

CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live

joyfully in faith

Connect

with God and one another

Serve

the local and global community

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Paul Manz

Welcome

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

[9:30 a.m. service]

Processional Hymn 440

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Liebster Jesu

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.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ 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

Isaiah 55:10-13

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me

empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead

of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead
of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it

shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an
everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65:9-14 (*read responsively by verse*)

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

The Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind

on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

✠ *The people stand as they are able.*

[9:30 a.m. service]

Sequence Hymn 627 vv. 1-2 Lamp of our feet, whereby we trace

Nun danket all

The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears

the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ *The people sit.*

Sermon

The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

✠ *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.

The Prayers of the People: Form III in the Book of Common Prayer

Intercessor: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for Allison, Bruce, Colleen, Susan, Phill, David, Diane, Steve.

We remember those for whom you are praying, either silently or aloud.

Silence

We pray for the repose of the soul of Sue Ingram who died on Thursday. We pray for Dick and the entire Ingram family.

We remember Edgar E. Vigeant in whose memory the flowers are given.

Silence

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

Presider

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

[8:00 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 offering is brought forward.*

[9:30 a.m. service]

Offertory Anthem

Alleluia
Impromptu Choir

William Boyce/arr. A. Bullard

[9:30 a.m. service]

Offertory Hymn 707

Take my life, and let it be

Hollingside

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.

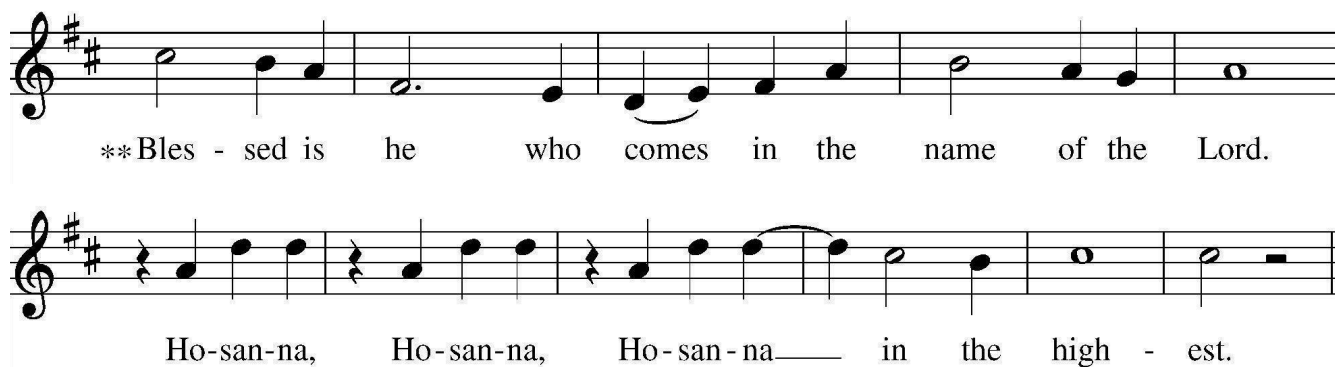
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

[9:30 a.m. service]

Wonder, Love, and Praise #859 - Holy, holy, holy Lord

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a whole note G4, then a half note A4, and a half note B4. The lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord," are aligned under these notes. The second staff begins with a half note G4, a half note A4, a half note B4, and a half note C5. The lyrics "God of power and might," are aligned under these notes. This is followed by a double bar line with a repeat sign. The third staff begins with a half note G4, a half note A4, a half note B4, and a half note C5. The lyrics "hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry." are aligned under these notes. The fourth staff begins with a half note G4, a half note A4, a half note B4, and a half note C5. The lyrics "Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na" are aligned under these notes. This is followed by a half note D5, a half note E5, and a half note F#5. The lyrics "in the high - est." are aligned under these notes. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and bar lines.



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✠ *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.*

[8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. service]

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Instructions Concerning Communion & 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. Return to your seat using the outside aisles of those sections. Those seated in the center sections, please come forward beginning with the front 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 593

Lord, make us servants of your peace

Dickinson College

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 302 Father, we thank thee who hast planted

Rendez a Dieu

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[9:30 a.m. service]

Postlude

Fanfare on an Original Theme

Gilbert M. Martin

*The worship is over * The service begins*

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Presider: The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Preacher: The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Organist: Adam Peithmann

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

Intercessor at 8:00 a.m.: Deidre O'Byrne

Eucharistic Minister at 8:00 a.m.: Cary Einhaus

Lector at 9:30 a.m.: Phil Clinton
Intercessor at 9:30 a.m.: Nancy Fleming
Eucharistic Ministers at 9:30 a.m.: Jeannette McDonald, Carol Allard

Welcome Team/Ushers: Susan Dixon
Live Streaming Tech: Paul Wainwright
Altar Guild: Judy Blaisdell, Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh, Diane DiPalermo
Flower Delivery: Carol Allard
Hospitality: Jen Murray, Kim Billings
Altar Flowers: Given in memory of Edgar E. Vigeant by the family.

No experience, no special rehearsal, no problem! Our **Impromptu choirs** are open to anyone who loves to make a joyful noise. Simply show up at 9 am on the Sundays listed below and help us fill the sanctuary with joyful song. The next date is **August 2**.

The next **Labyrinth Walk** will be Sunday, July 19 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

The Sunday morning book group will meet after the 9:30 am service once a month in July and August. In the coming weeks, we will be reading [*Wholehearted Faith*](#) by Rachel Held Evans. Our next meeting to share our thoughts and inspirations will be **today, after the 9:30 am service**, under the trees between the Memorial Garden and the Labyrinth. Please bring your own chairs if the weather allows us to meet outside.

Zoom Morning Prayer and Compline: A gathering of Christ Church Exeter members has continued to meet for 9 am Morning Prayer and 8 pm Compline on Wednesdays throughout the Season of Pentecost. If you are interested in learning more, being formed, and experiencing this ancient Christian practice, please reach out to Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh at 508-783-7798 or email her at dale.cavanaugh@yahoo.com. **There will be no Morning Prayer or Compline on Wednesday, July 15th, due to travel plans, but Zoom Morning Prayer and Compline will resume on Wednesday, July 22nd.**

Christ Church hosts a participant-run **Grief Support Group** on the second Monday of every month. The group meets from 2-3:30 p.m. in Room #4 of the Harris Building. The group welcomes those interested in exploring their grieving process in a supportive environment. Sessions are free. No registration is needed and participants are not expected to make an ongoing commitment to attend. For further information, contact Christ Church parishioner Becky Moore, 603-778-8312.

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



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 2026

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Treasurer

Clerk

Patricia Gianotti

Jennifer Murray

Richard Ingram

Susan Dixon

Scott Anders

Blake Carrico

Juliette Gavin

Elizabeth Bauman

Athens Pullias, Jr

Kate Mignone

Matthew Rigatti

Laura Tetrault