

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



The Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost

September 27, 2026

8AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (spoken)

Page 2

10AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (sung)

Page 11



Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, PA

8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers on the right hand side of the bulletin refer to parts of the service that can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* (the black book in the pews).

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Word

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity (said together)

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.

Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

People: **Christ have mercy**

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The First Reading : Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What

shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,
we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works he has done.**

He worked mas in the sight of their forefathers,
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

**He split open the sea and let them pass through;
he made the waters stand up like walls.**

He led them with a cloud by day,
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

**He split the hard rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink as from the great deep.**

He brought streams out of the cliff,
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Before the reading

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God

ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

The Homily

Please stand

The Nicene Creed

358

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Let us pray to God, our heavenly Father for the humble spirit to receive the kingdom as little children, saying, hear your children’s prayer.

Intercessor: Sovereign Lord, your Son has revealed you as our heavenly Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. You have made your Church a spiritual family, a household of faith. Through baptism we are reborn as the brothers and sisters of Christ. Deepen our unity and fellowship in him. Be with Bryce, our rector, Audrey, our bishop, Kevin, our assistant bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, The Church of Bangladesh and the churches and ministries of the Diocese of the Susquehanna. Father of all: **hear your children’s prayer.**

You sent your Son to give his life as a ransom for the whole human family. Give justice, peace and racial harmony to the world he died to save. Defend and guard all of those living in places of war, conflict or natural disaster. Father of all: **hear your children’s prayer.**

You gave your Son a share in the life of a family in Nazareth. Help us to value our families, to be thankful for them, and to live sensitively within them. We give thanks with those celebrating this week: Linda and Jack Lacey, Gordon Bartlett, Terry Rowles, Josephine Lawson, Jessica Ashman, Luke Weyandt and David Emes. Father of all: **hear your children’s prayer.**

Your Son drew around him a company of friends. Bring love and joy to all who are alone. Help us all to find in the brothers and sisters of Christ a loving family. We pray for those on our prayer list printed in the bulletin and any that we name now... Father of all: **hear your children’s prayer.**

You are the God of the dead as well as of the living. In confidence we remember those of the household of faith who have gone before us, Charles, Sydne and Marshall Long and George and Alice Lacey, Patricia K.J. Mathews-Davis and Charles L. Davis. Bring us with them to the joy of your home in heaven. Father of all: **hear your children's prayer.**

Celebrant: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin 360

The Peace 360

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Prayers for the Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer A from *The Book of Common Prayer*) 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 361

The Sanctus

All **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.**

The Celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 362

Celebrant: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People: **Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 363

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation to Communion

364

Everyone is invited to receive. There will be two chalices for receiving: communion rail. and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking.) Gluten Free wafers are available; if you require gluten free please indicate this when receiving. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail.

The Post-Communion Prayer

365

The Blessing

366

Celebrant: ...; and the blessing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant at 8AM and 10AM
The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Homilist at 8AM and 10AM
Rick Wolf

Altar Guild Team
Charlotte Hoare (Captain), Christine Keeler, Fran Graeff and Josephine Lawson

8am Service Participants

Lector and Intercessor
Rick Wolf

Communion Assistant
Dane Miller

Usher
Ellen Sunderman

10am Service Participants

Organist and Choir Director
John Painter

Lector
Cynthia Pipkin

Intercessor
Joann Hyneman

Communion Assistants
Terry Rowles and Andrea
Griffith

Verger
Matt Hoelscher

Crucifer
Ian Hoelscher

Acolytes
Lauren Hoelscher

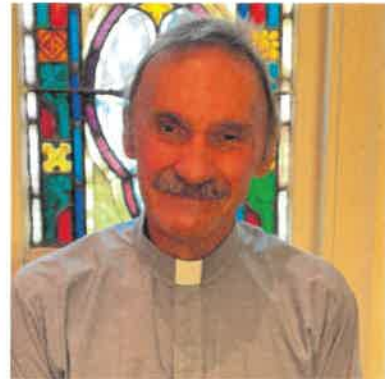
Gospel Book
Andrea Griffith

Ushers
Walt Frankowski, Doris Schilpp, Linda
Jones and Sherry Faust

Greeting Team
Brenda Guardian, Daniel Harris and Justin Skwiat

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events

On October 11th The Revd Ross Tortora will be with us again! Fr Ross was with us in 2023 when he spoke to us about the amazing work of Homeboy Industries and Fr Greg Boyle. This time he will preach at our 8AM and 10AM services and lead us in a lively discussion of some of his favorite scenes from *The Chosen*.



October 18th marks the kickoff of our fourth **All The Company of Heaven competition**. Start studying up on your favorite saints so you can nominate them on this special Sunday in our year.



On Sunday October 25th we will be **blessing the Halloween Costumes** during our 10AM service. Why not invite a friend so they can have their Halloween blessed and receive some early treats too?



TUNE 1: EVELYNS 65 65 D



1. At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
who, from the be - gin ning, was the migh - ty Word.

2. Humbled for a season,
to receive a Name
from the lips of sinners,
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he
passed;

3. bore it up triumphant,
with its human light,
through all ranks of
creatures,
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

4. Christians, this Lord
Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory
o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

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Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, PA

10am Holy Eucharist : Rite Two

Hymns can be found in the blue books labelled *Hymnal 1982* or the green books labelled *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Page numbers on the right hand side of the bulletin refer to parts of the service that can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* (the black book in the pews).

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Bolcum

Processional Hymn

At the name of Jesus (see page 10)

The Liturgy of the Word

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity (said together)

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.

Kyrie

David Thorne

Andante *mf*

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy,

7 Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

11 *mf* Lord have mer - cy, *mp* Lord have mer - cy.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 (see page 2 for the text of the reading)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Hymn 592

Teach me, my God and king

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32 (see page 4 for the text of the reading)

Before the reading

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

After the reading

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord**

Please be seated

The Homily

Please stand

The Nicene Creed

358

The Prayers of the People (see page 5)

Intercessor: Father of all:

All: **hear your children's prayer.**

Confession of Sin

360

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Announcements and Children's Message

The Offertory Anthem

Tantum ergo

Luis Vierne

The Presentation Hymn 380 *From all that dwell below the skies* (vs 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer A from *The Book of Common Prayer*)

361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 361

Sanctus

David Thorne

Moderato *mf*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might,

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 362

Celebrant: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People: **Christ has died**
0 Christ is risen
Christ will come again

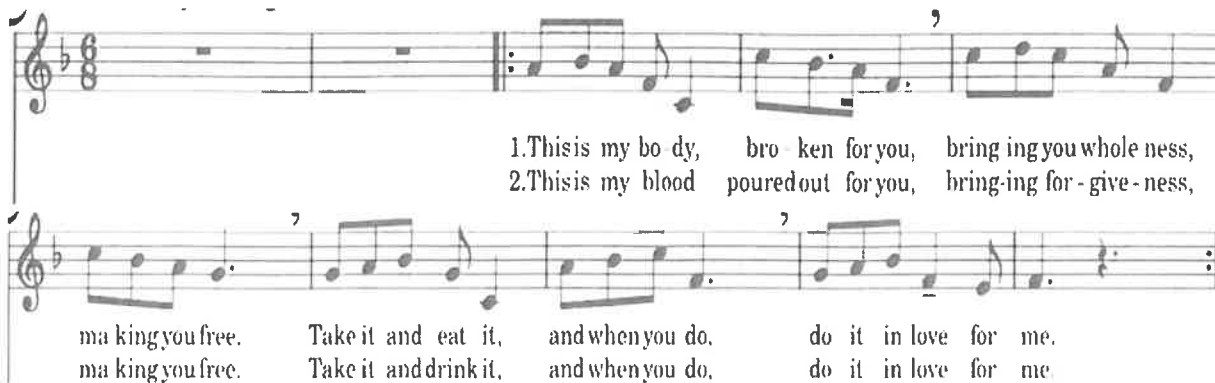
The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 363

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Fraction Anthem

Jimmy Owens



1. This is my body, broken for you, bringing you wholeness,
2. This is my blood poured out for you, bringing forgiveness,
making you free. Take it and eat it, and when you do, do it in love for me.
making you free. Take it and drink it, and when you do, do it in love for me.

The Invitation to Communion

364

Everyone is invited to receive. There will be two chalices for receiving: the first to drink from and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking.) Gluten Free wafers are available; if you require gluten free please indicate this when receiving. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail. communion rail.

The Agnus Dei

David Thorne



The Communion Hymn 645

The King of love my shepherd is

If Eucharist visitors are being sent forth today to take the sacrament to people at home, the following prayer is said after Communion:

Celebrant: In the name of God, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

The Post-Communion Prayer

365

The Blessing

366

Celebrant: ...; and the blessing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Closing Hymn 477

All praise to thee

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata

15

Louis Vierne



Fall Festival of the Arts

Through Our Own Eyes
(Opening Reception)

Friday, September 25, 2026
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church
435 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, United
States (map)

The Fall Festival of the Arts continues its commitment to the City of Reading with six events celebrating the visual and performing arts. Go the webpage below for information and ticketing.

www.fallfestivalofthearts.org



Don't miss this brilliant and fascinating exhibition of photography!

Our show features beautiful, intriguing pictures chosen from the collections of local people: Mary Arguelles, Fred, Megan, and Kristen Opalinski, and Dr. Thomas Souders. Be sure to visit the exhibit and join us for the Gallery Talk to meet the photographers and hear their stories.

Gallery Hours

September 25 | Opening Reception at 6:00 PM
September 27 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
September 30 | Gallery Talk at 7:00 PM
October 04 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
October 11 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Nature Meets Creativity

Sunday, October 4, 2026
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church
527 Washington Street, Reading, PA (map)



We are thrilled to announce that the **Red Creek Wildlife Center** will be joining us for a captivating wildlife presentation as part of this year's Fall Festival of the Arts.

Known for their incredible work in wildlife rehabilitation and education, Red Creek will bring the wonders of the natural world right to our festival grounds. It's a unique opportunity to see these majestic creatures up close and learn about the vital role they play in our local ecosystem.

We're currently in the lab (or the nest!) cooking up some special **children's activities** to keep the little ones engaged. While we're still finalizing the details, you can expect plenty of hands-on fun to spark a lifelong love for nature.

John Painter Organ Concert

Friday, October 9, 2026
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church
435 Court Street, Reading, PA (map)



John Painter's path to the organ bench at Christ Episcopal Church is anything but ordinary. A Schuylkill Valley High School graduate who went on to earn degrees from Bard College and the Manhattan School of Music, Painter has served congregations across Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, performed recitals in the United States and France, and even spent six years teaching in Morocco – all while honing one of the most deeply trained musical minds in the region.

Now settled back in Reading, Painter brings that extraordinary breadth of experience to the Fall Festival of the Arts with an organ recital in the sanctuary of Christ Church. Expect an evening of masterful playing, featuring works from the French repertoire and J.S. Bach – performed on what Painter himself calls one of the finest instruments he has ever played.

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette	Todd	Beverly	Mertz Family
Connie	Randall	Byron and Sherry	Randi
Ashley	Joshua	Darryl	Scott
Jaime	Grace	Joe and Ginny	Jeri
Nate	Amelia	Joshua	Terra
Cat	Meir	Randy	Cindy
Max	Kate	Kara	Jill
Nick	Donna	Lola	Sandi
M.J.	Lynn	Susie	Jim
Elizabeth	Lou	David	Ryan
Faith	Kimberlee	Issa	Evelyn
Dani	Lulu		

Kindly submit any names you would like to be added to the prayer list by emailing Kim

@officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org or writing the name on the paper on the table outside the church.



The ECW of Christ Church would like to announce the 2026 Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Event. For a \$5.00 donation, you get a pass for 25% most items for one day only, Wednesday, October 21 from 8AM to 11PM. Please see any ECW member for a ticket.

Altar Candle Memorials for September are given for Blessings Received by Susan Frankowski; Paul and Alice Swain and Arthur and Mary Hoare by Stephen and Charlotte Hoare and Sherry Feick Chandler by David and Judy Feick.

Altar Flowers for today are given in Honor of their Wedding Anniversary and in to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Charles, Sydne and Marshall Long and George and Alice Lacey from Linda and Jack Lacey.

Columbarium Flowers are given today to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Patricia K.J. Mathews-Davis and Charles Davis from their Children, Grandchildren and Great-

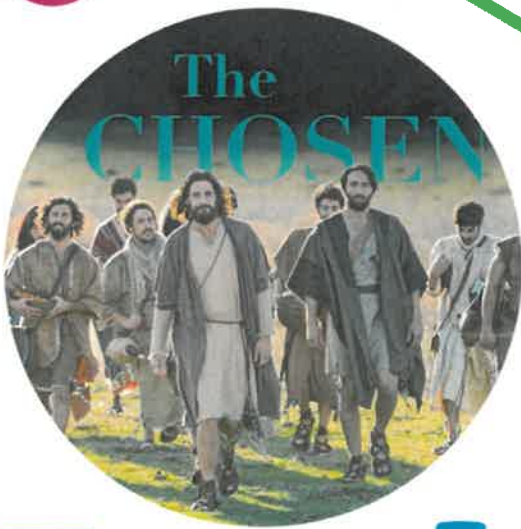
Regular Christ Church Office hours:

Monday: 8:00 am - 2:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00AM-12:30PM

Wednesday 8:00 am - 2:00 PM

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.

We are grounded in the values of love, service and faithful stewardship. Firmly rooted in compassionate collaboration, we welcome partnerships that nurture our neighbors and address pressing issues in our community. We endeavor to be a cornerstone for the city of Reading, enabling all that come through our doors to experience the dignity, purpose and opportunities that God desires for everyone.



The Chosen People's Choice Awards

During our Adult Forum (9:05AM to 9:45AM) we are looking at the life of Jesus and his followers through [your chosen clips](#) from the TV show *The Chosen*. Please join us for this engaging way to delve into the life of our Lord as we continue in seasons 1 and 2 of the show.

[The next session is September 27.](#)



Cover images:

Center: Stained glass detail from Christ Church, Reading

Bottom left: The shield of the Diocese of the Susquehanna

Bottom right: Line drawing of Christ Church, Reading

This Week at Christ Church
Sunday, September 27—The Eighteenth
Sunday after Pentecost

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM Sunday School
9:05AM Adult Forum *The Chosen*
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
11AM-1PM Art Gallery
1PM Covenant Cup Golf Tournament
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Monday, September 28
10AM-2PM Church Open Day
12PM—1PM NA meeting

Tuesday, September 29
9AM Literacy Class
9:30AM Centering Prayer
12PM—1PM NA meeting

Wednesday, September 30
9AM Staff meeting
12PM Noon Eucharist
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
5:30-7PM NA Meeting
7PM Art Gallery Talk

Thursday, October 1
9AM Literacy Class
9:30AM Centering Prayer
11AM Morning Prayer
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
5PM-6:30PM NA Meeting

Friday, October 2
12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Saturday, October 3
12PM-2PM NA meeting

Sunday, October 4 —The Nineteenth
Sunday after Pentecost

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM Sunday School
9:05AM Adult Forum *The Chosen*
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
11AM-1PM Art Gallery
4PM Blessing of the Pets
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Upcoming Events

September 27 Food Pantry Collection
Covenant Cup Golf Tournament 1PM
October 4 Blessing of the Pets 4PM
October 5 Lunchtime Concert with David Cullen 12-12:30PM with Free Lunch
October 11 The Revd Ross Tortora, guest preacher and Adult Forum leader
October 18 St Luke: The Evangelist with All the Company of Heaven Nominationtide
October 25 The Blessing of the Halloween Costumes 10AM
Stewardship Kickoff Sunday
October 28 All Souls' Mass (Musician: David Cullen) 5:30PM
November 8 Veterans Sunday
November 9 Kristallnacht Memorial Service 7PM at CCR

