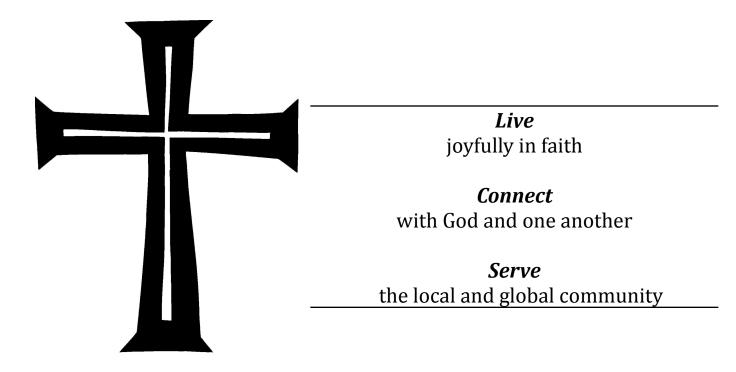
CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Reflections on Today's Readings

This Fourth Sunday in Lent has often been called "Refreshment Sunday." It always includes the theme of eating and drinking as signs of God's love and of the rejoicing of God's people in the Eucharist and in God's Kingdom.

In the reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, we hear about the first Passover celebrated by the Israelites in the Promised Land. On that occasion, the manna, which sustained them in their wilderness journey, ceased and they lived on the "fruit of the land." God's people, washed and adopted in baptism and sustained in this world by Holy Communion, will likewise enter into God's Kingdom and be nourished by God's life.

In the second reading, we learn from Paul that not only has Christ reconciled us to God, but in baptism God makes us agents of reconciliation to the world. and we become the new creation of the Kingdom of God.

Thus, in today's gospel reading of the story of the Prodigal Son, the culmination of forgiveness is reconciliation celebrated in a banquet and feast. This parable describes the totality of forgiveness and God's eagerness to be reconciled with us rebellious children, which is fulfilled in our celebration of Holy Eucharist and, above all, in our Easter rejoicing.

This sacred meal is the sign of our return to God, of God's unlimited forgiveness, and of the feasting of God with all the redeemed in the Kingdom. In our Lenten self-denial, we are reminded that our pilgrimage in this life is like Israel's journey through the wilderness, and that our ultimate goal is the Promised Land of God's Kingdom, foreshadowed in the Holy Eucharist.

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.

Children's Chapel is offered today during the 10 AM service. Children ages 5-12 are welcome to attend with or without their families or caregivers. Children under the age of 4 are also welcome to attend with caregivers for supervision. There is no Sunday School today.

The Holy Eucharist

[10:00 a.m. service] **Prelude**

"Wondrous Love" Five Variations for Organ

Daniel Pinkham

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.**

 \blacksquare The people remain kneeling or standing, as they are able.

[10:00 a.m. service] Trisagion 4 Ho - ly God, Ho-ly and Might- y, Ho - ly Im -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

2

The Collect of the Day

PresiderThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PresiderLet us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

✤ The people sit.

The First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

Reader A Reading from the Book of JoshuaThe Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolledthat very day, they ataway from you the disgrace of Egypt." And soland, unleavened calthat place is called Gilgal to this day. WhileThe manna ceased othe Israelites were camped in Gilgal they keptproduce of the land,the passover in the evening on the fourteenthlonger had manna; tday of the month in the plains of Jericho. Onland of Canaan that y

that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalm 32 (read responsively by verse)

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, * and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, * and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, * because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; * my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, * and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said," I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." * Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; * when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; * you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; * who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; * but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; * shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Reader A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

God was reconciling the world to himself, not From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view: even though we once knew counting their trespasses against them, and Christ from a human point of view, we know entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. him no longer in that way. If anyone is in So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is Christ, there is a new creation: everything old making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to our sake he made him to be sin who knew no himself through Christ, and has given us the sin, so that in him we might become the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ righteousness of God.

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

[10:00 a.m. service] Sequence Hymn 467, vv. 1-3

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love

St. Bees

The Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

GospelerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to LukePeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming and traveled to a distant country, and there he near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and squandered his property in dissolute living. the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This When he had spent everything, a severe fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." famine took place throughout that country, So Jesus told them this parable: "There was a and he began to be in need. So he went and man who had two sons. The younger of them hired himself out to one of the citizens of that said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of country, who sent him to his fields to feed the the property that will belong to me.' So he pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with divided his property between them. A few the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to days later the younger son gathered all he had

himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare. but here I am dving of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called vour son: treat me like one of vour hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it. and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in

GospelerThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

■ 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.

the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeved your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

The Rev. Mark Pendleton

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

Let us offer our prayers on behalf of all, saying "God of mercy, Grant us peace."

For your Church everywhere; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for this Diocese of New Hampshire and our Bishop Rob.; that we may pray honestly, serve humbly, and gently proclaim Christ to our broken world.

Silence

God of mercy, **Grant us peace.**

For our nation, for Donald our President and Kelly our Governor, for all in authority, for all who seek elected office, that we may use our power for good throughout our world.

Silence

God of mercy, **Grant us peace.**

For all nations, for all peoples and rulers, that your wisdom and truth may prevail over cruelty and oppression of every kind.

Silence God of mercy, **Grant us peace.** For those who suffer: for those who are imprisoned; for those who are homeless; for all victims of violent crime; for all who endure long and life-threatening illness, and for all others for whom we pray now.

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

Silence

God of mercy, **Grant us peace.**

For those who have died and your gift of eternal life in Christ.

God of mercy, **Grant us peace.**

Presider

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

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

 \blacksquare 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 Anthem	<i>Satisfied</i> Christ Church Choir	Tom Matsumura
[10:00 a.m. service] Offertory Hymn 470	There's a wideness in God's mercy	Beecher
[8:00 a.m. service at the Presen	tation of the Gifts]	

Presider All things come of thee, 0 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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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**



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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]

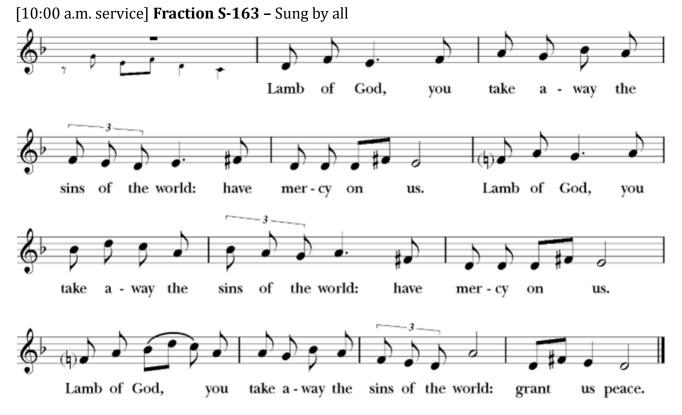
Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

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.



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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 693

Just as I am, without one plea

Woodworth

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 down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

[10:00 a.m. ser Recessional H		Come, thou fount of every blessing	Nettleton
The Dismissa	1		
Priest Let us bless the Lord. People Thanks be to God.			
[10:00 a.m. service]Dietrich BuxtehudePostludeChorale Prelude on "The Passion Chorale," BuxWV 178Dietrich Buxtehude			

The worship is over * *The service begins*

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Preacher/Presider: The Rev. Mark Pendleton Assisting at 10 AM: The Rev. Nicole Benevenia Organist: Richard Benefield Lector at 8:00 a.m.: Suzanne Jalbert Jones Lector at 10:00 a.m.: Lucia Savage Intercessor at 10:00 a.m.: Nancy Fleming Eucharistic Minister at 8:00 a.m.: Lee Woodworth Eucharistic Minister at 10:00 a.m.: Carol Allard Welcome Team/Usher: Lissa Simard, Scott Anders Live Streaming Tech: Joe DiPalermo Altar Guild: Sue Ingram, Diane DiPalermo Flower Delivery: Lissa Simard Hospitality: Ann Junkin, Ann Malconian

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

Well, Spring is officially here, even if the weather doesn't always feel that way! If you need some sign of Spring to lift you up, check out the daffodils blooming in our courtyard, snuggling up against the church wall. They are amazing! The **Garden Team** is eager to welcome new members to assist with the maintenance of our various foundation plantings and garden areas around the church grounds. We are very flexible in how we share the tasks, allowing each team member to keep their own schedule. Have I mentioned that weeding is very therapeutic? Please consider

joining us in taking care of this part of God's creation. If you feel the call, contact Judy Blaisdell at <u>cbsblais@comcast.net</u>. Welcome all!

From the Rector: As I search for the right candidate to succeed our longtime organist Bruce Adami, who retired last month, I wanted to express my profound thanks to **Wendy Gladstone**, a longtime parishioner, who has played beautifully on a number of Sundays before and during Lent. In addition, **Richard Benefield**, a newly transferred member of the parish and Statham resident, has offered his musical gifts, leadership and guidance over these last months. Through it all, **Suzanne Jalbert Jones** has been the glue and the heart that has kept us moving forward. We are blessed to have them all as part of our Christ Church Community. Initial plans are underway for a **Retirement Reception** for **Bruce Adami** on May 18. Stay tuned.

Red Door Forum Sunday April 6: All Things Episcopal. In preparation for the Bishop's visitation May 4 for Confirmation and Reception, the Rector will be sharing the "highlights" of this recent Zoom series on the history, liturgy and customs of the Episcopal Church. And yes, there will be a quiz! Join us after the 10:00 a.m. service.

A Prayer of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. shared at last week's Bible Study: Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

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 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 30-April 5

Sunday	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	Oasis 9:30 a.m. PSP Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 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

RECTOR The Rev. Mark Pendleton

CURATE The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Suzanne Jalbert Jones

Administrative Assistant & Safe Church Minister Darla Watt

BOOKKEEPER Jason Mignone

SENIOR SEXTON George Malgeri

Artistic Director of Pine Street Players Lexi Meunier [cell phone 860 490-8544] mpendleton@christchurchexeter.org

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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.