



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, November 16, 2025 | Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – YOUTH SUNDAY

YOUTH SUNDAY

November 16

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: www.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.

PRELUDE |

OPENING SONG | Shine Jesus Shine

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light

Graham Kendrick

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me
2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood, I may enter Your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

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.

People: Amen

GLORIA S 280 |

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 65:17-25

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;

no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;

for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord--
and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent-- its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

Read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Canticle 9 | *The First Song of Isaiah Ecce Deus*

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Reader: A reading from 2nd Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE SONG | 10,000 reasons(shorter version without bridge)

Matt Redman & Steve Angrisano

Chorus:

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find
1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes
3. And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

THE GOSPEL | Luke 21:5-19

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

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

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

THE SERMON | Youth Group

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

Al:

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 worshipped 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 |

Dear Lord, we gather together as a community of faith and hope. We praise you for your wonderful works and we thank you for our many blessings. **Lord, we sing the glory of your Name.**

Today we remember our brothers and sisters living in places torn by war and conflict. We lift in prayer all refugees and immigrants who have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety and a better life. May they find welcome, peace, and a place to call home. We give thanks for all who work for justice, peace, and reconciliation among nations. **Lord, have mercy on all your children.**

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we lift up The Anglican Province of Alexandria. We pray for our church and all churches in the world, that they may be a place where people feel safe and cared for. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for our sister parishes: Emmanuel, Baltimore, Grace & St. Peter's Baltimore & Guardian Angel, Baltimore. In our own congregation, we give thanks for the Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel, and for all in our Christ Church family. We welcome those who are new or visiting with us today. May they feel our love. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for those in our community who struggle to find or keep their jobs, and for those who are homeless or living without stability. May they know your care through the kindness of others and the opportunities that come their way. Bless the hands and hearts of all who serve the poor and the vulnerable. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We lift up all students who are struggling with their studies, grades, or the pressures of school. Grant them patience, perseverance, and the knowledge that their worth lies not in achievement but in your unconditional love. Bless teachers and mentors who guide them with wisdom and compassion. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We give thanks for the happy occasions that members of our Christ Church family celebrate this week: birthdays of Ann, Ben, Nick, William, Alexander & Mary, wedding anniversary of Ralph & Linda Stewart, and the baptismal anniversary of Tom. May we all be thankful to God for the joy in our lives and do what we can to share that joy with others. **Lord, we praise you for our blessings.**

Loving God, you hear the prayers of all your people. Strengthen us to live as instruments of your peace and love in the world. May we walk through this week filled with gratitude and with hands ready to serve. **AMEN.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

THE PEACE |

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

People: And also with you.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY SONGS | Amazing Grace

Broken Vessels

Please scan to give.



Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see, Alleluia

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed. *Refrain*

The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. *Refrain*

Refrain
Alleluia, Allelu—
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Allelu—
Alleluia, Allelu—, Alleluia

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home. *Refrain*

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun. *Refrain*

DOXOLOGY 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 HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



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

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

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

Celebrant: 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:*
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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

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

All: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

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



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.



*The Gifts of God
for the People of God*

COMMUNION SONG | Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Seek Ye first the kingdom of God | <i>Chorus:</i> |
| And His righteousness | Alleluia. } x 4 |
| And all these things shall be added | |
| unto you. | |
| Allelu, Alleluia. | |

COMMUNION SONG | Prince of Peace

Michael W. Smith

<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Chorus:</i>
You are holy (You are holy)		I will sing to and worship
You are mighty (You are mighty)		(You are Lord of Lords, You are King of Kings)
You are worthy (You are worthy)		The King who is worthy
Worthy of praise (Worthy of praise)		(You are Mighty God, Lord of everything)
I will follow (I will follow)		I will love and adore Him
I will listen (I will listen)		(You're Emmanuel, You're the Great 'I Am')
I will love You (I will love You)		And I will bow down before Him
All of my days (All of my days)		(You're the Prince of Peace, who is the Lamb)
		And I will sing to and worship
		(You're my living God, You're my saving grace)
		The King who is worthy
		(You will reign forever, You are ancient of days)
		And I will love and adore Him
		(You're the Alpha, Omega, beginning and end)
		And I will bow down before Him
		(You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend)
		You're my Prince of Peace and I will live my
		life for You

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 | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

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.***

CLOSING SONG | Lord, I lift your Name on High

Rick Founds

Lord, I lift Your name on high	You came from heaven to earth
Lord, I love to sing Your praises	To show the way
I'm so glad You're in my life	From the earth to the cross
I'm so glad You came to save us	My debt to pay
	From the cross to the grave
	From the grave to the sky
	Lord, I lift Your name on high (<i>Repeat</i>)

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Youth Group

Chalicer: Joan Harvey

Ushers: Youth Group

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Youth Group

Chalicer: Cheryl Lucente

Acolytes: Youth Group

Altar Guild: Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah

Ushers: Youth Group

Tellers: Brian Farnandis, Jenny Cecil

PARISH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 16 – 22, 2025

Sunday, November 16

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am– 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am	Children & Family Worship – New Brick, UL
9:30 am– 10:30 am	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
1:15 – 5:30 pm	Sundays @ 3 Concert – New Brick, UL
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, November 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, November 18

9:00 – 4:00 pm	HC Homeschool – New Brick, LL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Summer Yoga Camp – ONLINE
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300-yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, November 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Bridges to Housing Stability – New Brick, LL

Thursday, November 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 – 4:00 pm	HC Homeschool – New Brick, LL
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Summer Yoga Camp – ONLINE
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club - Zoom

Friday, November 21

All Day	Angel Tree setup - New Brick, UL
7:00 am & 7:00 pm	Morning and Evening Prayer Livestreams
7:00 – 10:00 pm	Sabrio Concert Rehearsal – New Brick, UL

Saturday, November 22

9:00 – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep – Old Brick
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Sabrio Concert – New Brick, UL
9:00 pm – 1:00 am	Koduah Event – New Brick, LL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS

Diocese of Maryland Convention - Nov. 21 & 22

Each year, elected delegates from each congregation in our diocese gather to elect diocesan leaders, discuss issues, and review policies and structures. While voting delegates and alternates must register to participate and vote in the Convention, anyone is welcome to attend as an observer at no cost.

The Convention takes place at the Claggett Center, and the relevant Convention details and materials are posted at episcopalmaryland.org/diocesan-governance/diocesan-convention.

Multicultural Sunday - November 23

Christ Church is a church for all nations, cultures, traditions, people, and languages. Although we celebrate the diversity of our community every day of the year, on Multicultural Sunday, we intentionally take time to acknowledge and appreciate the ones that our church and community represent.

Parishioners of all ages help us with the liturgy by speaking the readings in their native tongue. Everyone is encouraged to attend church in clothing that represents their history and culture. We want to show the world that praising the Lord has strength, devotion, and meaning in every language.

Sign Up for Christ Church's Annual Christmas Pageant

Soon, we will be assigning roles for the 2025 Christmas Pageant! We have already begun creating the script and are brainstorming ideas for this very special gathering. The entire parish and community turn up to enjoy our children's participation, and we would love for yours to take part! Please take a moment to complete this very brief form, which will help us assign the appropriate role for your child. Please inform us if your child will be able to participate and whether they would like to have a speaking part or a non-speaking role. Animal characters are also welcome! Please complete the form by next Sunday, November 23.

The Pageant is a well-loved tradition at Christ Church. As in past years, the pageant will tell the story of Jesus' birth using both of the infancy narratives of St. Luke and St. Matthew. More news about Pageant rehearsals will be in December's Youth and Family Ministry newsletter.

Thanksgiving Day at Christ Church - November 27

Come join us at 10 a.m. for the Thanksgiving Day Eucharist in New Brick. We welcome everyone to gather with us, but we will also livestream the service on our website, YouTube, and Facebook pages so you can worship and give thanks from wherever you are.

Church Office is Closed on November 27 & 28

The church office will close on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving, and reopen on Monday, 12/1.

The Bishop's Visit - November 30

Our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent will be the homilist at the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, November 30th, and we invite everyone to join us for this very special occasion. This is an opportunity for all of our children to have an up-close and personal interaction with her, to hear about what the role of a Bishop is, what a bishop wears and why, and to hear about the sacrament of Confirmation. The children, as a group, will offer a song to celebrate Bishop Carrie's visit, and we hope that the entire congregation will join us that special day as we receive new members of the church.

It's an Ugly Christmas First Wednesday Fellowship! - December 3

Get your ugly Christmas sweaters out of storage and prepare for a fun FWF to cap off the year. We'll have our own FriendsGiving dinner for everyone and provide the main dish, but please bring side dishes and desserts to share and enjoy.

Of course, this event wouldn't be complete without an Ugly Sweater Contest and a little Christmas Bingo will liven up the gang, so be sure to gather with us on the first Wednesday in December at 6 pm. in the Great Hall.

Friday Film Fun for Families - December 5

Gather for a holiday treat that will delight all ages - on Friday, December 5th at 7 p.m., we'll screen the film *The Christmas Candle*. Deep in the heart of the English countryside of Gladbury, David Richmond, a progressive young minister, arrives, and the villagers discover a new formula for miracles: good deeds, and acts of kindness.

While David's quest to modernize the village sets him at odds with the old-world candlemaker, he finds an unlikely ally in the lovely skeptic, Emily Barstow. Now, the fiery candlemaker must fight to preserve the legacy of the Christmas Candle, but when the blessed candle goes missing, the miraculous and human collide in the most astonishing Christmas the village of Gladbury has ever seen. Let the wonder of the season emerge with the Light of the world given to us!

Advent Quiet Day - December 6

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 6. This important Christ Church tradition, presented by the Spiritual Life Commission, marks the start of the Advent season and helps us to focus and retain our perspective in these hectic weeks leading up to Christmas.

We'll gather in Old Brick for an informal breakfast and conversation at 8:30 a.m. and then take part in a morning of readings, spirited discussions, shared community, and periods for quiet meditation. Our retreat then concludes around 12 noon with an informal Eucharist. It's a very special gathering each year, and we hope that you'll join us as we let the Light enter our feelings and actions to help make this a remarkable and joyous Christmas season. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks, but mark your calendars now.

WOCC Christmas Feast - December 7

Come Join Us For The Women of Christ Church's Christmas Feast: Sunday, December 7th, 1:00 p.m. at Kings Contrivance Restaurant. The cost is \$63 per person for a delicious 3-course meal and non-alcoholic drinks, all inclusive (fancy drinks can be purchased from the cash bar).

Sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, November 30. Subsidies are available - talk to Father Manny. We'll also be collecting unwrapped gifts for Springfield Hospital again this year, and [you can find their wish list on our website](#). We really hope to see you there!

Advent and Christmas Flowers and Music

Flowers and Music donations in memory or dedication of a loved one during the Advent and Christmas season are gratefully accepted, as these help fund the wonderful greenery, flowers, and musicians that assist in bringing this season to life for everyone. There are two ways you can donate - you can do so digitally using our [Online Giving Form](#) and select "Christmas Flowers & Music" or "Christmas General Offering" from the *FUND* dropdown menu and write the dedication name(s) on the *MEMO* line. If you are paying by check, you'll soon find both Christmas envelopes in the Narthex and in Old Brick. When using either method, please be sure to submit yours no later than Friday, December 14th.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace.

We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Join the Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

If you ever thought about giving Choir a shot, how about now? We have rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings—Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30—and all adults are welcome to join us.

Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If interested, please speak with Larissa at church, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or stop by New Brick on any Thursday evening.

CEC Book Club - Thursday Evenings

The CEC Book Club is reading *The Heartbeat of God* by Katharine Jefferts Schori (former Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church of the United States), an excellent book. Why not join us? You can participate via Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. - [the link is HERE](#), Meeting ID is 853 4359 7339, and Passcode is CECBC.

If you're interested in reading and discussing great books with a friendly, engaging, and welcoming group of readers, then this is definitely for you—we choose a book together, read a chapter or two each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so on Thursdays to share our thoughts. If you've considered taking part or if this is your first time hearing about us, now's the time to join! Email us with any questions - bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org.

GET INVOLVED: Find a Ministry that's Right for You

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others.

None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org, or inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org for Inreach (or [visit their website page](#)), and if you're interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Upcoming Diocesan Events for Youth of All Ages

The Diocese of Maryland's Youth Ministry has a lot of upcoming events and gatherings listed on their website, [and you can find them here](#). From the upcoming Diocesan Convention next month, to the 2026 Happening Retreat and Nightwatch NYC in next year, many gatherings are taking place for youth of every age. We will be taking part in most of them, but if you see one that you're particularly interested in learning more about, please email Diya Jackson, Christ Church's Youth Ministry Assistant, and she'll get in touch with you - you can email her at christchurchassistant@gmail.com

Setting Our Own Record, Volunteers Collected More Than One Ton of Goods During the Christ Church Fall Food Drive

Christ Church volunteers succeeded during our Fall Food Drive this past Saturday, November 8, in collecting items for the [Howard County Food Bank](#) and its partner pantry, [SAFE](#).

The collection filled the Knox family's truck to the brim and amounted to 1,776 pounds at weigh-in. SAFE reported its portion of gluten-free goods weighed 307, giving us a total of 2,083 pounds. Since a ton weighs 2,000 pounds, that means we raised over one ton of donated food and goods, which is the most we've ever collected when compared to our eight previous drives, which began in 2018, with a hiatus during the pandemic. Incredible!

Working in shifts outside Dorsey's Search Giant supermarket, some volunteers packed non-perishables while others approached dozens of shoppers, many of whom said they were eager to help struggling neighbors during the government shutdown. People bought items listed on our handouts, and others gave us cash and checks.

We raised \$425, including some donations by parishioners, for the [Community Action Council of Howard County](#) (CAC), which operates the food bank. "Amazing!" responded a representative of CAC, who came to the loading dock as quantities of items were weighed, ranging from canned soups and vegetables to huge boxes of diapers. CAC thanks Christ Church for its partnership, especially during a time of great community needs due to interruption of food-stamp benefits known as SNAP.

SAFE leaders wrote: "These donations will make a difference to the many clients we serve. Please convey our appreciation to all...congregants who participated in the food drive on our behalf." SAFE praised the "variety and quality" of goods that Sonni Aribiah delivered in seven containers, including 42 boxes of cereal and 43 pounds of tuna. Parishioners did their part beforehand or afterward, while others joined Father Manny and members of the Vestry and Outreach Commission volunteering on Saturday afternoon in Ellicott City – all doing God's work. Thanks to each and every helping hand!

Please Pitch In! Bring Holiday Sides and Year-Round Staples by Thursday, Nov. 20 for our Thanksgiving Drive for the Howard County Food Bank

Please make Thanksgiving and the upcoming holidays special for those who find themselves depending on the Howard County Food Bank to feed their families. The staff of the food bank provides the makings of festive meals for 1,000 people for Thanksgiving and another 1,000 by Christmas and expects greater demand this year. Christ Church contributes to this effort through our traditional collection of non-perishables prior to Thanksgiving and by sending funds to CAC. The Outreach Commission approved a donation of \$1,000, which goes in part to broaden options beyond a whole turkey. Shoppers may prefer a hen, turkey breast, or plant-based proteins.

Complete the menu by bringing boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, olives, pickles, and canned fruits and vegetables. Because household pantries may be bare, please add staples such as bags of rice, tuna, soups, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, and spices. Put items in the marked boxes in New Brick or on the Parish Hall breezeway in a bin labeled "Thanksgiving Food Drive". NOTE: *No pies, other desserts, or rolls* due to perishability. Deadline: Next Thursday, Nov. 20.

Baltimore Seafarers' *Christmas at Sea*

From now through next Sunday, November 23rd, the WOCC encourages you to consider donating items that will help the hard-working members of Baltimore International Seafarers' Center to stay warm and feel appreciated during this holiday season. Whether it's brightly-colored winter hats (no pom-poms), cold-weather gloves (no fringes or tassels), hand-warmers, handmade or store-bought cookies (a HUGE favorite; place the cookies in one-gallon-sized, zipper-lock storage bags), or any of the other items listed at www.BaltSeafarers.org/Christmas, everything helps these hard-working Seafarers have a safer and warmer Christmas.

Please bring your gifts to Christ Church and drop them off in the Tower Room's *Seafarers* box, located near the Outreach table, by November 23. The WOCC will then deliver these generous gifts to the Baltimore International Seafarers Center on November 24th. Thank you.

MOCC's *Random Act of Kindness*

The MOCC's current R.A.K. (*Random Act of Kindness*) is supporting Comfort Cases, and they can use your donations and assistance. A Comfort Case is a small duffel bag or backpack designed to provide comfort for youth as they enter the local foster care system.

In today's world, the number of kids entering the foster care system is rising, and so anything that can be done to help provide a level of comfort and care for the youngest is welcome. The MOCC is accepting donations from now through January 10th, and you can find details and a donation bin in the Narthex. You can also speak with Duane Smith, Ed Chrzanowski, or any other MOCC member to get more information about Comfort Cases or upcoming MOCC gatherings.

FISH and CCC Have Combined Pantries, and FISH Needs Phone Volunteers

FISH and Columbia Community Care (CCC) partnered earlier this year and merged their food pantries. CCC continues its distributions at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, go online to Get Help or look for updates on CCC's Facebook page. FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please keep bringing baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide guidance and financial support by telephone because the personal touch is very important in times of crisis. Consider volunteering from home by dedicating just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from FISH's financial assistance. Training is provided. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email andydelong.fish@gmail.com. Thanks for your support.



Building Relationships through

LOVE

Our 2026 Pledge Campaign



Welcome to Christ Church's 2026 Pledge Campaign. It is that time of year when we reflect on what it means to be part of an inclusive and dedicated Christian community of faith supporting the ministries we share. It is that time of year when we humbly invite you to consider funding as one of the many ways God can use to radically transform who we are as disciples.

Regardless of the level of giving, we believe making this promise for the year ahead is a sign of hope and an affirmation that we are rooted in God's abundance. Each year, we focus on encouraging all of us to make a pledge because it both changes who we are as individuals growing in generosity and as a community **building relationships through love**, and to be an expression of God's love in the world.



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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*
The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson