

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL**

10:00 AM

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026
Season of Creation



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.

PRELUDE

Chorale by Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING SENTENCE

The Officiant says

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

The Officiant welcomes the People and invites them into a time of silent prayer before worship.

OPENING HYMN *All who hunger gather gladly* WLP 761

1. All who hun - ger gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
2. All who hun - ger, nev - er stran - gers, seek - er, be a
3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is

is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring.
wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.

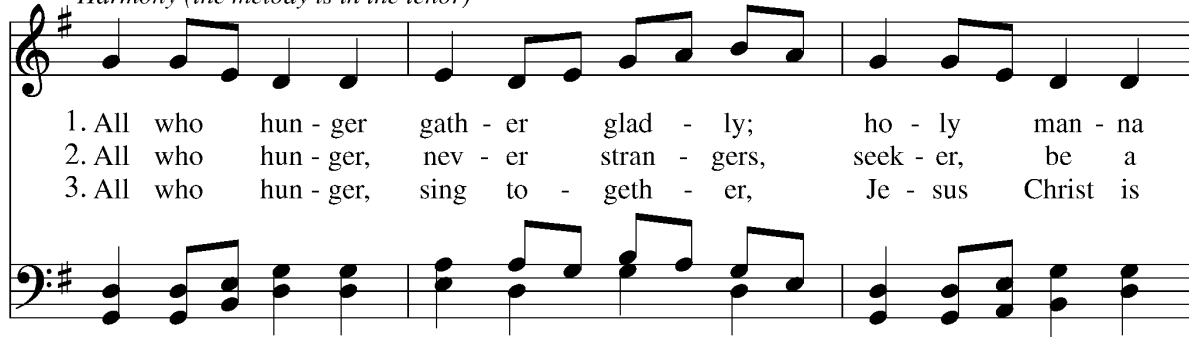
Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for
Here, in joy we keep the feast. We that once were
Here, in peace, we have been fed. Blest are those who

days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.
from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

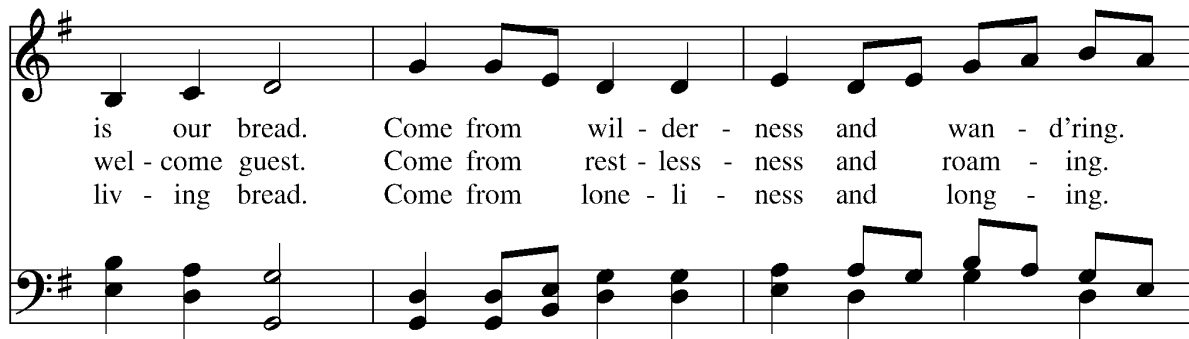
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.

Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see that God is good.

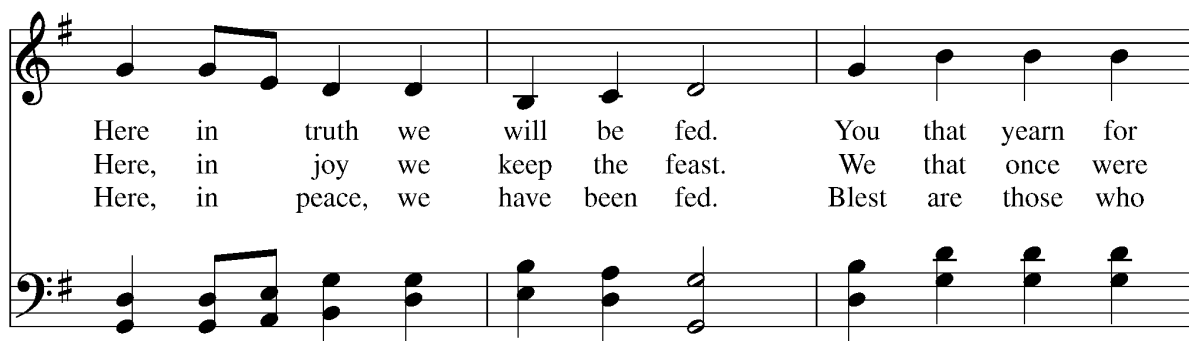
Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)



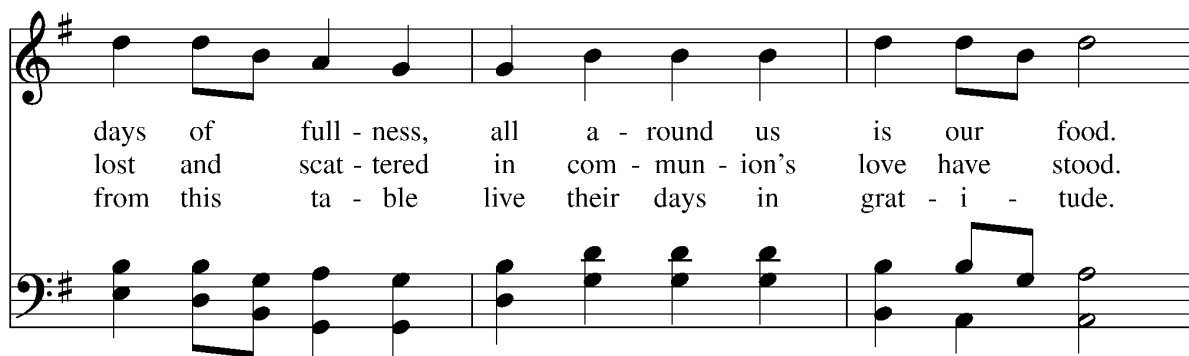
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OPENING PRAYERS

All stand

Officiant **Lord, open our lips.**

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

INVITATORY

Venite

1982 Hymnal S 35

1. Come, let us sing to the
Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal -
va - tion. 2. Let us come be-fore his pres-ence with thanks - giv - ing
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. 3. For the

Lord is a great God, and a great King a - bove all

gods. 4. In his hand are the cav-erns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his al - so. 5. The

sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have

mold - ed the dry land. 6. Come, let us bow down, and bend the

knee, and kneel be-fore the Lord our Ma - ker. 7. For

he is our God, and we are the peo-ple of his

pas - ture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that to - day you would heark-en to his voice!

PSALTER:**Psalm 145:1-8**

¹I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

²Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.

⁵I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.

⁶They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

At the end of the Psalm is sung or said

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

FIRST READING:**Jonah 3:10--4:11**

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Jonah.

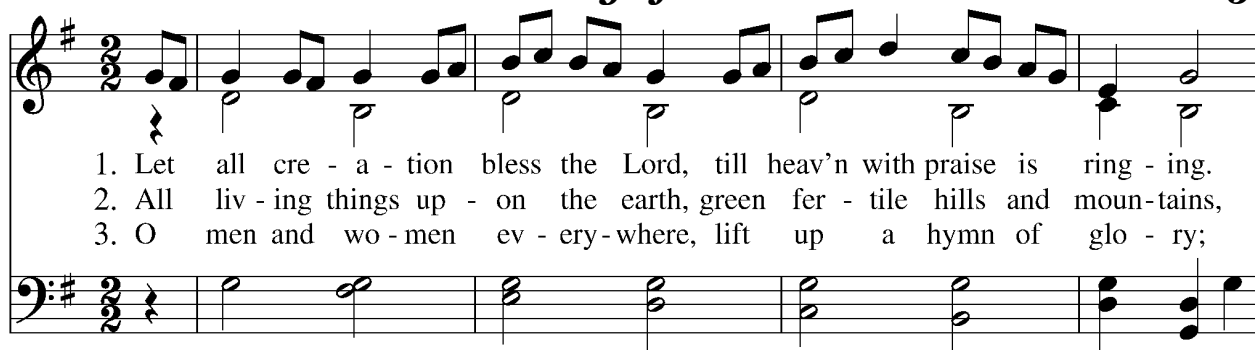
When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

FIRST CANTICLE***A Song of Creation*****WLP 885**

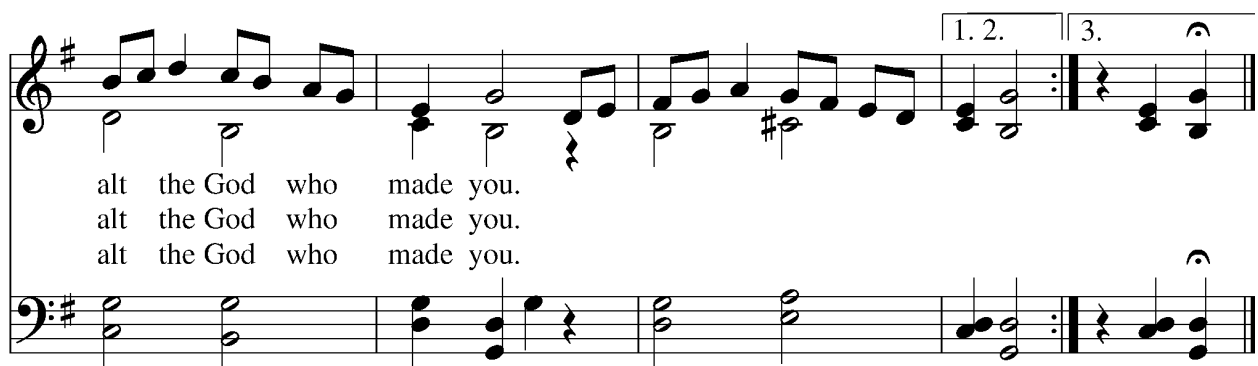
1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing.
2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and moun-tains,
3. O men and wo - men ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry;



Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir up the an - gels' sing - ing.
sing to the God who gave you birth; be joy - ful, springs and foun-tains.
let all who know God's stead - fast care tell our sal - va - tion's sto - ry.



Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat: ex -
Lithe wa - ter life, bright air-borne birds, wild rov - ing beast, tame flocks and herds: ex -
No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart: ex -



alt the God who made you.
alt the God who made you.
alt the God who made you.

THE PRAYERS

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**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.**

V. Come to our aid, O Creator and Healer;

R. Restore us and forgive our trespasses against Creation.

V. Look upon your whole Creation;

R. Give to your creatures the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among all tribes;

R. And your wonders among all species.

V. Do not let the endangered be lost;

R. Never forget the lives of your creatures.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to all creatures;

R. And your favor to those who work for justice.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Litany

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy on us.

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy,
hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,
Savior deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and
contempt for your word and your laws,
Savior deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the devil,
Savior deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,
Savior deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the
day of judgment,
Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and
obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the
preaching of your reign,
Savior deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,

Savior deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

Savior deliver us.

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, O Christ.

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

Hear us, O Christ.

Keep in safety those who travel and all who are in peril.

Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

Hear us, O Christ.

Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

Hear us, O Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

All stand

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

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

Setting: Peter Crisafulli, from **Music for the Holy Eucharist Rite II**, © 2002 Peter Crisafulli.
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Ante-Communion

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SECOND READING:

The people sit.

Philippians 1:21-30

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

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you

or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Morning glory, starlit sky

1982 Hymnal 585 v3

All stand.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no

wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1982 Hymnal 585 v3

SERMON

The Rev. Deacon James Thomas

Silence may follow.

THE CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing.

**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.

INTERCESSIONS

All remain standing.

Officiant: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Leader: Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help, those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now, either silently or aloud.

Silence is held for a time as people share their intercessions.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died, remembering especially Sharon Steadman in whose honor and memory the high altar flowers have been given, for the Christian, Hill, Billingham and Beal families in whose honor and memory the lamp of presence has been given, and those we name now, either silently aloud.

Silence is held for a time as people share their intercessions.

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Officiant: Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant 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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Officiant says:

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*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

TABLE PRAYERS

Assist us mercifully, O God, in these our supplications and prayers, and direct the way of your servants toward the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant, we ask you, O God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through your grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living to the honor and praise of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go before us, O God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and assist us with your very present help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking; have compassion on our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in your Son's Name: Mercifully incline your ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to your will may be effectively obtained, to the relief of our necessity and to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken

1982 Hymnal 523

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

All things came into being through the Word, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Tea for Two by Vincent Youmans and Irving Caesar

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