

CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

January 2, 2022
The Second Sunday after Christmas
8:00 and 10:00 am
www.christchurchexeter.org

Reflections on Today's Readings

Today we continue to celebrate the entrance of the Son of God into the world.

The Gospel reading anticipates the feast of the Epiphany later this week. It is the account of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, from the east to worship the newborn King. This manifestation of the Son of God to the Gentiles is also the theme of the Day of the Epiphany.

The Old Testament reading foretells the coming of God's Kingdom, when all peoples will be gathered into God's holy place. The reading from

Ephesians tells us that in Christ we have become sons and daughters of God.

As we gather to celebrate in God's presence, we discover ourselves as children of God. As in his child Jesus, in us God comes to dwell in his world. In us, God chooses to reveal his truth, confounding the wisdom of this world. By baptism, we are adopted as children of God. In the Eucharist, our relationship to God is affirmed and revealed. God continues to come into his world and has chosen us as his primary instruments to reveal his coming.

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.

[8:00 & 10:00 service] Prelude

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

Richard Purvis

Welcome (The Rev. Melissa Remington)

Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer

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

[10:00 service] **Hymn 115**

What child is this

Greensleeves

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, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Reader A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered

Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 **The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height, ***

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;**

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

**12 O Lord of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Reader A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for

this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of

Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child

was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him

gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

The Rev. David D. Holroyd

✠ *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

Raising our voices in proclamation and praise, let us offer our prayers to God, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

In thanksgiving for the peacemakers who toil in troubled lands, and in families of discontent, that the Prince of Peace may give them words of wisdom as they seek to encourage new means of communication and the mending of relationships; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for those who give to the poor and needy of the world, offering hope to God's fragile people; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who exercise leadership throughout our Church, that they may bear in their actions the love of Christ, enlightening the hearts of those who have a hidden faith, and strengthening those of a weak spirit; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Joseph., our President, members of our legislative bodies, and those who serve on the Supreme Court, that they may honor the past and take us along new pathways in the service of bettering our nation; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died in the noonday of their lives, and for parents who grieve the loss of children, that they may be comforted by the Father of us all, whose only Son was not spared an early death.

We remember those who have died.

Silence

Let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, remembering those who have been our mentors and teachers, and through whose companionship we have experienced the riches of grace; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

As God's adopted children, let us lift up those for whom we are praying.

Silence

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.**

Announcements (The Rev. Melissa Remington)

Birthday Prayer: (The Rev. David Holroyd)

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 heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

[8:00 & 10:00 service] **Offertory Music** *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* George Lachenauer

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 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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.

Sanctus S-128 (*sung by all*)

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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The Presider continues

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

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 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.

[8:00 & 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 118, vv. 1-3**

As with gladness, men of old

Dix

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

[8:00 & 10:00 service] **Postlude** *Two Settings of 'Praise be to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ'* Scheidt/Buttstedt

The worship is over ☩ The service begins

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Preacher: The Rev. David D. Holroyd

Presider: The Rev. Melissa Remington

Lector at 8:00 a.m. Dick Ingram

Lector at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Team/Usher:

Live Streaming Tech: Joe DiPalermo

Flower Delivery: Juliette Gavin

This week at Christ Church

January 2 - 8

Sunday	PSP Rehearsals 1:00 pm
Tuesday	Bible Study Zoom 11:00 am PSP Rehearsal 6:00 pm Scouts 6:00 pm Beatitudes 6:30 pm
Wednesday	Oasis Sisters IN PERSON Meeting 10:30 am PSP Rehearsal 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm

Beatitudes Sessions: Join us next week after the 10 a.m. service January 9 for the latest session of the Beatitudes. Sign up on the Enews. 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.

No Sunday School this morning.

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.

CHRIST CHURCH

43 Pine St., Exeter, NH 03833

Phone: (603) 772-3332 E-mail: office@christchurchexeter.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur 9 am - 12 Noon, Weds 9 am - 4 pm OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

RECTOR

The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Ext. 12 [cell phone 860 490-8544]
mpendleton@christchurchexeter.org

PRIEST ASSOC. FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. David Holroyd

dholroyd@christchurchexeter.org

PRIEST ASSOCIATE

The Rev. Melissa Remington

EXT. 13
mremington@christchurchexeter.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND COMMUNICATIONS

Maggie O'Neill

choircccexeter@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Bruce Adami

bruce@christchurchexeter.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Darla Watt

Ext. 11
office@christchurchexeter.org

BOOKKEEPER

Normand Tremblay

bookkeeper@christchurch.org

SENIOR SEXTON

George Malgeri

ssexton@christchurchexeter.org

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF PINE STREET PLAYERS

Lexi Meunier

thepinestreetplayers@gmail.com

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Christina DeMaio

events@christchurchexeter.org

VESTRY

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Treasurer

Clerk

Patricia Gianotti

John Gilbert

Lucia Savage

Suzanne Fong

Deb Fournier

Jeff Neil

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