

**The Parish of Christ Church
Andover, Massachusetts**

For this week's
announcements and
prayer list, please scan:



**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
with Holy Baptism**

**August 23, 2026
at nine o'clock in the morning**

Voluntary

Rhosymedre ("Lovely")

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

All stand, as able

Processional Hymn 518

Christ is made the sure foundation

Westminster Abbey

Holy Baptism

BCP, p. 299

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

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

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Exodus (1:8-2:10 NRSV)

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and

plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (12:1-8)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 707

Take my life and let it be consecrated

*Hollingside***The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (16:13-20 NRSV)***People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Celebrant

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People***Praise to you, Lord Christ.****Sermon**

The Rev. Michael J. Hodges

Baptismal Hymn 297

Descend, O Spirit, purging flame

*Erbalt uns, Herr***Holy Baptism***BCP, p. 301**This morning we welcome into Christ's Body the Church**Sophia Corinne Johnson, daughter of James and Shelby Johnson and**Luke Matthew Partridge, son of Matthew and Lucy Partridge***Presentation and Examination of the Candidates***The Celebrant says*

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sophia's Parents and Godparents

We present Sophia Corinne Johnson to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Luke's Parents and Godparents

We present Luke Matthew Partridge to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Question

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer

I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
Answer I do.
Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Answer I do.
Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these children in their life in Christ?
People **We will.**
Celebrant Let us join with Sophia and Luke who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?
People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**
Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**
Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?"
People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

Celebrant Let us now pray for these children who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.
A Person appointed leads the following petitions
Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that she who here is cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Using chrism, the sign of the cross is marked on the child's forehead with these words:

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

A candle is lit from the Paschal Candle and handed to the newly baptized with these words:

N., receive the light of Christ: a symbol of the new life enkindled in you.

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.
Celebrant and People **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
Then the Minister and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem The Lord Is My Light (*Psalm 27*) *Mary Frances Allitsen (1848-1912)*
Mark Cleveland, soloist

Hymn at the Presentation 380, v. 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A* *BCP, p. 361*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a proper Preface is sung or said.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord [Hymnal S-129] *Sanctus* *Robert Powell*

**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.**

Celebrant 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant 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.

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

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God [Hymnal S-163] *Agnus Dei*

Robert Powell

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant This is Christ's table of love and forgiveness. 'The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation' provide food for our souls. All are welcome to draw near and share these holy mysteries. Take Christ within your bodies and become the Body of Christ.

~ Everyone is Welcome at God's Table ~

All are invited to sing the communion hymn.

Communion Hymn 304

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Land of Rest

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

Announcements

Hymn 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymn to Joy

Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Voluntary

Rondo in G

John Bull (1562-1682)

Serving at Today's Service

Celebrant and preacher	The Rev. Michael J. Hodges, Rector
Organist	Barbara A. Bruns
Soloist	Mark Cleveland
Lector	Musa Kikaire
Eucharistic Minister	Barb Whitehair
Ushers	Doug and Josephine Nason
Flowers	Judy Wright
Altar Guild	Josephine Nason
Verger	Abigail Plemmons
Crucifer	Caitlin Nason
Videographer	Ross Morgan

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Welcome to Christ Church!

We are delighted you have found us! We are blessed by your presence here today and want to do everything possible to make you feel at home. In our celebration of Holy Communion, we believe that everyone is welcome at God's table. Our welcome extends to all people without preference for age, ability, gender, race, ethnic or religious background, sexual orientation, marital or family status. We desire to know ourselves and one another as God knows us - as beloved children of God - and to embody Jesus' own example of radical hospitality. If you have questions about this parish specifically, or about the Episcopal Church in general, please ask someone seated near you. There is a lot of wisdom in the helpful people in the pews. You may also talk with the Rev. Michael Hodges, our Rector.

Children: Children's activity bags for borrowing are available on the children's bookshelf in the back of the church. Our service is enriched by the presence of children; they learn liturgical behavior by observation. Let them see you participate in and enjoy the service!

Accessibility: Plastic magnifying sheets are available at the rear of the church. There are also hearing assistance devices located in the rear of the church. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Restrooms: Restrooms, including one with a changing table, are located behind the Parish Hall at the end of the long hallway on the left. Follow the red signs.



Everything we do here at Christ Church is dependent on the generosity of our parishioners and other donors. Please use this QR code to donate today! Our vestry greatly appreciates your support!

The Parish of Christ Church

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