



CHRIST CHURCH

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The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

May 21, 2018

*May the road rise up to meet you; May the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face; May the rains fall soft upon your fields;
and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.¹*

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Pentecost, Sunday, May 20, the Rev. Deacon Michael Kurth, announced to the parish that he has been called as Curate to Christ's Church in Rye, New York.

I am very happy that Michael will serve as a priest on staff at one of the cardinal parishes of our diocese. Full-time curacies have become rare in the Episcopal Church, and this is a fantastic opportunity for Michael. The Rev. Kate Malin, who serves as Rector at Christ's Church in Rye, is a fine priest, and she will be a solid mentor to Michael on this next stage of his spiritual journey.

On a personal note, I am delighted that Michael will be nearby. I have known Michael since he started the ordination process. He is a good man, a true friend, and a firm believer. He will make an excellent priest and curate.

Michael will be with us at Christ Church (Pelham) for two more Sundays, June 10 and June 24. On his last Sunday, June 24, he will be Deacon and Preacher at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Eucharists. Please make every effort to be at Christ Church (Pelham) on June 24. Following each service that Sunday we will have a festive celebration to bid him a fond farewell. If you would like to help plan or prepare food for the celebrations on June 24, please contact Marie Main in the Parish office.

If you would like to contribute to Michael's goodbye purse, please contact Marie Main in the Parish office, or write a check to "Christ Church" and note "Michael Kurth" in the memo.

¹ Traditional Gaelic blessing

Michael's ordination to the priesthood will be at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Please mark the date in your calendar, and make every effort to be present to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Please keep Michael, his parents Chris and Carla, his girlfriend Sarah, and the people of Christ's Church, Rye, in your prayers. Michael has been an excellent Seminarian for the past two years, and he has been a blessing in our midst. We will miss him and the many gifts he brought to Christ Church.

I want to close with the three Ember Day prayers which are special prayers for those called to ministry in the Church.²

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*³

In Christ,



The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

² Ember days are set aside throughout the year for prayers for those called to ministry in the Church. There are four Ember Weeks each year: Winter Embers Days occur on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday between the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent; Spring Ember Days occur on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday between the First and Second Sundays of Lent; Summer Ember Days occur on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday; and Autumn Ember Days occur on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday in the Third week of September (near Holy Cross Day). This week is an Ember Week.

³ The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 256.