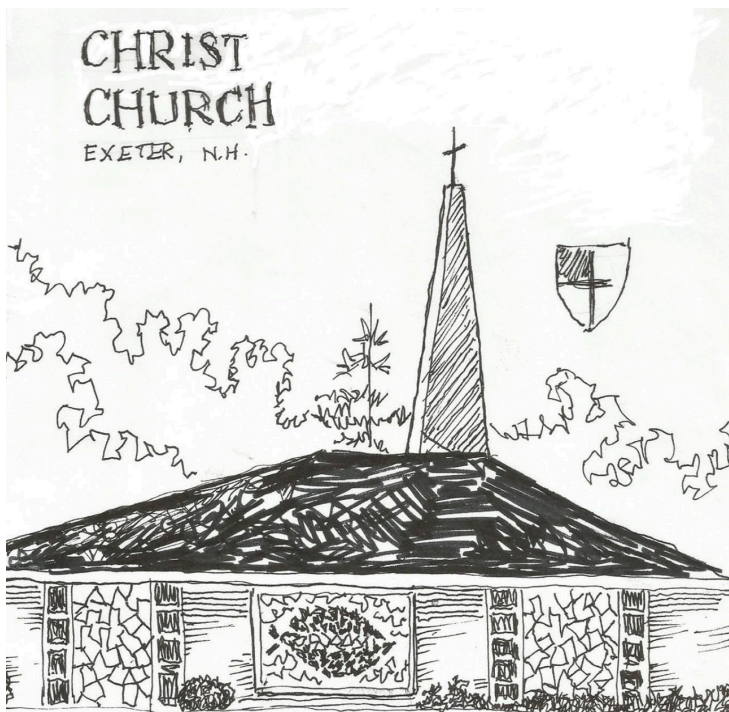


CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

The Third Sunday After Pentecost
June 29, 2025
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Reflections on Today's Readings

In the portion of Luke's gospel we begin today, Jesus sets out for Jerusalem and his death. On this journey, Jesus often spoke of the cost of following him. James and John are quite willing to use power against those who refused Jesus, but following him is harder. It means putting our old life behind and beginning a new way of living and a new way of relating to others.

After being sent back to Israel to finish his work for God, Elijah took Elisha to be his successor. Today we hear the story of Elijah passing on his authority and being taken away into heaven. Elisha now inherits the mantle of Elijah and carries on the work of bringing people back to faithful obedience to God. Elisha shows in the ending of the story that he now has the spirit and power of his master. This passing on of the mantle reminds us of Christ passing on his ministry to his disciples, to all of us.

In the portion of Galatians, Paul discusses how those who live by faith rather than the law are conformed to the image of Christ by his Spirit. "Flesh" and "spirit" do not refer to our so-called "higher" and "lower" natures. Flesh refers to our unredeemed humanity. Spirit refers to the living God who is transforming us into the image of Christ. We are free because our new life into which we are growing is the life of God.

We are followers—disciples—of Christ. Baptism began a new life for us. Just as newly born infants must be fed, nurtured, and taught how to grow up human, so God is feeding, nurturing, and teaching us so that we may grow up into Christ. This Eucharistic celebration is a primary means of this work of God in us.

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.

The Holy Eucharist

[9:30 a.m. service]

Prelude

Will The Circle Be Unbroken
Mike Cicchetti, *guest organist*
Mike Cicchetti and Emily Ellis, *vocals*

Alonso

Will the circle be unbroken? Will the pow'r of death prevail?
Will the voices seeing justice be rejected and grow frail?
Will revenge replace forgiveness? Will our pride replace God's peace?
Will the innocents be victims and the violence increase?

Will the words our God has spoken be revised or be ignored?
Will the love that made and formed us be rejected for the sword?
Will the God who cries, "Forgiveness is the only way to peace,"
Be blocked out by cries of anger? Will the fighting ever cease?

Here the body, blessed and broken
And the blood of Christ outpoured

"This is my body
"given up for you

Is the only food of freedom "This is my blood
For the servants of the Lord. "shed for you"
Here the stories shed at table call us all to peaceful ways:
Show us Christ in all creation, show us love's the only way.

Welcome

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

[9:30 a.m. service]

ProceSSIONAL Hymn 390, vv. 1-3

Praise to the Lord

Lobe den Herren

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; 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

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Reader A Reading from the Second Book of Kings

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to

the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He

picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the

water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 *(read responsively by verse)*

1 I will cry aloud to God; *

I will cry aloud, and he will hear me.

2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; *

my hands were stretched out by night and did not tire; I refused to be comforted.

11 I will remember the works of the Lord, *

and call to mind your wonders of old time.

12 I will meditate on all your acts *

and ponder your mighty deeds.

13 Your way, O God, is holy; *

who is so great a god as our God?

14 You are the God who works wonders *

and have declared your power among the peoples.

15 By your strength you have redeemed your people, *

the children of Jacob and Joseph.

16 The waters saw you, O God; the waters saw you and trembled; *

the very depths were shaken.

17 The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; *

your arrows flashed to and fro;

18 The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; *

the earth trembled and shook.

19 Your way was in the sea, and your paths in the great waters, *

yet your footsteps were not seen.

20 You led your people like a flock *

by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

The Second Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if

you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[9:30 a.m. service]

Sequence Hymn 551, vv. 1-2

Rise up, ye saints of God!

Festal Song

The Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

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

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

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

✠ *The people sit.*

Sermon

The Rev. Mark Pendleton

✠ *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

Please Stand or Kneel

If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. And, guided by the Spirit, let us lift our prayers to the Lord, saying, "We cry aloud to you; *O God, hear us.*"

We give you thanks, O God, that for freedom Christ has set us free. Though at times it challenges our patience, we also give you thanks for the freedom, through love, to become servants of one another.

Silence

We cry aloud to you;

O God, hear us.

Gracious God, give us the will and the strength to prepare the way for your Kingdom to come. May love heal our factions and peace overcome war.

Our bishop has asked us to pray for the vision and skill of negotiators and diplomats who can see paths toward just reconciliation where others cannot.

To pray for the turning of hearts and minds of those who use force as the means to extend their hold on political power.

To pray for the protection of those in the Armed Forces of our own nation—many of whom are in our own families and communities— and for those among our allies as well.

And because our Lord taught us to, we also pray for our enemies. Pray for the courage to speak and act against the spirit of hate which can so easily overtake our mind and souls.

Silence

We cry aloud to you;

O God, hear us.

Lord Jesus, you rebuked your disciples James and John when they desired the destruction of others. Instill in us gentleness and self-control that we might learn to love even those with whom we strongly disagree.

Silence

We cry aloud to you;

O God, hear us.

You are the God who works wonders. We offer to you our sincere prayers for our hurting loved ones. Work wonders in their hearts and lives, we pray.

We cry aloud to you;

Lord Jesus, break the chains of those held in bondage. Restore those forgotten by society. May all prisoners and captives, by the power of your love and mercy, have their dignity renewed.

Silence

We put our trust in you, O God;

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those weighed down by heavy souls. We pray for those who feel like they are in over their heads; for the disquieted and for the ill.

Silence

We pray for Peter, Chris, Mary Ann, Sue, the Shinwaris Family.

We invite your prayers either silently or aloud.

Silence

O God, in Christ Jesus you have made us your children. We pray for the dying and the dead. Bring them into your heavenly dwelling where they may be at home with you forever.

Silence

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.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

[9:30 a.m. service]

Offertory Anthem

Shepherd of My Heart
Impromptu Choir

[9:30 a.m. service]

[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: Enriching Our Worship Prayer I

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.**

The Presider continues

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 on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

[Said at 8:00, sung at 9:30]

Presider and People

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

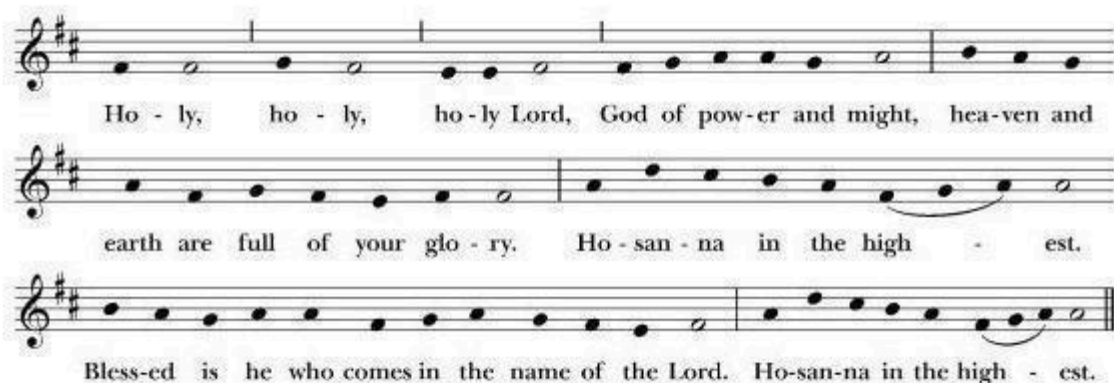
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

[9:30 a.m. service] **Sanctus**

David Hurd



✠ The people kneel or stand, as they are able.

The Presider continues

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another,
and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery
sustained us in the wilderness
and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,
and dwelling among us,
he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:
"Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all
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

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and 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]

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

Invitation to Communion

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.

[9:30 a.m. service]

Communion Hymn 676

There is a balm in Gilead

Bourbon

Post-Communion Prayer

✠ *The people kneel or stand as they are able.*

Presider and People

God of abundance,

you have fed us

with the bread of life and cup of salvation;

you have united us

with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one

with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth

in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue for ever

in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

[9:30 a.m. service]

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[9:30 a.m. service]

Postlude

The Call
from *Five Mystical Songs*

Vaughn-Williams

Blessing of the Courtyard

Rector: Christ the Son of God came into the world to gather those who were scattered. The Church is a place where all of God's children can gather in oneness in heart and mind to worship and offer our thanksgivings to God.

This renovated courtyard that we dedicate and bless today is both a threshold and pathway to welcome and gather God's people. By improving independent access to our worship and meeting spaces, we reaffirm our baptismal commitment to work to respect the dignity of every human being.

We thank those who offered their skill and time over the last few years in its design, those who were here to oversee this good work, and those whose generosity made the vision become a reality. We give thanks for the dedicated and steady hands of those who worked throughout Eastertide – through one of the wettest months on record – to complete this project. We ask God to bless them.

We give God thanks for the benefactors who brought this project from the drawing board and wish list to final completion. Lord, we ask that you bless them for this gift and legacy, as we give thanks for all of those who give of themselves each week and each year to build up the ministry of this parish. May all that we do be for God's glory and praise.

Be with us now and bless us, and bless this renewed space, set apart to welcome those who journey the Way with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

B&G Design Group: Kevin Clark, Steve Watt, Chris Sera, Judy Blaisdell, and Joe DiPalermo. Michael Yergeau, Sr. was the daily onsite Clerk of the Works.

Principal benefactor: The Bauman Family Foundation.

General Contractor: CUSA Consulting LLC, Hampton, NH. Mark Thurston, President. Jared Blais main contact.

*The worship is over * The service begins*

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Presider:: The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Preacher: The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Organist: Michael Cicchetti

Lector at 8:00 a.m.: Fran Hall

Intercessor at 8:00 a.m.: Barb Cutting

Lector at 9:30 a.m.: Lucia Savage

Intercessor at 9:30 a.m.: Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh

Eucharistic Minister at 8:00 a.m.: Lee Woodworth

Eucharistic Ministers at 9:30 a.m.: Ann Malconian, Jeannette McDonald

Welcome Team/Usher: Wendy MacAurthur-Keith

Live Streaming Tech: Joe DiPalermo

Altar Guild: Judy Blaisdell, Sue Ingram, Barbara McGrath

Flower Delivery: Juliette Gavin

Hospitality: Hospitality Team

George Malgeri, our Senior Sexton for the past few years, is stepping down at the end of June to dedicate more time to his law enforcement work. George has worked closely with the Building & Grounds committee over these years. Godspeed George and thank you!

We welcome back **Michael Cicchetti** this morning. Mike is an organist, pianist, choral conductor and baritone soloist serving several area churches including Immaculate Conception Church in Portsmouth. He is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, CT and spent the early years of his career as a music educator. He moved into school administration and retired as a superintendent of schools. Mike is a member of *Amare Cantare*, an auditioned chamber chorus that frequently performs at Christ Church. Mike and his wife, Lisa, relocated from Connecticut to Stratham, NH in 2017 to be close to their adult children and grandchildren. In addition to music ministry, Mike is a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate/guardian ad litem) for the State of New Hampshire and a trauma intervention volunteer with Victims, Inc.

The **Rev. Nicole** will be away on vacation from July 2 through July 18.

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



This week at Christ Church
June 29-July 5

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday | Courtyard Dedication 10:30 a.m. PSP Rehearsal 12:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday | PSP Rehearsal 3:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | PSP Rehearsal 3:30 p.m. |

CHRIST CHURCH

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Junior Warden

Judy Blaisdell

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Richard Ingram

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