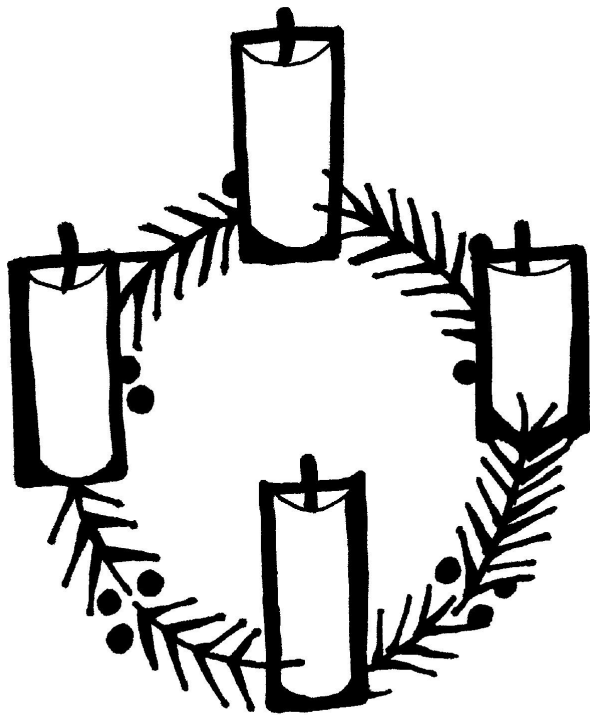


CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Christ Church: If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out a welcome card 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 and childcare are available during the 10:00 a.m. service today.

The Holy Eucharist

[8:00 & 10:00 a.m. service]

Prelude

I Wonder as I Wander arr. John J. Niles/Lewis H. Horton
Christina DeMaio, soloist

Welcome

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

[10:00 a.m. service]

Processional Hymn 68

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Llangloffan

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.**

[10:00 service] **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. There is a tradition that each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE.

From the prophet Isaiah we hear:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

The candle is lit.

Leader: God of time, who gave us seasons by which we see the beauty of your creation: As we enter the longest nights of the year, show us the eternal light that shines in your presence, that we may wait with excitement and anticipation for the second coming of your Son, our savior Jesus Christ.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

✠ *The people sit.*

The First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For

out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122 *(read responsively by verse)*

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

2 **Now our feet are standing ***
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

**4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.**

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

**6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.**

7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

**8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.**

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

The Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us

live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 a.m. service]

Sequence Hymn 601 vv. 1-2

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

St. Michael

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

Believers in Christ, may God strengthen our hearts in faith. Trusting in God, let us pray, "O come, o come, Emmanuel; be our hope and our salvation."

God our hope, increase in us love for one another that we may abound in your love. Keep your Church on the path of love and faithfulness. We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Rob our Bishop, our clergy and lay leaders, and the people of our companion parish in Cárdenas, Cuba.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety. May peace come to Ukraine and Sudan.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see you, the wisdom to prepare for you, and the faith to trust in you.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of our nation together in a spirit of love and respect.

We invite your thanksgivings.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving.

We offer prayers for Kathy, Cara, Rick, Sue

Please add names either silently or aloud for those for whom you are praying:

Silence

For safe travel for all those visiting family and friends this week.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, may we meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

We remember those who have died.

We remember Joe DiPalermo in whose memory the flowers are given.

We also remember Tom Kelsey, who was buried from this church yesterday.

We also remember Marion Vanderslice who died this week.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

Presider: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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

[8:00 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.**

[8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. service]

Offertory Music

In the Bleak Midwinter
Christina DeMaio, soloist

Harold Darke

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

[8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. service]

Offertory Hymn 74

Blest Be the King Whose Coming

Valet will ich dir geben

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B Pg. 367

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 him 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. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin

and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 S-128**

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

Setting: William Matthias (b. 1934)

The Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 for 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, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the church, and the author of our salvation.

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

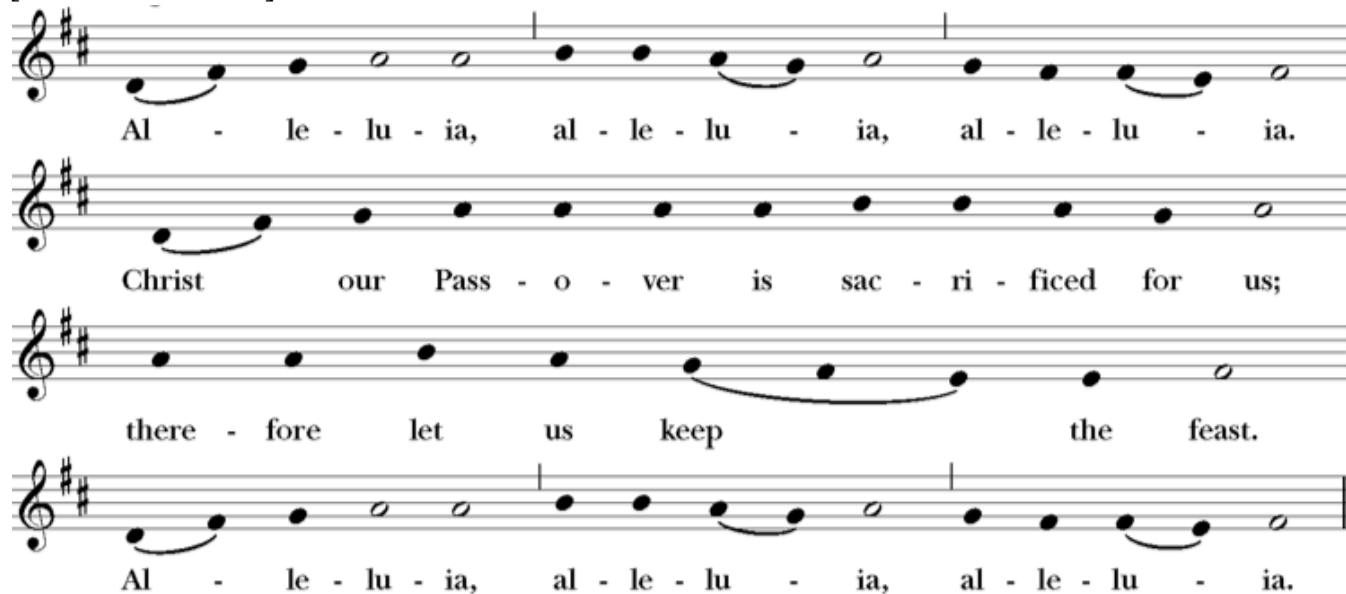
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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]

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

[10:00 a.m. service] **Fraction Anthem S-154**



Music: David Hurd, "New Plainsong"

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.

[10:00 a.m. service]

Communion Hymn 613

Thy Kingdom Come, O God

St. Cecilia

Post-Communion Prayer

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

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

[8:00 & 10:00 a.m. service]

Recessional Hymn 57

Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Allegro from Concerto del Signor Albinoni Johann Gottfried Walther

*The worship is over * The service begins*

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Preacher: The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Presider: The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Organist: Adam Peithmann

Lector at 8:00 a.m.:

Intercessor at 8:00 a.m.: Becky Moore

Lector at 10:00 a.m.: Dale Cavanaugh

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

Eucharistic Minister at 8:00 a.m.: Sue Ingram

Eucharistic Ministers at 10:00 a.m.: Carol Allard, Nancy Fleming

Welcome Team/Usher: Wendy MacArthur-Keith

Live Streaming Tech: Paul Wainwright

Altar Guild: Jeannette McDonald, Barb McGrath, Carla Ranks

Flower Delivery: Juliette Gavin

Hospitality: Jen Murray, Kim Billings

Altar Flowers: Given to the glory of God and in memory of Joe DiPalermo by Diane, Dominic, and Alyssa.

PLEDGE CARDS for 2026 are available in the Narthex entry hall. Our goal in 2026 is to exceed \$400,000 in pledged giving. In 2025 we received pledges of \$392,667 from 144 households.

Christmas Baskets, Gifts and Clothing: For many years Christ Church parishioners have made Christmas dinner baskets and provided gifts for families in need. This year there are 30 families hoping for assistance during the holidays. These are our neighbors in the Exeter area who would not have Christmas without our support. This year again we are asking any interested households to sign up through the Enews.

Both links will have all the information you need to provide all the necessary ingredients for a meal as well as the gifts and clothing requested. This ministry helps so many children and families and our community is made brighter by the continued generosity shown by members of Christ Church. This year we are asking that NO GIFT CARDS be purchased for dinner baskets or gifts.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals will begin next Sunday, December 7 following the 10 a.m. service. If you haven't already signed your child up, please get in touch with Rev. Nicole at nbenevenia@christchurchexeter.org

Taize Prayer for Advent: Join us in the chapel on Tuesdays at noon for a Taize-inspired service during Advent. These offerings will be about half an hour, and will include scripture, chant, reflection, and prayer. Come for bible study and stay for the service - or feel free to just come for the service. Services will be offered on December 2, 9, and 16th. You can read more about the Taize community in France [here](#). Questions? Email Robin Yergeau at ryerg03@gmail.com

Sing with the Christ Church choir on **Christmas Eve** at 7:30 PM for a 30-minute musical prelude, followed by our Candlelight Service at 8:00 PM. Experience a beautiful blend of traditional carols and contemporary arrangements, culminating in a moving candlelit anthem. All are welcome to sing. Rehearsal Schedule:

Wednesday, December 3 | 7:00 to 8:15 PM
Wednesday, December 10 | 7:00 to 8:15 PM
Wednesday, December 17 | 7:00 to 8:15 PM
Wednesday, December 24 | 6:00 to 7:00 PM
(Prelude begins at 7:30 PM; Service at 8:00 PM)

If you would like to participate, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Adam Peithmann, Director of Music and Organist, by Monday, December 1. Email him at apeithmann@christchurchexeter.org or speak with him after worship.

Christmas Concert at Christ Church Sunday December 7th at 3:00 PM

The Rockingham Choral Society will perform a Christmas Concert featuring John Rutter's "Gloria", a sacred choral work for choir, brass, percussion and organ. The 100 member chorus will be accompanied by the Portsmouth Symphony Brass Quintet and Christ Church organist Adam Peithmann. Also featured is a RCS-commissioned version of O Come, O Come Emmanuel by Joseph Eckman and works by Eric Whiteacre, Dan Forrest and Jonathan Reid. This concert is dedicated to the memory of Joe DiPalermo, a member of Christ Church and the choral society. The Rockingham Choral Society is under the direction of Jason Throne and will also perform this concert program at 3PM on Saturday December 6th at the Exeter High School auditorium. Tickets will be available online at www.rockinghamchoral.org. Seating at Christ Church is limited so advance tickets are advised. Some tickets may be available at the door at Christ Church and many tickets will be available at the door at the Exeter High School concert.

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



**This week at Christ Church
November 30- December 6**

Sunday	PSP Rehearsal 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Bible Study 11:00 a.m. PSP Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	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

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VESTRY FOR 2025

Senior Warden

Patricia Gianotti

Junior Warden

Judy Blaisdell

Treasurer

Richard Ingram

Clerk

John Cofer

Scott Anders

Susan Dixon

Elizabeth Bauman

Blake Carrico

John Woodard

Cindy Eaton

Juliette Gavin

Alice Bentley

Athens Pullias, Jr.