

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL**

10:00 AM

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

Comfort, comfort ye my people

1982 Hymnal 67

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.**

TRISAGION

1982 Hymnal S 102

The following is sung three times, all standing

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 11:1-10

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Remain seated.

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- ²That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- ³That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- ⁴He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- ⁶He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁸Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹And blessed be his glorious Name forever, *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING:

Romans 15:4-13

The people sit.

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

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of

the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

1982 Hymnal 75

All stand.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 3:1-12

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am

not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Deacon James Thomas

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

Deacon or Celebrant: 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.

Intercessor: 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. We give thanks for the 48th wedding anniversary of Carl and Robin Nielsen, in whose honor the lamp of presence has been given.

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 Thomas Salmon 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 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 your Son 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

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!*



All undesignated gifts from today's special Advent offering will support the Christ Church rector's discretionary fund, which provides direct financial aid year-round to parishioners and greater Plymouth community members in need, and our holiday gift card ministry, which sends grocery store gift cards to Christ Church parishioners who may be in need of extra support this Christmas season. Please write or type "Advent offering 2025" in the memo line of your check or in the online donation form. Thank you for your generous support.

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 God thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your 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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

1982 Hymnal S 130

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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.” Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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

Lamb of God

1982 Hymnal S 161

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

What is the crying at Jordan

1982 Hymnal 69

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1982 Hymnal 76

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; **Evelyn Ferioli**; 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; **Nancy Dixon**; Norm Harbinson; Peter Trenouth; **Polly Chadwick**; 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.

Christmas Flowers and Musicians - If you wish to remember or honor a loved one or give in thanksgiving, you may do so by sponsoring the flowers and guest musicians for our Christmas services. The form is included at the end of the bulletin. In order to have your memorial listed in the Christmas bulletins, please return the form by Sunday, December 21.

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

2026 Stewardship Campaign
Shining Our Light
Support Christ Church and its Ministries



In order to have your memorial included in the Christmas bulletins, please return this form to the parish office no later than

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Christmas Instrumentalists



Given by: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

As a Thank Offering: _____

***Amount Enclosed:** _____ **Envelope Number:** _____

*Please put **2025 Christmas Memorials** in Memo Line.

In order to have your memorial included in the Christmas bulletins, please return this form to the parish office no later than

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Christmas Flowers



Given by: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

As a Thank Offering: _____

***Amount Enclosed:** _____ **Envelope Number:** _____

* Please put **2025 Christmas Memorials** in Memo Line

Week At - A - Glance * December 7, 2025 – December 14, 2025

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
MONDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Office Closed
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	5:00 PM	Finance Committee
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Office Closed
	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
	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM	Office Closed
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Food Pantry
	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:00 AM	Brass Polishing
	5:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Third Saturday of Advent
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Third 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	Traditional Lessons & Carols (No Communion) – The Third 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