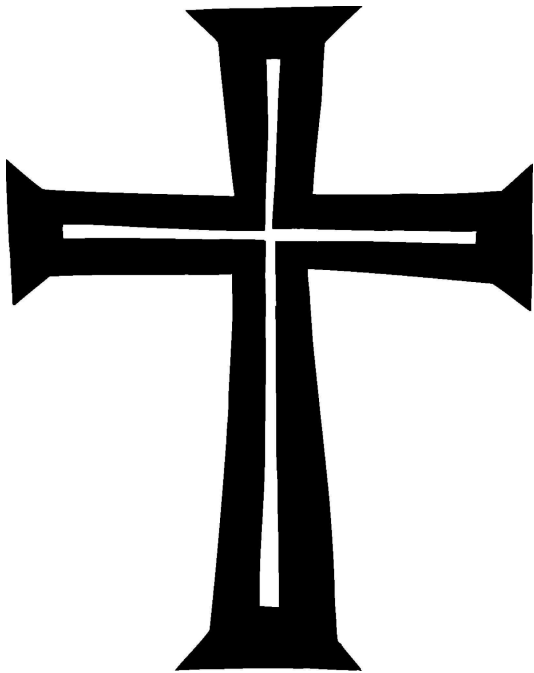


# CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



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*Live*  
joyfully in faith

*Connect*  
with God and one another

*Serve*  
the local and global community

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The Third Sunday in Lent  
March 23, 2025  
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

## Reflections on Today's Readings

Today we come to the next major stage in the ancient story of the history of salvation, the time of the Exodus and Passover. Here Moses meets God in the burning bush and is given his vocation of leading God's people from slavery into the freedom of the land of promise. Our own Exodus and Passover takes place in baptism. All baptized persons are members of the community of God's people, and in them that saving work continues. In Lent, the baptized and those preparing for baptism are rediscovering their vocation as members of the community who come to the waters.

The second reading today sees the Exodus/Passover event of Israel as a foreshadowing of the life of the church—the crossing of the sea prefigures baptism, and the manna in the wilderness foretells the Eucharistic feast. Paul warns, however, that just as the Exodus event did not protect those Israelites who later refused

to obey God from the consequences of disobedience, so we members of the church cannot rest on the blessings of baptism and Eucharist but must also live in obedience to God's Word.

The Gospel reading today finds Jesus responding to a question of whether natural and man-made tragedies are acts of God toward sinners. Jesus' response is "no," but he warns us that even so, we must repent and change. Those who believe that God uses disaster to punish sinners will, when faced with their own death, think they also are dying because of their sin, failing to see the redemption that God is bringing in the dying and rising of Jesus.

The liturgy and the sacraments are not ends in themselves but means by which God's people are strengthened in living the life of the risen Lord in hope and in mutual love and ministry.

Adapted From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

**Welcome to Christ Church:** If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out the welcome cards in the pews and hand it to a member of the clergy after the service. Books and resources for children are located on the table near the side left door. Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Episcopal worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort. Sunday School is offered today for ages 9-12 at 9 a.m. and for ages 5-8 a.m. at 9:45 a.m. The children will return to the service at the sign of peace.

## The Holy Eucharist

[10:00 a.m. service]

### Prelude

Organ Sonata No. 2 (1937)  
Second Movement - Ruhig bewegt (Quietly moving)

Paul Hindemith

### Welcome

✠ *All stand, as they are able, as the clergy enter or the bell tolls.*

## A Penitential Order

*Presider* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

*Presider*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

✠ *Silence may be kept. The people are welcome to kneel or stand as they are able.*

*Presider 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 Presider 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 people remain kneeling or standing, as they are able.*

[10:00 a.m. service] Trisagion

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
mor-tal One. Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Music: Carl Haywood from Mass for Grace. Carl Haywood, © 1997. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A700244*

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

✠ *The people sit.*

## The First Reading

## Exodus 3:1-15

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the

country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 63:1-8** (*read responsively by verse*)

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

**2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.

**4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.**

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**6 When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**8 My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.**

**The Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*Reader* A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual

immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 a.m. service]

**The Gospel****Luke 13:1-9**

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

✠ *The people sit.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

✠ *A brief period of silence follows the sermon.*

**The Nicene Creed** *(said together)*

**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:  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear us when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust, we call out your name saying, "Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer."

In the mystery of communion with Christ, we pray for the church and its mission throughout the world. We pray for this Diocese of New Hampshire and our Bishop Rob.

*Silence*

God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in positions of authority, for our nation and the world, that God may inspire those whose decisions affect the lives of others. We pray that all may act with mercy, justice, integrity and courage.

*Silence*

God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, bereaved, oppressed, homeless or in any other adversity. We pray for those we name here:

Priscilla, Andy, Patti, Sean, Bob, Diane, Mary, Lela, Kass, Sharon, Sue, Oscar

And for those we name now, either silently or aloud.

*Silence*

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the broken and torn fabric of the earth and we yearn for its healing.

*Silence*

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving all who have died, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may, with all the saints, enter the unending joy of your heavenly realm.

*Silence*

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that we may become increasingly one with your Christ, that, through our own lives, we may share his life with the world.

*Silence*

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Presider*

All this we ask, O Lord, in Jesus's name, the one who lived and moved among us in our broken world, and who loves us still. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

✠ *The people greet one another in the name of the Lord. The Peace may be expressed by shaking hands, bowing, "fist or elbow bumps", namaste greeting, putting hand over heart, waving, making the peace sign, and by offering a smile.*

## **Announcements**



## The Holy Communion

[10:00 a.m. service]

**Offertory Music** Chorale Prelude on "Ah, Holy Jesus," Op.122, No.2 Johannes Brahms

[10:00 a.m. service]

**Offertory Hymn 149** Eternal Lord of love *Old 124th*

[8:00 a.m. service at the Presentation of the Gifts]

*Presider* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

✠ *The people stand for the hymn as they are able.*

## The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

[8:00 a.m.] *Presider and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

[10:00 a.m. service] **Sanctus 129**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

4  
might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

8  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 to 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 Presider then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Presider*

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

✠ *A period of silence is kept.*

[8:00 a.m. service]

*Presider* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

*People* **Have mercy on us.**

*Presider* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

*People* **Have mercy on us.**

*Presider* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

*People* **Grant us peace.**

[10:00 a.m. service] **Fraction S-163** – Sung by all

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Robert Powell (b. 1932), Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense A700244.

### Invitation to Communion

*Presider*

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### Prayer for those Participating Online

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our heart. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

### Instructions Concerning Communion and Healing

*You are invited to receive Holy Communion. Following the usher's instructions, we begin with those seated in the side sections, starting with the front pews. Please go to the back of the church and proceed down the center aisle to the communion rail. Return to your seat using the outside aisles of those sections. Those seated in the center sections, please come forward beginning with the back pews using the center aisle and return using the diagonal aisles.*

*Communion may be received kneeling or standing at the altar rails. The bread is received in the open palm. (Gluten-free wafers are available). You may drink from the cup, or place your hand on the base as a sign of devotion. Intinction, dipping the wafer into the wine, is also acceptable. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*

*Communion can also be brought to you in the pews. Please communicate this request to an usher or the clergy. The Healing team is available to offer healing prayers at the side of the church. Please tell your healing minister if you have a specific prayer need and if you would like a laying on of hands, just prayers or both.*

[10:00 a.m. service]

**Communion Hymn 152**

Kind Maker of the world

*A la venue de Noël*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Presider 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.**

✠ *The people remain standing or kneel, as they are able, for the concluding prayer.*

*Presider*

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[10:00 a.m. service]

**Recessional Hymn 372**

Praise to the living God!

*Leoni*

### **The Dismissal**

*Priest* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 a.m. service]

**Postlude** Chorale Prelude on "The Passion Chorale," Op.122, No.9

Johannes Brahms

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*The worship is over \* The service begins*

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**Participating in Today's Liturgy:**

Preacher: The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Presider: The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Organist: Richard Benefield

Lector at 8:00 a.m.: Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh

Lector at 10:00 a.m.: Nancy Fleming

Intercessor at 10:00 a.m.: Danielle Larson-Clark

Eucharistic Minister at 8:00 a.m.: The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Eucharistic Minister at 10:00 a.m.: Robin Yergeau

Welcome Team/Usher: Elaine Portalupi, Paul Wainwright

Live Streaming Tech: Will Sera

Altar Guild: Carla Ranks, Shannon Tosatti

Flower Delivery: Patti Buck

Hospitality: Jen Murray, Kim Billings

**Easter Flowers** donation forms are now available in the narthex along with the **Easter Day Breakfast** sign-up.

**THE 2024-2025 RED DOOR SERIES:** Today, March 23rd the forum will be presented by Rev. Nicole Benevenia, on the topic **Caring for Creation: Loving the World that God Loves**. Rev. Nicole will present on our tradition's ideas about God's relationship with Creation and our right relationship with Creation. We'll make lots of space for sharing and conversation. Join us immediately following the 10 AM service.

**Inquirers' Classes/Episcopal 101 Zoom Sessions**

The Rector is offering five Zoom sessions for any adults who want to learn more about the Episcopal Church and for those who might be interested in being confirmed or received by the bishop on May 4, 2025. Zoom link in the Enews.

**March 24** Monday at 7 p.m. Zoom

A Tour through the Book of Common Prayer

**March 31** Monday at 7 p.m. Zoom

The Sacraments and Episcopal Liturgy

**April 7** Monday 7 p.m. Zoom

Structure, Decision Making, and all things Episcopal

To make a donation, you are welcome to use this QR code from your smartphone.



**This week at Christ Church  
March 23-29**

Sunday	Red Door Forum 11:15 a.m. PSP Rehearsal 1:00 p.m.
Monday	Inquirers' Class Zoom 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Bible study 11:00 a.m. Noonday Prayer 12:00 p.m. PSP Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	PSP Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	PSP Auditions 12:00 p.m.

**CHRIST CHURCH**

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**Office Hours:** Mon, Tue, Thur 9 a.m. - 12 Noon, Weds 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

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**VESTRY FOR 2025**

Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Treasurer  
Clerk

Patricia Gianotti  
Judy Blaisdell  
Richard Ingram  
John Cofer

Scott Anders  
Blake Carrico  
Juliette Gavin

Susan Dixon  
John Woodard  
Alice Bentley

Elizabeth Bauman  
Cindy Eaton  
Athens Pullias, Jr.