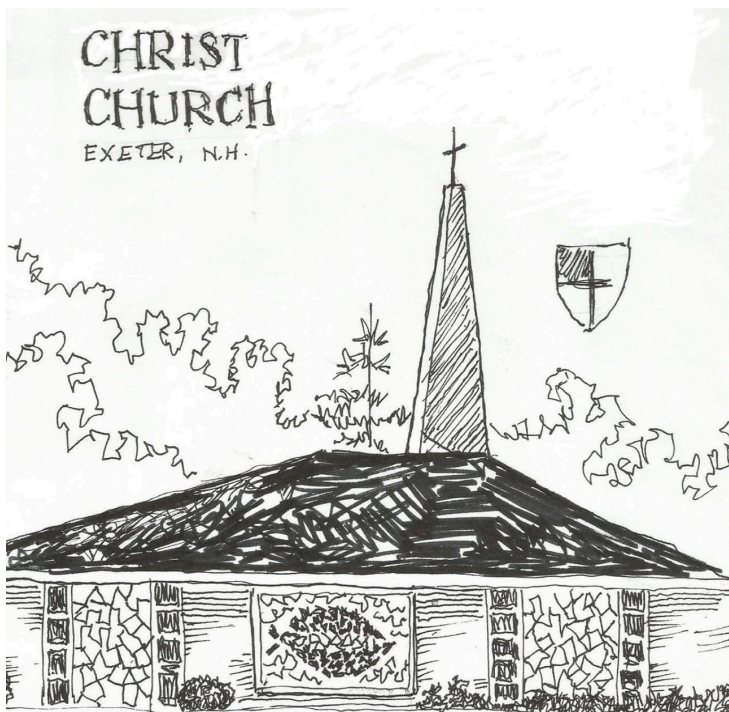


# CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



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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 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost  
August 24, 2025  
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

## Reflections on Today's Readings

In today's reading from the gospel of Luke, Jesus heals a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years. A rigid religious leader complains that Jesus, in healing her on the Sabbath, is breaking the Commandments. Jesus replied that if the Commandments allow one to untie livestock on the Sabbath so that they can get water, we certainly could unbind human beings who are tied to illness on the Sabbath. Jesus is showing that the law of God is for human and humane purposes and not simply a rigid rule used to beat down others.

We continue reading through the prophets. Jeremiah, whose writings we will hear for several weeks, lived about one hundred years after Isaiah. He was a prophet in Judah as it neared and reached the time of its destruction. Today we hear Jeremiah's call

from God to bring a hard message to the people.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we are no longer merely part of this world that is passing away. We are part of the divine life and of the ongoing sweep of God's story of salvation. Though we live in this world, we are part of that unseen Kingdom that is eternal.

We gather in the Eucharist as a community of faith, which transcends time and space: an eternal family whose life and joy is the result of placing God before all things. The Eucharist is a foretaste of the heavenly feast, but it is not the feast itself. We are called to persevere in the faith that will lead us to feast at God's table in the Kingdom that is coming.

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

[8 & 9:30 a.m. service]

**Prelude**

"It Is Enough" from Elijah  
Mike Cicchetti, soloist

Felix Mendelssohn

**Welcome**

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

[9:30 a.m. service]

**Processional Hymn 423**

Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise

*St. Denio*

*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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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

**Jeremiah 1:4-10**

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

The word of the Lord came to me saying,  
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew  
you, and before you were born I consecrated  
you; I appointed you a prophet to the  
nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do  
not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."  
But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am  
only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I  
send you, and you shall speak whatever I

command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I  
am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."  
Then the Lord put out his hand and touched  
my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I  
have put my words in your mouth. See, today  
I appoint you over nations and over  
kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to  
destroy and to overthrow, to build and to  
plant."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalm 71:1-6** (*read responsively by verse*)

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; \*  
let me never be ashamed.
- 2 **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; \*  
incline your ear to me and save me.**
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; \*  
you are my crag and my stronghold.
- 4 **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, \*  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
- 5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, \*  
my confidence since I was young.
- 6 **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; \*  
my praise shall be always of you.**

## The Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-29

*Reader* A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the

sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

[9:30 a.m. service]

**Sequence Hymn 368 vv. 1-2**

Holy Father, Great Creator

*Regent Square*

## The Gospel

Luke 12:49-56

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

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

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done;

come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ *The people sit.*

✠ *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: Form II**

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sean our Presiding Bishop and Rob our Bishop; for our companion parish in Cárdenas Cuba, and for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

***Silence***

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace. Peace in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan.

***Silence***

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

***Silence***

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

Pray that they may find and be found by God.

***Silence***

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

***Silence***

We remember Jerry Michaud in whose memory the flowers are given.

***Silence***

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

***Silence***

Today we pray for John, Janis and Sue.

We invite your prayers either silently or aloud.

***Silence***

***Presider***

God of mercy and kindness, hear the prayers we offer this day and continue the wonderful things that you have always done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Silence may be kept.*

## *Leader 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.**

## **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**

[8 am service]

**Offertory Anthem**

Be Still, My Soul  
Mike Cicchetti, soloist

*Finlandia*

[9:30 a.m. service]

**Offertory Anthem**

Fairest Lord Jesus  
Impromptu Choir

arr. Martin How

[9:30 a.m. service]

**Offertory Hymn 522**

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

*Austria*

[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 from the Iona Community in Scotland**

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Presider*

It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us,  
you made the world we inhabit,  
and before the world, you made the eternal home  
in which, through Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you;  
all that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment.

And grateful as we are for the world we know,  
and the universe beyond our ken,  
we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain,  
for coming down to earth and into time in Jesus.  
For his life which informs our living,  
for his compassion which changes our hearts,  
for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities,  
for his disturbing presence,  
his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness,  
we praise you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit,  
who even yet, even here, confronts us with your claims  
and attracts us to your goodness.

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



[9:30 a.m. service]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

*The Presider continues*

Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna,  
he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest.

Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people,  
welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host.

Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him.

Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the time when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith,  
for a better life, for a fairer world.

Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night on which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks,  
took a piece of bread and broke it.

He gave it to the disciples saying,

"This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said,  
"This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death.  
Drink this all of you, to remember me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine,  
the produce of the earth and the fruit of human labor.  
In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Presider*

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit  
to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.  
Let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world,  
until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

*All 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.*

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 699**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Aberystwyth

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

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

*Presider and People*

**In deep gratitude for this moment,  
this meal, and for each other,  
we give ourselves to you, most holy God.  
Take us out into the world  
to live as changed people  
because we have shared the Living Bread  
and cannot remain the same.  
Ask much of us,  
expect much from us,  
enable much by us,  
encourage many through us.  
May we dedicate our lives to your glory. Amen.**

## The Blessing

[9:30 a.m. service]

**Recessional Hymn 537**

Christ For the World We Sing!

*Moscow*

## The Dismissal

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

[9:30 a.m. service]

**Postlude**

Praeludium in D Major BuxWV 139

Dieterich Buxtehude

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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: Adam Peithmann

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

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

Lector at 9:30 a.m.: Danielle Larson Clark

Intercessor at 9:30 a.m.:

Eucharistic Minister at 8:00 a.m.: Jeannette McDonald

Eucharistic Ministers at 9:30 a.m.: Carol Allard, Judy Blaisdell

Welcome Team/Usher: Susan Dixon

Live Streaming Tech: Nick Castillo

Altar Guild: Cindy Eaton, Judy Blaisdell, Barbara McGrath

Flower Delivery: Patti Buck

Hospitality: Linzee Bagge

Altar Flowers: Given today in memory of Jerry Michaud by Jackie Vigeant

**From Your Treasurer:** As we look forward to the start of a new program year at Christ Church, now is a good time for those of you who have pledged to check the status of your pledge payments. Some of you make your payment in a lump sum, some by paper check in the collection plate, and others by regularly scheduled automatic payments from your bank account or credit card.

Some parishioners have had issues with their automatic payments being made as they expected, so I would especially suggest if you are one who makes automatic payments to check if they have been made as you intended. There are a number of you who had an early payment made in January and none since. Circumstances certainly can change that would lead to that and we respect that reality. But if you think payments have been made that actually stopped earlier this year now is the time to check! If you have any questions about what you have paid on your pledge, contact me either at church on Sunday or at [treasurer@christchurchexeter.org](mailto:treasurer@christchurchexeter.org). We are grateful for your

support of the growing ministry at Christ Church. -Dick Ingram

**ABOUT THE IONA COMMUNITY** and its Eucharistic prayer: The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community that is committed to seeking new ways of living the Gospel in today's world. Initially its purpose was expressed through the rebuilding of the monastic quarters of the medieval abbey on Iona, and pursued in mission and ministry throughout Scotland and beyond. The Community remains committed to rebuilding the common life through working for social and political change, striving for the renewal of the church with an ecumenical emphasis, and exploring new, more inclusive approaches to worship. This prayer is an expression of the community's mission.

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



**This week at Christ Church**  
**August 17-23**

Saturday	PSP Auditions 12:00 p.m.
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Lexi Meunier

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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.