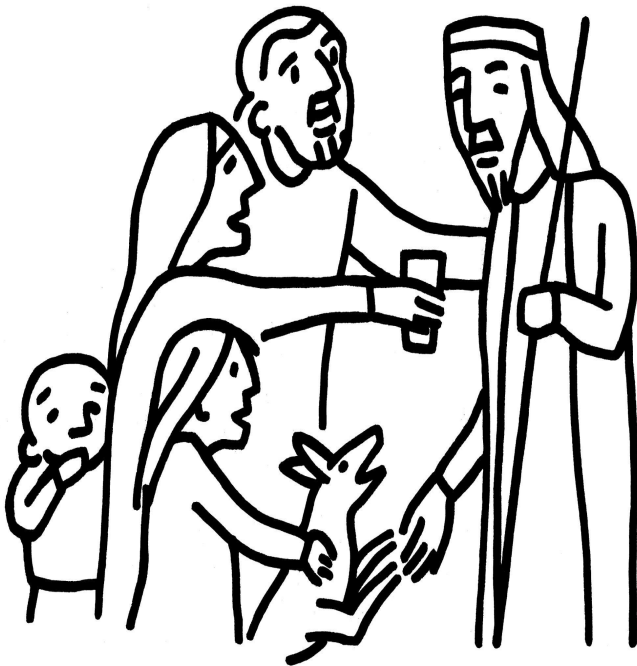


CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

September 26, 2021
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 and 10:00 am
www.christchurchexeter.org

Reflections on Today's Readings

In today's Gospel reading, the disciples complain about someone (who was not part of their group) casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus' response is that the man should not be stopped, for "whoever is not against us is for us." The importance of the ministry of every person, rather than just the ministry of disciples or clergy or church members, is so great, that to despise other ministries is to risk personal disaster. If pride in our own ministry is getting in the way, cut off that pride.

In the first reading, Moses complains to God about the burden of being the sole leader of the Israelites. God has Moses call together seventy of the leaders and gives them a share of the Spirit. Two of those chosen had not come to the meeting, and yet they also received the Spirit. When some complain about those two, Moses upholds the value of their ministry as well.

We continue to read from the Letter of James for our second lesson. Here James give some pastoral advice to the elders (the Greek word is "presbyters," the origin of the term "priest" in the Christian church). The leaders are to minister to the sick, anointing them with laying on of hands and prayer. James reminds us that the prayers of faithful people are the source of God's power.

Our ordained leaders are not the sole ministers of Christ; rather, they model the ministry we are all to perform. In our baptism, we are set apart as ministers of Christ who share in his royal priesthood. It is in that ministry, especially to the poor, oppressed, and dying, that we find God present to us in the lives of those for whom we care. Our ministry is expressed in our liturgical actions, and the Eucharist is the model for our daily living and for the nature 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) 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: What does Granite State Organizing Project do? We unite to strengthen our collective voice in decisions that affect our communities by taking action on issues such as poor housing, failing schools, barriers to citizenship, unjust working conditions, and costly health care that put our neighborhoods at risk. We work together for a just society.

[10:00 service] Prelude

Mass for the Parishes (Kyrie-Fugue-Récit)

François Couperin

Welcome and Announcements

Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer

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

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.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Reader A Reading from the Book of Numbers

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." So the Lord said to Moses,

"Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you." So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19:7-14 (page 607 in the Book of Common Prayer) *(read responsively by verse)*

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; ***
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

The Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Reader A Reading from the Letter of James

Are any among you suffering? They should pray.
Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.
Are any among you sick? They should call for the
elders of the church and have them pray over them,
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.
The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord
will raise them up; and anyone who has committed
sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to
one another, and pray for one another, so that you
may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is

powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being
like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not
rain, and for three years and six months it did not
rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the
heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.
My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you
wanders from the truth and is brought back by
another, you should know that whoever brings back
a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul
from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

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

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

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone
casting out demons in your name, and we tried to
stop him, because he was not following us." But
Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a
deed of power in my name will be able soon
afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not
against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever
gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear
the name of Christ will by no means lose the
reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before
one of these little ones who believe in me, it would
be better for you if a great millstone were hung
around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is
better for you to enter life maimed than to have two
hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.
And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it
is better for you to enter life lame than to have two
feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye
causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for
you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than
to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where
their worm never dies, and the fire is never
quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire.
Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how

can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Gospeler The Gospel or the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

The Rev. Chris Potter

✠ *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

Speak to our hearts that yearn for you. Teach us to dwell and delight in your presence. Have mercy, O Lord.

Fill us with the fullness of your grace.

Speak to your church and our leaders. Energize us with new life and endless possibilities. Teach us to be partners with you in holiness. We continue to pray for our companion parish in Cardenas, Cuba as they pray for us. Help them during this extended period of pandemic, unrest and isolation. Have mercy, O Lord.

Fill us with the fullness of your grace.

We pray for our president, our Congress, and our courts. May harmony in diversity begin with us. Speak peace to the leaders of the nations, that conflicts may cease and mutual respect across boundaries and languages may prevail. Have mercy, O Lord.

Fill us with the fullness of your grace.

Bring the peoples of the world together so that all will be fed and warm, and none will be threatened, that the language of hope is spoken freely in all corners of the globe. Have mercy, O Lord.

Fill us with the fullness of your grace.

We pray for all who cry out in pain and those who suffer in silence for those who await healing and for those who have lost hope. For those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them, bring your healing power to those who need it most:

Edith, Fred, Frank, Alice, Pat, Maryellen, Judy, Karen, Tom

Have mercy, O Lord.

Fill us with the fullness of your grace.

We pray for those who have ended their earthly journey and now are surrounded by angels and archangels and their unending songs of praise. Bring us also to that heavenly shore and the fullness of your eternal grace.

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.**

The Holy Communion

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

Grant Us Thy Peace
Christ Church Choir

Mendelssohn

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 Page 361 in the Book of Common Prayer Prayer A

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.**

The Presider continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day

of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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: [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 he 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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

The Presider then continues

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

People and Presider

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

The Breaking of the Bread

✠ *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**

The Post Communion Prayer (Page 365) in the Book of Common Prayer

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

[10:00 service] **Hymn 522, vv. 1, 2, 4** Glorious things of thee are spoken *Austria*

The Dismissal

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

[10:00 service] **Postlude** Mass for the Parishes (Dialogue) Couperin

The worship is over ☩ The service begins

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Preacher: Deacon Chris Potter

Presider: The Rev. Mark Pendleton (8:00), The Rev. Melissa Remington (10:00)

Lector at 8:00 a.m. Dick Ingram

Lector at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Team/Usher: Carol Waters

Live Streaming Tech: Leslie Pendleton

Flower Delivery: Patti Buck

Altar Flowers given:

**This week at Christ Church
September 26-October 2**

Sunday	Sunday School 9:15. Forum 11:00 a.m. PSP Rehearsal 12:30 pm
Monday	Reading the 1619 Project 7:00 pm Zoom
Tuesday	Bible Study at 11:00 a.m. Zoom. PSP Rehearsal 5:30 pm
Wednesday	PSP Rehearsal Fall Show 3:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm

Sunday, September 26, we welcome Deacon Chris Potter as our preacher at both services. Chris serves as Faith Community Organizer for Granite State Organizing Project, the largest faith-based grassroots organization in New Hampshire.

After the 10:00 a.m. service, Deacon Chris will lead a 45 minute forum (outdoors, weather permitting) 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. You can learn more about GSOP @ <http://granitestateorganizing.org/>

What is Granite State Organizing Project?

Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) is a statewide grassroots organization that unites people of faith to solve community issues. It uses the method of *community organizing*: developing and empowering teams of leaders in churches like Christ Church to ensure that their Gospel values are reflected in our community. GSOP offers leadership training and guidance as churches embark on understanding and then addressing the root causes of inequity around them. GSOP has over 20 member congregations and has worked for decades on issues such as affordable housing, immigrant solidarity, and economic justice.

What is a Listening Session?

A Listening Session is an event designed to engage congregations in discerning the issues that affect their members deeply and personally. They are 60-90 minutes long and discussion-based. Participants share responses to questions such as, *"think a moment about what is your deepest concern for your community or town. Why is this a concern for you and how has it affected you personally?"*

What comes after a Listening Session?

Listening Sessions are the first step in community organizing. Listening Sessions are often followed by 1:1 meetings with a community organizer or between members of the congregation. Members may choose to act on one of the issues identified with the support of a GSOP organizer or simply to use the common themes that emerge in an internal planning process.

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."

If you missed it.. M2 Mechanical Donates Air Filtration System for the Parish Hall

We are celebrating cleaner indoor air for the people of our parish and the community groups that meet and use the Parish Hall. M2 Mechanical, an Exeter-based HVAC company, invited local non-profits to enter a random drawing for one of their state-of-the-art air filtration systems. Christ Church is the lucky winner of that drawing!

The Rev. Mark Pendleton said this for the company's press release to the media: "This new 'air-scrubbing' system will benefit not just the people of our parish, but the many community groups who use our spaces. Safer indoor air is an answer to our prayers. It will help us carry on our work, and we are very grateful to M2 Mechanical for this generous donation."

Sunday School (in-person) Returns Both Mark and the Rev. Melissa Remington will be kick-starting and overseeing our faith formation program for children from ages 3 to 11. We are going to be dividing the two age groups between "the littles" and "the bigs." We begin this Sunday in the Parish Hall at 9:15 a.m. and will go through to the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service.

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.

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)

CHRIST CHURCH

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