

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

March 27, 2022: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The wearing of face masks is currently optional at Christ Church

You may stream the 10:30 a.m. service from Christ Church's [website](#), [YouTube](#), or [Facebook](#) pages

PRELUDE – We Now Implore the Holy Ghost

Dietrich Buxtehude
Ola Oladipupo, organ

CHORAL INTROIT – Crux Fidelis (Faithful Cross)

*Crux fidelis; cross of gladness, tree on which our hope is hung;
Let my arms be as your branches! Yours, the song that must be sung.*

Steven Warner

OPENING HYMN 686 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a
ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:
Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to
flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and
on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;
People: **His mercy endureth forever.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE

American Folk Melody, arr. Richard Proulx



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

At 8:00 a.m., the Psalm is read responsively by half-verse

At 10:30 a.m., the Psalm is sung, one measure per half verse, changing notes on the underlined syllable



Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven, *
and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth no sin, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For whilst I held my tongue, *
my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

For thy hand was heavy upon me day and night, *
and my moisture was like the drought in summer.

I acknowledged my sin unto thee; *
and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

I said, I will confess my sins unto the LORD; *
and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee,
 in a time when thou mayest be found; *
surely the great water-floods shall not come nigh him.

Thou art a place to hide me in; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; *
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go; *
and I will guide thee with mine eye.

Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding; *
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, else they will not obey thee.

Great plagues remain for the ungodly; *
but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD, mercy embraceth him on every side.

Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

SEQUENCE HYMN 531 – O Spirit of the Living God

Melcombe

1 O Spi - rit of the liv - ing God,
 2 Give tongues of fire and hearts of love,
 3 Be dark - ness, at thy com - ing, light;
 4 Con - vert the na - tions! far and nigh

in all thy plen - i - tude of grace,
 to preach the rec - on - cil - ing word;
 con - fu - sion, or - der in thy path;
 the tri - umphs of the cross re - cord;

wher - e'er the foot of man hath trod,
 give pow'r and unc - tion from a - bove,
 souls with - out strength in - spire with might,
 the Name of Je - sus glo - ri - fy,

de - scend on our a - pos - tate race.
 when - e'er the joy - ful - sound is heard.
 bid mer - cy tri - umph o - ver wrath.
 till ev - 'ry peo - ple call him Lord.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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

SERMON – Could Joseph and Mary Afford to Live in Howard County?

Nancy Fenton, *Director of Development & Marketing, Bridges to Housing Stability*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead:
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intervessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Robert, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; Marcia, our Associate Priest; and Denise our Deacon; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph, our President: Lawrence, our Governor; and Calvin, our County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Shahra, Nell, Daniel, Susana, Rena, Linda, Kandi, Bradley, Jim, Kathleen, Chad, Caroline, Tinny, Mary Ann, Alta, Alfred, & Ashley, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intervessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Delonta Hill, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

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

People: And with thy spirit.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING — Followers of the Lamb

Shaker, arr. Phillip Dietterich

*O brethren, ain't you happy? O brethren, ain't you happy?
O brethren, ain't you happy, ye followers of the Lamb?
Sing on, dance on, followers of Emmanuel
Sing on, dance on, ye followers of the Lamb*

*O sisters, ain't you happy? O sisters, ain't you happy?
O sisters, ain't you happy, ye followers of the Lamb?
O, sing on, dance on, followers of Emmanuel
O, sing on, dance on, ye followers of the Lamb*

PRESENTATION HYMN 321, V. 1

Rockingham



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**

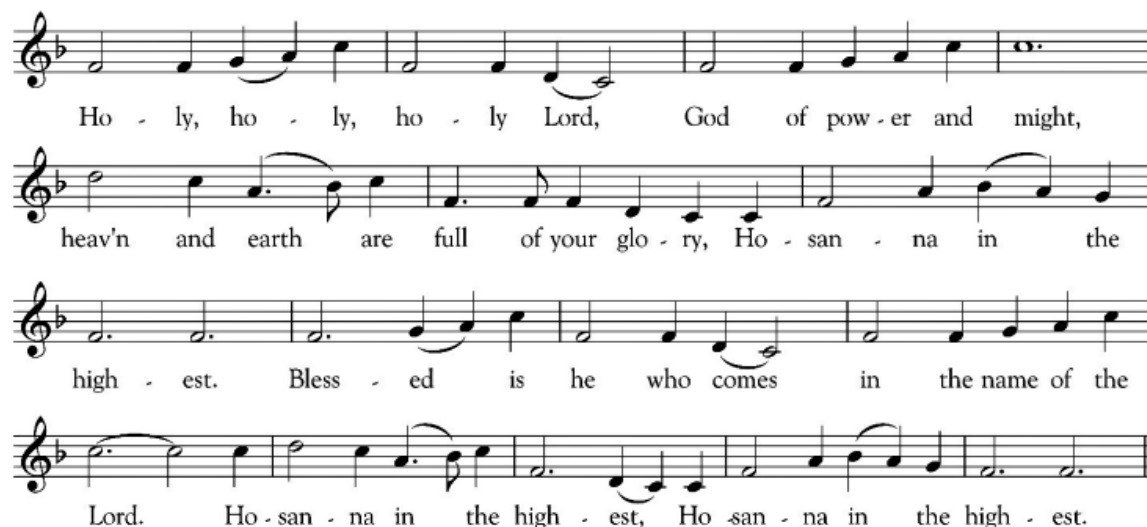
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

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

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

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



Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

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

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

Celebrant:

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

People:

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Spoken at the 8:00 a.m. service:

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,
 forever and ever. **Amen.**

Sung at the 10:30 a.m. service:

Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your Name. Your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

AGNUS DEI

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

All: **have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

All: **have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

All: **grant us thy peace.**

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN 671 – Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am - found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,
we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us,
in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

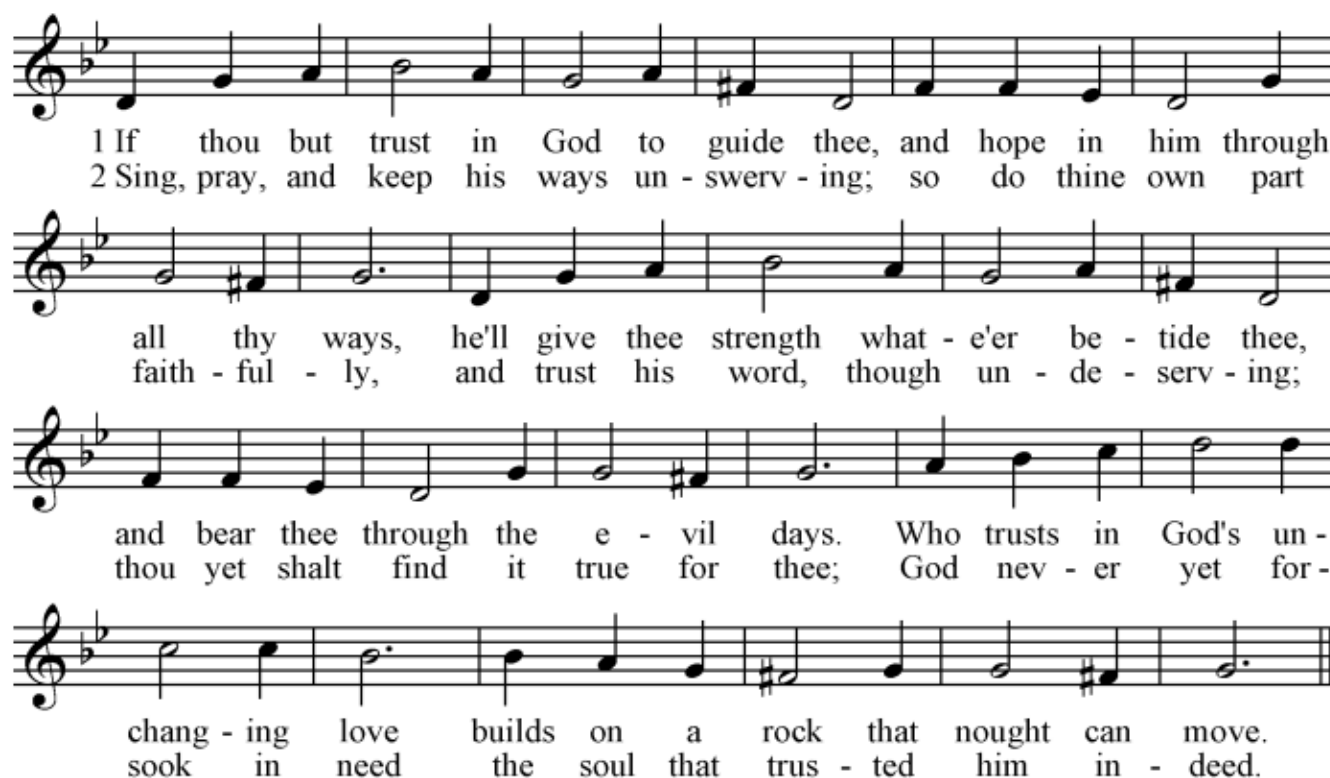
and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
 and that we are very members incorporate
 in the mystical body of thy Son,
 the blessed company of all faithful people;
 and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
 And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
 so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

THE BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN 635 – If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

Wer nur den lieben Gott



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through
 2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un-serv-ing; so do thine own part
 all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what-e'er be-tide thee,
 faith-ful-ly, and trust his word, though un-de-serv-ing;
 and bear thee through the e-vil days. Who trusts in God's un-
 thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev-er yet for-
 chang-ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
 sook in need the soul that trus-ted him in-deed.

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the People, who respond:
Thanks be to God!

(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

POSTLUDE – Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word

Jan Bender

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Holy Week at Christ Episcopal Church | As we continue to gather for Lent, there are many new and traditional services and gatherings being presented at Christ Church. **You can view the entire Lenten & Holy Week schedule and their details on our website's *Lent at Christ Church* page.**

Youth Formation: Sunday School | Every child is welcome to join us virtually for Sunday School, with both sessions beginning at 9:15 a.m. If this is your first time, the registration form is located [here](#) and you can send completed ones to ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org to enroll. You can receive the elementary-age Zoom link by emailing Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkings@verizon.net. The older youth session is run by our Youth Minister, Todd Domer, and you can reach him by emailing youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for those Zoom details.

Adult Forum: Sunday Circle | Our Sunday morning Adult Forum features a presentation on the work of Bridges to Housing Stability by Nancy Fenton, Director of Development and Marketing. She will talk about its work to end homelessness and promote affordable housing in Howard County (our series on *Women in the Church* will resume next week). This Sunday, gather at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall (lower level) of New Brick. You can also join us virtually; **the Zoom link is here**, Meeting ID is **830 0680 9158**, and Password is **AFSC**.

Confirmation Class - Sunday Afternoons | Christ Church is offering Confirmation classes for all high school students and adults who may be interested. At the moment, we hold these classes online via Zoom but may make adjustments as we go along. It is our hope that our candidates will be confirmed by one of the Bishops of Maryland later this year; we'll share that date when it becomes available. If you are interested in learning more about Confirmation and/or registering for the class, please reach out to Fr. Manny at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Centering Prayer – Mondays | Centering Prayer takes place Mondays at 7 p.m. and is a form of contemplation, a method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. We invite you to log in, see what Centering Prayer is all about, and how it can find a unique and valuable space in your own life. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340** and Password is **Centering!**

Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays | Children's Choir meets on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Adult Choir meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. If you've ever been interested in joining our choir, now's that time... and this invitation is open to every parishioner. No experience is necessary. Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more.

Lectionary Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study takes place on Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., discussing and reflecting on the readings for the coming Sunday. Our next gathering's readings are located [here](#). You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and we'll all study and learn together. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is **885 9287 2661** and the Password is **CECBible**.

Christ Church's Wednesday Evenings in Lent Supper Series - Week Four | The Spiritual Life Commission welcomes everyone to take part in our Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series, meeting in the Great Hall of New Brick at 6:30 p.m. Indian cuisine is the menu of this week, and although there is no cost for this evening, you can donate to help cover the catered dinner expenses by choosing "Spiritual Life Commission" from the *Fund* dropdown menu **on our online giving form** or bring a donation to the event.

This popular series centers on our 2022 theme, *Be One Body in Christ, Belonging to Each Other*, and every week we'll host a different presenter who gives their perspective on this theme. **For our next evening, March 30th, we are very blessed to have Rev. Freda Brown, Associate Rector of The Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore, lead**

us. This series is a hybrid event so for those who prefer to join us virtually, you are welcome to do so via YouTube, Facebook, or Zoom; those details will be in Monday's email. **If you want to join us in person, please RSVP here** or notify the Church Office by **email** or phone.

Taizé Worship - Friday Evenings in Lent | On Friday evenings at 6 p.m. in Old Brick, Mother Marcia offers a series of six Taizé worship services including chants, prayers, Scripture, intercessory prayer, and silence. Mother Marcia is a long-time adherent to the Taizé community and frequent visitor. This form of worship, based on the practice of the Taizé community in France, offers a time of quiet and intentional reflection, worship, and drawing closer to the Presence of God in Christ Jesus. Silence is also an important component and a welcome gift to Taizé worship. The use of lighted candles and icons offers a visual invitation to pray silently in the presence of others and God. Although chants and even prayers are sung, there is no requirement to be musically gifted to participate. For more information, **email Mother Marcia** or simply join us in Old Brick any Friday during Lent.

CEC Book Club – Fridays | The CEC Book Club continues this Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., as we begin our discussion of the book *Why I Believe in a Personal God: The Credibility of Faith in a Doubting Culture* by George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury. We're always welcoming new members to join our virtual gathering. For about an hour each Friday, we discuss a specified section of the current book and plan future readings and ideas. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is **894 0227 6226**, the Password is **CECbooks** and we hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion. Email Ellen Hoke at **efboudreau1@gmail.com** if you're interested or have any questions.

Women of Christ Church News | Mark Your Calendars: At 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 23rd, we'll be meeting at the Robinson Nature Center to have lunch and conversation followed by a walk through their trails. We'll meet at the outside tables near the Center's front door. It's free to use the trails, and if you want to visit the exhibits, it will cost \$5. Bring your lunch, and join us for a spring walk!

We visited the Maryland Women's Heritage Center on March 21st and were given a wonderful tour by the Director, Diana Bailey. They have just moved into their new location on Charles Street, and have created exhibits on many current topics and local interests. **You can check out some pictures of the visit on our WOCC blog post for this week.**

The guided Labyrinth walks continue every Saturday in Lent between 3:00 and 5:00 pm at St. John's in Ellicott City. If you want to follow your meditative walk with a service, there is a 5:00 pm service in their Historic Chapel. We visited the site last fall; you can see our report about that experience **here**. The next WOCC meeting takes place via Zoom on Monday, April 4th at 1 p.m. If you're a woman aged 18 or older, you're already a member of the WOCC, so join us and see what's happening!

Altar Flowers and Gifts | If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2022 sign-up sheet at **<https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>**. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Christ Church's Grief Support Group | If you are grieving a loss and would like to occasionally join a group of others for mutual support and learning, please let us know. Christ Church is planning on creating a Zoom gathering, led by Mother Marcia, for those who might find comfort in sharing &/or listening to experiences of processing loss. This group would meet on a schedule that's most convenient for all participants. Mother Marcia is also happy to meet individually to offer pastoral care and counseling, so if you're interested in taking part in either gathering, **please email** or speak to her at any time.

A Chance on Sunday to Learn How Bridges to Housing Stability Helps End Homelessness in Howard County | Plan to attend or livestream worship services and participate in the Adult Forum this Sunday, March 27th,

when we have invited a representative of **Bridges to Housing Stability** to visit Christ Church. Nancy Fenton, Director of Development & Marketing, will give the sermon and speak during Sunday Circle on the latest ways that Bridges makes it possible for people to find and keep affordable housing.

Christ Church has a warm relationship as a supporter of Bridges, starting with our participation in a countywide chili cook-off in 2019. At the Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser held in 2020, Christ Church won a Silver Ladle Award. Then, at the 2021 Chili & Challenge, **we won gold.**

We'll hear how the funds that we have raised are helping residents. It's a pressing need. Of Howard County's 30,000 renter households, 43 percent are cost-burdened (spending a third of monthly income on rent) and another 33 percent of households are severely cost-burdened (spending more than half of monthly income on rent). One way that Bridges tackles this problem is through its Alliance program, which provides rental homes at below-market rents for one year to qualifying individuals and families. Tenants include para-educators, certified nursing aides, childcare providers, restaurant servers, commercial drivers, and security guards. To promote self-sufficiency, Alliance offers Circle of Support – regular education sessions related to financial capability, budgeting, saving, credit repair, investing for retirement, and buying a home.

At the start of 2022, Bridges bought a three-bedroom condo that became the 46th unit in its Alliance program. That adds one more affordable home in Columbia, a place where such housing is increasingly scarce. On Sunday, don't miss the chance to learn more about this and other initiatives in Howard County.

Three Upcoming Opportunities to Meet “Our” Afghan Refugee Family | Join us this Sunday, March 27th any time between 3 and 6 p.m. at Mimi's Kabob on Route 108 in Clarksville (12345 Wake Forest Road; just west of the intersection of Route 108 and Route 32). Mention the Christ Church Afghan Refugee Ministry when you place an order at Mimi's at any time on March 28, and Mimi's will make a donation to our Afghan refugee ministry fund equal to 20% of your order. An important note: we have been asked to ***not*** take any photos of the family. This is important not only for the family's security and safety here in the States but especially for the safety of their family members still in hiding in Afghanistan.

More opportunities take place on the Sundays of May 8th and May 22th as we'll be hosting receptions for the family here at Christ Church, between the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. The dates come at the end of Ramadan, an important period of fasting for Muslims, and so will be celebratory for many reasons. If you can help with either or both of these receptions, please contact Cherrylyn Williams, Jan Deboissiere, or Deacon Denise.

CCC Thanks All for Community Help, Marks Its 2-Year Anniversary | Two years ago, as Maryland and the rest of the nation plunged into the travails of a worldwide pandemic, an all-volunteer organization was founded. Last week, **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) was recruiting volunteers to help clean up and set up a new pantry. This week, leaders were expressing gratitude not only for that weekend labor but for support going back to March 2020.

“We were so caught up in the excitement and planning of our new space cleanup that our 2nd Anniversary passed us by without fanfare,” said Meg Dacey Feroli, speaking for all of the leaders in a post on the **CCC Facebook Group**. “But we're still here! 2 years since COVID shut down the schools and brought our community to a standstill. But it didn't shut down the hearts and hands of what would become Columbia Community Care. Volunteers jumped in to help cover the food gap created by kids losing their school meals, families losing their jobs, and individuals unable to get to the store for a variety of reasons.

“Even with the threat of COVID waning, our community has seen the need for what it is, a long-time systemic problem. And so, 2 years later, some volunteers from day one still come out to help, and new volunteers find us each day. Donations of food, essentials, and money continue to keep our families fed and safe. “Thank you, it never seems like it's enough to say it. But we appreciate every contribution, every pair of hands, every dollar, every new idea, every single one. We continue to grow, expand and serve and even though we are sad that the need exists, we are grateful that we are here and able to meet the need.”

Supporters of CCC, including parishioner Dave Lanczynski, volunteered on March 19 and March 20 to prepare space for a pantry in a county-owned building that was once home to the *Columbia Flier*.

CCC is selling a **new CCC t-shirt** as a fundraiser to help prep and stock the pantry. The refurbished space, in turn, will allow the resumption of home delivery to households who lack transportation. CCC also hopes people will wear the shirts when volunteering at its three distribution sites. Site times and locations, along with additional photos of the weekend setup, can be found on **the group's Facebook page**.

At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to continue CCC by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall.

Baltimore Seafarers News | As a reminder, the Women of Christ Church gather donations for Seafarers throughout the year. At this time, they are looking for magazines, cards, notebooks, gloves, hats, and scarves. If you'd like to donate any of these items, the "Seafarers" box is under the table in the Tower Room of New Brick.

FISH Continues its Request for Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks | As winter continues, organizers for **FISH of Howard County** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill shopping lists. They also say thanks to Christ Church for its response to their earlier needs, which produced an adequate inventory of household cleaning supplies and personal items. The bin is on the breezeway near the door to the Parish Hall.

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.

Christ Church's COVID Update - Moving into the Green Phase

Christ Church has been approved by the Diocese of Maryland to begin transitioning into the Green "Omicron" Phase. **You can read more about this here**. Therefore, we have returned to a "masks optional" environment on the Christ Church campus, at parish gatherings, and during worship services.

A few important points:

- Anyone who chooses to continue to wear a mask is free to do so.
- Beginning on Sunday, April 3rd, we plan to begin incorporating wine into Communion and hosting a Coffee Hour fellowship.
- Virtual services and educational opportunities will continue for those not worshipping or gathering in person.
- We will continue to monitor all sources of information, in case the need for adjustments arises.

We do wish to remind you that no one should visit campus - masked or otherwise - who has symptoms associated with COVID, the flu, or other respiratory illnesses.

If you have any questions or need further clarifications, please **email us**.

As Christ Church continues this holy and contemplative season of Lent, we are always thankful for the many blessings in our lives. We look forward to continuing to gather this spring in communal prayer, worship, and fellowship. May God bless us on this journey!



Christ Church invites your kind participation in a survey about our common life. You may complete the survey by using this link or by scanning the QR code below. The survey has four main sections: Christian education (subdivided into Christian education for ages 3-5th grade, youth, and adults), fellowship, worship, and general. If a particular section doesn't apply to you, you can scroll to the bottom of the page and click Next to continue to the next section. Christ Church relies on all of us to volunteer for the many ministries that enrich our common life. Please share your interests in volunteering in the General section of the survey. The survey will close on Wednesday, March 30th. If you have any problems accessing the survey, please contact the Church Office. Thank you for your faithfulness and input.





WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF OUR BELOVED CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

We also want to thank **YOU**. Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables Christ Church to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us.

We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving, and so as we celebrate the season of giving, we want to highly encourage all who have not fully completed their pledge for 2021 to remember their faithfulness. We also want to appeal to all who have not as yet returned their pledge for 2022 to remember their faithfulness.

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



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Kathleen Lyon, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Tim Beaty • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • Greta Pike-Barnes •

Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman