

# 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  
The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

8:00 & 10:00 am

*\*omitted at 8:00 am*

**\*Prelude**

Reprise

Paul Manz

**\*Hymn in Procession #75** There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascensio

**Opening Acclamation**

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

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

*Celebrant* 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.**

**Trisagion**

8 am (said three times)

*Celebrant* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

*People* **Have mercy upon us**

10 am: S-100

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,  
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy  
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Reader*          The Word of the Lord.

*People*          **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalms 72:1-8

*8 am: said responsively; 10 am: led by the choir*



**In his time, jus-tice and peace shall flour-ish.**

1      Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
         and your righteousness to the King's Son;

- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
**and the poor with justice;** [ANTIPHON]
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.** [ANTIPHON]
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
**from one generation to another.**
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.** [ANTIPHON]
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**
- 8 He shall rule from sea to sea; \*  
**And from the river to the ends of the earth.** [ANTIPHON]



In his time, jus-tice and peace shall flour-ish.

## The Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

\*The Gospel Acclamation



Al-le -lu -ia, al-le-lu -ia, al -le-lu-ia.

*Verse* Prepare the way of the Lord, says the Lord, make his paths straight; \*  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

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

**The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Candace Sandfort

## The Nicene Creed

*Please stand.*

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

*Please stand or kneel*

Let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence*

We pray for the church, that as the advent candles glow more brightly, our hearts may be awakened to see the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We ask your blessing upon our Christ Church family. May we continue to be a sign of your loving presence and hope, even when hope seems in vain. Keep us mindful and responsive to the community beyond these walls and give us strength to serve all your people. We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, because of illness, troubles or addictions, and all whose struggles are known to you alone. Guard them with your healing presence, and restore them to health and wholeness in your good time and way.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died, and all those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them and grant them peace.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer*

O God our Maker, you have put a restlessness in our souls and a thirst for a deeper knowledge of you in our hearts. Turn us now in the right direction. Give us the grace to realize that there are no easy answers to our questions and no shortcuts to our goals. As we move toward Christmas, help us to search our own lives, that we may be ready to receive the new life that is coming into the world. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin & Absolution**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A period of silence is kept, ended by the Celebrant.*

**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.**

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.



### **Welcome & Announcements**

The Rev. Chris Streefer

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

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**\*Offertory Anthem**

E'vn so, Lord Jesus, quickly come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him  
Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood  
That we might saved be.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,  
For Christ is coming soon!

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,  
The Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come;  
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,  
For Christ will be their All!

**\*The Doxology**



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures  
5 here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise  
10 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
15 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

# The Holy Communion

## Eucharistic Prayer B

<p><i>Celebrant</i></p> <p>The Lord be with you.</p> <p><i>Celebrant</i></p> <p>Lift up your hearts.</p> <p><i>Celebrant</i></p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p> <p>And al - so with you.</p> <p><i>People</i></p> <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p><i>People</i></p> <p>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</p>
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*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. 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:

**Sanctus and Benedictus** 8 am: spoken; 10 am: S-124

	<p>Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and</p>
	<p>earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.</p>
	<p>Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.</p>

*Celebrant* 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."

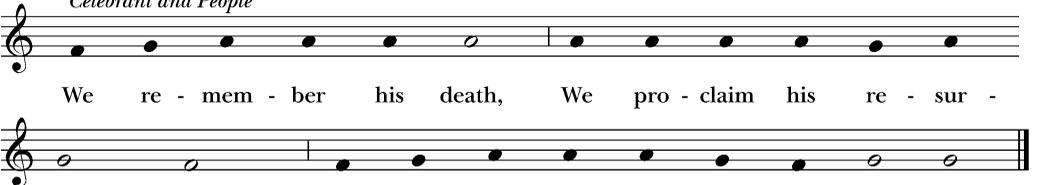
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*Celebrant*



There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

*Celebrant and People*



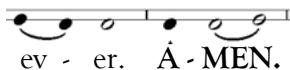
We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -  
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*Celebrant* 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



### 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

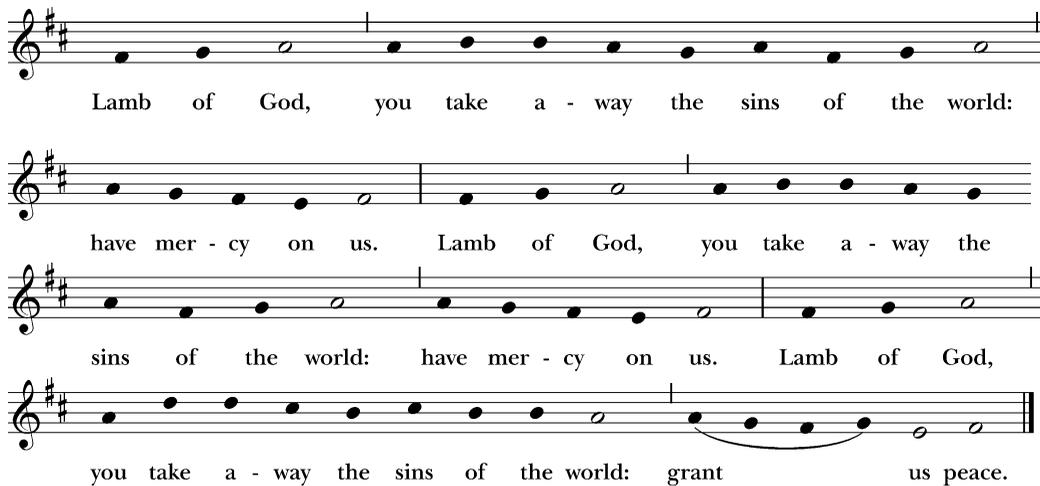
*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

### Agnus Dei

8 am: spoken

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.**

10 am: S-161



## 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**

Meditation 1

Gilbert Martin

**\*Communion Hymn #63**

O heavenly Word, eternal Light

*Verbum supernum prodiens*

**Thanksgiving after Communion**

*Please stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*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**

**\*Closing Hymn #616**

Hail to the Lord's anointed

*Waldvögelein*

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**\*The Voluntary**

An Advent Postlude

*Charles Callahan*

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Reprise ©1997 MorningStar

E'vn so, Lord Jesus, quickly come ©1969 Concordia Publishing House

Meditation 1 ©1993 Beckenhorst Press

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## Serving in God's House Today

**8:00 am**

Lector: John Beasley

L.E.M.: MaryAnn Risley

Ushers: Mike Ragsdale

Altar Guild: Teresa Kruger

**10:00 am**

Crucifer: Tracy Zillmer

Lectors: Patricia Taggart, Alex Zander,

Beth Batastini

L.E.M.: Matt Genung

Ushers: George & Barbara Wink

## Joining us in worship & fellowship on November 30, 2025

8:00 am: 46

10:00 am: 124

## Christ Church Prayer List

**For those who are ill:** Fred, Jennifer, Gizelle, Carolyne, Madeline, Gloria, Lorraine, Mark, Phyllis, Michael, Antoinette, Jackie, Carole, Linda, Michael Patrick, Charlie, Derek, Guy, Ryan, Tricia, Lauren, Tony, Sam, Marie, Antonia, Michelle, Ronnie, Colleen, Frances, Jenna, Deena, Dale, Karen, Becky, Laura, Ed, Brenda, Alex, Becky, Amy, Elaine, Judi, Jason, Todd, Reid Family, Lou, Gabbie, Susan, Marlene, Ed, Trina, Barbara, Albert, Jane, Daryl, Jane, Judi, Debbie, Jeffrey, Amy, Alyssa, Katie, Laura, Janet, Stevie, Mookie, Emilie, Andy, Lorraine, Tammy, Ann, Liz, Roberto, Ovidro, Aceneth, Louise, Mike, Art, Ray, Madeline, Sharon, Nadine, Mark, Michele, Ann, Eva, Jenny, Brian, John, Oscar, Joyce, Sharon and Marie

**For those serving in the armed forces:** Dean, Michael, Jonathan, Rich, Zach and Angel.

**We rejoice with...** Jennifer Rowe, Ray Regenthal, Keith Thies, Tammy Arfken, Stacy Grant, Denise Streeter and all who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

## Poem for Advent

*If we fill our lives with things,  
and again with things,  
if we must fill every moment of our lives with action,  
when will we have the time  
to make the long slow journey across the desert  
as did the Magi?  
Or sit and watch the stars  
as did the Shepherds?  
Or brood over the coming of the child  
as did Mary?  
For each of us, there is a desert to travel,  
a star to discover,  
and a being within ourselves to bring to life.*

*Michael Podesta*

### Monthly Parish Breakfast

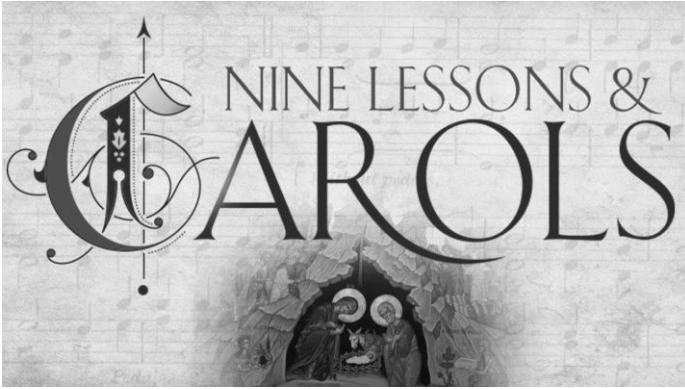
Next Sunday, December 14  
starting at 8:45 am.

Join us for our monthly parish  
breakfast next Sunday!

Bring a friend – all are welcome!



**Service of Nine Lessons & Carols – A Christ Church Tradition!**  
**Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 pm**



Mark your calendars now for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. This powerful liturgy includes nine Bible stories interspersed with Christmas carols which depict the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus. It features our own Senior and Youth Choirs, accompanied by organ and orchestra.

This is a perfect service to invite friends, family and neighbors to attend with you!

**Christmas Services at Christ Church**

**Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve**

**4:00 pm: Family Christmas Service**

*This shorter service features the Christmas story told by our Sunday School students and is the perfect service for families.*

**8:00 pm: Festive Choral Eucharist**

*This is our traditional Christmas Eve service. Come at 7:30 to join in our Carol Sing!*



**Thursday, December 25: The Feast of the Incarnation**

**9:00 am: Christmas Day Holy Eucharist**

*This quieter service celebrates the day of Christ's birth, a perfect way to spend part of your Christmas morning.*



## Join Us for Breakfast!

Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30 a.m.

**Christ Church Newton**

62 Main Street

(corner of Church & Main)

### Hot Breakfast - Fellowship - Help with Community Programs



*A Program of Christ Church  
Newton with Help from Our  
Community Partners:*

- Benny's Bodega
- Center for Prevention & Counseling
- Family Promise
- Market Street Mission
- Mental Health Association
- Pathways to Prosperity
- Project Self-Sufficiency
- Town of Newton

**Christ Church Newton - 62 Main Street, Newton, NJ 07860**

[www.christchurchnewton.org](http://www.christchurchnewton.org) - 973-383-2245

## 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*

Geri Livengood & Mary Ann Risley, Wardens

Karrie Miller, Parish Administrator

Luz Quintero, Sexton

Joseph Mello, Director of Music/Choirmaster

Diana Greene, Organist

Deborah Mello, Youth Choir

The Rev. Jenny Streeter, Christian Formation

Sue Mittelstadt, Children's Ministry

Alex Zander, Altar Guild