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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August 22, 2021

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 and 9:30 am

[www.christchurchexeter.o](http://www.christchurchexeter.org)rg

**Reflections on Today’s Readings**

The teaching of Jesus which caused the greatest offense to his disciples was his discourse on himself as the bread of life. When he extended that beyond a spiritual feeding to a sacramental feeding, “My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed,” many of his followers left him. The inner group, “the Twelve,” were also disturbed, but through Peter they reaffirmed their faith.

The first reading today is the account of Israel’s reaffirmation of their covenant with God,

originally made at Mount Sinai. The people are called to an unswerving commitment to God

alone.

We complete our reading of the Epistle to the Ephesians today. Paul calls on us to find our

strength in God to stand up against the powers that oppose God’s will and plan. We are to live in

that strength and to persevere in prayer for all people.

We are called to be a people who belong to Christ. This call is often in direct conflict with our

own wishes, habits, or opinions. We gather in liturgy as more than passive hearers and observers. We gather to enter into an encounter with God in Christ, which will remake us as people of God’s Kingdom.

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. Welcome bags available in the narthex entrance hall.

**Guidelines for Gathering Indoors:**  Because New Hampshire (and Rockingham County) has entered the "substantial spread" category of Covid-19 infection, we are encouraging a change in our policy to that of **"Masks Strongly Recommended"** for those worshipping indoors on Sunday mornings and using our buildings. As a community called to love one another as Christ loves us, wearing masks indoors is a proven way to reduce the spread of Covid-19, even for the vaccinated, especially the highly contagious Delta variant spreading. We encourage all those who can to get vaccinated.

We offer wine in the common cup. Intinction -- dipping the wafer into the wine -- will not

yet be offered. It should be understood that communion in one kind (bread/wafer only) is entirely

appropriate and sufficient to experience the Real Presence of our Risen Lord. We want to foster a church culture where people are comfortable crossing their arms on their chests as the wine is

distributed, for any reason.

**An Alms Basin (offertory plate)** will be placed near the baptismal font each Sunday and brought forward during the offertory just before the Eucharistic Prayer begins. For now, we are foregoing the practice of “passing the plate.” Offertory envelopes are available in the entranceway Narthex.

**August 22-28 A Thought to Focus our Day**: God wants us to pray and will tell us how to begin where we are. *The Cloud of Unknowing*

[9:30 service] **Prelude** *Prelude on “Old Hundredth”* Johann Pachelbel

 *Introduction and Variation on “Old Hundredth”* John Zundel

**Welcome**  Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer

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

[9:30 service] **Hymn 432** O praise ye the Lord! *Laudate Dominum*

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

*People* **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. 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 First Reading Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18**

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 34:15-22** (page 628 in the Book of Common Prayer) *(read responsively by verse)*

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, \*

 and his ears are open to their cry.

**16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, \***

 **to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.**

17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them \*

 and delivers them from all their troubles.

**18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted \***

 **and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, \*

 but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.

**20 He will keep safe all his bones; \***

 **not one of them shall be broken.**

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, \*

 and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, \***

 **and none will be punished who trust in him.**

**The Second Reading Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Reader* A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet, put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn 380 vv. 1-2** From all that dwell below the skies *Old 100th*

**The Gospel John 6:56-59**

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

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

Jesus said, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord

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

**Sermon** The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton

✠ *A brief period of silence follows the sermon.*

## The Nicene Creed *(said together)* Page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer

**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**

We come to you, trusting that our prayers will be heard. So, we pray,

O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For your church in our neighborhoods and around the world, may w e work toward unity and pray with one heart and one voice. We pray for wisdom for our leaders; for the president, the Congress, and the courts.

 O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We come to you with thankful hearts, thankful for friends, family, and food; thankful for work, play and peace. Let us never forget those who are alone, hungry, out of work, and living in violent situations.

O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We come to you trusting in your care and claiming the promise of your presence. We pray for healing for those who are in special need today:

O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We come to you for forgiveness—for paying more attention to our own needs than the needs of others, for listening more to our own voice than we listen to yours, and for all the ways we put up barriers between your love and our lives.

O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We come to you as disciples. May your love be known in the words we say and the lives we live.

O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We come to you on behalf of all who are in need of healing and peace.

 We name them now: Lee, Pat, Alice, Tommy, Judy

We give thanks for those in our community who provide care and comfort through long days and nights of pain. Make your presence known to those who are broken, lost, or grieving, and bring them the peace they seek.

O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We come to you for hope, bringing before you those we love and see no longer. We rejoice that they now are free from all pain and delight in the never-ending life that awaits us.

O God of abundant mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*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**

*The Presider or Assistant says* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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**

✠ *The people stand as they are able. Bow or gesture to those outside of your household or community.*

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**The Holy Communion**

[9:30 service] **Offertory Music** *Precious Lord, take my hand* Thomas A. Dorsey

 Burt Dibble, bass-baritone

*The Alms Basin is brought forward to the Altar in thanksgiving for the blessings given to us all.*

**The Great Thanksgiving from the Iona Community**

*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 fulfilment.

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 gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven: (Said at 8:00, sung at 9:30)

*Presider and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**S 129 Sanctus**

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*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**

✠ *The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.* *A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider* Alleluia*.* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Invitation to Communion**

*Communion is distributed to those gathered*

**Instructions for Receiving Communion**

*You are invited to receive Holy Communion. As you approach the altar from the center aisle (side sections going first), please go to the first available place at the altar rail farthest from the center. You may stand or kneel. Please leave space at the rail between households.*

*The bread is received in the open palm. You may also take a sip of the wine -- please no intinction.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the priest at the communion rail to receive.*

*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.*

[9:30 service] **Music at Communion**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

All **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 service] **Hymn 420 vv. 1, 3, 5**  When in our music God is glorified*Engelberg*

**The Dismissal**

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

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

[9:30 service] **Postlude**  *Festival Postlude on “Old Hundredth”*  Clarence Eddy

*The worship is over* ✠ *The service begins*

**Participating in Today’s Liturgy: (9:30 am)**

*Presider*/*Preacher:*  The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton

*Lector:* Lee Woodworth (8:00); (reader) (9:30)

*Welcome Team/Usher*: Carol Waters

*Director of Music*: Maggie O’Neill

*Organist*: Bruce Adami

*Live Streaming Tech*: Joe DiPalermo

*Flower Delivery:*  Patti Buck

*Altar Flowers given*:

**This week at Christ Church**

**August 22-28**

|  |  |
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| Wednesday | Oasis Sisters Women’s Group 10:30 am  |

**The Rector** Mark will be away on vacation from August 23-29.

**Prayer Concerns:** If you wish for continued prayer, please notify the church office. (Names are updated monthly)

**The Healing team** is available to offer healing prayers during the Eucharist, 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.

**Choir is coming back to Christ Church:** Start warming up your voices! The Christ Church Choir will resume rehearsals and regular Sunday services this fall, beginning on September 12 for our Kickoff Sunday. We will offer two rehearsal times: Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm, and Sundays from 11:15-12:30. The choir sings at the 10:00 am service most Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day, with special offerings on Christmas Eve and Good Friday. We will provide singers’ masks for the safety of all. Music reading is not required, but singing experience is helpful. Email Director of Music, Maggie O’Neill at choircccexeter@gmail.com with inquiries. Join us for our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 8, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary!

**Join our Faithlife Online Community** and stay connected: Get started today by visiting Faithlife.com with your PC or Mac by creating an account with your email. It will invite you to find the Christ Church Exeter group. You can also download a free app for your phone. Faithlife is a way for you to stay up-to-date on upcoming parish events, learn more about opportunities to serve, share prayer requests, deepen your faith and connect in small groups. You control how often you receive notices and updates.

**A Note on Privacy and Live Streaming:**

Now that we have begun to live stream the main service on our YouTube channel, our practice is to not video worshippers during the distribution of communion. The camera is reset to the cross over the altar.. The camera can pick up the backs of the heads of those in the front pews, and at times those in the side pews. If you do not want to be seen by the camera, please sit in any of the five (5) center back pews. The aim of our live streaming is to focus on the altar and the lectern and not to broadcast who is coming to church.

**ABOUT THE IONA COMMUNITY:** 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 mediaeval abbey on Iona, and pursued in mission and ministry throughout Scotland and beyond.

# CHRIST CHURCH

43 Pine St., Exeter, NH 03833

*Phone:* (603) 772-3332 *E-mail:* office@christchurchexeter.org

***Office Hours:*** Mon, Tue, Thur 9 am - 12 Noon, Weds 9 am - 4 pm OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

**Rector** Ext. 12

The Rev. Mark B. Pendletonmpendleton@christchurchexeter.org

**Priest Assoc. for Pastoral care** Ext. 11

The Rev. David D. Holroyd dholroyd@christchurchexeter.org

**Director of Music** Ext. 15

Maggie O’Neill moneill@christchurchexeter.org

**Organist** Ext. 15

Bruce Adami bruce@christchurchexeter.org

**Administrative assistant** Ext. 11

Darla Watt office@christchurchexeter.org

**Bookkeeper**

Normand Tremblay

 **Vestry**

 Senior Warden Patricia Gianotti

 Junior Warden John Gilbert Treasurer Lucia Savage

 Clerk Suzanne Fong

 Deb Fournier Barbara Beardsley Lauri Ayers

 Jeff Neil Shannon Hays Gordon Rehnborg

 Christopher Sera Richard Ingram John Cofer