

Christ Episcopal Church

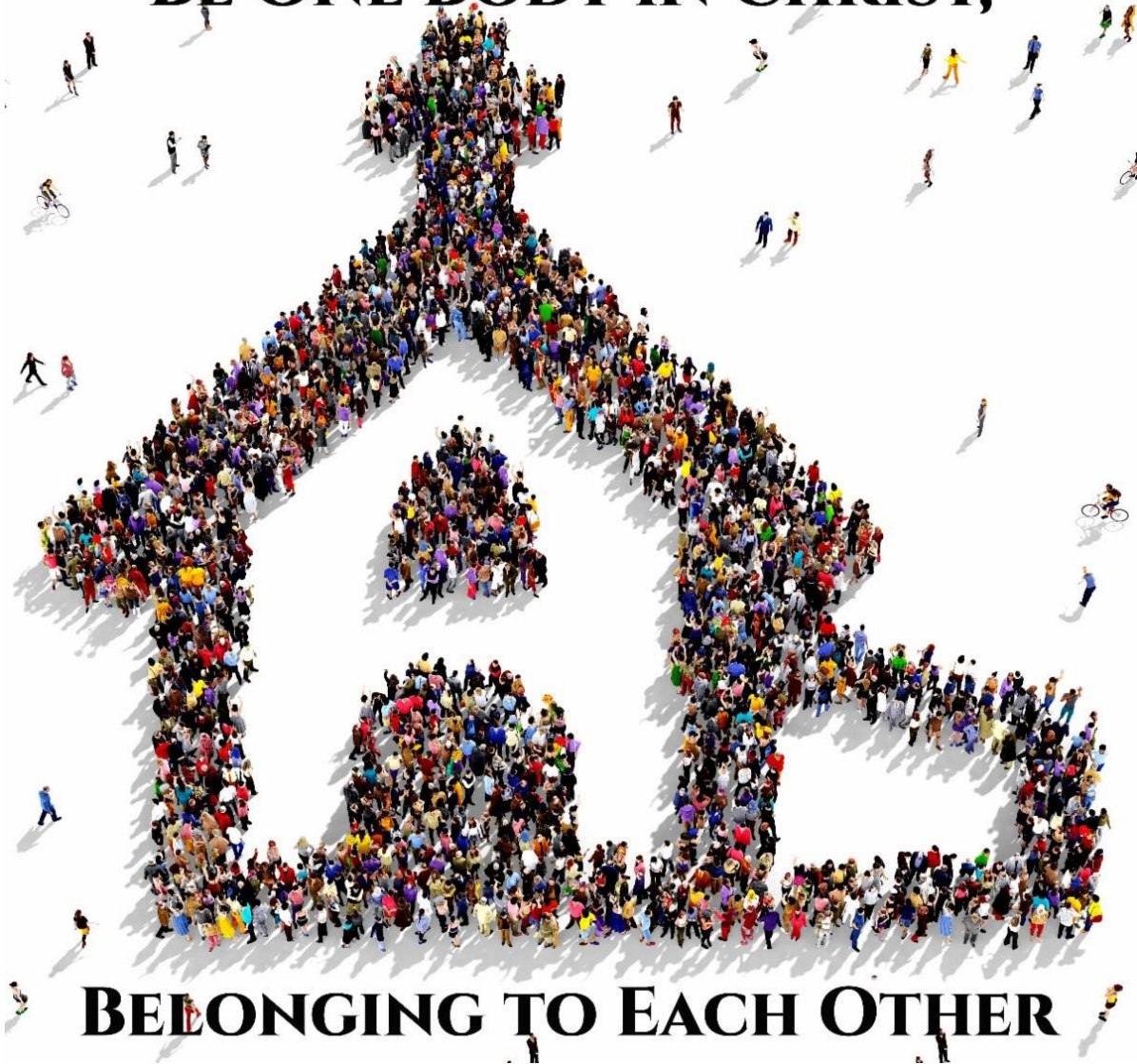
Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Third Sunday of Easter

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sunday, April 14, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

BE ONE BODY IN CHRIST,



BELONGING TO EACH OTHER

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 203 | O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!

O filii et filiae

Antiphon (at the beginning)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 O sons and daugh-ters, let us sing! The King of heaven, the
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the faith - ful wo - men
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see, who sat and spake un -
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; a - midst them came their
 5 On this most ho - ly day of days, to God your hearts and

1 glo - rious King, o'er death and hell rose tri - um - phing.
 2 went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
 3 to the three, "Your Lord doth go to Gal - i - lee."
 4 Lord most dear, and said, "My peace be on all here."
 5 voic - es raise, in laud and ju - bi - lee and praise.

1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]



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 In Excelsis Deo |

James Chepponis



Choir:
 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. **Refrain: all sing**
 We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain: all sing**
 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. **Refrain: all sing**
 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. **Refrain: all sing**

Opening Collect |

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

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread:
 Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and
 reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

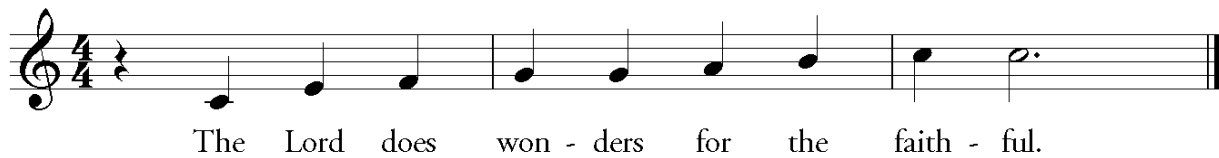
Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 4 | *Cum invocarem*



Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
**you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.**

"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
**how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"**

Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Antiphon

Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the LORD.

Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.

You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Antiphon

Reader: A reading from the First Epistle of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

Sequence Hymn 193 | That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

Puer nobis



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, the
 2 His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed; his
 3 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, do
 4 O Lord of all, with us a - bide in
 5 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



1 sun shone out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing
 2 wound - ed hands and feet he showed; those scars their sol - emn
 3 thou thy - self our hearts pos - sess that we may give thee
 4 this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; from ev - ery wea - pon
 5 thee, who, dead, a - gain dost live; to God the Fa - ther



1 eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 2 wit - ness gave that Christ was ris - en from the grave.
 3 all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.
 4 death can wield thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield.
 5 e - qual praise, and God the Ho - ly Ghost, we raise.

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

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

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,

Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

Sermon | The Rev. Marcia Davenport

The people stand as able.

The Prayers of the People |

Gracious God our Creator, we offer you our praise and never-ending love. You have forgiven our sins through the sacrifice of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. You support the fallen, heal the sick, and free the captive. You sustain and redeem all lives through Your love, kindness, justice, and mercy. **Lord, we praise You.**

We offer prayers on behalf of all who suffer in this world, that they might see better times. We pray for peace wherever people use violence to subdue, subjugate or terrorize others. For survivors of violence, we seek comfort and the ability to forgive. For perpetrators of violence, we ask that the Holy Spirit lead them to repentance. For the hungry, the homeless, and the imprisoned, we pray for hope and help. For world leaders, we ask for wisdom and humility. **Lord, we seek Your help.**

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who carry Your word to every corner of the world. We seek your protection for those who do so in the face of persecution and peril. We pray for our spiritual leaders: our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Carrie; our Rector, Emmanuel; our Deacon, Denise; and our postulants, Mike, Kiona, and Rebecca. We are so grateful for the work of our Vestry and laity. In the Anglican Communion, we give thanks for the work of The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for: St. John's, Western Run Parish; Trinity, Long Green; and St. James', Parkton. We welcome with gratitude all who are new or visiting with us today. **Lord, help us to spread Your word.**

We seek healing for those who are ill, especially Kathleen, Rhonda, Erica, Marilyn, Dickson, Carolyn, Lexi, Kim, Tim, Karen, Jim, Doug, Mary Ann, Barbara, Sherry, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred and Nell, and those we now name. We pray for those in military service, especially Conner Warlow and Kofi Abdallah. We pray for the souls of those who have departed this life, especially Alfreda Baran and those we now name. We ask for comfort all who mourn. **Lord, give your servants strength.**

We remember with joy and thanksgiving the birthdays of Alexander, Laura, Monica & Sherry, and baptismal anniversaries of Setutsi, Andrew, Aislinn, Jan, Ogonda, Olamma and Karita. **Lord, thank you for their lives.** Lover of souls, may we share Your love and mercy to all we meet in the coming week. May we ever be mindful of Your great love and compassion so that we act in accordance with Your will for us. Thank you for all you have done for us. **Amen.**

Prayers for Healing |

You may step forward to the altar for a blessing from the Celebrant.

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 Anthem | Eden's Song

arr. Mark Schweizer

Please scan to give.



Presentation Hymn 400 (v. 7) |

Laast Uns Erfreuen

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Eucharistic Prayer B |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

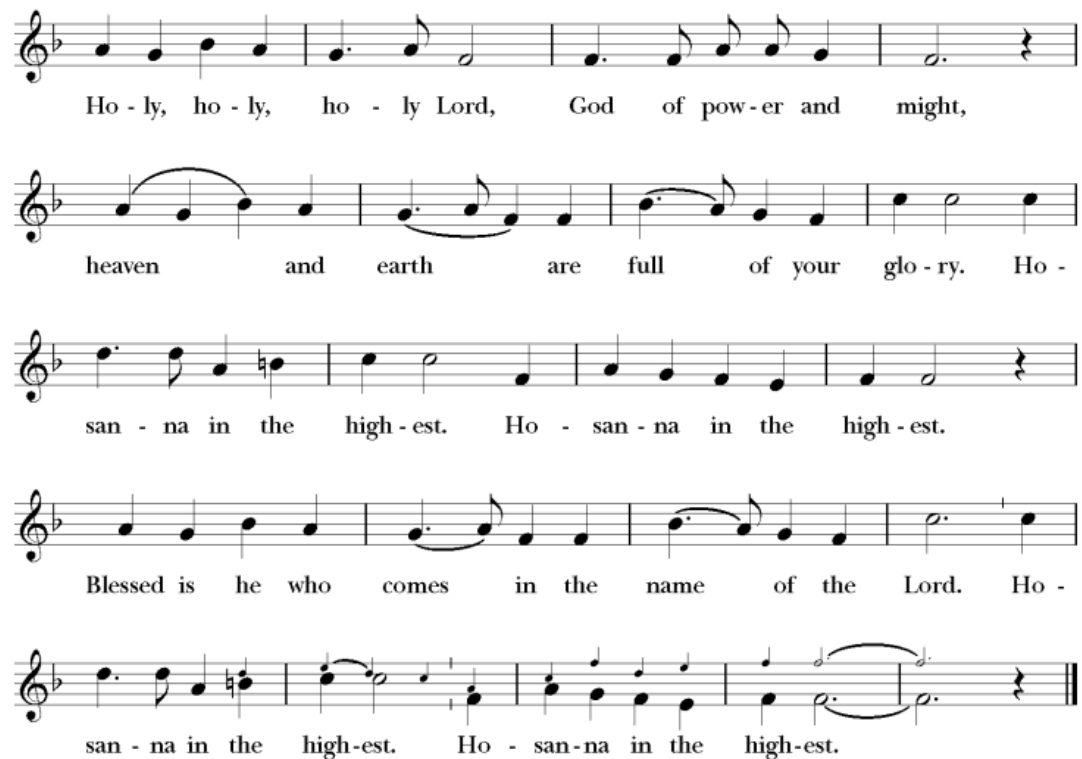
***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:



Celebrant:

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.

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."

All: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: 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, with 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.

People: Amen. (*sung*)

The Lord's Prayer |

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

Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come,

This block contains the first line of musical notation for the Lord's Prayer. It features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "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.

This block contains the second line of musical notation. The melody continues from the first line. The lyrics are: "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.

This block contains the third line of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are: "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.

This block contains the fourth line of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are: "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.

This block contains the fifth and final line of musical notation for the Lord's Prayer. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics are: "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: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem S 171 |

Mason Martens



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

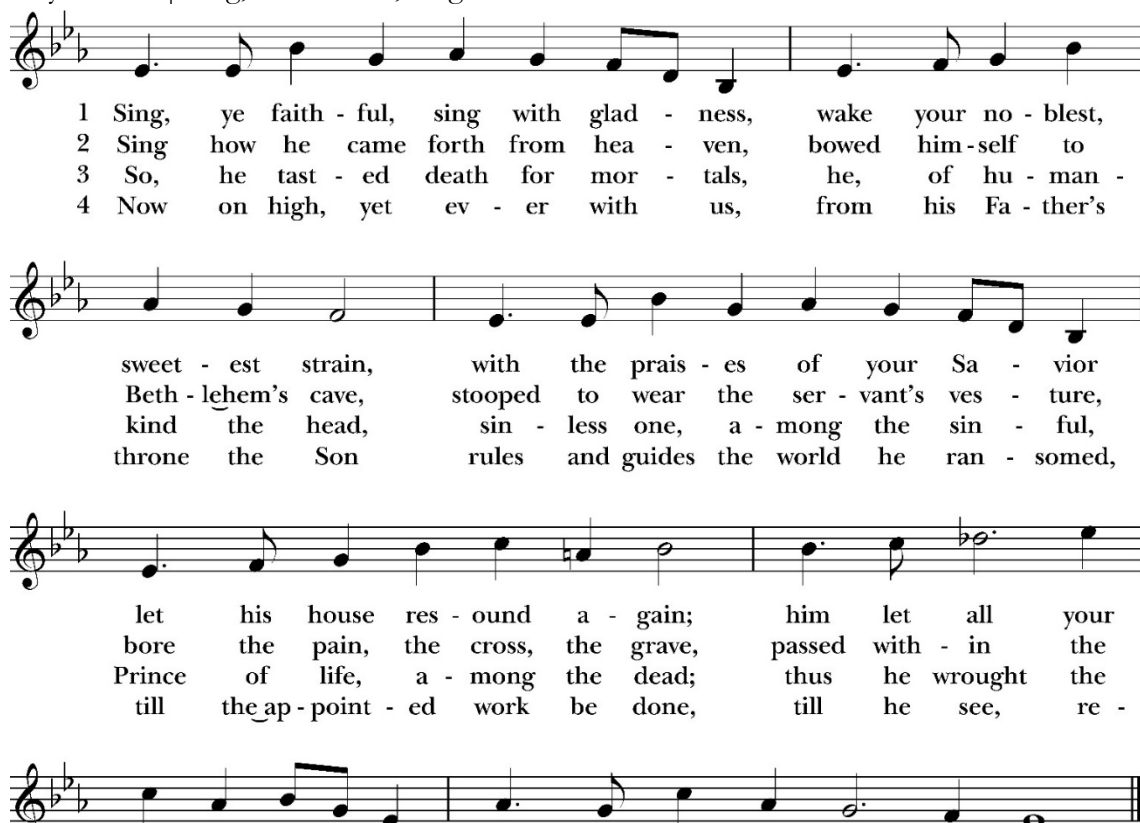


2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]





1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
 2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him - self to
 3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
 4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's

sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
 Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
 kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
 throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,

let his house res - ound a - gain; him let all your
 bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
 Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
 till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -

mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
 gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
 full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
 newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

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.**

Eucharistic Visitors' Prayer |

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

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

The Blessing |

*The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond **Amen.***



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Dismissal |

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

Recessional |

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Ron Baran
Ushers: Diane Phillips LaGuerre
Chalicer:

9:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader:
Ushers: Yetti Lipede
Acolytes and Crucifer:

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Cheryl Lucente
Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah,
Hope & Eva Oladipupo
Acolytes and Crucifer: Setutsi Abdallah, Hannah Boyer, Lucinda Hart
Chalicer: Cheryl Lucente & Mary Vail

Altar Guild

Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente

PARISH CALENDAR

APRIL 14 TO APRIL 20

Sunday, April 14

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 am	Sunday School – New Brick & Parish Hall, lower levels
9:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick & Zoom
9:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
10:30 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 – 4:30 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room & Zoom
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, April 15

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 am	Envelope Stuffing – Parish Hall, conference room
7:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, April 16

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	300 th Anniversary History Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:15 – 8:45 pm	Theology on Tap – Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd

Wednesday, April 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, April 18

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Health Ministry Meeting – New Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, April 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Event Rental Setup – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, April 20

9:30 – 11:30 am	MOCC Breakfast – IHOP, Columbia
12:00 – 4:00 pm	CEC Food Drive – Giant, Clarksville
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
2:00 – 11:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Sundays @ Three Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

and Choir Camp



JUNE 24-30

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/2024CAMP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,

email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

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

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a weekly evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. The daily practice of this prayer could lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. this Monday. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Bible Study and Lunch - Wednesday Mornings

Christ Church's Bible Study meets each Wednesday morning in the Conference Room of the Parish House, explore the Lectionary readings for that Sunday, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Wednesday Bible Study begins at 10:00 a.m.

Midday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

On Thursdays, join us for midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick, with readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful, historic chapel - the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

Christ Church Choirs - Thursday Evenings

Choir rehearsals have resumed for the spring, and we are welcoming new participants - everyone is welcome to join us! Whether you're a novice singer or a seasoned musician, there's a place for you in our Vocal &/or Handbell Choirs. If you're interested, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

CEC Book Club - Friday Evenings

The CECBC recently began a new book, the bestseller *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks; you can learn more about the book **here** and grab it from your favorite bookseller. We are always welcoming new people, so if reading and exchanging perspectives sounds enjoyable to you, log in and join us! We're aiming to discuss the first three chapters this Friday and will gather on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. weekly. Email Ellen Hoke at bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Office Assistance - April 15

Next Monday morning, Aisha can use a few extra hands to help get the quarterly statement envelopes filled and mailed to the parish. If you can assist her, please stop by the Church Office at 10 a.m. Thank you!

CEC Health Ministry Spring News - April 18

Many health and fitness-related activities are happening this spring and we hope you will join us for these! First, we have a Health Ministry meeting next Thursday, April 18th, and you can join us virtually on Zoom - **the link is here**, Meeting ID is **876 0562 2927**, and the Passcode is **Healthy**. Plus, there are blood pressure screenings, one-on-one pharmacist consults, cycling trips, mental health walks, and so much more on the horizon! Read our latest blog post at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/health-ministry-spring-update for all of the latest news.

Movie Screening - April 26

On Friday, April 26th at 7:00 p.m. there will be a showing of the film *Heaven is for Real* in the Parish Hall's lower level. It's the story of Colton Burpo who, at the age of four, undergoes emergency appendix surgery. His parents are overjoyed at the child's miraculous recovery; however, the Burpos are unprepared for what happens next - Colton

says that he went to heaven and back during a near-death experience, and shares details he couldn't have known about and speaks of incidents with people he never met before. Everyone's welcome to join us, so bring potluck munchies for a movie crowd and stay for a lively discussion that will follow the screening.

Come to Christ Church for a Jazz Concert - April 28

Celebrate **Jazz Appreciation Month** with a lively jazz concert featuring The Leister Quartet on Sunday, April 28th at 2 p.m. in New Brick. We have thoroughly enjoyed this group's music during our Jazz Vespers and Jazz Eucharist services, but now we get to hear them in a secular concert that's sure to have us dancing in our seats! Tickets are not required for this event - all "pay-what-you-wish" donations will go directly to the Quartet as thanks - and refreshments will be provided at a post-concert reception. Questions? Email music@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Larissa at church.

First Wednesday Fellowship Returns! - May 1

We are very excited to announce the return of FWF! Next month, join us for an exciting Cinco de Mayo celebration on Wednesday, May 1st beginning at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall of New Brick. Bring a dish to share, B.Y.O.B. - or simply bring yourself. This is going to be a lot of fun, so you definitely don't want to miss it! Questions? Call the Church Office or email info@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Then in the month of June, FWF heads north to Camden Yards to watch the Baltimore Orioles play against the Atlanta Braves in what could be a playoff matchup preview! We'll gather at the stadium at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12th, so if you'd like to join us, tickets are a very reasonable \$20. per seat. Sign up using the sheets in the Narthex or Old Brick, or **email the Church Office**. You can also email the Office if you'd like to carpool from the church to the stadium, and home again.

CEC Annual Spiritual Life Retreat in Rehoboth Beach - May 3

Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission just concluded presenting our wonderful Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series, and now brings us a spring retreat gathering opportunity in Rehoboth Beach - an annual event held yearly for over a decade. From May 3-5, we'll head to The DuPont Memorial House, and Mother Marcia Davenport will lead us in discussions and exploration of our year's Spiritual Life Theme, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*. This is a wonderfully restorative weekend of prayer, discussion, meditation, leisure activities, and worship, and you can find more information on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/rehoboth2024

Get Your Bikes Ready! Cycling is Returning - May 4

With warmer weather coming, Christ Church Cycling for Health and Fellowship is coordinating spring and summer riding excursions that depart from the CEC campus on Saturday mornings. We'll gather at 9 a.m. in the lower New Brick parking lot for an approx. ten-mile journey, so bring your bike and helmet to ride safely. All ages and skill levels are welcome to join us - we ride at a relaxing and enjoyable pace around lakes and through our beautiful parks and communities. Please email cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Diane Phillips LaGuerre or Kevin Osborn at church for more details.

Mother's Day Flower Sale - Begins May 11

The Youth Ministry is excited to present the 2024 Mother's Day Flower Sale at Christ Church! Over two weekends in May, they will have gorgeous flowers and handmade arrangements available for purchase. Stay tuned for times and more details!

CEC Center for Spiritual Nourishment - May 11

We are excited to announce the launch of our Center for Spiritual Nourishment to provide opportunities for spiritual growth for our members and the larger community. A group of parishioners has been working on creating a center

that includes multiple sessions covering an array of spiritually nourishing activities. Everyone is welcome to join us for our first retreat on Saturday, May 11th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in New Brick. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks, and email csn@christchurchcolumbia.org if you are interested or have any questions.

It's Almost Spring Tea Time! - May 18

Spring has sprung, and a WOCC tradition is returning soon - our annual Spring Tea. This year, it'll be held on Saturday, May 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at **Elkridge Furnace Inn**. All women are welcome to join in on this fun, social event with a delicious luncheon complete with traditional tea savories and sweets. The Elkridge Furnace Inn is a beautiful setting, and they serve up wonderful food, with all dietary restrictions accommodated. The cost is \$39 per person, all-inclusive. Please sign up in the Narthex by Monday, May 6th, or send an email to WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org and please include any dietary restrictions that we should pass on to the Inn. You can pay by check, or you can do so **through Realm**, selecting WOCC from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and writing "Tea" in the *MEMO* line. And bring your friends! It's always a wonderful event.

VBS and Choir Camp Begins June 24

This summer, Christ Church is hosting a special combined program - Vacation Bible School and Choir Camp! This series takes place from June 24-28 and gathers daily from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At VBS&CC, children will enjoy a week of Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and friends! Snacks, lunch, and refreshments are served daily, and after the 10:30 a.m. June 30th service, we'll have a wonderful celebration with ice cream and snacks for all participants. The cost for VBS&CC is \$30 per child or \$75 per family, and **you can process payment here**. Volunteers are needed, so come and have fun with us! **Email us** if you want to help us with the program, or if you have any questions. Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/vbs for more details, and we'll see you this summer!

Men of Christ Church April News

The MOCC completed another R.A.K (Random Acts of Kindness) in our community last weekend - ten gift bags full of goodies for new fathers were delivered to the maternity ward at Howard County General Hospital. We want to especially thank parishioner Ed Koharik for all his help with this effort - thanks, Ed! Be on the lookout for our next R.A.K later this month, and email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org if you have any questions or want to help.

Communion to You

To connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers *Communion to You*, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at our campus. If you want more information, **please complete this form** or **email** the Church Office.

Healing Stations

Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, email Rebecca Warlow at healingministry@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

The RDF typically helps fulfill the needs of those in our community. There are real people with real needs that we help support, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF for us to help our neighbors. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help.

Have Fun and Help Feed the Hungry at Our Spring Food Drive on Saturday, April 20, 12-4 PM, at River Hill Giant Supermarket in Clarksville

Be a part of one of the most rewarding ways to help feed the hungry in Howard County. Please sign up for a shift during the Spring Food Drive on Saturday, April 20th from noon to 4 p.m., at River Hill Giant, 6050 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville, Md., 21075. Walk-ins and children are welcome as Christ Church continues a hands-on, family-friendly activity held twice a year, in spring and fall.

Groceries collected will go to two food pantries. One is the Howard County Food Bank, which is operated by the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC). The other is **SAFE**, its partner pantry that provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income families and individuals. The need is great among struggling households, due to inflation and other causes. In 2023, our Spring and Fall Food Drives collected slightly more than a ton (2,268 pounds) of food for the two pantries.

At the supermarkets, it's clear we are doing God's work. Volunteers wearing Christ Church aprons or T-shirts engage arriving shoppers and offer a reusable shopping bag that displays Old Brick and contact information. We ask that they purchase items on a list that the Outreach Commission prepares in collaboration with the Food Bank and SAFE. The newly-motivated customers then shop, a grocery list in hand, returning later with canned goods, boxes of cereal, pasta, and more. On Sunday, look for a signup sheet in the Narthex or on the table in Old Brick, and to volunteer or request information, please email [**outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org).

Christ Church Hosts a Potluck for FISH Leaders and Volunteers

At a potluck dinner held on April 7 at Christ Church, FISH of Howard County celebrated its participants who have kept the all-volunteer organization running since 1976. Parishioner Andy DeLong, who volunteers as the treasurer of FISH, told the group that it has managed to keep overhead at 4 percent. That means that 96 percent of all direct contributions go to client services.

FISH helps county residents in crisis by providing emergency food, referral information, and limited financial assistance for such things as eviction and utility turnoff prevention and medicine. Food aid is typically a 7-to-10-day supply that is delivered to the home. In 2023, that amounted to 3,000 meals. It also offers hygiene, paper, and laundry supplies.

Christ Church, acting through the Outreach Commission, has long supported FISH in various ways. Many of you regularly put non-perishables into the basket at the altar or in its marked yellow bin on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. Please keep it up, and thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

Christ Church was represented by members of Outreach and the Vestry at the event, which was a special occasion to honor the couple who founded FISH and continue as leaders. Carroll and Fran Kitzmiller received commendations from the Maryland General Assembly and Howard County.

A certificate signed by County Executive Calvin Ball was presented to the Kitzmillers by Paul Thompson, Director of Constituent Services and Community Partnerships for Howard County. The state citation was signed by Delegate Courtney Watson and presented by FISH webmaster Linda Hayes who, more than a decade ago, directed our former referral service called Christ Church Link. FISH has displayed photos of the occasion in its **gallery**, and we have a few on **our website's weekly Outreach blog post**.

Fran Kitzmiller reported to the group that the FISH pantry will be relocating shortly from a county-owned building on Patuxent Woods Drive to a site selected by the county in Long Reach Village Center.

CCC Gets A New Look, Better Online Access for Volunteers and People in Need

Columbia Community Care announced last week on the [CCC Facebook Group](#) that it has adopted a new logo, saying it “reflects our commitment to community support, growth, and inclusivity.”

An updated [CCC website](#) provides information to those who need groceries and other necessities. Find times and locations of three Saturday distribution sites by going online to the [“I Need Help”](#) portion of CCC’s website. Or learn how to volunteer at the sites or in other ways by visiting the [“I Can Help”](#) [portion of its website](#).

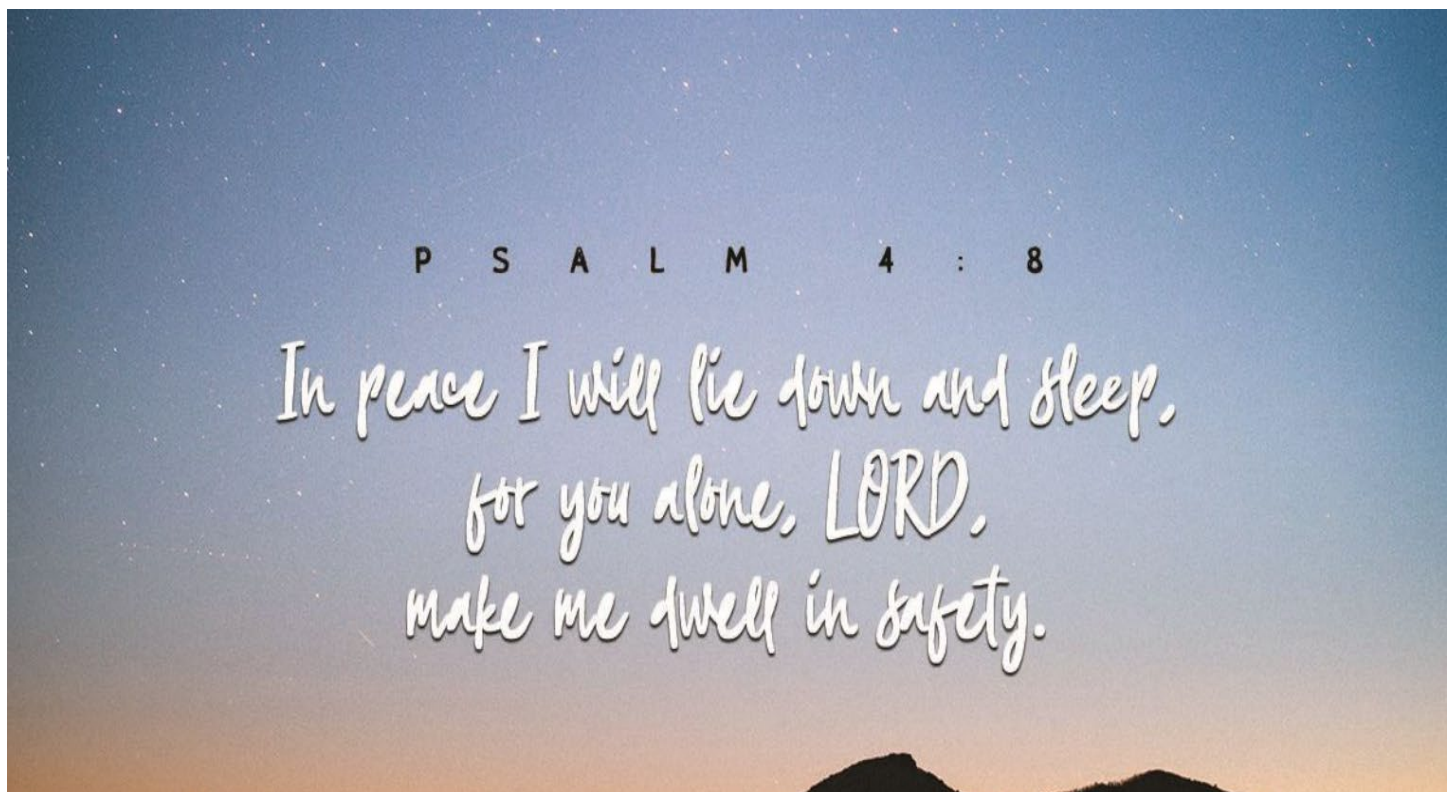
Please continue to collect diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers for CCC. Sizes 4-6 are in the greatest demand, as are 3T-4T and 4T-5T pullups. Put items in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers its contents.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Needs Your Help

Lake Elkhorn Middle School will be inviting families to two workshops this spring to support them in the challenging job of being parents. Tracey Williams, the counselor at LEMS, has asked Christ Church to supply a dinner for the families and provide childcare during the workshops. The next workshop is Tuesday, May 14th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the cafeteria. We need adults and high school students who can serve food to all and play games with the children, ages Kindergarten to 8th grade. Please contact Deacon Denise deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org or Cathy Whittaker catharinewhittaker@gmail.com if you can help on either or both of these dates.

Enjoy Food and Drink to Help Support DreamBuilders!

Come join us at Bushel & Peck restaurant in Clarksville, MD on Wednesday, May 15th from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. for an evening of dining, refreshments, and fellowship in support of DreamBuilders. One month later, DreamBuilders will be building three homes in Hazard, Kentucky, and a portion of the proceeds from your meals and drinks will go directly toward funding the materials for these three homes. More details to come...



Eclipse

I am not exactly sure when I got my first lesson about an eclipse, but I remember that it was such a complicated subject and I simply didn't get it. Looking back, I think it was a little abstract for me. It made sense to me as I grew up, though, and heard stories about experiences that others have had with an eclipse.

One such story was by a parishioner who grew up in Liberia, and a story his father shared with him. According to the father, when he was little boy, there was a prediction of an eclipse in Liberia. In dealing with the potential effects of the eclipse, especially as relates to sight, personnel from Europe visited Liberia to educate the population about how to handle the eclipse by not directly looking at the sun. What a gift it may have been for the people who had the benefit of such a blessing.



It was interesting to hear all the fuss people were making about this recent eclipse. Lots of people traveled to different places where they could experience a total eclipse, people joined watch parties to watch it, and people gathered at parks and hilly areas where they could have a great view of it. People went to great lengths to honor this spectacle of God's creation.

Before Monday, and thereafter, I have reflected ever deeply on our collective reaction to the eclipse. Don't get me wrong - I also took some time to watch it. But I have three observations that I want to share with you. First, I believe that part of the reason for all the excitement is that the eclipse is not a regular occurrence - we see it once in a generation or so. For that reason, we make every attempt to be a part of this magical moment in the life of our world - in other words, we don't take it for granted because we might not experience such a moment ever again. In a way, it reminds us that we often value experiences that aren't routine.

This brings me to my second observation: a sunrise or a sunset may be spectacular, and often is, but people don't congregate or travel distances just to watch them. For many of us, it is routine; the sun will rise again tomorrow. So, if you missed the sunrise or sunset today, it's no big deal - it will rise and set again the next day.

Yes, we take it for granted that the sun will rise or set tomorrow and that we will be alive to see it rise or set. But do we all live to see the sun rise or set?

Third - if a four-minute spectacle of nature will draw so much interest from millions and millions of people to the point where there are intergenerational watch parties, how is it, then, that the One who created and makes all these possible doesn't get as much glory, recognition, attention, honor, and adoration from us? How is it that millions of us cannot congregate each moment and affirm our collective belief in the One who created the world? Could it be that we don't believe in God? Could we not believe that God created us, the world, and everything therein? Could it be that we believe everything happens by chance, and that there is no order? Could it be the case that we have and continue to take everything - including our lives - for granted? There's no telling what we believe and what we don't believe.

Here is a conversation between a mother and her little boy:

"So, you don't believe in God anymore?" asked the son.

(continued)

"That is not something for you to worry about," the mother responded.

"Do you know that if gravity were slightly more powerful, the universe would collapse into a ball?" the son asked.

"I did not," the mother responded.

"Also, if gravity were slightly powerful, the universe would fall apart and there would be no stars and planets," the son said.

"Where are you going with this?" the mother asked.

"It is just that gravity is precisely as strong as it needs to be and if the ratio of the electromagnetic force wasn't 1%, life wouldn't exist. What are the odds that all would happen by itself?" the little boy asked.

"Why are you trying to convince me to believe in God?" the mother asked her son.

The little boy continued: "The precision of the universe at least makes it logical to conclude there's a creator. There are five billion people on the planet, and you are the perfect mom for me. What are the odds of that?"

What I found most interesting in the above conversation is the shift in who is helping the other understand that there's a creator and who is helping the other embrace the idea of a God. More crucial is what he said. What are the odds of being a perfect mom for me? What are the odds of being a perfect mom or dad for your son or daughter? The mother, like many of us, have lost our belief in God, and we have become so dependent on ourselves that we have no need for God. Yes, we appreciate the beauty of creation and the magnificence of a once-in-a-generation occurrence like an eclipse, but we have lost our sense of identity and grounding in God.

We don't know who we are anymore. We don't see God as being active in our lives; in fact, we do not see God at all. Our eyes have been blocked by the moon so we cannot see the sun. It is daylight, but we are surrounded by darkness. We have varying degrees of eclipses in our lives - leaving us helpless, hopeless and lost. Oh, how I wish we would all be found, how I wish we would see the Son once more!

Some of our individual stories sound like the seeds in the Parable of the Sower, where some fell on thorns, some fell on rocky ground, and some fell by the wayside. We have lost the Son in our lives and so all we see is varying degrees of darkness.

The question then is, how do we recapture our sense of God? How do we recover our sense of the divine, our belief in God as the creator? How do we regain a faith which has been covered by an eclipse?

I was driving on I-81 the other day, and I saw this pithy message on a church's notice board: ***The moon may block the sun, but I can still see.*** What can you also see? What do you want to see in order to believe? Are you like Thomas who wants to see the hands and side before you believe? There's nothing wrong with that approach, too - because the Lord still showed himself to Thomas and the Lord will show the self to you, but you have to at least name what you want to see in order to believe. Even if you are not asking for a sign or a manifestation, what do you want to experience in your life before you believe?

In my sermon this past Easter Sunday, I quoted C.S. Lewis who said, *"I believe in Christ, like I believe in the sun—not because I can see it, but by it I can see everything else."* The point Lewis seems to be making is that the light from the sun makes it possible for him to see everything else. He believes, not because he can see the sun or God, but through the gift of sunlight he can see. So that even if there is an eclipse, he can still see because the darkness of the eclipse wouldn't be enough to block the Son's rays.

(continued)

I once asked someone the question, “If you don’t believe in God, what do you believe in?” The person couldn’t answer the question because there’s nothing to believe in if you don’t believe in God.

This Eastertide, it is my prayer that you may also overcome the eclipse in your life and relationship with God - for the Son’s rays are way too powerful for any eclipse.

Manny+



WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF OUR BELOVED CHRIST CHURCH

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish 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.

Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website -

www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply send a text with the word 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 toward 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 **<mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org>**

THANK YOU.



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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev. Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams