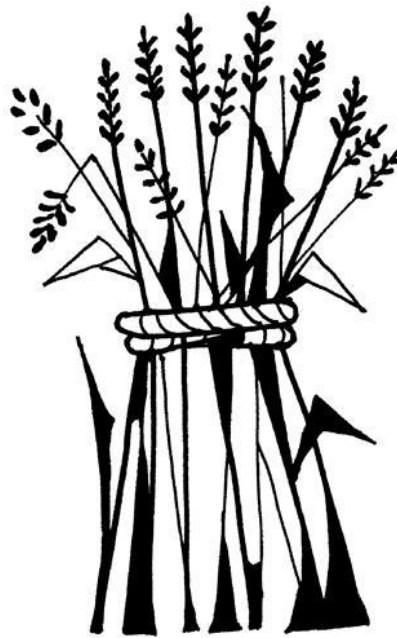


CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL

8:00 AM

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 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.

The Word of God

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 AND GREAT COMMANDMENTS

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

OPENING ANTHEM

The following is said, all standing

**Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;**

**thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to

come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Remain seated.

¹Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

⁴Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.

⁵Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.

⁶He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.

⁷Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.

⁸Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁹Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

¹⁰For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.

¹¹In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

¹²But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.

⁴¹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴²The LORD will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

The people sit.

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

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL:**Luke 6:27-38***All stand.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON**The Rev. William Lutz**

Silence may follow.

THE CREED*All stand.*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

Deacon or Celebrant: Sustaining God, you have promised to turn our hearts from stone to flesh; to give us life through the power of your love and hear our hopes and needs. Answer these prayers lifted to you as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the people of God everywhere, that they might wield their power for the common good and with respect for the dignity of all people.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

For the churches in our diocese, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Julia and Carol our Bishops, Melissa our Priest, James and Natalie our Deacons, and each of us in our vocations and ministries.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those with authority in our communities, nation, and world, that they might wield their power for the common good and with respect for the dignity of all people.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those in our lives who have caused us pain and hurt; lead them to an awareness of their impact and lead us to the path of forgiveness where those hurts have no hold on us.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For local communities – our neighbors, our co-workers, and our classmates, help us to sow the seeds of your kingdom in our daily interactions.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For our beleaguered earth, the garden where you have placed us; grant us wisdom as we discern how to be worthy stewards of this gift and give us strength and courage to persevere in its preservation.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all who live in pain, in sickness, in fear or dread; sustain them with your grace that they might bear their suffering and grant us an awareness and a willingness to be their companions and caregivers. We pray especially for 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.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hold in your care those who have died. Raise and welcome us into your eternal arms when our time comes. We pray especially for those we name now, either silently or aloud.

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

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty God who is the Sower of love, mercy, and hope; let us be the seeds of your salvation; growing in love ourselves that through us your hopeful mercy might be known and established everywhere, and hear our prayers, those spoken and those held quietly in our hearts that we might know grace and live into the people we were created to be. All this we ask through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!*



The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.
AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and

goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. 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

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.**

For the repose of the soul of Alan Watson; Barbara Hulme; Christy Godfrey; Donna Eby; Greta Couter; Jack Willett; Jim Stanne; Katharine LiBretto; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Linda Garrone; Norm Zinger; Sharon Steadman; Steve Blanchard; Suzanne and Dave Salois; 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

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.

Resources for Families in Church: Just a reminder that there are activities for kids, including a small table and chairs, in the back of the church. We are also providing special bulletins for kids that are aligned with the week's lessons at the front and back entrances. These bulletins have a variety of coloring, brain teasers, puzzles, and other fun activities. For students in grades PreK-1, Su will be available in the nursery to monitor young students who need a separate space during the church service. We hope that these resources will support family attendance at the 10 am service. Please let us know if you have any other ideas for ways to welcome children and families at Christ Church: education@christchurchplymouth.org

Christ Church Thrift Shoppe - Vestry members have approved the Thrift Shoppe's request to appropriate remaining 2024 outreach funds. Designated recipients are Christ Church Food Pantry \$2500 and Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for California fire assistance \$5000.

All future proceeds in 2025 will be shared equally between in-reach to CCP budget and outreach designated by Thrift Shoppe volunteers.

We have many volunteer opportunities and welcome all. If interested please provide your contact information at Office.christchurchplymouth@gmail.com

Shoppe Hours
Thursday and Friday 10-4
Saturday 10-1

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 live 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

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.

If you wish to volunteer, contact Eileen Paris at eileenpca@aol.com
For more information, please contact Barbara Wojtkiewicz at 617-291-4634, or by email at barbara.wojtkiewicz@gmail.com

The Food Pantry is looking for someone with grant writing experience to help with occasional funding opportunities. Please contact Barbara Wojtkiewicz at barbara.wojtkiewicz@gmail.com

Week At - A - Glance * February 23, 2025 – March 2, 2025

SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Men's Group Brunch
MONDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Fore & Aft Pastoral Care Food Pantry Buildings & Grounds Committee
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 4:00 PM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Fore & Aft Parish Nursing Ministry
THURSDAY	10:00 AM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM 6:00 PM	Bible Study Thrift Shoppe Fore & Aft Food Pantry Book Study Food Pantry Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY	9:00 AM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live Thrift Shoppe Fore & Aft
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	Food Pantry Thrift Shoppe Diocesan Working Group Retreat Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Last Saturday after the Epiphany
SUNDAY	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM 5:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5) Burning of the Palms Holy Eucharist Rite II – The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Coffee Hour 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. Deacons James & Natalie Thomas
David Tyler, Parish Administrator
Lea Tyler, Choir Director
Su D'Ambrosio, Sunday School Coordinator

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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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