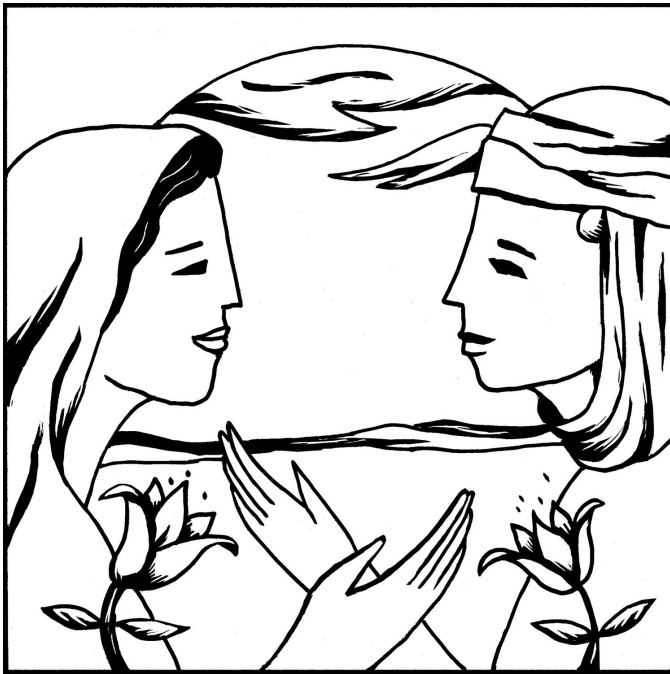


CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

December 19, 2021
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 and 10:00 am
www.christchurchexeter.org

Reflections on Today's Readings

The theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the role of the Virgin Mary in the events that brought about our salvation. A related theme is the Lord's human nature.

The first reading deals with the Messiah's human origins. He will come from the village of Bethlehem within the clan of Ephratha, the smallest and least significant of all the clans of the Tribe of Judah. The importance of this prophecy from the book of Micah is that with the Messiah, as with all people, greatness comes from God rather than from human sources.

It was as an obedient human being that Jesus made the willing offering of himself for our salvation, says the author of the Letter to the

Hebrews. The salvation of humanity was accomplished within human life not apart from it.

Human nature has a real and definitive role to play, a role revealed in the story of Mary. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both Elizabeth and her unborn son rejoice in Mary's role. God's blessing of Mary, the lowly servant, will be extended in the ministry of Christ to all, especially the poor and the lowly. In her acceptance and cooperation with God's will, Mary becomes the model for our response to God and the human agent of God's gift of the redeeming Christ to the world

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: For now **masks are required** for those worshipping indoors and using our buildings. Please allow for good and healthy **distancing** from other worshippers outside your household pod or community circle. We will be running our air handling system, equipped with HEPA filters behind the organ pipes, through the morning. We encourage all those who can to get vaccinated. With God's help, we will see this through;

Communion: 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 for Today: "In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment." - Frederick Buechner

[10:00 service] **Prelude**

*Two Magnificats:
My soul doth magnify the Lord
He hath put down the mighty from their seat*

Marcel Dupré

Welcome and Announcements Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer

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

[10:00 service] **Hymn 56, vv. 1-3**

O come, o come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel

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

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

[10:00 service] **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Reader: One cannot escape the vision of prophets in the season of Advent.

We hear today from Micah:

“You, O Bethlehem...
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.”

Our lives can change through little acts. Small signs can point us forward towards a future of hope.

The Light of the World is coming.
(*The first three candles are lighted*)

God's mercy endures from generation to generation.

We light a fourth candle in anticipation of the birth of Christ.

(*Here light the fourth candle.*)

May the light of God shine upon us all.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Reader A Reading from the Book of Micah

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the

people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 Page 91, BCP The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

**The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

The Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader A Reading from the Letter I to the Hebrews

When Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not
desired, but a body you have prepared for
me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you
have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See,
God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in
the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
When he said above, "You have neither
desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and

offerings and burnt offerings and sin
offerings" (these are offered according to the
law), then he added, "See, I have come to do
your will." He abolishes the first in order to
establish the second. And it is by God's will
that we have been sanctified through the
offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill country, where she entered
the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When

Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in
her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are

you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who

believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

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

The Mighty One has done great things for us. And so we appeal to God once again, praying, "Stir up your strength, O Lord; and come to help us."

Prepare in us a mansion for yourself, O Christ.

Silence

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts. May we know security. May we know peace. May we know the benefits of the reign of your Christ.

Silence

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Show the strength of your arm, O God: lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things. Look on your children with favor.

Silence

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Have mercy on all captives and prisoners, O God. Remember them and come to their aid. Fill our hearts with mercy. May we learn to forgive even as you forgive us.

I invite you to add your thanksgivings.

Silence

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Hear the prayers of your people, O God of hosts. May those who have fed on the bread of tears, feed instead on your strength, O Lord. Show them the light of your countenance and be their salvation.

We lift up those on our prayer list: Michael, Liam, Christine, Richard, Megan, Pat, Greg, Maryellen, Judy, Tom

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Great Shepherd, gather your flock into your eternal kingdom. Bless the dying, embrace the dead, and comfort those who mourn.

We remember Phyllis Jean Pierce, grandmother of Danielle Larson-Clark, who died this past week.

Silence

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Presider: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.**

Presider:

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**

Ave Maria
Christ Church Choir
Cathy Hammon, mezzo-soprano

Alfred Fedak

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.*

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 Eucharistic Prayer B Pg. 367

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

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.

S 124

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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.

Music: David Hurd, "New Plainsong." © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A700244

The Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the church, and the author of our salvation.

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**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Invitation to 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 as 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

May Christ, as he comes, deliver you from fear and worry.
May Christ be our new beginning, the hope and salvation of the world.
Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness
from before your path.
And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

[10:00 service] **Hymn WLP 724**

People, look East

Besaçon Carol

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[10:00 service] **Postlude**

Lucis Creator Optime (O Blest Creator of the Light)

Flor Peeters

The worship is over ☩ The service begins

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Preacher and Presider: The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Gospeller and Intercessor: The Rev. David D. Holroyd (10 a.m.)

Lector at 8:00 a.m. Lucia Savage

Lector at 10:00 a.m. Cary Einhaus

Welcome Team/Usher: Carol Waters

Live Streaming Tech: Leslie Pendleton

Flower Delivery: Carol Allard

Altar Flowers Given: Jeanne d'Arc Vigeant

This week at Christ Church December 19-25

Sunday	Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 am PSP Winter Auditions 1:30 pm Concert-Rockingham Choral 3:30 pm
Tuesday	Exeter Rotary 12:15 p.m. Parish Hall Youth Christmas Movie Night 6:00 pm Beatitude Session 6:30 pm
Wednesday	Oasis Sisters ZOOM Meeting 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
Friday	Christmas Pageant 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm (Live-Streamed)

2022 Pledge Update: As of 12/14/2021 we have received 103 pledges for a total of \$271,344. Seven are first time pledges, 32 increased from 2021, 55 are the same, and only 9 decreased. Thank you! In 2021 we received 149 pledges for \$365,561 so we still have a way to go. See below for many ways to pledge and donate.

Christmas Concert at Christ Church The Rockingham Choral Society presents a Christmas Concert at Christ Church Exeter Sunday afternoon, December 19 at 3:30 PM featuring Vivaldi's Magnificat RV 610. A special feature will be the first performance of *Venite*, a work composed for the chorus by music director, Dr. Alex Favazza. The concert will also include Christmas works by contemporary composers Mack Wilberg, Andre Thomas, Elaine Hagenberg and Dan Forrest. Soloists are selected from the chorus. The chorus will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. An additional opportunity to attend this concert will be on Saturday, December 18, 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Newington, NH. **Children 6 and under are admitted free.** Tickets are available online at www.rockinghamchoral.org. In the interest of safety, masks are worn by the chorus and all attending the concerts.

Youth Event Tuesday Dec. 21 Come celebrate the season with a Christmas movie viewing, card-making, and a chance to unwind. Ages 11-17 welcome in the Parish Hall from 6-8 pm on the 21st of December. Email events@christchurchexeter.org or choircccexeter@gmail.com to RSVP!

Beatitudes Sessions: The next Zoom gathering will be Tuesday December 21 on The Beatitudes. Extending through December and January, five sessions will be held on Tuesdays, via zoom from 6:30-7:45 pm. There will be one in-person session in the middle of the series where we will gather in Harris Hall following the 10:00 am worship. Our hope is to learn and grow together by sharing personal reflections on the Beatitudes, as we prepare for the birth of Christ and seek the wisdom of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. Please plan to join us for any or all of these gatherings.

Sunday School (in-person): Each Sunday for children from ages 3 to 11. We are dividing the two age groups between "the littles" and "the bigs." We gather Sunday in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. and wrap up at 9:45. Masks required. **No Sunday School Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.**

January 23, 2022 The Annual Meeting of Christ Church of Exeter (our incorporated name in the State of New Hampshire) will gather in person after the 10 a.m. service at 11:15 a.m. in the church. We will live stream on our YouTube channel (stay on worship link). We will meet to elect officers, new vestry members and diocesan delegates and to hear reports including our finances. More news to follow.

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).

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Outdoor Pageant (stage)

8:00 pm Holy Eucharist with choir *

Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist with carols and organ music

Sunday, December 26

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist *

**services will be livestreamed on youtube*

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 27-31.

CHRIST CHURCH

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