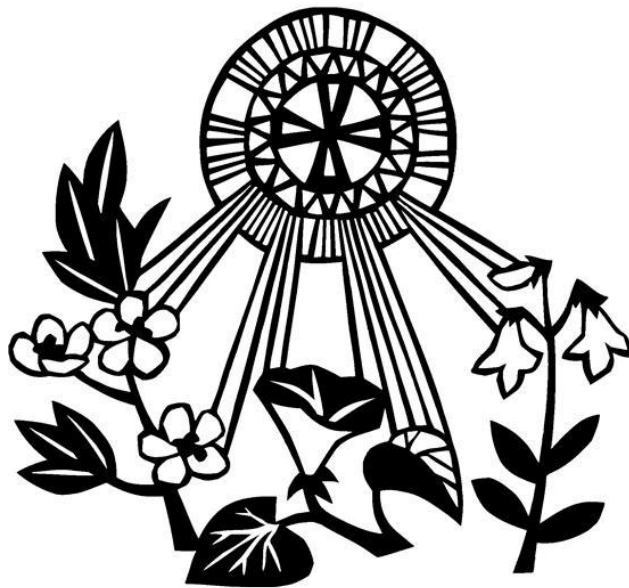


**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH  
EPISCOPAL**

8:00 AM

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I: Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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.

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

## **The Word of God**

*The service begins on page 323 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). All stand as the ministers enter.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant prays the Collect for Purity.*

*All remain standing and pray the Gloria together:*

### **THE GLORIA**

BCP p. 324

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant prays the Collect of the Day. The people respond: **Amen.***

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 17:22-31

*After each reading, the reader says "The Word of the Lord," and the people respond: **Thanks be to God.***

### **PSALM 66:7-18**

BCP p. 674

### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 3:13-22

### **GOSPEL**

John 14:15-21

*All stand. Before the Gospel is proclaimed, the Deacon or Celebrant says:*

*The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.*

*The people respond: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

*After the Gospel is proclaimed, the Deacon or Celebrant says:*

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

### **THE SERMON**

The Rev. Melissa Howell

*The people sit. Silence may follow.*

|                                           |                   |            |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>THE CREED</b>                          | <i>All stand.</i> | BCP p. 326 |
| <b>THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM IV</b> |                   | BCP p. 388 |
| <b>CONFESSION OF SIN</b>                  |                   | BCP p. 331 |
| <b>THE PEACE</b>                          |                   | BCP p. 332 |
| <b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>                      |                   |            |

## **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!*



|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II</b> | BCP p. 340 |
|-------------------------------|------------|

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>THE LORD'S PRAYER</b> | BCP p. 336 |
|--------------------------|------------|

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*A moment of silence is held.*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS</b> | BCP p. 337 |
|------------------------------------|------------|

### **INVITATION**

*Celebrant:* Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table. The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The people come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>POST-COMMUNION PRAYER</b> | BCP p. 339 |
|------------------------------|------------|

### **BLESSING**

### **DISMISSAL**

*The people respond:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

# Announcements

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

**For the repose of the soul of Anita Chase; Anita Trottier;** Barbara Hulme; Carol MacPhee; Christ Church Thrift Shoppe; David Flynn; David Mann; Donna Eby; Dorothy Smith; Elizabeth Liuzzi; Ellen Nordquist; Evelyn Ferioli; Francis Ferioli; Forrest Berardi; Greta Couter; Heidi Hunter; James Elksnin; Jim Kelly; John Powderly; John Steele; Karen Guerra; Katharine LiBretto; Kathy Rust; Kenny Blackwell; Kesha Nielsen; Kim Stevenson; Kristin Denker; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Linda Quigley; Mark Ouellette; Mark Poster; Peter Trenouth; Polly Chadwick; Raymond Reid; Ruth Ghelfi; Sandy Underhill; Skip Nielsen; Stephanie "Petie" Blanchard; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Sylvia Wade; Theodora DeGaust; Tom Perry; Valerie B. Pflock

**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

**In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for:**

Churches of the Concord River Deanery

Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton

St. Andrew's Church, Ayer

Trinity Church, Concord

St. Andrew's Church, Framingham

Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society

## **A Note on Our Sunday 10a Worship**

*"Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." — Luke 24:35*

The Easter season reminds us that the risen Christ keeps showing up — on the road to Emmaus, behind locked doors, in the breaking of bread — and that the church's calling has always been to be a place where people can encounter Jesus, again and for the first time.

In this moment, that calling feels especially urgent. The Episcopal Church, like many mainline traditions, is navigating a real decline in the people finding their way through our doors. We don't say that with alarm — we say it with conviction that this is exactly the moment to ask how we make room for people, perhaps unfamiliar with our particular traditions, to meet Jesus through Christ Church Parish. With that vision in mind, we're making a few intentional changes to our Sunday 10am service, effective this Easter season:

**Scripture in plain language.** We'll use the Common English Bible for our readings — a lively, scholarly translation approved by the Episcopal Church for use in worship and written to be understood by the widest possible range of readers.

**Three Scripture readings instead of four.** This allows more space for each reading to land, and a little more breathing room in the liturgy overall.

**A changed ending.** After the table is cleared, we'll pray the postcommunion prayer, sing a closing hymn together, and receive the blessing and dismissal from the altar. The postlude will follow, and clergy will come forward to greet the congregation — giving us a much richer opportunity to welcome people as they leave, and to make sure no one slips out without being seen. You're warmly invited to stay, listen, and linger — or to depart when you need to. Both are a blessing.

We know that change in worship is never neutral. These liturgies are where many of us have encountered God, buried loved ones, baptized children. If something about these changes gives you pause, or if you find yourself with questions or concerns — that matters, and we want to hear from you.

Please share your thoughts using the short form accessible by scanning the QR code. Your responses go directly to Rev. Melissa, Deacons Natalie and James, and Lea, so that we can listen and respond as a team. We'll also be hosting a conversation after the 10am service on June 7th — all are welcome to come.



**Please help us with SUNDAY PARKING** - On Sunday mornings, please be mindful of one another and leave the main church lot for those who need it most, as accessible parking spots for people with disabilities and families with infants are limited.

Additional parking is always available on Lothrop Street. The Cartmell-Davis lot across from the church on Grant Street is also available to Christ Church worshipers on Sundays. Thank you!

**Service for Don Bolt** - The funeral service for Don Bolt will be held on Saturday, May 16th at 11am here at Christ Church.

**Sharing Our Grief Journey** - Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM. Join us Friday, May 15. Meeting in the 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 at any time.

**Global Disaster & Humanitarian reality – 2026** Two weeks ago, we hosted a presentation by Bill Schmidt (ret., FEMA) and Paul Bolton (senior scientist, Johns Hopkins; ret.; formerly with USAID). Following the presentation, we asked Bill and Paul to provide a brief written summary of their key talking points to share. You can find that summary along with sample letters to Congress in Keeping Connected. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Anne McManus [mannereggiestir@gmail.com](mailto:mannereggiestir@gmail.com) or Connie Melahoures [conmel@aol.com](mailto:conmel@aol.com).

**Thank you for supporting the Bishop's Appeal** – Thank you to those who have supported this year's Bishop's Appeal! This year's Appeal highlights key ways we support shepherds, lay and ordained alike, who are strengthening congregational vitality throughout our diocese.

You are invited to place your gift in the Offering this weekend. If you do not have your gift with you, you may bring it next Sunday or mail it back directly to the diocesan office. The appeal newsletter and donation envelope are available at church or by contacting the parish office. Thank you for your generous support.

## Week At - A - Glance \* May 10, 2026 – May 17, 2026

|                  |                     |                                                                                       |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <b>8:00 AM</b>      | <b>Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>                             |
|                  | 9:00 AM             | Church School, Grades PreK-5                                                          |
|                  | 9:00 AM             | Adult Sunday School                                                                   |
|                  | 9:00 AM             | Youth Formation                                                                       |
|                  | <b>10:00 AM</b>     | <b>Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>                            |
|                  | 11:30 AM            | Coffee Hour                                                                           |
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | <b>9:00 AM</b>      | <b>Morning Prayer</b> – Facebook Live                                                 |
|                  | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Fore & Aft                                                                            |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Fore & Aft                                                                            |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <b>9:00 AM</b>      | <b>Morning Prayer</b> – Facebook Live                                                 |
|                  | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Fore & Aft                                                                            |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | 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                                                                           |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | <b>9:00 AM</b>      | <b>Morning Prayer</b> – Facebook Live                                                 |
|                  | 1:00 PM             | Grief Group                                                                           |
|                  | 7:00 PM             | Congregation Beth Jacob                                                               |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM | Food Pantry                                                                           |
|                  | 11:00 AM            | Funeral Don Bolt                                                                      |
|                  | <b>5:00 PM</b>      | <b>Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Seventh Saturday of Easter – Music with The Hills</b> |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <b>8:00 AM</b>      | <b>Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>                           |
|                  | 9:00 AM             | Church School, Grades PreK-5                                                          |
|                  | 9:00 AM             | Adult Sunday School                                                                   |
|                  | 9:00 AM             | Youth Formation                                                                       |
|                  | <b>10:00 AM</b>     | <b>Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>                          |
|                  | 11:30 AM            | Ice Cream Social and Celebration of Church School and Youth Group's Year of Learning  |
|                  | 4:00 PM             | Confirmation and Reception                                                            |

## **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  
Alex Manchester, Junior Warden  
Ray Rogers, Treasurer  
Amanda Peterson, Clerk

Wil Bernard, Tom Choinski, Donna Eby, David Greene, Don Hill,  
Barb Hurney, Judy Lutz, 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