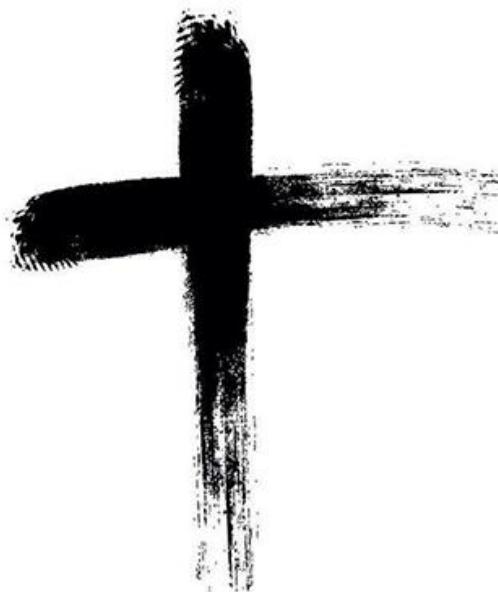


# CHRIST CHURCH

NEWTON, NEW JERSEY

*The Episcopal Church in the Heart of Sussex County*



*Founded in 1769  
Chartered on August 15, 1774*

62 Main Street, Newton, NJ 07860  
973-383-2245  
[office@christchurchnewton.org](mailto:office@christchurchnewton.org)  
[www.christchurchnewton.org](http://www.christchurchnewton.org)

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEWTON

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

12 noon & 7 pm: Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

\*omitted at 12 noon

\*Prelude

Out of Deep Distress I Cry to You

Johann Pachelbel

*Please stand as the Ministers enter in silence.*

**The Salutation and Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Congregation may please be seated.*

**The First Lesson**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"'

Reader      The Word of the Lord.

People      Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 103:8-14**

*prayed responsively*

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

**The Second Lesson**

**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

\*Sequence Hymn #411

Bless the Lord, O my soul

St. Thomas (Williams)

Clergy  
People

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

**The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Clergy  
People

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Lyons, Associate Priest

**The Bidding Prayer**

Book of Common Prayer, *page 264*

**The Blessing & Imposition of Ashes**

Book of Common Prayer, *page 265*

## Psalm 51

*prayed together*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.

15      Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
            and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

16      Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
            and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

17      Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
            but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

18      The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
            a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **Litany of Penitence**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

**Most holy and merciful Father:** We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

*The Celebrant continues*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*People                    Have mercy on us, Lord.*

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*People                    Have mercy on us, Lord.*

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*People                    We confess to you, Lord.*

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*People                    We confess to you, Lord.*

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*People                    We confess to you, Lord.*

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*People*                   **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*People*                   **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*People*                   **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*People*                   **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*People*                   **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*People*                   **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*People*                   **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*People*                   **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The Priest stands and, facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

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



## Welcome & Announcements

The Rev. Chris Streeter

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*To make a donation or to pay your pledge online,  
please visit [www.christchurchnewton.org](http://www.christchurchnewton.org)  
and click on the "Make a Contribution" tab.*

*Scan the QR Code with your phone  
and you will be directed to our online giving portal.*

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## Offertory Anthem

God so loved the world (*from The Crucifixion*)

Sir John Stainer

God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him  
should not perish, should not perish  
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world  
to condemn the world.  
God sent not His Son into the world  
to condemn the world;  
But that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him  
should not perish, should not perish  
but have everlasting life, everlasting life,  
everlasting, everlasting life.

God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world.

St. John 3:16-17

\*Presentation Hymn

St. Flavian

And through these days of penance, and of  
A - bide with us, that pen so, - this life and of  
through thy Pas - sion - tide, yea, ev - er - more, in  
suf - fering o - ver - past, an Eas - ter of un -  
life and death, Je sus! with us a - bide.  
end - ing joy we - sus! may at - tain at - last!

The Holy Communion – Eucharistic Prayer II

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* It is meet and right so to do.

*Celebrant*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## Sanctus and Benedictus (S114)

Healey Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full\_\_\_\_ of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Celebrant

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Fraction

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

12 noon:

## Celebrant

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

## People

Therefore let us keep the feast.

7 pm:

## \*Agnus Dei (S158)

Men

Healey Willan

A musical score for a single melodic line. The key signature is one sharp. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a melodic line that descends from a high note to a lower one. The lyrics are: "O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -". The notes correspond to the syllables of the lyrics, with a slight pause before "Lamb". The music is in common time.

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

Women

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kест a - way the sins of the world, have

All

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kест a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

### All are welcome at God's Table

*Please come forward, at the direction of the ushers. The bread is received in the open palm. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the priest. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the common cup by drinking (placing your hand gently on the base of the chalice to guide it). If you do not wish to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the priest.*

\*Communion      I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ (Ich ruf zu dir, BWV. 639) J.S. Bach

\*Communion Hymn #152    Kind maker of the world, O hear      A la venue de Noel

## Thanksgiving after Communion

*Please stand or kneel.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## The Solemn Prayer

*During the season of Lent, in place of a blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used:*

Celebrant Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn #142 (verses 1-3) Lord, who throughout these forty days

St. Flavian

## The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

*There is no Voluntary during the season of Lent.*

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## Serving in God's House Today

12 noon

Lector: Katie Reilly

L.E.M.: MaryAnn Risley

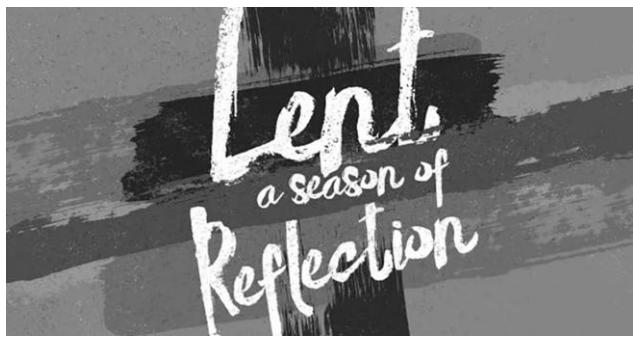
7 pm

Lector: Debbie Mello, Tim Evans,

L.E.M.: Randy Kurie

Ushers: Kurt Lutz, Pauline Josephs

Crucifer: Josh Szelest



**Lenten Series 2026  
Wednesday Evenings  
7:00-8:00 pm  
Beginning February 25**

**Spiritual Struggles:  
Strategies for Strengthening  
& Sustaining our Faith**

Our prayer book invites us into the season of Lent through “self-examination, repentance, prayer, and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” (pg. 265).

You are invited to join in this holy work with others through our five-week Lenten series. Led by Chris Streeter and Tricia Lyons, we will spend time identifying some of the spiritual struggles and pitfalls that can challenge and discourage us. Utilizing both large and small group formats, we will look at different strategies and resources that can help strengthen our faith and renew our connections to God, each other and our own, best selves.

**Our first, introductory session will be held on Wednesday, February 25 beginning at 7:00 pm in Holley Hall.** We hope you will join us throughout the season of Lent, preparing our ourselves in heart, body, mind and spirit for the coming of Easter and reclaiming the joys given to us through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christ Episcopal Church  
2026 Women's Retreat

# GOD IS DOING A NEW THING

*Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM-4PM

Project Self Sufficiency  
Building #3  
127 Mill Street  
Newton, NJ 07860

Cost: \$50

Includes: lunch, coffee, tea and snacks  
Scholarships and financial aid available  
For registration, payment and information  
<https://www.christchurchnewton.org/christ-church-women>  
or contact Diana Greene: [dianatgreene@gmail.com](mailto:dianatgreene@gmail.com)



Facilitated by The Rev. Danielle Baker

The Rev. Danielle D. Baker serves as Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul's in Morris Plains, focusing on stewardship, spiritual growth, and service. She is dedicated to helping others discover and share their gifts through worship, teaching, prayer, and community engagement.



Christ Church Women's Retreat  
Saturday, March 7  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## Theme: God Is Doing a New Thing

Facilitator: The Rev. Danielle Baker

Join with other women of our parish for a day of conversation, prayer, reflection and learning.

For more information, please reach out to the church office or speak with Diana Greene.

### Marked by Ashes – Walter Brueggemann

We are able to ponder our ashness with  
some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes  
anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you –  
you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,  
Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;  
Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.  
Come here and Easter our Wednesday with  
mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.



## Christ Church Leadership

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Newark

The Rev. Christopher M. Streeter, Rector

[cstreeter@christchurchnewton.org](mailto:cstreeter@christchurchnewton.org)  
585-730-0904: *pastoral emergencies*

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Lyons, Associate Priest

The Rev. Candace Sandfort  
& The Rev. Jeanette Hile, Assisting Clergy

Geri Livengood & Mary Ann Risley, Wardens

Karrie Miller, Parish Administrator

Joseph Mello, Director of Music/Choirmaster

Diana Greene, Organist

Deborah Mello, Youth Choir      The Rev. Jenny Streeter, Director of Christian Formation

Sue Mittelstadt, Children's Ministry

Luz Quintero, Sexton