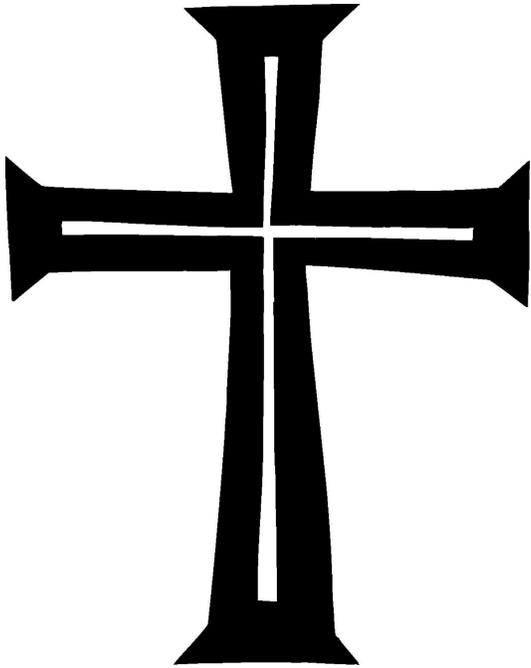


CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Presider and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Presider says

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

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

[10:00 a.m. service] **S102 - Trisagion**

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a half note 'Ho' on G4, followed by a dotted half note 'ly' on G4, and a quarter note 'God,' on G4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The second system also has two staves. The vocal line begins with a half note 'Ho' on G4, followed by a dotted half note 'ly' on G4, and a quarter note 'Im - mor - tal' on G4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line, ending with a double bar line.

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

Music: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A700244

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

✠ *The people sit.*

The First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of

the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Romans 5:12-19

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought

condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 a.m. service]

The Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will

command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

God formed us from the dust of our being. Let us pray for all created matter and for all human beings made in the image of God, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the one, holy, and universal church throughout the world, sharing in and witnessing to the death and resurrection of Christ. For our Presiding Bishop Sean and our Bishop Rob.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all the peoples of the earth who desire to live in peace and freedom. Let us not forget those parts of our world struggling under the weight of oppression, war and poverty: Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and Cuba.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all who are tempted, oppressed, afflicted, or in need.

Silence

In our ongoing intercessions, we pray for: Liz, Bob, Alan, John, Carol & Casey, Rick, Sue, Miles, Steve

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

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For the dying and the dead.

Silence

We remember Jean Pope, who died last Saturday and was buried from this church yesterday.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For our families, friends, and companions, and for all those we love. For those who see us as enemies.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Presider concludes with a collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Announcements

The Holy Communion

[10:00 a.m. service]

Offertory Hymn 147

Now Let Us All with One Accord

Bourbon

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

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

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

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

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A (*the Alleluia is omitted during Lent*)

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

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

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

[10:00 a.m. service] S-130 Holy, holy, holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

The first system of the hymn consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

The second system continues the melody. It features a long note with a fermata over the word "might," in the upper staff. The lower staff continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

The third system continues the melody. It features a long note with a fermata over the word "might," in the upper staff. The lower staff continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The fourth system continues the melody. It features a long note with a fermata over the word "full," in the upper staff. The lower staff continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

The fifth system concludes the hymn. It features a long note with a fermata over the word "san - na" in the upper staff. The lower staff continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Franz Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx . All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A700244.

The Presider continues

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

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

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given to you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

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

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

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

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

People and Presider

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

The Breaking of the Bread

✠ *A period of silence is kept.*

[8:00 a.m. service]

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

People **Have mercy on us.**

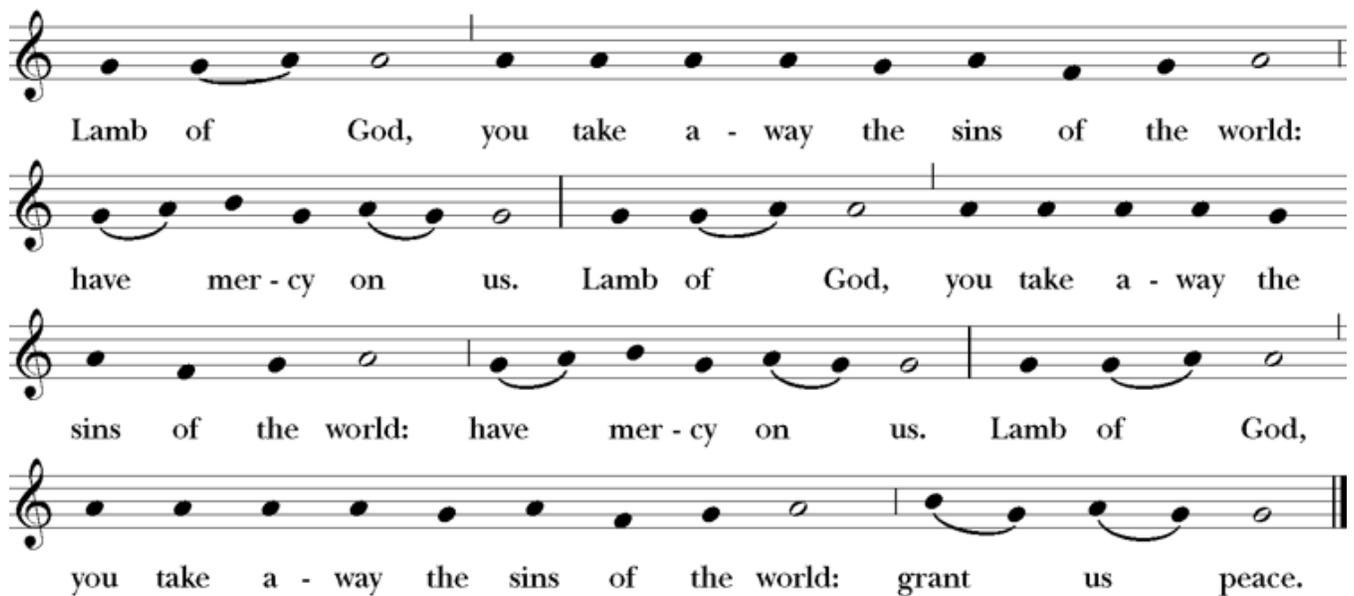
Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People **Have mercy on us.**

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

People **Grant us peace.**

[10:00 a.m. service] **S-160 Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God** – Sung by all



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

Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens. Reprinted under OneLicense A700244.

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.

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 321

My God, Thy Table Now is Spread

Rockingham

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

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[10:00 a.m. service]

Recessional Hymn 142 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

The Dismissal

Priest Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 a.m. service]

Postlude

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

arr. Fela Sowande

*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.: Fran Hall

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

Lector at 10:00 a.m.: Katie Simon

Intercessor at 10:00 a.m.: Lucia Savage

Eucharistic Minister at 8:00 a.m.: Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh

Eucharistic Ministers at 10:00 a.m.: Judy Blaisdell, Carol Allard

Welcome Team/Usher: Elaine Portalupi

Live Streaming Tech: Nick Castillo

Altar Guild: Diane DiPalermo, Danielle Larson Clark, Cindy Eaton

Flower Delivery: Patti Buck

Hospitality: Linzee Coleman Bagge, Liz Bauman

Lent 2026: Formation, Prayer, and Reflection

Bible Study with Lent for Everyone

Join us on Tuesdays at 11 AM in the Dodd Room for Bible Study. During Lent, we'll be using the daily devotional *Lent for Everyone*. Best-selling and beloved author N. T. Wright encourages readers to think and pray through the stories of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection throughout Lent. This year, we'll be focusing on the psalms for each Sunday of Lent. You may pick up a copy of the book in the main office to use the book daily, or simply show up to bible study and join in the conversation about the following Sunday's psalm reading.

Noonday Prayer

Join us on Tuesdays at noon in the Chapel for Noonday Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. This service is brief, with readings from the psalms and time for intercessions. We will begin immediately following bible study; feel free to join for just the service, or bible study beforehand too.

Morning Prayer Online

A zoom-based group is gathering for Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Please reach out to Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh at 508-783-7798 or dcavanau@bu.edu if you'd like to join in, or if you would like more information.

Devotional Resources

And Also With You: A podcast about reclaiming an ancient Christian faith for modern Christian life from the perspective of two Episcopal priests. Their current series delves into the Nicene Creed. Available on Apple Podcasts

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/and-also-with-you/id1706914579> and here <https://andalsowithyou.simplecast.com/>

Revved Up for Sunday: A lectionary-based podcast out of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in New Canaan, CT. Available on Apple Podcasts

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/revd-up-for-sunday/id1586634584> or on the church’s website <https://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org/podcasts-sermons/>

The Society of Saint John the Evangelist provides daily reflections via email year-round. Sign up on their website: <https://www.ssje.org/word/>

Weekly Vigils at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter: The FUUSE Social Justice Action Committee will be hosting vigils every Sunday evening at 5 pm, outside our sanctuary facing Elm Street. The vigils will involve silence, singing, and sharing of our feelings about current events. We welcome members of the wider Exeter community to join us to find spiritual sustenance and solidarity. Questions? Contact Bob, bmoore628@comcast.net or Skip, fberrien@gmail.com

**This week at Christ Church
February 22-28**

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday | PSP Rehearsal 1:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday | Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Noonday Prayer 12:00 p.m. PSP Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | Zoom Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m. PSP Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. |

Beware of Phone and Email Scams: Sadly, a reality today are church email scams, or "pastor phishing." They impersonate clergy via email or text. Common tactics include urgent, secretive requests for gift cards (iTunes, Amazon). They often use generic greetings, display incorrect email addresses, or create false scenarios like "being in a meeting." We were hit by such a scam last week, and many church members received a message that looked like it was from Rev. Mark, but it was not. Please know that the clergy (or other staff) would never send a private message via email or text asking you to purchase something or donate money. Any legitimate opportunities we offer to donate or participate in a drive will be publicly announced in the bulletin, enews, or during announcements. If you do receive such a text or email, you can always email Rev. Mark to confirm at mpendleton@christchurchexeter.org to verify or call the church at 603 772-3332.

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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Lexi Meunier

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SEXTON

Nick Castillo

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VESTRY FOR 2026

Senior Warden

Patricia Gianotti

Junior Warden

Jennifer Murray

Treasurer

Richard Ingram

Clerk

Susan Dixon

Scott Anders

Elizabeth Bauman

Kate Mignone

Blake Carrico

Cindy Eaton

Matthew Rigatti

Juliette Gavin

Athens Pullias, Jr.

Laura Tetrault