrant says

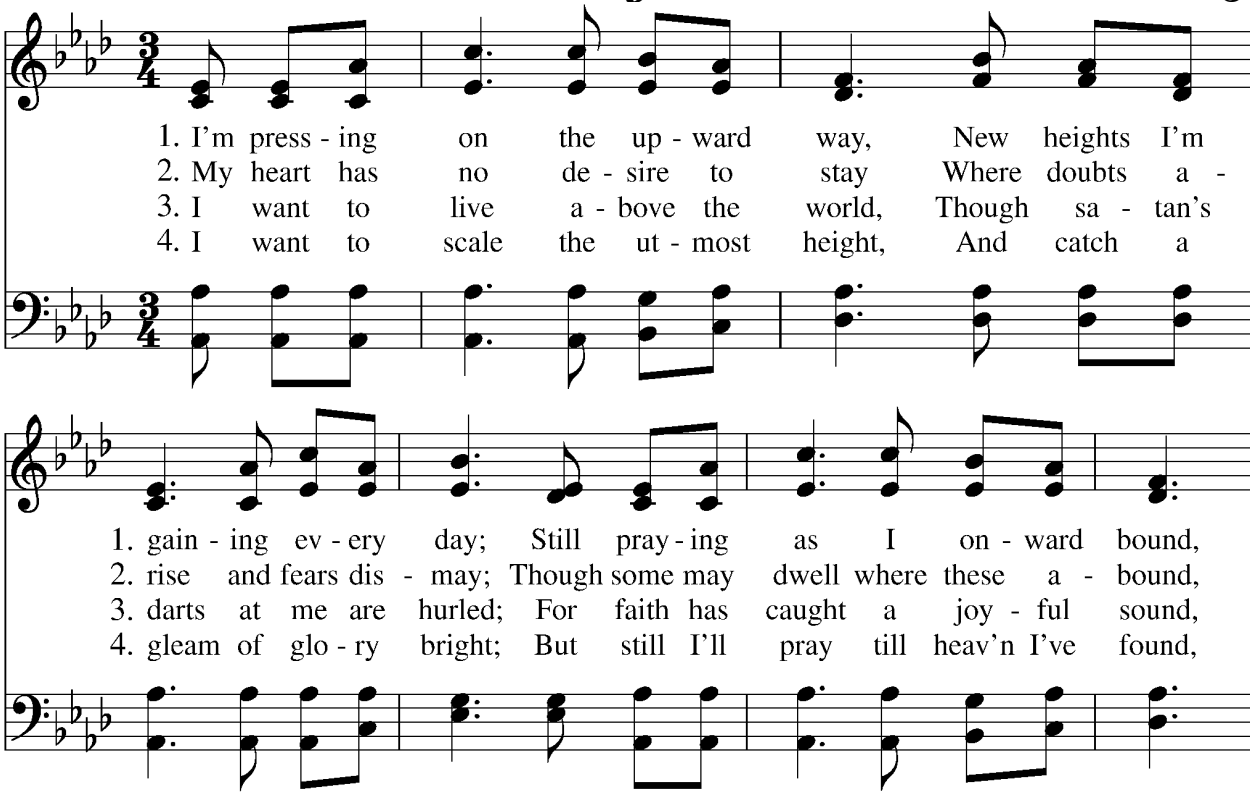
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

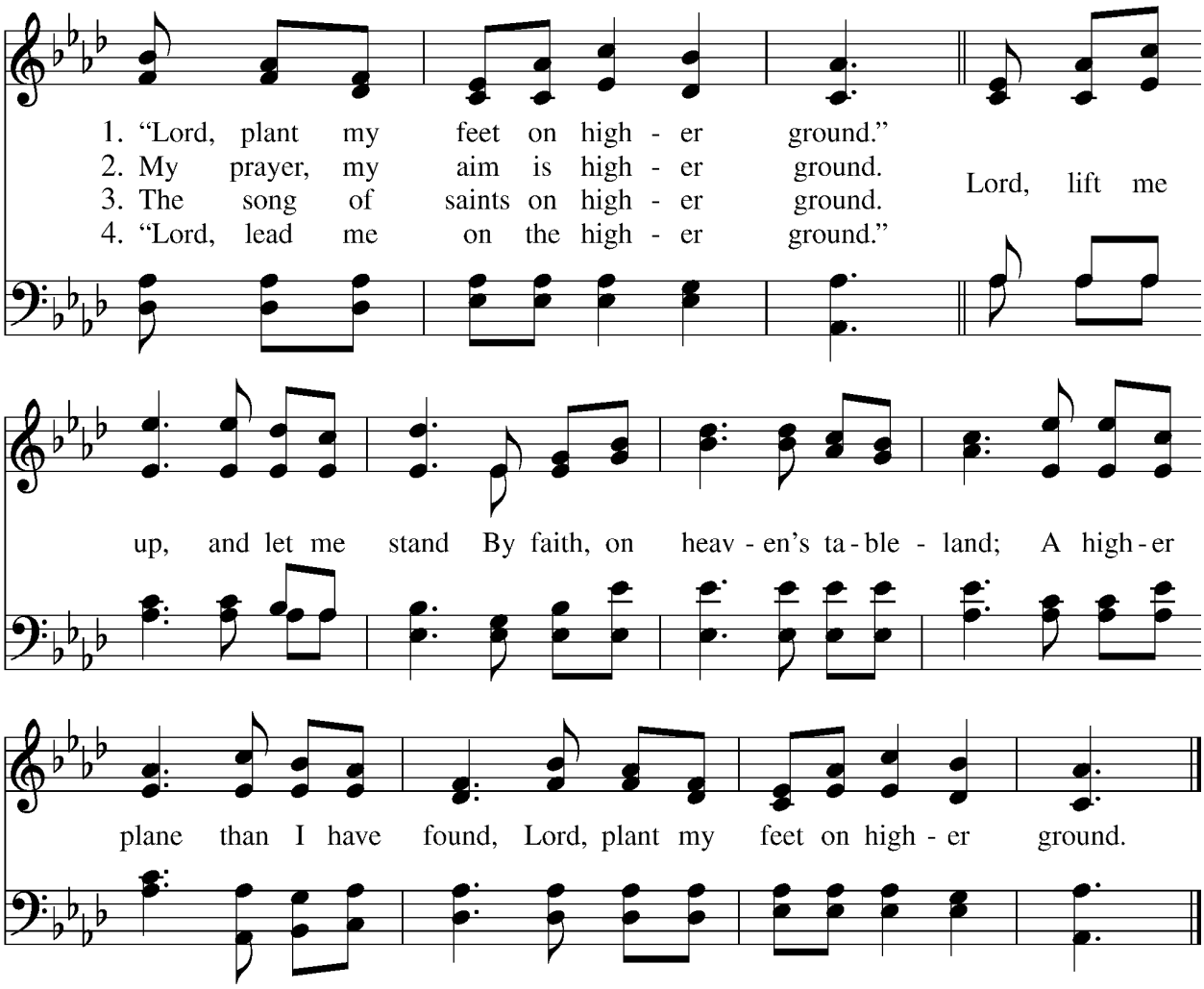
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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 ***Higher Ground*** **LEVAS 165**





THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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: **2 Kings 2:1-12**

The people sit.

A Reading from the Second book of Kings.

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

Silence may follow.

Psalm 50:1-6
Remain seated.

1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.

5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
The people sit.

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

If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN
Christ, whose glory fills the skies **1982 Hymnal 7**
All stand.

GOSPEL: **Mark 9:2-9**
All stand.

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON **The Rev. Melissa Howell**

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.

God of grace and glory, shine forth in our lives. In the power of that light, we pray for the church, for the world, and for ourselves.
God of light and life:
Transfigure us and make us whole.

In Christ, we are inheritors of God's Spirit. We pray that this Spirit will transfigure us, increase our love and vision, and inspire us to transform the world with the light of Christ.
God of light and life:
Transfigure us and make us whole.

We pray for the mission and outreach of the whole church. Work with us, O God, to transform the world. May we seek peace and justice for all, knowing that everyone is precious in your sight. May we bring about an end to racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice, and do all that we can to provide a safe haven for all the world's children.

God of light and life:
Transfigure us and make us whole.

Work with us, O God, to transform our towns and cities. Empower us to protect the vulnerable, house the homeless, and bring hope to those who are weary or forgotten. May our human communities begin to reflect the grace of the caring and interdependence that God wills for us all.
God of light and life:
Transfigure us and make us whole.

Work with us, O God, to transform those who have been harmed by abuse or tragedy, illness or addiction. We pray for all who await a doctor's diagnosis or a surgical procedure. We pray for all who seek healing and wholeness, remembering especially those on our parish prayer list.
God of light and life:
Transfigure us and make us whole.

We give thanks that in you, O God, even death has been transformed into the light of eternity. May our fears be transformed into hope, our darkness into light, and our death into life. We remember those who have died, especially Richard & Esther Black and Dr. & Mrs. William C. Gould in whose honor and memory the High Altar flowers have been given.
God of light and life:
Transfigure us and make us whole.

Celebrant: May the bright light of Christ shine into our lives, fill our hearts, and transfigure us more and more into his likeness, moving from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit abides in eternal light for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN
The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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

THE PEACE
All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM **How Can I Keep from Singing**

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ***Holy, holy, holy*** **1982 Hymnal S 128**

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our ancestors; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***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.

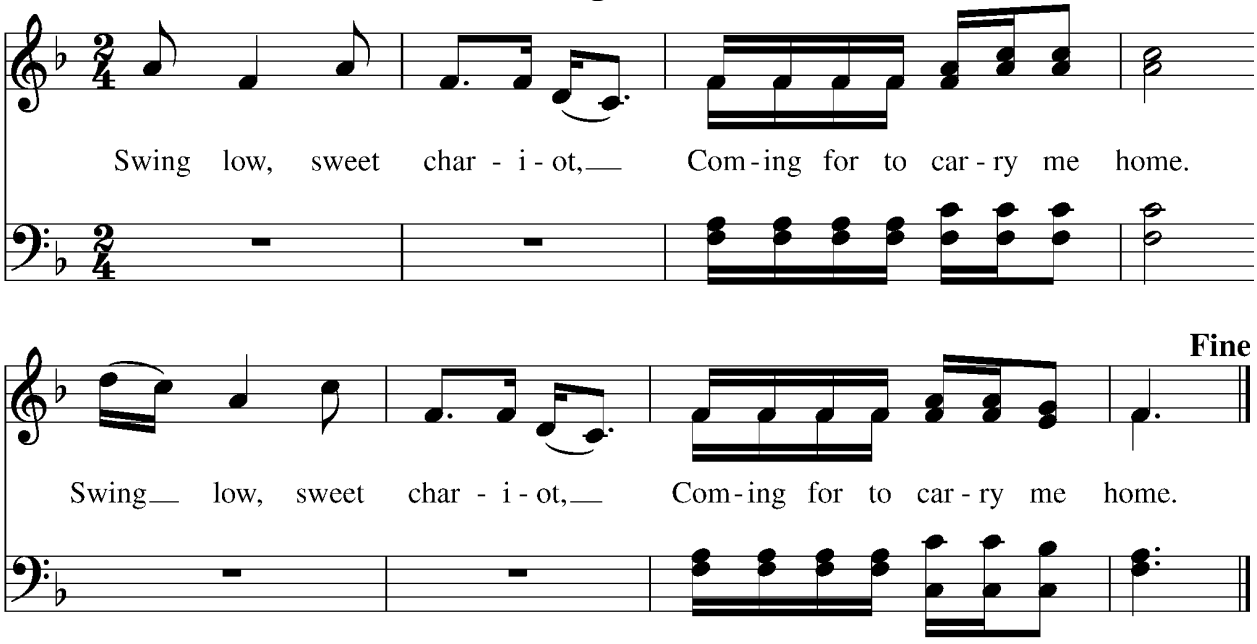
INVITATION
The Presider invites the people to Communion with these or similar words:
Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

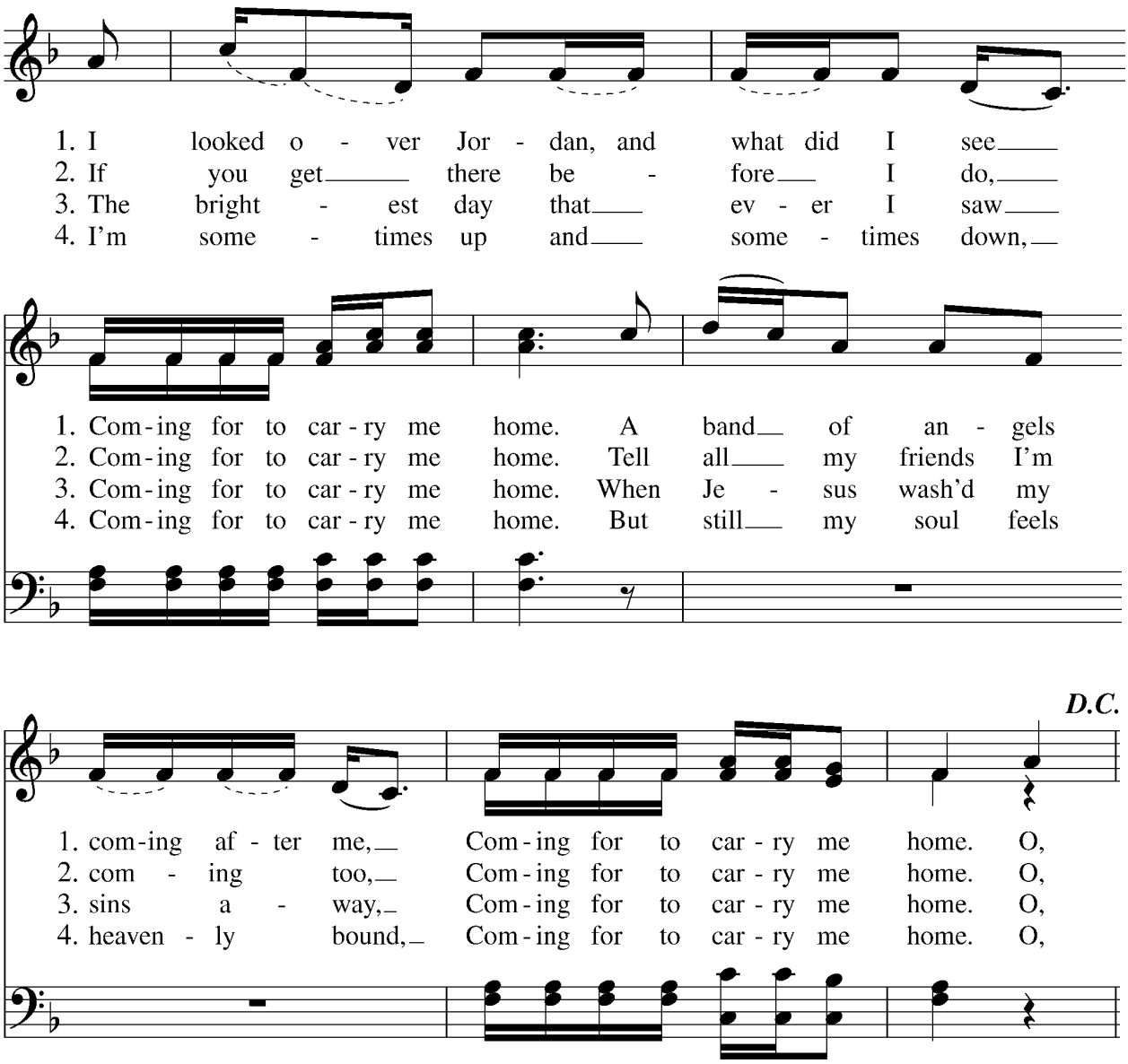
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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 ***Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*** **LEVAS 18**





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food

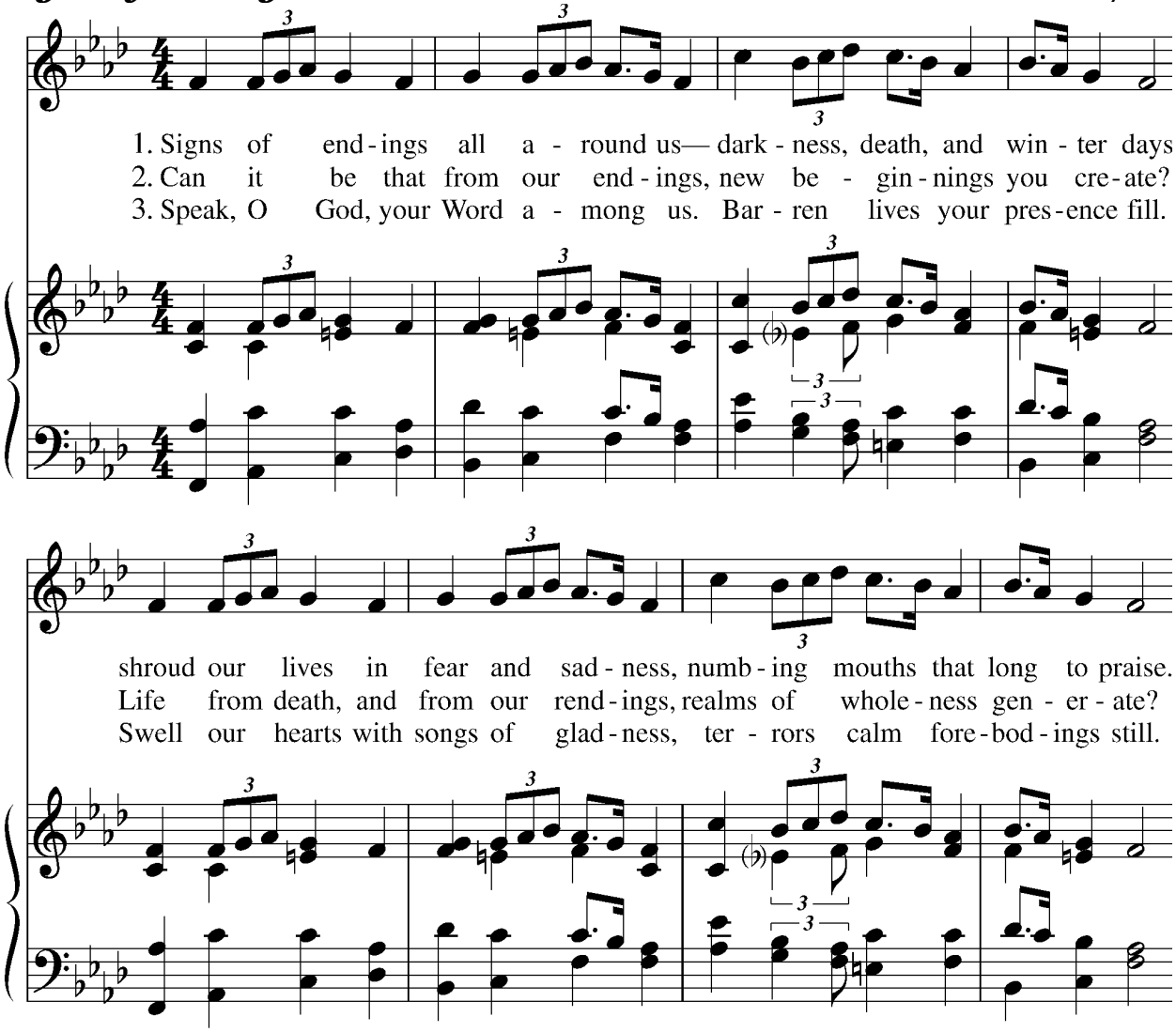
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

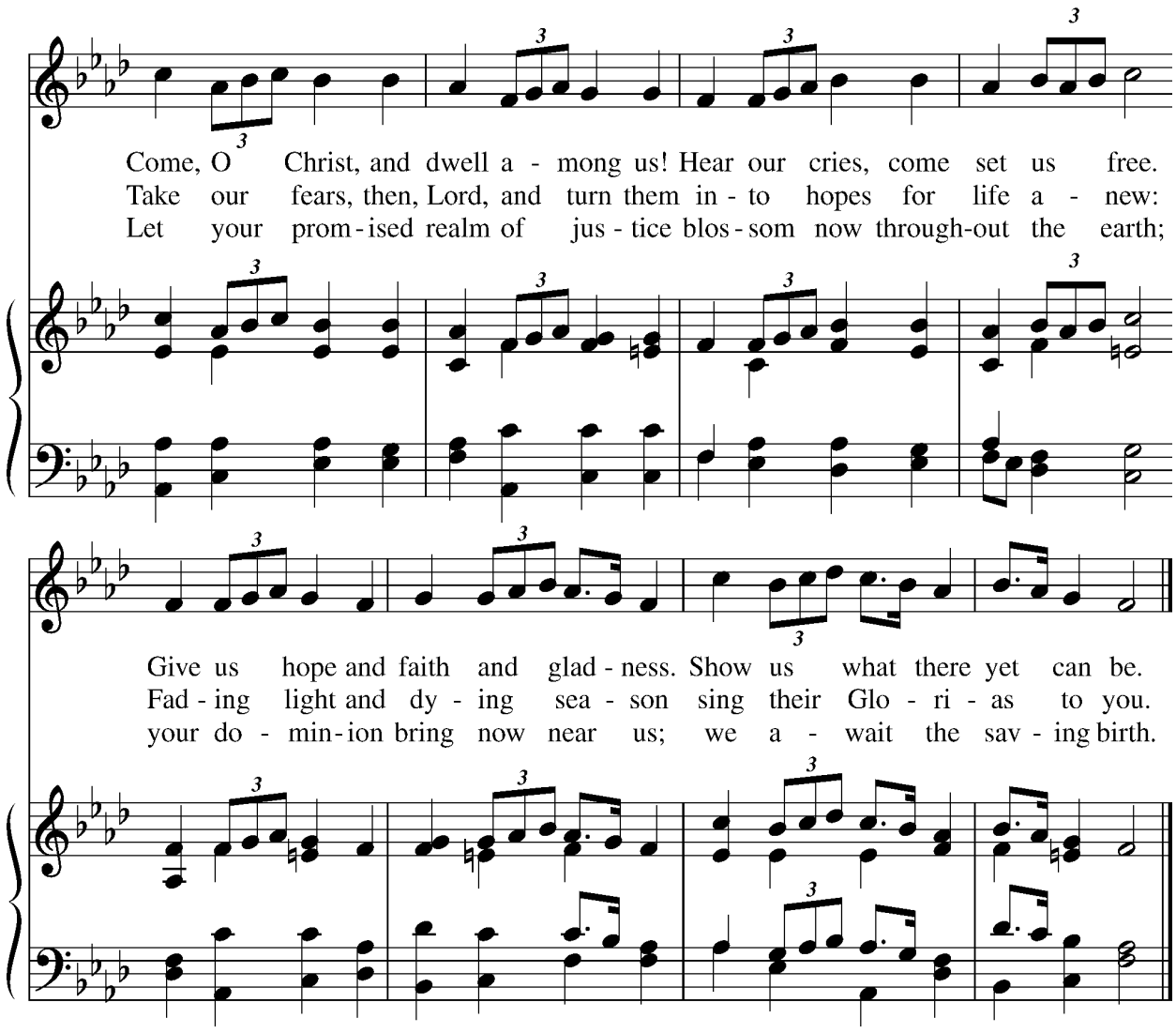
BLESSING

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 among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Signs of endings all around us **WLP 721**




Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through-out the earth;
Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

DISMISSAL

Announcements

Please keep the following people in your prayers during the coming week.
Linda Garrone; Steven Mills-Price; Sharon Steadman; Scott Estes; Cindy Boyer; Tina MacAllister; Nicole Smith; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Owen Smith; Doug Perry; Maryanne Kerrigan; Suzanne Williamson-Vico; Dianne Powers; Louise Woodruff; Norm Zinger; William Underhill; Ruth Ann Cederholm; Karen Romero; Margie Kaupp; Valerie B. Pflock; the family of June Smith; Richard Larraga; Jeff Carter; Carol Owen; Dana Van Fleet; Sam Barry; Bill Lutz; Gabriel; Wil Bernard; Nicole Zapolski

We ask your prayers for those serving in the military and their families:
Josh Zabin, Andrew Barton, Austin Vico, Tory Boudreau

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.

Adventures In Learning: Call for New Church School Teachers and Classroom Helpers

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE
9:00: CC Singers (open to all students ages 5+)
9:30-10:30 - Church School
10:30-11:15 - PREPARED COMMUNION CLASS

Our classrooms needs your support and we humbly ask for dedicated individuals to assist in our Church School, guiding young hearts to understand their immense worth and the delight God takes in them.

It is truly a reflection of our church unity and shared blessings and we would be ever so grateful for those who step forward to share this profound message.

If you can lend a hand, share your time, and be part of this special time in our young children's lives, we would be deeply appreciative and profoundly thankful.

If you have any questions, please contact **Donna Eby** at **education.christchurchplymouth@gmail.com** or **Su D'Ambrosio** at **assunta999@gmail.com**.
Interim Church School Coordinators.

Shrove Tuesday – Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 the Men's Group will host their annual pancake supper. The supper will begin at 5:00 PM. Please join us in the Parish Hall on February 13th as we end the season of Epiphany and enter the season of Lent together.

The Resource of Prayer: Six Week Lenten Series - Sign Up By Monday, February 12th**.** Join us this Lent as we explore the meaning and gift of prayer in the Christian tradition and share resources and practices to enrich our prayer lives. We will meet for six weeks, with two options for meeting times and "spaces:"

- Thursday evenings by Zoom from 6-7:30p, starting on 2/15
- Saturday afternoons in-person at church from 3-4:30p, starting on 2/17

There are two ways to sign up for the series and choose your preferred time and space:

- Sign up using the online by scanning this QR code and filling out the form:

- Sign up using the paper forms located at each entrance to the church.

Please note that you only need to sign up once…if you sign up using the online form, you do not need to also sign up on paper, and vice versa.

For more information, including a schedule of meetings and topics, please see our Keeping Connected newsletter or the electronic and paper sign up sheets. If you have questions about the series, please contact Melissa:
revmelissa@christchurchplymouth.org

Lenten Bible Study
Topic: Paul's Letter to the Colossians
Day & Time: Sunday 4:00 – 5:30pm
Dates: February 18 & 25 and March 3, 17 & 24
Hosted by: Dee & Bill Ferguson at 35 Chipping Hill (Pinehills)
Number of participants: 7 – 10

This is not a "drop in" study. Participants are expected to strive to attend all sessions.

SIGN-UP: Please call Dee or Bill Ferguson at 508-224-1680 or email us at fergusondandb@gmail.com.

Thrift Shoppe - February winter clearance sales are now underway. All outerwear including boots, and specialty boutique items 50% off. If you know of anyone in need of outerwear, please stop by and let us know how we can help.

Please consider donating your gently worn in-style clothing, housewares and small furnishings from smoke-free households. Items may be dropped during shop hours or at the garage on Saturdays from 10-1.

Save the Date: Friday, February 16th Senior Sale Day

Shoppe Hours: Thursday and Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-2

Christ Church Food Pantry - All are welcome to the Christ Church Food Pantry! We are open by appointment:
Tuesday 4:00-5:15, Thursday 12:00-1:15 and 4:00-5:15, and Saturday 10:00-11:15.
Call the pantry message line: 508-746-4959, ext 6, BY 1 PM THE DAY BEFORE YOU WISH TO PICK UP YOUR ORDER. Our volunteers check messages and return your call from their homes to ask you what you need.

Leave a message if you wish to donate non-perishable food and household items, or you may leave your donations under the mailboxes outside the office or in the front entrance to the sanctuary. Squirrels like to get into any bags left on the porch of the food pantry!

We are grateful to all who have offered donations and prayers for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

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

Overnights of Hospitality Winter Emergency Shelter -We want your help! The Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness, in collaboration with the Fr. Bill's and Mainspring (FBMS) organization, offers winter emergency shelter to 20-25 single individuals which began here at Christ Church on Nov, 26th and will continue through Saturday, March 30. We can't continue this important ministry without your help. We want volunteer chaperones to commit to giving one evening of their time from 5pm-11pm to provide support to the Fr. Bill's staff person and to show our unhoused neighbors that they are not forgotten. We who have volunteered in the past have been touched by the appreciation shown by many of the guests. It has been a very rewarding experience!

Two people are needed at the shelter at all times. There are two Fr. Bill's staff from 11pm to 7am, so the volunteer chaperone is only needed for the evening until the second staff person arrives.

The shelter rotates weekly among three congregations which began Sunday, November 26 and will continue through Saturday, March 30 - Christ Church, First Baptist Church and St Mary's and St Joseph Collaborative at St Mary's Parish Center, using the fellowship halls. Orientation is provided.

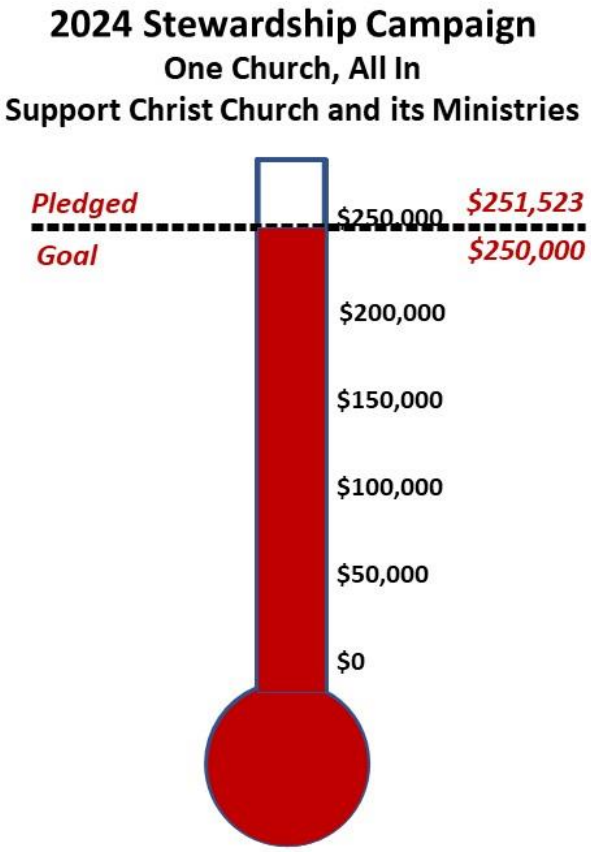
To sign up as a chaperone, go to **https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/k4w5gd**
To review the chaperone guidelines, go to **https://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org/volunteer/**

Questions? Call Connie Melahoures, President of the Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness at 508.367.0516 or email **conmel@aol.com**.

The next week that Christ Church will be hosting begins February 18th.

Prayer Chain – Our prayer chain consists of devoted parishioners who, in confidence, pray daily for the needs of our parish family. Our mission is to lift up to God the prayers of people in need, in joy, or in thanksgiving.

All prayer requests are said for a period of 2 weeks, and all requests are kept in strict confidence. If you would like a prayer said for yourself, a member of your family or friends, please reach out to Robyn Lench Whittles 781-291-9459 or email to betty02364@gmail.com



Week At - A - Glance * February 11, 2024 – February 18, 2024

SUNDAY	7:00 AM	Overnights of Hospitality End
	8:00 AM	**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**
	10:00 AM	**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**
	11:15 AM	Coffee Hour
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
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
	5:00 PM	Pancake Supper
	6:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
WEDNESDAY	**9:00 AM**	**Morning Prayer –** Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM	**Ash Wednesday Service**
	7:00 PM	**Ash Wednesday Service**
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	Book Study
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
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	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Food Pantry
	5:00 PM	**The First Saturday in Lent – Music with The Hills**
SUNDAY	**8:00 AM**	**The First Sunday in Lent**
	10:00 AM	**The First Sunday in Lent**
	11:15 AM	Coffee Hour
	5:00 PM	Overnights of Hospitality Begin

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. Deacon James Thomas
Connie Melahoures, Verger
David Tyler, Parish Administrator
Lea Tyler, Choir Director
Elijah Langille, Organist
Donna Eby, Interim Sunday School Coordinator
Jae Johnson, Sexton

Officers and Vestry Representatives
Bill Ferguson, Senior Warden
John Steele, Junior Warden
Ray Rogers, Treasurer
Brenna Buckley, Clerk
Wil Bernard, Barb Hurney, Kat Libretto, Judy Lutz, Makenzie Manchester, Becky Metzger, Amanda Peterson, Randy Pond, and Jack Willett

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