

CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

September 19, 2021
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 and 10:00 am
www.christchurchexeter.org

Reflections on Today's Readings

In today's Gospel reading Jesus again predicts his death and resurrection. The disciples fail to understand and dispute among themselves which of them is the most important. Jesus tells them that the highest status in his Kingdom is reserved for those who serve. This is a call to pattern our lives on his life in self-giving love.

In the first reading, the prophet speaks of the opposition he faces from those who reject his message. They plot his death and he describes their plots in ways that reminded the first Christians of the rejection of Jesus that led to his death.

Again we read from the Epistle of James. After describing the characteristics of those who are at peace with God, the author states that strife, jealousy, and estrangement are the products of allying ourselves with the world rather than with God.

When the Church gathers to worship, it acts out its allegiance to God and its service to the world. In the action of the liturgy we express our service to each other. That liturgical action is the pattern for our daily living as God's friends and as fellow servants with Christ to all people. The liturgy, then, is extended beyond the doors of the church building into all of 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) is in the "substantial spread" category of Covid-19 infection, we have changed our policy to that of "**Masks Required**" for those worshipping indoors on Sunday mornings and using our buildings. Wearing masks indoors is a proven way to reduce the spread of Covid-19, even for the vaccinated. We encourage all those who can to get vaccinated.

We offer 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: "If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice." St. John Chrysostom (d. 407)

[10:00 service] **Prelude**

Fugue in D major

Max Reger

Welcome

Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer

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

[10:00 service] **Hymn 390, vv. 1, 2, 4**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herren

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, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Reader A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living,

so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 54 (page 659 in the Book of Common Prayer) *(read responsively by verse)*

- 1 Save me, O God, by your Name; *
in your might, defend my cause.
- 2 **Hear my prayer, O God; *
give ear to the words of my mouth.**
- 3 For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, *
those who have no regard for God.
- 4 **Behold, God is my helper; *
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**
- 5 Render evil to those who spy on me; *
in your faithfulness, destroy them.
- 6 **I will offer you a free will sacrifice *
and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is good.**
- 7 For you have rescued me from every trouble, *
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

The Second Reading

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Reader A Reading from the Letter of James

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does

not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to

yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain

it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

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

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

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had

argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

The Rev. Melissa Remington

✠ *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 look to you, O God, to teach us how to be whom you created us to be. Shine your light on the path ahead. Catch us when we take a wrong turn, and by your Spirit, move us in the right direction. We are your children;

Teach us how to live, O God.

We yearn for peace but are constantly at war with ourselves, our neighbors, and the nations throughout the world.

We pray for our companion parish in Cardenas, Cuba as they pray for us. Help them during this extended period of pandemic, unrest and isolation. We are your children;

Teach us how to make peace, O God.

We, your church, are easily distracted by things that don't matter. Turn our eyes to you; open our hearts to you; deepen our love of you. Bless our bishops, priests, and deacons. May we teach each other how to walk in love. We are your children;

Teach us how to serve you, O God.

Our spirits are restless and our minds grow weary with constant worry. Lead us to a place of wholeness and make each of us agents of healing in this world. We pray for those who have asked our prayers today:

Fred, Frank, David, Alice, Pat, Judy, Karen, Tom

We are your children;

Teach us how to trust in your healing embrace.

When a dear one dies, we ask that you receive them into your eternal kingdom as promised. We pray for the repose of the soul of Natalie Anthony.

Assure those who grieve that you will not leave them in their sorrow but hold their loved one close to your heart.

We remember those for whom altar flowers are given (if any)

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:

The Holy Communion

[10:00 service] **Offertory Music**

Jubilate Deo
Christ Church Choir

Mozart arr. Bullard

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 10:00)

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.

WLP 785 Sanctus

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res, Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Letra: Anónima de Argentina, alt.; tr. inglesa, anónima

Música: Melodía popular de Argentina; arm. por John L. Bell, n.1949, © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agente

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.

Those seated in the side sections please come forward for communion beginning with the front pews using the diagonal aisles and returning by the outside of those sections. Those seated in the center sections please come forward beginning with the back pews using the center aisle and returning to their seats using the diagonal aisles.

Communion is received standing. The bread is received in the open palm. (Gluten-free wafers are available).

Please take the wafer back to your pew and consume it then. (We thus avoid multiple persons removing their masks in the same location). If you are using a cane or walker, you may consume the bread as you receive it, so not to impair walking back to your seat.

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.

[10:00 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

[10:00 service] **Hymn 555**

Lead on, O King Eternal

Lancashire

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 service] **Postlude**

Toccata in D minor

Reger

The worship is over ☩ *The service begins*

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Presider: The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Preacher: The Rev. Melissa Remington

Lector: (8:00 a.m.) Lee Woodworth; (10:00)

Welcome Team/Usher:

Director of Music: Maggie O'Neill

Organist: Bruce Adami

Live Streaming Tech: Joe DiPalermo

Flower Delivery: Juliette Gavin

Altar Flowers given:

**This week at Christ Church
September 19-25**

Sunday	PSP Rehearsal 1:00 pm
Monday	Reading the 1619 Project 7:00 pm Zoom
Tuesday	Bible Study at 11:00 a.m. Zoom. PSP Rehearsal 6:00 pm
Wednesday	PSP Rehearsal Fall Show 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
Friday	Youth Service Night & Fire Pit 5:00 pm

This Fall Christ Church as a community is invited to read The 1619 Project, an ongoing project from The New York Times Magazine that "aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative." Join us in reading The 1619 Project. Zoom gatherings will be on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. on September 13, 20 and 27. Special Q&A on October 7 at 6 p.m. From the New York Times description of the project: "The 1619 Project began with the publication, in August 2019, of a special issue of The New York Times Magazine containing essays on different aspects of contemporary American life, from mass incarceration to rush-hour traffic, that have their roots in slavery and its aftermath. Each essay takes up a modern phenomenon, familiar to all, and reveals its history."

Choir at Christ Church: The Christ Church Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm, and 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 to join! New singers welcome.

Youth Service Night: Grades 7-12 are invited to volunteer with End 68 Hours of Hunger and then gather by the fire pit. Contact Maggie O'Neill choircccexeter@gmail.com or Christina DeMaio events@christchurchexeter.org for more info!

Please plan to stay after worship on **Sunday, September 26** for an important event in the life of our church community. On the 26th, Christ Church will welcome Deacon Chris Potter, who serves as Faith Community Organizer for **Granite State Organizing Project**, the largest faith-based grassroots organization in New Hampshire. Rev. Chris will be preaching and, after worship, leading a forum on Community Organizing, an important concept concerning how we practice our faith in the world. The session will be interactive and reflective with an emphasis on empowerment, and is an important step in reflecting on our ministry in this pandemic era.

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.

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.

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

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.

CHRIST CHURCH

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