



Christ Church Cathedral
Catedral Iglesia de Cristo
Springfield, Massachusetts

**SERVICE OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
WITH COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT**

the Seventh Sunday after
THE EPIPHANY



February 23, 2025, 10am

“Persistence in prayer for someone whom we don’t like (Lk. 6:28), however much it goes against the grain to begin with, brings about a remarkable change in attitude.”

– F.F. Bruce, Taken from "Hard Sayings of Jesus" by, F.F. Bruce, page 73. (c)1973 InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of the USA, Revised edition. Used by permission of InterVarsity Press, P.O. Box 1400, Downers Grove, IL 60515. www.itypress.com.

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral. We are the Cathedral for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and an active community serving greater Springfield. It is a blessing to have you with us today. If you are new here, we encourage you to fill out a Visitor's Card to receive more information. Our clergy and leaders would love to make a connection with you. Christ Church Cathedral is an open and inclusive community which invites all people to the incredible love of God, with no barriers of race, culture or sexual orientation.

You are loved and welcomed here.

During the week, please pray for those whom Christ’s healing power has been requested:

Sherry Branstetter, Karen and Bob Soderstrom, Jim McBride, Monique Ray Burwell, Milagros Lopez, Charlie Murrin and his family, Robert Jewell, Sr. and his family, Charlotte Carrington, Todd Shepard, Beverly Rourke, Ann Lincoln, Joyce Howard, David and Kathy Johnston, Karen and Rich Authier, Louise Amerman, Eleanor Parke, Blaise and her family.

Please note that the Prayer List will be reset every 4 weeks, unless otherwise requested in the Main Office!

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *The people standing*

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

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

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

1 Do not fret yourself because of evil **'doers; ***
do not be jealous of those who do **wrong.**

2 For they shall soon wither like the **grass, ***
and like the green grass fade a**'way.**

3 Put your trust in the Lord and do **' good; ***
dwell in the land and feed on its **' riches.**

4 Take delight in the **' Lord, ***
and he shall give you your heart's de**'sire.**

5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in **' him, ***
and he will bring it to **' pass.**

6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the **' light ***
and your just dealing as the **' noonday.**

7 Be still before the ' **Lord** *
and wait patiently for ' **him**.
8 Do not fret yourself over the one who ' **prosper**s, *
the one who succeeds in evil ' **schemes**.
9 Refrain from anger, leave rage a'**lone**; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to '**evil**.
10 For evildoers shall be cut ' **off**, *
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the ' **land**.
11 In a little while the wicked shall be no ' **more**; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be ' **there**.
12 But the lowly shall possess the ' **land**; *
they will delight in abundance of ' **peace**.
41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the ' **Lord**; *
he is their stronghold in time of ' **trouble**.
42 The Lord will help them and rescue ' **them**; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in ' **him**.

THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do

good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - Form I

The People may stand or kneel

Deacon With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy." For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and our Diocesan Bishop, Douglas Fisher. We pray for our dean-to-be, The Reverend José Reyes, and his family. We pray for Church Without Walls & the Big Blue Drop-in Center.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and all elected officials; for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city Springfield, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those celebrating birthdays this week, including; Michael MacMunn, Samuel William MacMunn and Noelle Rose Boafa. We pray for those celebrating anniversaries. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection; especially those who died in the History of Christ Church Cathedral the week of February 23rd: Paul E. Congdon, Eleanor C. Ober, Lina Esther Anderson, Kathleen Egbert, Ralph Jocelyn, Karl Donfried, The Reverend Canon Raymond H. Kendrick, Patricia Loiselle, Alwin H. Baker, Katherine Hale, William Homer Grimshaw, Dr. Stanley S. Stusick, Crawford Lincoln, Stephen Wolfe, Margaret Cole, Jean Baker and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Let us pray for God's providence in the calling of our next Diocesan Bishop.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the ministry we share in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. In this season of discernment, we ask your blessing and the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we prepare to call our next Bishop. Guide us in this important work, that your mission may be furthered, and your Gospel proclaimed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSON OF SIN

Officiant We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *A period of Silence is kept.*

All Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your

Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS



People may place pledges and donations in the collection basket during the offertory. You may also donate, and pledge online, just point your phone at the QR code to the left

COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us Pray:

All: **Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

All: **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 INVITATION

The Officiant says:

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before; You who have tried to follow and you who have failed; Come, not because the Church invites you; It is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here. All who care to receive the Eucharist today are welcome to come forward to kneel or stand at the rail.

-The Iona Community

ADMINISTRATION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT NOW OCCURS

*Everyone is invited to receive the Holy Communion. Our practice is to stand or kneel at the altar rail in front, where the clergy will give you the host and then will give you the chalice. If you desire only a blessing and not the Communion, please indicate by crossing your arms before you.
Gluten-free wafers are available.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray:

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**
Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!!
All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!!**

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNOUNCEMENTS February 23, 2025

Questions, links: Contact Amanda Paredes at cccspfld@gmail.com or 413-736-2742

LISTENING SESSIONS FOR THE NEW BISHOP – Help us to discern our next bishop by attending A listening session at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. There will be a catered Brunch served in the undercroft before the session. There are other opportunities to participate in a listening session hosted by the Diocese, please contact the main office for more information.



CATHEDRAL FINANCES – February 2025 – Looking for a way to increase your **MA Income Tax Refund**? Did you know that MA will give you a deduction for CHARITABLE DONATIONS on your taxes? The deduction is worth 5% of what you gave...no matter how small, or large, the amount. For example, if you donated \$2000 to the Cathedral last year, your refund would be increased by \$100. Just remember to give the “**Donations Statement**” that you received a few weeks ago to whomever is doing your taxes. This does not apply to your Federal taxes – only your MA taxes. And, only money donations (not items) count. Questions? Or, need a reprint of your Donations Statement? Ask Laura, or send her an email at Treasurer@cccspfld.org.



SHROVE TUESDAY AT CCC - Christ Church Cathedral will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday event on March 4, 2025 at 6pm in the Kendrick Room. Refreshments will be provided by the CCC Men’s Group. Join our Mistress of Ceremonies, Mrs. Delphine Williams as our “Mardi Gras Queen” and participate in this fun fellowship activity as we move into our holy time of LENT.

DONATIONS NEEDED! - Christ Church Cathedral has some exciting events coming soon, which include a special Mother’s Day themed round of Bingo, a Spring Fashion Show, Easter Egg Hunts for the kiddos, a Murder/Mystery Party and many more! To make these events as dynamic as possible, we are asking for donations of Gift cards to stores or restaurants, Easter candy and eggs, maybe even some volunteer work? More information will be available about the events in the coming weeks!



WE ARE COLLECTING MEAL KITS FOR SQUARE ONE! - Christ Church Cathedral has begun to collect Meal Kits to send to Square One! Meal kits are items placed in a bag that will be given to parents. They should be non-perishables or items with an extended shelf life.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS - Donate flowers in memory of a loved one today! Send your dedication, along with your \$45 donation to the Main office, and we will call you to confirm placement! We still need dedications for 01/19/2025, and 02/21/2025, 03/02/2025, 07/07/2025, and 11/23/2025



UPDATED CORI CHECKS 2024 - All of those who participate in the following need to have an updated CORI check to be able to engage in any ministries involving children: Sextons, secretaries, choir directors, Sunday school leaders, activity chaperones, nursery, J2A, confirmation mentors, acolyte trainers and adult acolytes, VBS, Christmas programs, ACTS, Drop In Center. Forms may be obtained from Delphine Williams or the office and must be returned with a copy of a valid ID in a sealed envelope. Safe Church also needs to be completed by the same group as above via ZOOM. **Certificates of Completion must be forwarded to the Office when received!**

DONATIONS NEEDED AT THE DROP-IN CENTER!

We need individual snacks and bottles of water! Please clean out your closets and bring in WINTER COATS, sneakers and boots, etc.. We are also looking for NEW underwear, in all sizes for both men and women. For more information, contact the CCC Main office at 413-736-2742 or Jeanne Conrad at jeanne@conrad.us.com.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

FOR BEGINNERS, LEVEL 1:

*Sundays at 2:00 in the afternoon until 3:30 (after mass in Spanish)

*Mondays at 5:30 in the afternoon until 7:30

FOR LEVEL 2 AND UP:

*Wednesdays at 5:30 in the afternoon until 7:00 (make an appointment)

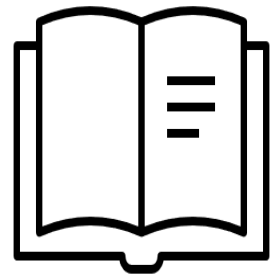
For more information, speak with Sara at 413-454-7172.

FEED YOUR SOUL

BIBLE STUDY Weekly on zoom, Sunday morning 9:00am, Wednesday morning 8:00am, Saturday evening 5:00 pm. Links and more information are available through the office.

CENTERING PRAYER weekly on zoom, Saturday morning at 10:30. Lectio Divino with a guided meditation every week. Links and more information are available through the office.

BOOK CLUB meets via Zoom every 6 weeks or so. Next Meeting: Monday, March 31, 2025, at 7:00 pm, via zoom. The book is *"Small Things Like These"* by Claire Keegan - For links and more information contact Laura Manship at laura@shouldertoshouler.com



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CATEDRAL IGLESIA DE CRISTO

Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Gathered by God from many cultures | Reunidos por Dios de muchas culturas

Transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ | Transformados por la gracia del Jesucristo

Sent out empowered by the Holy Spirit | Enviados en el poder del Espiritu Santo

Christ Church Cathedral | 35 Chestnut Street | Springfield, MA 01103 | www.cccspfld.org | 413.736.2742

Christ Church Cathedral is an inclusive parish welcoming all people regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or creed. You are loved here and we remind you that God loves you, too!

La Catedral Iglesia de Cristo es una parroquia que es inclusiva y da la bienvenida a todos no importa su fe, etnicidad, genero, orientacion sexual, o creencias. Aquí usted es amado y amada y Dios les ama tambien!



Cathedral Staff

The Right Rev. Doug Fisher
The Rev. Canon Michael DeVine
The Rev. Canon Jerry True
The Rev. Kate Derose
Dr. Colin Britt
Canon Sergio D'Orsini
Mrs. Amanda Paredes
Mr. Jackson "Jack" Chamberlain
Mr. John Lamoutte

Bishop of W. Massachusetts
Assisting Priest
Assisting Priest
Deacon
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Donate to the Cathedral through PayPal: Point your camera at the QR code to the left and it will lead you to a link where you can donate electronically. We rely on the pledges and financial support of our members and friends, and we thank you for making all of this possible.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" – Matthew 6:21

