

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

The Baptism of Our Lord

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, January 8, 2023 • 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time. We are delighted you're here - welcome home!

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude |

Opening Hymn 118 | Brightest and Best

Star in the East

Unison (Harmony on following pages)



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,
*5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;
2 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
3 o - dors of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,
4 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure,
5 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

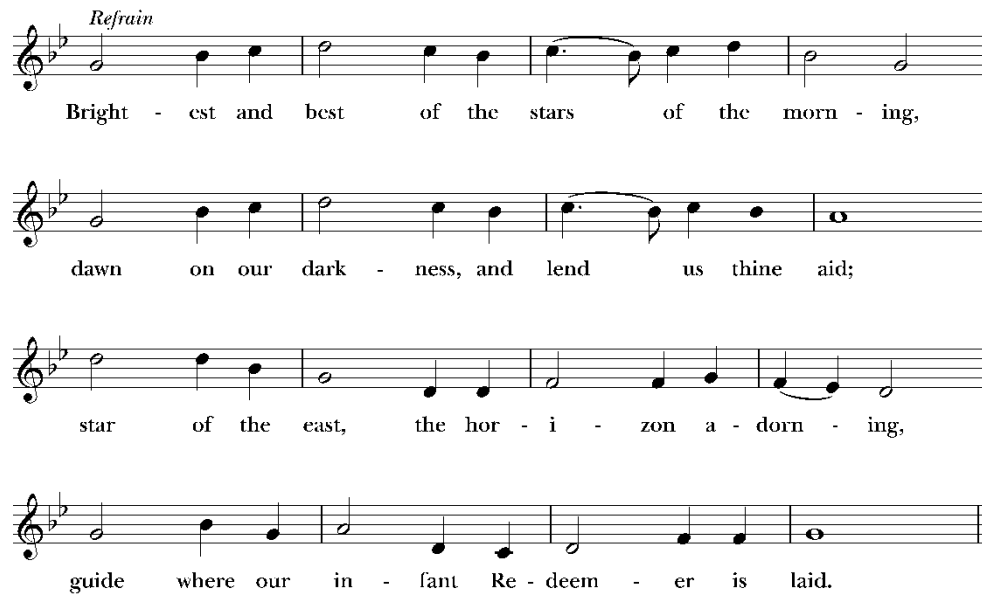


1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,
2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,
4 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,
5 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,



1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.
3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?
4 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
5 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Refrain



Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,
guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Opening Acclamation |

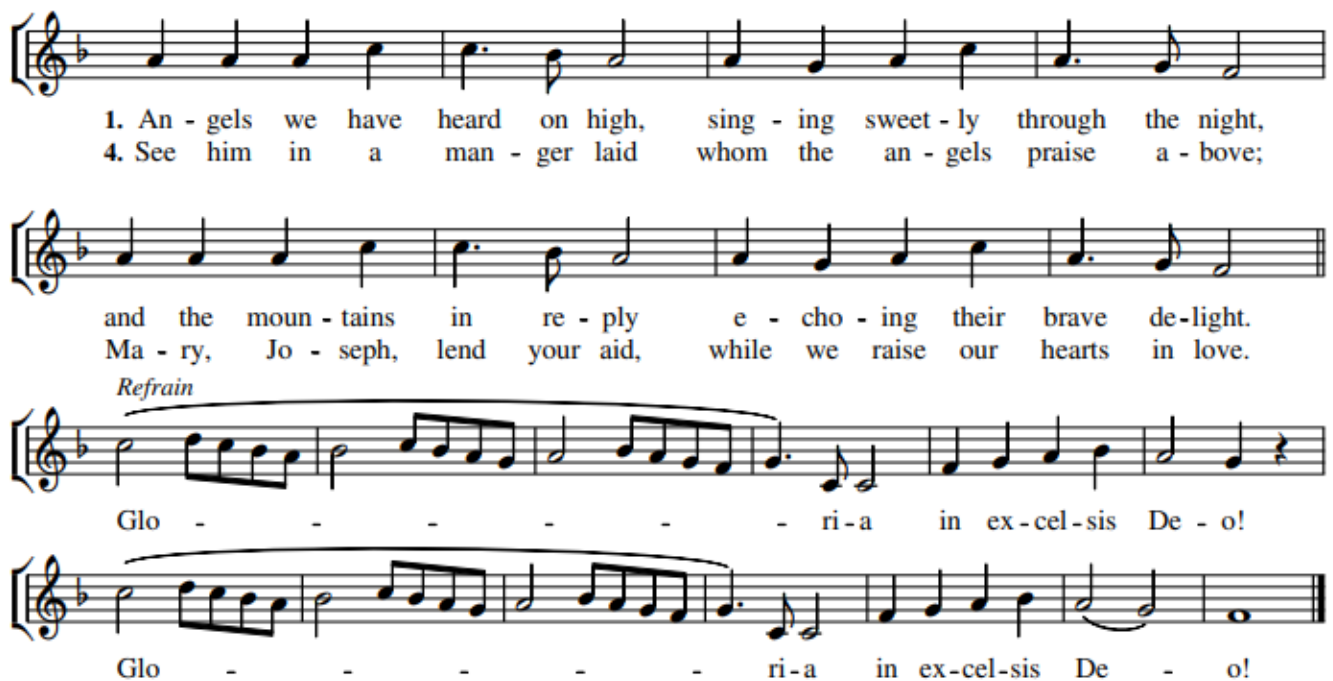
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

Song of Praise | Hymn 96 (v. 1, 4) | Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
4. See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;
and the moun - tains in re - ply e - cho - ing their brave de - light.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen.***

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Isaiah 42:1-9 |

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

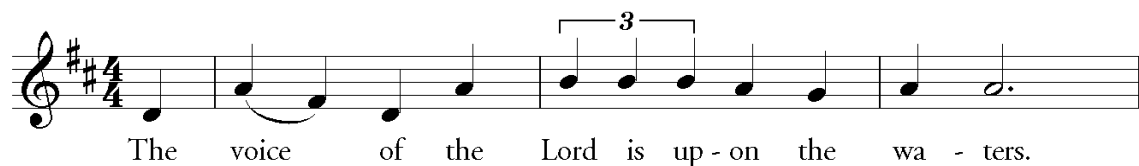
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;

before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

Antiphon

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.

Antiphon

And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Antiphon

Reader: A reading from Acts.

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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 124 | What Star Is This With Beams So Bright?

Puer nobis

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
 2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
 5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
 4 on seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
 5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tles to his crib to bring.
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

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

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Celebrant: 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 Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed | BCP 358

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 | Written by Members of the Christ Church Family

As we mark the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River, may we all realize that we are members of the family of God, “Marked as Christ’s own forever” during our own baptismal covenants. **Hear our prayer, Lord.**

May the light shine in this New Year as we pray for justice, peace, and love in the world. Help us to be a positive force for peace and love. Give wisdom, courage, and strength to those in authority to work together toward cooperatively eliminating war, famine, hatred, and injustice. **Hear our prayer, Lord.**

As we enter Epiphany, let us bring others to see the marvels of the Lord. We are grateful for our Christ Church family. We welcome and look forward to meeting our visitors and newcomers. **Hear our prayer, Lord.**

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we remember The Church of the Province of Myanmar. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray with care and concern for all our sister parishes. We pray for our Church Leadership: for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Eugene and Robert, our Diocesan Bishops. We pray for Emmanuel, our Rector; Marcia, our Associate Priest; Denise, our Deacon; Mike, our Seminarian Associate, and for Richard, our Rector Emeritus. We appreciate the work of our dedicated lay leaders, and we pray for the Lord’s continued guidance. We pray for safe travels and a productive time for Christ Church members of the DreamBuilders ministry, as they rebuild hurricane-damaged homes in Puerto Rico this week. **Hear our prayer, Lord.**

We pray for those ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially Fr. Ginnever, Niambi, Lexi, Zeyneb, Denny, Samuel, Lucas, Shirley, Andy, Cynthia, Neal, Valentin, Kandi, Bradley, Rená, Catherine, Mary Ann, Caroline, Joan, Gina, Megan, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those you now name. May they feel your healing love, Lord, and help us also to comfort those in need. We ask for God’s protection of those in military service, especially Kevin DeBossiere and Conner Warlow. **Hear our prayer, Lord.**

We pray for those who have died, especially (N) and those you now name. We ask that you comfort their families and friends and give them your peace and love. **Hear our prayer, Lord.**

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Deepti, Caleb, Greta, Vernon, J.B., John & Ronald, and baptismal anniversaries of Gavin, Ava, Will, Michon, Alicia, Elizabeth & Vincent, and other occasions for joy. **Hear our prayer, Lord.**

Our theme for this year is “Be an Instrument of God’s Peace.” Let us be a force for forgiveness and peace. **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.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem | Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

arr. Richard Shephard

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 1) |

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. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer B | BCP 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

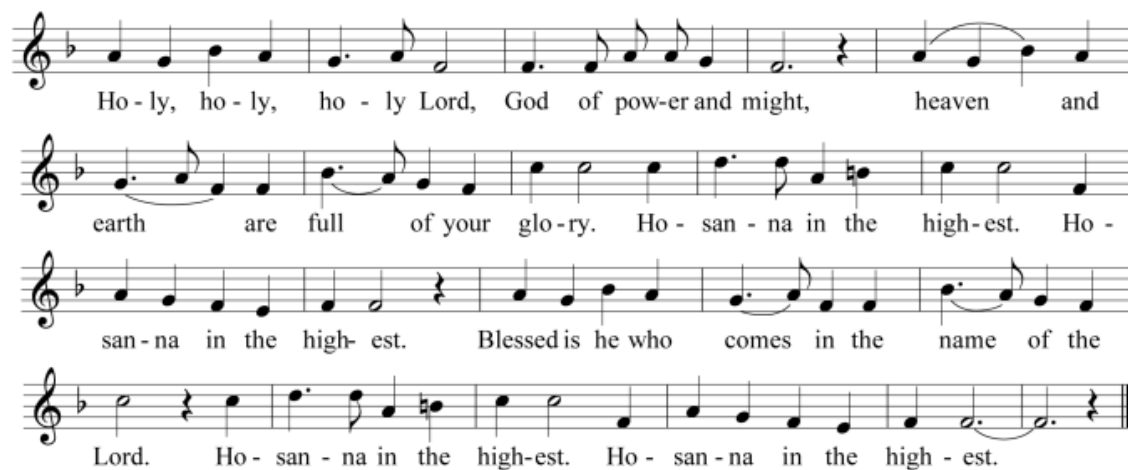
***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer | BCP 365

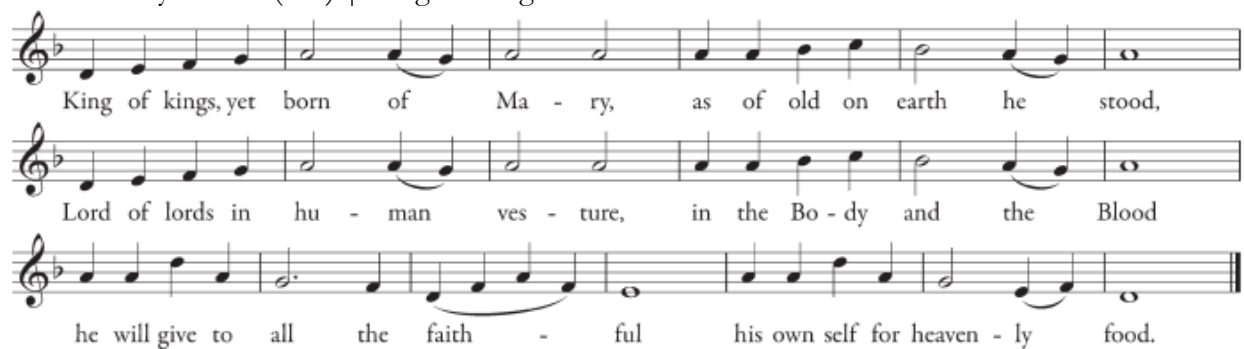
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All: **Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread |

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

Fraction Anthem Hymn 324 (v. 2) | King of Kings

Picardy



King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood,
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.

Communion Hymn 115 | What Child Is This?

Greensleeves

Unison or harmony



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in, such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,
 Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -
 an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here, the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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 119 | As With Gladness Men of Old

Dix

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude |



PARISH CALENDAR
JANUARY 8 TO JANUARY 14

Sunday, January 8

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
9:00 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School, Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:30 – 5:45 pm	Sundays at Three – New Brick, upper level

Monday, January 9

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Grassroots Drop-off
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Outreach Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, January 10

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Buildings and Grounds Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
12:00 pm	Noonday Service – Old Brick
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, January 12

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, January 13

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, January 14

2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting, Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with website links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Sunday School

Youth Formation returns this weekend and begins with breakfast around 8:30, followed by Family Worship and Sunday School. Every child is welcome, and you can find the details on **our website's Youth Formation page**. Also on that page is a link to the Sunday School registration form, so please sign your children up so we can plan accordingly (use one form per child, please). If you have any questions, email Jennifer Atkins at sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org

Adult Formation

Sunday Circle gathers in Old Brick at 9:30 a.m. each week. You can also join us virtually for this gathering; **The Zoom link is here**, Meeting ID is **847 9910 4117** and the Password is **AFSC**. Our Parenting Group gathers in the New Brick Vestry Room (lower level). Bible Study will meet in the Parish Hall Conference Room. There are several options, and you're welcome to join any of them any Sunday. **See our Adult Formation page on the CEC website for more information**.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link is **here**, Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340** and Password is **Centering!**

Noonday Worship in Old Brick - Wednesdays

Noonday worship is back each week at Christ Church! Beginning next Wednesday, January 11th, we will gather at 12 noon in Old Brick. This is a Eucharist service with healing, and this week, Mother Marcia will lead us, so come and join us for this midweek worship gathering.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

C'mon, all you singers! Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m. and everyone is welcome to take part! **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page**. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choir! If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sunday or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

CEC Book Club - Fridays

The CEC Book Club is back Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. We always enjoy having new people join our virtual gathering, so if you like curling up with an insightful read and discussing it with others, this is the time to join us! Just **email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com** for details. Then simply log in to Zoom for an hour or so. The Zoom link is **here**, Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366** and Password is **CECBooks**

Christ Church Beautification Day - Sunday, January 15

Stick around if you can following the 10:30 service on January 15th, as we will spend some time collectively tackling general beautification tasks around the campus. Many hands make lighter work(it's true!). We'll begin by fueling up with a quick lunch and then split into groups of folks to handle different projects (no experience required!). We plan on working until around 4 p.m. but even if you only have an hour or two to spare, we sure can use that help, too.

Send in Your Submissions for the 2023 Christ Church Lenten Meditation Book!

For 20 years, Christ Church has compiled a Lenten Meditation Book, distributed to our parishioners on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday. The LMB is created with love and designed to assist us all in times of quiet contemplation, by sharing our thoughts and preparing ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. Our Communications Administrator posts these each weekday during Lent on our Christ Church website to share them with the world, along with uplifting musical selections on Saturdays.

To accomplish these goals, **we must have all your submissions in by February 5th** to put this publication together and to have it up on our website, which is viewed by thousands of individuals worldwide during Lent.

That means we have a 4-week timeframe to compose and submit your prayers, songs, stories, poems, readings, or personal reflections. We also include your favorite inspirational pieces by writers or theologians. You can submit these by name or anonymously - your choice. There are some copies of last year's LMB in the Narthex for you to take or examine as a guide for examples of submissions. You can also visit christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations and read last year's daily reflections. All contributors will be listed and acknowledged at the conclusion of the booklet. Submit by email to: efboudreau1@gmail.com, by text message to 301-452-7115, or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church office. Questions: call Ellen Hoke at 301-452-7115. Thank you ever so much!

WOCC January News

Happy New Year! We started the year running and at our January meeting, we set the calendar chock full of fun events for 2023. We are letting everyone recuperate in January, and then start in February with Heart Health Month, and on February 12th we will participate in *Wear Red for Heart Health* awareness. We ask for pictures of people wearing red to be provided by January 27th. Email them to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org and we'll assemble them into a collage for the website, Narthex display, and a February edition of *Gatherings*.

Other activities in the coming months will include a Labyrinth meditation walk, Robinson Nature Center walk, and Spring Tea, as well as an attempt to work a Toby's Dinner Theater evening into our plans. Look for details in upcoming news and information bulletins, and come and join us for these events. If you have other good ideas, share them with us! And be sure to join us for our February meeting on the 6th at 1:00 p.m.

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.

Lend a Hand During our Sunday Services

We are in need of more ushers, chalicists, and lectors for the 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. You will serve on rotational schedules (not every week) and during select events. There are no age requirements or limits, and TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED, so please consider helping out!

- **Ushers:** welcome, seat, and direct parishioners during the service
- **Chalicists (Lay Eucharistic Minister):** assist the clergy in the distribution of the Eucharist
- **Lector (Lay Reader):** read aloud to the congregation throughout the year.

Please contact Yetti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

We Need Your Contributions! Submit Your Announcements for the Christ Church Monthly Newsletter

One of the traditions we dropped as a result of COVID was our monthly newsletter, and we are excited to announce its return for 2023! *Gathered Together* generally covers events of the coming month and gives a broader overview of life at our beloved Christ Church. Although it contains announcements about all Christ Church services, ministries, and groups, in the future we would also love to include unique submissions from any parishioner who has something of interest to share with the entire parish. If you have something that you might like to share, **let us know!**

The first issue will include details about the upcoming Lenten season, as well as other goings-on and items of interest circulating around Christ Church's many ministries and programs. But remember - any other content is entirely based on what ***you*** submit, so we ask everyone to think about it and send anything that you wish to share with the parish family to our Communications Administrator, Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by January 15th. **Thank you!**

Coffee Hour

We are always looking for Coffee Hour hosts for the 8:30 a.m. (in Old Brick) and the 9:30 a.m. (in New Brick) gatherings. **The sign-up sheet is online** and you are welcome to sign up for one, or for both! This is an excellent opportunity for fellowship and fun, and a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners. You can work by yourself, in couples, or with another family. Ministries are also encouraged to sign up. All you need to do is provide snacks, brew the coffee, stay for the coffee hour, and help tidy up. Training will be provided. Questions? Please contact the church office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or 410-381-9365.

Revised Christ Church Directories are Available

Recently, the Christ Church Parish Directory was updated, and copies are available. You can contact the church office for a printed copy.

2023 Pledge Envelopes

Unfortunately, production issues have delayed the shipment of our 2023 donation envelopes. We are awaiting an update from the vendor, and when we receive one there will be an announcement detailing when and where they will be made available for pickup. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the church office.

Pledge for 2023

At Christ Church, we are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who continually support our ministry of faithful service, and we pray that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for this calendar year. You can bring your pledge cards to church with you at any time, pick up and complete a pledge card in the Narthex, or **pledge online** (choose "Pledge for 2023" in the *FUND* dropdown menu). Thank you very much for your support of our vital common life.

Inviting You to Remotely Join Us this Monday, Jan. 9 at the Monthly Outreach Meeting

As we look ahead to 2023, consider getting more involved in Outreach at Christ Church. Please join us remotely for the Outreach Commission's 7:30 p.m. meeting on Monday, Jan. 9. You can help us to fulfill our mission, which has a local, national, and international scope. The Zoom link is **HERE**, Meeting ID is **876 3365 4968** and the Password is **Outreach!** See you on Zoom!

Volunteer to Serve a Meal or Add to the Menus Enjoyed by Our Homeless Friends at the DRC and Grassroots

Why not start out the New Year by helping others? Please take part in the Christ Church tradition of helping the homeless on the second Monday of each month. To join us on Jan. 9th, please sign up by Sunday, Jan 8. If you wish to volunteer or bring food for the Day Resource Center (DRC) at the Dorsey Center, our **DRC online signup**

form describes the procedure. The drop-off time for side dishes, desserts, and fruit is 12:45 p.m. in the Christ Church parking lot near Old Brick. In-person volunteers also gather at that time to car-pool to Jessup.

Parishioners who cook or shop for the evening meal for 50 residents of a live-in center on Freetown Rd. make their drop-off later, arriving in the parking lot at 3:15 p.m. A volunteer transporting the food departs at 3:30 p.m. Get details in our **Grassroots online signup form** or, for more information, email **outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

We most recently took part in both on Dec. 12th, when the desserts included cookies that parishioners decorated during First Wednesday Fellowship on Dec. 7th. Shahra Toth, with the continuing assistance of Dione Mahoney, is the new coordinator. She replaces Nancy Winchester, who will continue to acquire the fried chicken.

These facilities for the homeless are both operated by the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**. It's efficient to provide for groups at two separate venues on the same day. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the entrees. Thank you! The DRC and the Live-In Facility have wider needs for their pantries and welcome in-kind donations to be dropped off for delivery on the second Mondays. Look for the latest needs list under the words "Related Files" on each of the signup sites online.

CCC Expresses Gratitude for Participation During the Past Year

As we look back on 2022, **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) is expressing thanks for all who have helped. In a New Year's message posted on the **CCC Group on Facebook**, leaders Erika Strauss-Chavarria and Meg Dacey-Feroli said the following:

"We wish we could personally hug and thank every person who has contributed to the success of CCC in 2022! The community that has grown from an idea to help people during COVID, to a mission of love that has grown bigger and better over the past year! Thank you for working the sites, in all kinds of weather. Thank you for helping us get our building in shape. Thank you for shopping, sorting and translating. Thank you for holding food, toy and personal item drives to stock our shelves. Thank you for your donations, food, diapers and money contributions large and small. You are the best of our community and we appreciate everything each of you do out of love and kindness. Here's a little tribute to our amazing volunteers to thank you and wish you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!!"

In looking ahead, CCC announced several new ways in which it will carry out its youth initiatives, such as a math program and **a collaboration with the Youth & Teen Center** in Oakland Mills. CCC's teen program, Persevere Until Success Happens (PUSH) planned to meet regularly at the center starting Jan. 3.

The Oakland Mills site is already familiar to volunteers and recipients of CCC's free food and essentials. The Oakland Mills Village Center's Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, is one of three distribution sites that operate on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The others are Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., and Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., all in Columbia

At Christ Church, Leigh Smith is our representative who takes parishioners' donated items to CCC. Members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to continue supporting CCC by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday.

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.



Vision 2023

I wish you all a Happy New Year!!

I am thankful to God for the blessing of a new year. I am thankful to God for the life that I have, my family, my ministry at Christ Church, and you, the faithful parishioners and staff who make Christ Church come alive with your faith, dedication, commitment, and your generous spirit. I couldn't be prouder of the extent to which each of you enriches our common life.

Each new year presents us with an opportunity to turn a page and begin afresh, if you will. But we can only do so with a deep sense of appreciation for the past and a hopeful look at the future. The future beckons with wonderful opportunities for an enriching and transformative ministry. I am so thankful for all the work that has been done and will be done to make this year special, spiritually uplifting, and meaningful.

In addition to the many ministries to which we have already committed ourselves, please find below some of the new initiatives that we would be working on throughout this new year:

Christ Church Podcast:

This will be an opportunity to hold live video and audio conversations with parishioners, community leaders, clergy, and many others on important issues such as faith and society, among many others. We are very excited to launch this series and invite your support in making this a true and lively addition to our common life.

Jazz Vespers:

During the Lenten weeks of personal reflection, Christ Church will offer weekly Jazz Vespers as part of our Lenten spiritual exercise. This service will offer worshippers a new worship experience shaped in part by the sound of musical instruments leading us in prayer and meditation.

Handbells:

Thanks to your generous contributions towards the purchase of handbells, we raised over \$20,000.00 to purchase a full set of octave handbells. We are now working on placing the order for the bells and accessories, and look forward to hearing them ring out around campus once we receive them.

(continued)

Handbell Choir:

With the purchase of the aforementioned handbells, we'll begin the process of forming a handbell choir to enrich our worship experience. Please expect more information about this new ministry soon.

300-Year Anniversary:

In a few years, Christ Church will be three hundred years old. This is such a huge milestone, and I am so excited about the wonderful blessings that we have to work toward celebrating this incredible anniversary. We have recruited about 20 parishioners to begin work on planning the occasion. If you know of anyone who you think might be an asset to this planning committee, please do not hesitate to share their name with me or the church office.

Youth Mission Trip:

An important part of our ministry to the youth is to offer them the ministry of sharing their gifts and talents with those who are less fortunate. This year, we plan to offer the youth the opportunity of going on a mission trip with the DreamBuilders. We are presently working on coordinating this, and it is my prayer that we are able to soon offer this ministry to our youth.

Choir Camp:

One of the summer offerings for Christ Church children and the community is our Vacation Bible School. This summer, we plan to offer a Choir Camp for children at Christ Church. This should be a wonderful opportunity for Christ Church to share this important ministry of music with children.

Strategic Plan Review:

In the fall of 2021, we dedicated ourselves to a process of evaluating our common life and making some changes. Our pledge was to revisit the changes we have made and to assess the impact. This process will offer each of us an opportunity to share our thoughts.

Medium-Term Plans:

For Christ Church to continue on the path of being a viable, thriving, and healthy organization, we need to begin a culture of making short-term goals that reflect our community story and needs. The Rector will be working with the Wardens in devising a 2-3 year plan for Christ Church. The idea is to move away from a year-to-year kind of planning and assessment to a more structured plan or set of goals.

Stewardship:

I deeply appreciate the level of financial support from you, our parishioners. It has been very special to know that we have parishioners like you who are not only generous but incredibly giving. Your level of giving - motivated, in large part, by your faith - has made all the difference in the life of our Christ Church community. One of the important things I hope we can accomplish this year, based on our medium-term plans, is to let parishioners know the actual cost of running Christ Church. One of our current challenges is to shore up our stewardship with the possibility of engaging a development partner who would help with strengthening our stewardship drive.

I must admit that there's a lot of work to be done at Christ Church. It takes constant and dedicated effort to operate day-to-day, support our ministries, recruit volunteers, balance the budget, keep the property clean, beautiful, and well-maintained, as well as motivate and support clergy and staff to ensure that they are ready to help with your spiritual life.

Again, I cannot thank each of you enough for all the ways in which you bring life and light to this community with your generosity. Proverbs remind us that *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* Our desire is to not perish and so our prayer is that we may remember that Vision 2023 can only be achieved with your support, encouragement, and prayers.

We will be counting on all of you to achieve these and more.

I wish you all a glorious and Happy New Year.

Manny+



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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*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Beth Johnson • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Alfred Titus-Glover