CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 9, 2021 | 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

You may stream this service from Christ Church's Facebook Page.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

Covenant for Regathering

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of
Maryland for participation in the life of my congregation according to
the regathering phase in which my congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.

In fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant (*BCP* p. 304-305), I will strive to:

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking part, and follow public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting
- Only attend worship and receive communion if I am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant
- Will abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk due to my own health status

Respecting the dignity of every human being, I will...

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household
- Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, and cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others

Seek and serve Christ in all people...

- Trust and support the decisions of both my diocesan and congregational leaders
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, or mail

May 2020

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Lux eoi

Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts and voices heavenward raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim,
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born,
glorious life, and life immortal,
on his resurrection morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer
by his mighty enterprise:
we with him to life eternal
by his resurrection rise.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first-fruits
of the holy harvest-field,
which with all its full abundance
at his second coming yield:
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen!
Shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that, with hearts in heaven dwelling,
we on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Savior
who has won the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluia, alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity

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.
People: **Amen.**

Gloria

Read in unison

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON — Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

The following Psalm is chanted by the choir.

PSALM 98 — *Cantate Domino*

Chant: Ivor Algernon Atkins (1869-1953)

Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN **Please hum or mouth the words only.** *Erhalt uns Herr*

Descend, O Spirit, purging flame,
brand us this day with Jesus' Name!
Confirm our faith, consume our doubt;
sign us as Christ's, within, without.

Forbid us not this second birth;
grant unto us the greater worth!
Enlist us in your service, Lord;
baptize all nations with your Word.

THE GOSPEL John 15:9-17

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

The people may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

SERMON The Rev'd Emmanuel Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

All: **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

Almighty God, today we remember, pray for, and give thanks to You for our mothers: for the mothers who gave us birth and for every woman who chose us to love as her own, for the mothers whose love we honor and return and for those who could not return our love, for all women everywhere who have stepped up to take us into their hearts when we needed it the most, for the wisdom to be the best mothers we ourselves can be, we pray, ***thank you, Lord.***

For women unable to mother their children and for mothers who try to do their best and fail, we pray***, help us, Lord.***

For women everywhere trying to protect their children from fear, hunger, poverty, sickness, homelessness, and violence, we pray***, help us, Lord.***

For all the aunts, grandmothers, godmothers, and sisters who love and care for children who need them to be their mother, ***thank you, Lord.***

For the guiding hands of women by which we have made good decisions, ***thank you, Lord.***

For mothers who can rejoice in their children's lives and for mothers whose children bring them sorrow, ***be with us, Lord.***

For the work of the church here at Christ Church, for the work of the churches in our Diocese, especially in the parishes of Trinity, Elkridge, of All Hallows, Davidsonville, of All Saints, Sunderland, and for the work of churches across our world, especially in the Anglican Church of Kenya, that mothers may find in them communities of support and solace and hope, we pray, ***help us, Lord***.

For the mothers and all who weep and worry today over the sickness of those whom they love, and for those in our parish family who are ill, especially Farris, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Ana, Theresa, Nell, Dave, Victoria, Jim, Roberta, Kathleen, Meghan, Caleb, Ashley, Ron, Patrick, and Jeanette ,Ellen, and Charles, we pray***, be with us, Lord.***

For the people of India, suffering a surge in COVID-19 and inadequate treatment and resources, we pray, ***be with us, Lord.***

For all mothers who have known the death of a child, for mothers no longer with us in this mortal life, and for all those we love who have died, we pray***, be with us, Lord.***

For the gladness of heart that birthdays and anniversaries bring to us, especially the special days this week of Fred, Saah, Carolann, Colleen, Grace, Thomas, Joseph, James and John in our parish family, we pray, ***thank you, Lord.***

For all of us, women and men alike, that we may resolve this day to honor You, Lord, in our words and in our actions, and so may also honor the women whom we love and who have loved us. For this we pray and say ***AMEN***.

THE PEACE

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

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN **Please hum or mouth the words only.** *O quanta qualia*

Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted as friends:
yours is the strength that sustains our vocation,
ours a commitment we know never ends.

Here, at your table, confirm our intention
ever to cherish the gifts you provide;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
led by your Spirit, defender and guide.

When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed, and our courage restored:
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.

So, in the world where each duty assigned us
gives us the chance to create or destroy,
help us to make those decisions that bind us,
Lord, to yourself, in obedience and joy.

DOXOLOGY **Please hum or mouth the words only.** *Old 100th*

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
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…
…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:

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.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 ever.

All: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: 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 Breaking of the Bread

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

Fraction Anthem

Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

Cantor: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.
Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Cantor: The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.
Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Cantor: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.
Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988)

All: **In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving.
I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection;
I await your coming in glory.
And since I cannot receive you today
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus,
and let me never be separated from you.
May I live in you, and you in me,
in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

Communion Hymn

Please hum or mouth the words only. *Halton Holgate*

In your mercy, Lord, you called me,
taught my sin-filled heart and mind,
else this world had still enthralled me,
and to glory kept me blind.

Lord, I did not freely choose you
till by grace you set me free;
for my heart would still refuse you
had your love not chosen me.

Now my heart sets none above you,
for your grace alone I thirst,
knowing well, that if I love you,
you, O Lord, have loved me first.

COMMUNION HYMN

Please hum or mouth the words only.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.
One Lord.
Refrain

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.
One Lord.
Refrain

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.
One Lord.
Refrain

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **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

The Celebrant blesses the People, who respond ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Blaenhafren

Lord, whose love through humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed,
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light,
in its height and depth and greatness,
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving,
your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the agèd
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the people, who respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

This Sunday at Christ Episcopal Church | Join us on Sundays as we worship at 8 a.m. in Old Brick and at 10:30 a.m. in New Brick. Father Manny is our Celebrant for this Sunday's services. The 10:30 a.m. worship will be broadcast on our Christ Church website, YouTube, and Facebook pages for those who are doing so remotely. We'll also have Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom after the 10:30 service, and will send the link on Saturday. If you'd like to worship in person, just complete the brief form on our website, and please wear your mask while on campus. See you on Sunday!

Christ Church Sunday School | Online Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary school children take place from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. Please fill out a registration form so that we are able to provide you with the Zoom codes. Our curriculum is *"Weaving God's Promises"* and we are in *Year 3: Weaving God's Community*. To learn more about our Sunday School offerings, please visit our website, and if you have any questions or are able to help facilitate classes, please contact Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net. We also host weekly Sunday School classes for middle & high schoolers on Zoom from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please fill out the registration form so that we can provide you with the Zoom codes. If you have any questions, please contact Yetti Lipede at theodociayl@gmail.com.

Confirmation Class - Sunday Afternoons | Confirmation classes are held each Sunday, and we invite all parishioners who are interested in being Confirmed, Reaffirmed, or Received into the Episcopal Church or have the desire to deepen their faith, to join us on Sunday afternoons for Confirmation and Adult Inquirers class on Zoom. The Confirmation and Inquirers classes are an opportunity that we have to explore the varied and rich components that shape and inform our faith. Confirmation will take place on May 23rd with Father Manny, Deacon Denise, and Bishop Sutton. For information, contact Yetti -ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org or Fr. Manny - revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

From the Director of Music | As we regather, and especially when we gather for worship outdoors, please feel free to be in touch with me with any specific comments or questions about the musical selections in worship. Your feedback is essential for the success of the music ministry here at Christ Church. You can e-mail me at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or grab me after church. Please don't be shy! -Adam

Morning and Evening Prayer – Weekdays | Each week, we host morning prayer Monday through Friday at 7:00 a.m., and evening prayer is offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to worship via Facebook or the main page of our website, and join in the centering and healing Anglican practice of observing daily offices. And if you're interested in helping us lead a virtual prayer gathering in the future, please email us.

Conversations on Race: R.A.G.E. Ministry - Tuesday Evening | Christ Church's own Racially Aware Group of Episcopalians—or RAGE—will meet again on Tuesday, May 11th at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. We will spend time discussing a mission statement around intentional work in areas such as reconciliation and healing, community peace and justice, advocacy, and education and awareness. This mission statement will serve as the foundation for how we invest our time and energy as a Christ Church ministry.

Meetings will continue every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. throughout May and June, with the exceptions of May 25th and June 22nd. Future meetings will feature guest speakers and discussions of a short video or a short reading, along with planning for ministry activities. Please join us in engaging in this important work, as shaped by our Baptismal Covenant. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this virtual gathering. Email us if you have any questions - info@christchurchcolumbia.org. Join us on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Our Zoom link is here, the meeting ID is 814 3122 0554 and the password is CECcor.

Lectionary Bible Study - Wednesday Morning | Bible Study takes place on Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and is a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. The readings for our next gathering can be found here. You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join us online and let's all study together. If you're interested, simply gather with us online next Wednesday; the Zoom link is here, the meeting ID is 854 7191 2087, and the password is BibleStudy.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Wednesday Afternoon | Christ Church has created a Prayer Shawl Ministry, so grab your knitting needles and yarn, and join us. Don't have time to knit a whole shawl? Think about knitting some Prayer Squares, with each measuring 5" x 5". These are easily and quickly made and will be appreciated by those who are ill or grieving. If you are interested in making shawls or squares, contact Pastoral Care Commissioner Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com. Links to this virtual gathering are in our Monday *This Week on Zoom* email.

Centering Prayer - Thursday Evening | Come join Kathy and Adrian in Old Brick on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for this contemplative prayer gathering. Each session begins with a reading from scripture or from the writings of spiritual leaders and teachers. After the reading, the group sits for periods of ten minutes of silence in which each individual meditates on a word, phrase, or thought from the reading. The silence in a group setting allows for a shared energy and connectedness that fosters an openness to God's presence. Centering Prayer can move us beyond conversation to communion with God. All attendees wear masks and sit at an appropriate distance from each other. You are welcome to participate as their schedule permits, whether it's every week or once in a while.

Christ Church Book Club - Friday Evening | The CEC Book Club continues our discussion of C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* through the month of May. These are conducted via Zoom each week from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and you'll find the Zoom link here, with the meeting ID 858 3414 8580 and password CECbooks. As always, we welcome newcomers at any time, so come and join us if we're covering a book that interests you. If there are any questions, please contact Ellen Hoke by calling or texting her at 301-452-7115, or by emailing her at efboudreau1@gmail.com.

(continued)

Walk with the WOCC (and Let's Do Lunch, Too!) - Next Wednesday | The Women of Christ Church are meeting for lunch at Robinson's Nature Center on Wednesday, May 12th, at 12:00 p.m. We'll be bringing our own food and drink, and eating picnic-style on their beautiful grounds. Then we'll walk off our WOCC lunch on the many trails that Robinson Nature Center has to offer. Bring your masks, in case you want to use their restroom facilities (they are just inside the first doors to their building). The Center is at 6692 Cedar Lane in Columbia. The rain date will be May 19th. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Gold or Sherry Beaty. See you on the paths!

WOCC June Meeting | The WOCC's next monthly meeting will take place on Monday, June 7th, at 1:00 pm. Once again, we will be meeting via the Zoom meeting app, which is free and available for sign up on www.Zoom.us. Please go to their site and sign up prior to the meeting. Feel free to join us! The Zoom link is here, the meeting ID is 843 0204 4790 and the password is cecWOCC.

WOCC Birthday Cards | Effective January 2021, WOCC started sending Birthday e-cards for those WOCC members interested in receiving an e-card rather than one via USPS. Don't forget to check your SPAM folder. If you would prefer to receive a card in the mail, instead of an e-card, please send us an email (email address is below). Please ensure that Christ Church has your correct email address and birthdate (month/day) in your Church's REALM account. If you do not have a REALM account, email Yetti at office@christchurchcolumbia.org so that she can send you a link to set up an account.

Vacation Bible School – This Summer | Summer is coming... and so is Vacation Bible School, back at Christ Episcopal Church for 2021! At VBS, children will enjoy a week of Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and friends! Snacks and refreshments will be served daily.

VBS will be held the week of June 28th to July 2nd from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for all children ages 3 (must be potty-trained) through 5th grade. After the 10:30 a.m. July 4th service, we'll have a celebration with ice cream and snacks for all participants.

Registrations are due by Sunday, June 20th, so download our VBS registration form on our website or pick up a copy from the church office. The cost is $20 per child or $50 per family, and scholarships are available for those in need.

Volunteers are more than welcome, so come and have fun with us! Email us if you're interested, or if you have any questions.

Beckoning One and All to Get Involved in Christ Church Outreach | The Outreach Commission is making an effort to better spread the word about what we do and, in turn, persuade more volunteers to participate during 2021. For starters, how about joining us at our next meeting? It will be held on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. next Monday, May 10th. To join us, please click the link here. The Meeting ID is 876 3365 4968 and the password is Outreach! To become active in other ways, email us at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. We could use all of your help, no matter how large or how small.

As you consider becoming more involved in helping people, keep in mind the scripture that underpins our mission: And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." *~Matthew 25: 40*

A recent act of kindness is a perfect example of the ways in which we try to accomplish this aim. When **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**, began arranging for some of the families and individuals at its live-in facility to move to permanent housing, its staff turned to faith-based partners, including Christ Church. The Outreach Commission agreed to a request for 20 full-size sheet sets.

At its April meeting, the commission had approved this purchase drawing from parishioners' donations as the source of the funds. When many of you so graciously donate for the purpose of "General Outreach," the funds are ready when needs arise in the community. In this case, people were getting an opportunity to move from congregate living in response to assistance tied to the pandemic.

That could be you wheeling the shopping cart through the big-box store. Or that could be you dropping off the purchases at the homeless shelter. In this case, Dione Mahoney made the purchases and Michon Semon and Patricia Fanning made the dropoff *(visit our website for the photos)*.

The new sheet sets, which include microfiber sheets and pillowcases in an array of colors cost $215 in "General Outreach" funds. A parishioner had earlier purchased and donated two sets when the Grassroots move was still in the planning stage, which means that in total we were able to accommodate 10 households. Please lift up these families in prayer, that they may continue on the road to stability in their lives.

Save the Dates: May 17 and June 21 to Help Feed the Hungry at Grassroots | For the individuals who remain at the Grassroots live-in facility as well as any new arrivals, we'll plan to bring the same menu of chicken, side dishes, and desserts for the evening meal that Christ Church provides every third Monday of the month. On May 17th and on June 21st, plan to arrive between 3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. outside Old Brick, bringing with you a side dish or dessert for 50 residents. You can also bring pantry items such as granola bars to drop off for delivery by co-coordinator Nancy Winchester.

Please sign up online no later than noon on Sunday, May 16th, so coordinators will know your plans. Click into the Christ Church Grassroots Meal link on SignUpGenius to learn which items are still open on our menu. You'll find lots of information at the sign-up link, but for questions contact Nancy or co-coordinator Shahra Toth or email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Grassroots Offers Training in May in QPR Skills to Help Prevent Suicides | Once again, Grassroots offers Howard County residents, employees, or students a chance to learn skills that could help save a life from suicide. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save lives, just as individuals trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver learn what to do. Thanks to the Horizon Foundation, the online seminar is free for adults on two days this month. The QPR sessions take place on Thursday, May 13th from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and on Monday, May 17th from 7:30 to 9 p.m. To register, go here: To learn more, email amanda@grassrootscrisis.org to speak with Amanda Ganoe, the organizer.

A Couple of Ways to Support Columbia Community Care |At Christ Church, our Racially Aware Group of Episcopalians (R.A.G.E) and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to support **Columbia Community Care** (CCC). One way is to collect diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items as well as adult diapers. Put any of these items in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," just inside the Parish Hall door. You can drop off items on weekdays until 2 p.m., but please call the church office at (410) 381-9365 ahead of time.

Donate Spring Cleaning Supplies for FISH in its Yellow Bin | Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** request household cleaning supplies such as liquid dish soap, bleach, and cleanser. Also, the families who call on FISH during times of crisis could use personal items such as deodorant, shampoo, and bath soaps. At the present time, the pantry has an adequate supply of groceries.

SEAFARER'S Donation requests | We could use your help in gathering the following items. Delivery is made and the date announced when the number of collections gets reasonably accumulated. Contact Carolann Sawyer with any questions.

- Bible in modern English (or Tagalog, Russian, or Chinese)
- Times/Newsweek/etc. up to 3 months old
- Sports Ill/People/etc. up to 6 months
- Cars/Computers/Consumers up to 1 year
- Reader's Digest up to a couple of years
- National Geographics post 2000

- Books (except for Bibles) are less often requested, but some seafarers do appreciate action novels, as well as picture books about Baltimore or the U.S.
- Action/adventure DVD's. Recent popular CD's.
- Religious books (in easy English), DVD's, CD's; rosaries.
- Clothing - men's jeans, other sturdy pants (no bigger than XL) or shorts, T-shirts, warm outerwear, and non-skid shoes/boots, in good condition only and Gloves, Hats, scarves and warm socks

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.

Please Consider a Contribution to Christ Church

Recent world events have been challenging for us all. It has also affected how we are able to continue to help others. Our Stewardship Committee would like to thank you all for your wonderful and generous support to our beloved Christ Church. Your generosity sustains life and ministry. In as much as we give thanks for your pledges - especially during these difficult times - we also want you to know that we are still quite far from our targeted goal for 2021. We, therefore, appeal to all who have not as yet turned in their pledges to kindly consider **submitting a pledge online**. We are still carrying out an amazing ministry for a moderate-sized church - even through this very challenging time - but it does require everyone's assistance. Each contribution helps greatly.

Text Giving

You can now give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text CECGIVING to 73256, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing towards your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org**

Our 2021 Pledge Form is Online

The 2021 Pledge Form is on our website, for your convenience. **You can complete the form by clicking here** or use the **Realm form located here**, and if you have any questions, please email **stewardship@christchurchcolumbia.org**

THANK YOU.



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone*, Deacon*
Adam Detzner, *Director of Music*
Yetti Lipede, *Interim Parish Administrator*
Kareem Mack, *Staff Bass*
Simone Brown, *Staff Soprano*
Rebecca Warlow, *Licensed Lay Preacher*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*)• Jan DeBoissiere (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
Tim Beaty • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • W. Ben Jackson III • Greta Pike-Barnes •
Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman