

CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

September 5, 2021
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 and 9:30 am
www.christchurchexeter.org

Reflections on Today's Readings

The Gospel reading today contains two healing stories among non-Jews. In the first Jesus astounds the disciples by healing the daughter of a Gentile woman, an act unheard of in his day. Then he heals a man who is deaf and mute. In Mark's Gospel these healings, like the others he describes, are a sign that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus' attempt to prevent the healing being made known, and the crowd's amazement at this event, is a characteristic of Mark's Gospel. Also characteristic of Mark is that the people healed are in every case people who were rejected by traditional religious leaders.

The Old Testament reading is chosen because in it Isaiah foresees the coming of the Messiah characterized by healing and new life.

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 have changed 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 communion in one kind. It should be understood that communion in one kind (bread/wafer only) is sufficient to experience the Real Presence of our Risen Lord.

A Thought to Focus our Day: Life passes, riches fly away, popularity is fickle, the senses decay, the world changes. One alone is true to us; One alone can be all things to us; One alone can supply our need.

John Henry Newman

[9:30 service] **Prelude** *Mass for the Parishes (Plein Chant/Et in Terra Pax/Fugue/Duo)*

François Couperin

Welcome Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer

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

[9:30 service] **Hymn 423**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

St. Denio

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146 (page 803 in the Book of Common Prayer) *(read responsively by verse)*

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! *

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.**

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

**6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.**

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

**8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Reader A Reading from the Letter of James

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus

Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor

person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked

over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 574, vv. 1-2

Before thy throne, O God, we kneel

St. Petersburg

The Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

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

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

This week as our nation commemorates the 20th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. We also mark the end of the war in Afghanistan. Let us take a moment of silence to pray for victims of violence, terrorism and war around the world, and for their families, that they may find comfort and peace.

Silence

We pray for the safety of our service men and women, for civil servants who protect us and keep us safe.

Silence

God of mercy, we are humbled by the good you can do through us when we give ourselves over to you. Keep us close to you that we may be unafraid to speak your truth. Make your church quick to listen for your voice as we move forward as doers of the word. We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for those who support your mission of mercy in the world; those who teach; and those who take your word into their hearts.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

We are living on a vast and diverse planet. Guide those who guide others, that they may genuinely be concerned about the welfare of their people. Open our ears to the cries of your people who suffer in dark corners of this world, and open our hands to reach out to them with generous spirits.

Pray for the world.

Silence

We are burdened by illnesses, anxieties, addictions, and broken relationships. Cover us with your grace and compassion. Drive far from us the fear which keeps us from trusting your goodness.

Pray for those who are suffering and in need of healing.

We name them now: Frank, David, Lee, Pat, Alice, Judy, Karen, Nesta

Silence

We remember those impacted by the hurricane in Louisiana.

We are grieved by the loss of those who have died. Give us confidence in your promise of endless life with you, surrounded by your glory and accompanied by your saints and angels.

Pray for those who have died. For Tommy Temple, father of Kim McCarty.

Silence

We remember those for whom altar flowers are given: Edgar E Vigeant & Jeanne d'Arc Vigeant

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.**

Announcements:

Blessing of Backpacks (Virtual and In-Person)

O God, today we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. These are days filled with joy and excitement as well as uncertainty and wonder. God of knowledge and wisdom, we pray to you for all schools that they may be lively centers for learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of goodness. We pray also for our places of work, that our time laboring may be fruitful and enriching. We pray for the safety of students, teachers and administrators.

As students begin the year, give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to experience more fully the majesty of the world you have created. May this year be full of promise for them, and for their teachers, as together they experience new beginnings and fresh starts. Enable them to grow in knowledge and wisdom during this school year and all the days of their lives.

Now O God, bless the backpacks of the students who carry them. May they be a sign that the students have everything they need to learn and grow this year.. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. *Amen.*

Birthday Prayer for September

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace, which passes understanding, abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

[9:30 service] **Offertory Music**

Mass for the Parishes (Récit de Cornet)

Couperin

Alms Basins (offertory plates) are 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.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven 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.

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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 center aisle to receive standing. The bread is received in the open palm. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the priest at the communion rail to receive.

Please take the wafer back to your pew and consume it then. (We thus avoid multiple persons removing their masks in the same location).

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 344**

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Sicilian

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[9:30 service] **Postlude**

Mass for the Parishes (Dialogue)

Couperin

The worship is over ✠ The service begins

Participating in Today's Liturgy: (9:30 am)

Presider and Preacher: The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton

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

Welcome Team/Usher: Jeff Neil

Director of Music: Maggie O'Neill

Organist: Bruce Adami

Live Streaming Tech: Leslie Pendleton

Flower Delivery: Elaine Wiltamuth

Altar Flowers given: in memory of Edgar E Vigeant & Jeanne d'Arc Vigeant

**This week at Christ Church
September 5 - 11**

Sunday	PSP Dance Call & Auditions Fall Show 1:00 p.m.
Monday	OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday	Bible Study at 11:00 a.m. - zoom
Wednesday	Choir Practice 6:45 p.m.
Saturday	Men's Group 8:00 a.m. Meets outdoors in the Courtyard. Bring lawn chairs.

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.

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.

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!

The Oasis Sisters are a group of women who began meeting in October 2019 in person and continued to meet via Zoom throughout the pandemic. We have grown closer through the sharing of current life experiences, prayer concerns, praises and studying the word of God. Our meetings are on Wednesdays from 10:30 am until 12 noon. We currently meet in person on the first Wednesday of each month in the Dodd Room and the remainder of the month we meet via Zoom. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Kim Storms at 817-905-8987 or stormspk84@gmail.com.

CHRIST CHURCH

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