

CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

October 3, 2021
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 and 10:00 am
www.christchurchexeter.org

Reflections on Today's Readings

The primary theme today in the readings from Genesis and Mark is marriage. Here we are not to think simplistically of the varied forms of the human institution of marriage found in different periods of history. We are instead focused on the biblical understanding of God's will for marriage as a union between two people which creates a new, complex personality out of the two. Jesus' disapproval of divorce is clear and uncompromising. We may note that, in the words of Professor Reginald Fuller, "It is often the current institutionalized form of marriage that many people are really rejecting, not marriage as intended by God."

In our second reading, we begin reading the Letter to the Hebrews. This early Christian work seems to have been intended particularly for Jewish Christians to assist them in understanding the work of Christ in images familiar to them. In today's passage, the full humanity of Jesus and his

suffering and death are explained as essential to his role of redeeming all humanity, as illustrated by quotations from the psalms.

We find in our worship that the Christian message is a call to put aside the conventions of human society and to take up the new life of God's Kingdom. That new life calls us to rethink all aspects of our ways of living, even our views of marriage. Those who live in committed lifetime relationships must be certain that what they seek is the relationship God wills and not simply the conventional understanding of the world.

Our worship together is the clearest sign that we are responding to God's call to be different from the world even as we live in it. A gathering of people which welcomes everyone to a common table is not conventional. It is a sign 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: I shall not be overcome; God is with me. My awareness of God's Presence may sound like magic. It may seem to some to be the merest childlike superstition, but it meets my need and is at once the source of my comfort and the heart of my peace. *Howard Thurman*

[10:00 service] Prelude

Andante in D major

Felix Mendelssohn

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Genesis 2:18-24

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused

a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8 (page 592 in the Book of Common Prayer) (read responsively by verse)

- 1 O Lord our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 **Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.**
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 **When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 **You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;**

7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:

8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

10 O Lord our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

The Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:50-2

Reader A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor,

subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

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

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

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they

are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not

stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in

his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. t in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

Merciful and loving God, we come before you seeking your grace. Create in us lives that are gracious and loving. We raise our hearts and voices to you, responding, In your mercy, Lord

Hear our prayer.

Reveal yourself to us in the world you have fashioned: in the wonder of your creation and in the faces of our brothers and sisters. Strengthen our commitment to being good stewards of all that we are and all that we have. Keep us mindful of the billions of your children we will never know, and the generations which will follow us. In your mercy, Lord

Hear our prayer.

Train our hearts on you and teach us to listen to your voice and follow your lead. Equip us, we pray, with all we need to do the work you have given us to do: to reflect your goodness in the world, to open our hearts to all people, to partner with you in your mission of reconciliation. In your mercy, Lord

Hear our prayer.

Fill this nation with a yearning for justice for all people in all things. Shine a light into those instances where we have been wrong or where we have claimed more than our share while the needs of others have been ignored. Ignite in us a passion for your purpose in this world you love so dearly. In your mercy, Lord

Hear our prayer.

As you never tire of loving us, may we never tire of caring for your people who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. We thank you for experiences of new life and insight.

Hold close to your heart those who are making their final journey home to you. Grant them a peaceful end and a joyous entry into the communion of all the saints in light.

We remember those for whom altar flowers are given (if any) ... George Palethorpe who died last week.

We pray for Edith, Fred, Frank, Alice, Pat, Maryellen, Judy, Karen, Tom

In your mercy, Lord

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.**

Birthday Prayer

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

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

Author of Life Divine
Christ Church Choir

McDowall

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.

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 609, vv. 1-3**

Where cross the crowded ways of life

Gardiner

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 service] **Postlude**

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicholas Lemmons

The worship is over ☩ The service begins

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Preacher: The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton

Presider: The Rev. David D. Holroyd

Lector at 8:00 a.m. Lee Woodworth

Lector at 10:00 a.m. Leslie Pendleton

Welcome Team/Usher:

Live Streaming Tech: Carole Brooks

Flower Delivery: Jeannette McDonald

Altar Flowers given: In loving memory of George Palethorpe by his wife Beatrice and members of his family.

**This week at Christ Church
October 3-9**

Sunday	Sunday School 9:00 - 9:45 am PSP Rehearsal 12:30 pm
Tuesday	Bible Study at 11:00 a.m. Zoom. PSP Rehearsal 5:30 pm
Wednesday	Oasis Sisters in Person 10:30 am PSP Rehearsal Fall Show 3:30 pm Q&A Zoom: Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad: 1619 Project 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm

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 gather Sunday in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. and will go to 9:45.

Sunday Morning Counters Needed

During the early days of the Pandemic, when we were having our Church services via zoom, we no longer needed volunteers to count the Sunday collection during the week. Now that we have returned to in-person worship and have the Alms Basins (Collection Plates) out for people to place envelopes and cash donations. We are looking for help to verify the Sunday collection.

We would count on Sunday mornings using a simplified form. This new procedure should not take more than about 15 minutes, and it no longer makes sense for someone to come into the office on Mondays. We will use an on-line sign-up form for scheduling. Frequency for volunteering will depend on how many folks are available.

If you would like to sign-up, please contact Lucia at treasurer@christchurchexeter.org, Normand at bookkeeper@christchurchexeter.org or call the church office at (603) 772-3332.

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 are 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)

The Young Organist Collaborative (YOC) Faculty Benefit Concert takes place live at Christ Church on Friday, October 15 at 7:30. Eight YOC faculty members will play a diverse program. Performing will be Bruce Adami, Christ Church, Exeter; Christopher Evatt, Keene State College, Keene; Barbara Flocco, Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford; Edgar Kuklowski, Christ the King Parish, Concord; Jennifer McPherson, St. John's Church, Portsmouth; Holly Nowak, Parish Church, Byfield, MA; Tamara Rozek, Middle Street Baptist Church, Portsmouth; David Wold, Saint Teresa's Church, Rye. The recital on October 15 is open to the public. A \$15 suggested donation will benefit the ongoing work of the Young Organist Collaborative.

CHRIST CHURCH

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