CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 21, 2021 | 8:00 and 10:30 AM

You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

Covenant for Regathering

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

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

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

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

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

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

Seek and serve Christ in all people...

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

May 2020

At the 8:00 AM service, all music is omitted

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Ariadne Musica Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer (1656-1746)
Fugue No. 1 C Dur

The people stand as able.

OPENING HYMN **Please hum or mouth the words only.** *Dundee*

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed;
who through this earthly pilgrimage
hast all thine Israel led:

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace:
O God of Israel, be the God
of this succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy sheltering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace!

Such blessings from thy gracious hand
our humble prayers implore;
and thou shalt be our covenant God
and portion evermore.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

TRISAGION

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)

Choir: Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

The following psalm is chanted by the choir.

PSALM 51:1-13 *Miserere mei, Deus*

Chant: Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";

as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

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

SEQUENCE HYMN **Please hum or mouth the words only.** *Wondrous Love*

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown
for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb,
I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme
I will sing.

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

THE GOSPEL John 12:20-33

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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

SERMON The Rev'd Emmanuel Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

All: **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;

and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead:
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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

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

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

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

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Nell, Alta, Chad, Alfred, Ashley, Bill, Victoria, Jim, Seiko, Sarah, Ana, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

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

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

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

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

The Peace

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

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

Welcome and Announcements — The Rev'd Emmanuel Mercer, *Rector*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Lead me, Lord — Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Text: Psalm 5:8 and Psalm 4:9

Presentation Hymn — **Please hum or mouth the words only.** — *Erhalt uns, Herr*

Choir: O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in threefold Name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.
People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

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

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

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

People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

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

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

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

AGNUS DEI

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Mass in Honor of St. Bernadette
Richard K. Fitzgerald (1979-)

Choir: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

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

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Armed Forces Prayer Book (1951)

All: **In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church,**
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving.
I present to Thee my soul and body
with the earnest wish that may always be united to Thee.
And since I can not now receive Thee sacramentally,
I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate Thee from me.
May I live and die in Thy love. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN **Please hum or mouth the words only.** *Olivet*

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day;
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN **Please hum or mouth the words only.** *Crucifer*

Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore
his sacred Name.

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.
Refrain

Each new-born servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.
Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory.
Refrain

THE DISMISSAL

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

(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

This Sunday's Eucharist Livestream and Zoom Fellowship | Join us online Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. as we livestream worship from New Brick. This service, complete with musical and vocal accompaniment, will be broadcast on our Christ Church website, YouTube, and Facebook pages. We will always broadcast this service for those who will not be on campus. A few minutes after the service ends, we'll have our Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom, so everyone

is invited to stop by and say "HELLO!" as we catch up with one another. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is 830 0557 1585, and the password is SundayVCH. See you on Sunday - whether in New Brick, or online!

Christ Church Sunday School | We have weekly, online Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary school children from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. Please fill out a registration form so that we are able to provide you with the Zoom codes. Our curriculum is *"Weaving God's Promises"* and we are in *Year 3: Weaving God's Community*. To learn more about our Sunday School offerings, please visit our website, and if you have any questions or are able to help facilitate classes, please contact Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net.

We also host weekly Sunday School classes for middle & high schoolers on Zoom from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please fill out the registration form so that we can provide you with the Zoom codes. If you have any questions, please contact Yetti Lipede at theodociayl@gmail.com.

Confirmation and Adult Inquirers Class - Sunday Afternoons | We invite all parishioners who are interested in being Confirmed, Reaffirmed, or Received into the Episcopal Church or have the desire to deepen their faith, to join us on Sunday afternoons for Confirmation and Adult Inquirers class. Our next meeting is this Sunday at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Confirmation and Inquirers classes are an opportunity that we have to explore the varied and rich components that shape and inform our faith. For information, contact Yetti -ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org or Fr. Manny - revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Easter Music & Flowers | Parishioners are invited to consider making donations towards Easter Music and Flowers. These gifts may be in memory or in celebration of a loved one. You may donate online or can mail a check to Christ Church. On the memo, please write either *Easter Music* or *Flowers*. Thank you very much.

Easter Vigil Baptism | If you, or someone you know, are interested in being baptized during Christ Church's Easter Vigil service - Saturday, April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. - please reach out to Deacon Denise at deacondenise@christchurchccolumbia.org, or call the Church Office

Holy Week at Christ Church | Christ Church is blessed to have in-person worship during Holy Week this year. The entire schedule is on our Lent page - https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent. We have livestreams all week, as well as services in Old Brick and New Brick. In-person health protocols will be strictly maintained and attendance is limited, so if you'd like to join us on campus please complete the attendance form on our website at https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/attend-holy-week.

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

Conversations on Race - Next Monday | Join us next Monday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. as we continue a discussion on the book *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. You can find the book - a New York Times Bestseller - at many retailers in physical, audiobook, and digital form. This meeting will also have a visit from Columbia Community Care (CCC) leaders, and they will talk about the needs in Howard County and their work with a proposed social justice center. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this virtual gathering. The Zoom link is HERE, Meeting ID is 814 3122 0554 and the password is CECcor. Email us if you have any questions - info@christchurchcolumbia.org

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

Our Wednesday Evening Lenten Series Concludes Next Week | The Spiritual Life Commission invites everyone to join us on Zoom for our Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, which centers on our 2021 theme - *Be God's Light that Shines in the Darkness*. Each week during this popular series, we host a presenter who gives their perspective on this theme. Next Wednesday, we hope you'll join us Father Manny provides his perspective during this final virtual gathering. Zoom links will be published in our Monday *"This Week on Zoom"* email.

Christ Church Book Club – Fridays | The CEC Book Club is discussing the first of two books by C.S. Lewis - *The Screwtape Letters* is being discussed this month, followed by *Mere Christianity* later in March. These discussions are conducted via Zoom each week from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and you'll find the Zoom link in As always, we welcome newcomers at any time, so come and join us. If there are any questions, please contact Ellen Hoke by calling or texting her at 301-452-7115, or by emailing her at efboudreau1@gmail.com.

WOCC News | The March meeting of the Women of Christ Church takes place on April 5th at 1:00 p.m. Once again we'll be meeting via the Zoom app, which is free and available for download at www.zoom.us ahead of time. The Zoom link will be in upcoming communications. In other WOCC news - in 2021, the WOCC started sending birthday e-cards for those WOCC members interested in receiving an e-card rather than one via USPS. Don't forget to check your SPAM folder. Please ensure that Christ Church has your correct email address in your Church's REALM account. If you do not have a REALM account, email Yetti at office@christchurchcolumbia.org so that she can send you a link to set up an account.

Wonderful News Regarding Christ Church's Director of Music | Our own Adam Detzner has been invited to compete in the International Schnitger Organ Competition, located in the Netherlands in June of this year. He is one of only ten young organists admitted to compete, and the only American. The competition is held on historic organs in the city of Alkmaar, including one organ with pipes dating back to the sixteenth century. In the months ahead, Adam will offer recitals of the competition repertoire, so that he gets used to playing it for live audiences. It is also likely that the competition itself will livestream from the Netherlands. For more information about the competition, you can visit https://orgelfestivalalkmaar.nl/concours.

Please keep Adam in your prayers as he prepares to represent the United States of America, the state of Maryland (where he was born and raised), our diocese, and our parish. Please pray also that COVID-19 does not prevent the competition from proceeding as planned.

Update on Parish Administrator from Fr. Manny | I am very thankful that I have Yetti Lipede serving as an Interim Parish Coordinator with administrative responsibilities. Yetti has been very remarkable, and her transition to this new position has been excellent. Yetti is presently working on a part-time basis; this is because we are not back to pre-pandemic level programming. To be good stewards, I think it is important that we maintain a part-time position until sometime in the early fall, when we believe we will be back to pre-pandemic levels.

Do You Knit? This Message is for You! | Christ Church is starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry and we're looking for more volunteers. Don't have time to knit a whole shawl? Think about knitting some Prayer Squares, with each measuring 5" x 5". These are easily and quickly made and will be appreciated by those who are ill or grieving. If you are interested in making shawls or squares, contact Pastoral Care Commissioner Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

Howard County Vaccination News | Howard County General has published a survey about COVID-19 vaccinations and has asked that our parishioners take a few minutes to complete it. This is so they can get an idea of the challenges and concerns in the community. The link is here, and the deadline to complete the survey is this Saturday, March 20th. Thank you for helping gather accurate information so we can help move the world forward as soon as possible.

Also, First Baptist Church of Guilford will be hosting a COVID-19 Vaccine Virtual Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 20th from 10-11:00 a.m. The speakers will be Dr. Maura Rossman from the Howard County Health

Department and Dr. Patricia Pugh from Howard County General Hospital. If you or someone you know has questions about the available vaccines, join this meeting. Please click on this Zoom link and enter passcode **072133**.

Columbia Community Care Plans To Help Kids Celebrate Spring | The all-volunteer effort that came together in response to the pandemic, Columbia Community Care (CCC), has reached its one-year anniversary. CCC has ambitious goals for 2021 that its leaders will no doubt discuss with Christ Church parishioners in a virtual session on Monday, March 22nd. But it also has some short term plans to bring cheer to children in Howard County on Saturday, March 27th. You can be a part of both.

Our Racially Aware Group of Episcopalians (R.A.G.E.) will host CCC leaders at 7:30 p.m. Monday on Zoom. They are invited to talk about the needs in Howard County and their work with a proposed social justice center. You'll find instructions on how to join the conversation in the email about online opportunities that parishioners receive at the start of each week.

CCC has called on members of the community to help children ages 3 to 11 years old get ready to welcome spring. Volunteers are adding a table to each of CCC's three distribution sites that will offer gift bags and baskets for kids. The sites are open for distribution on Saturday, March 27th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the following three locations: Stevens Forest Neighborhood Center, 6061 Stevens Forest Rd., Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., all in Columbia.

Sue Sharff Castonguay, a member of the CCC group on Facebook, organized the giveaway and will personally prepare multiple bags. However, to make sure there is plenty to go around, parishioners and others are invited to put together medium-size bags or baskets. She suggests filling them with new items suitable for ages 3 to 11. Ideas include gender-neutral gifts and small toys, individual snacks, juice boxes, packaged candy (no loose or bulk candy), filled plastic eggs, stickers, play dough, slime, art supplies, markers, watercolors, face masks, and mini hand sanitizers. Parishioners can bring their bag or basket(s) to the yellow bin marked "CCC" located inside the entrance to the Parish Hall. To make sure the items get to the organizer's preferred sites on time, a member of the Outreach Commission will coordinate with CCC. The Christ Church deadline for dropoff is next Friday, March 26th by 2 p.m.

Meanwhile, our Christ Church drive for CCC continues to seek diapers in all sizes and baby wipes, women's sanitary care products, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, and other toiletries. Please put them in the yellow bin marked "CCC" any time on weekdays until 2 p.m., but we ask that you call the church office (410) 381-9365 to let them know when you are coming.

Save the Dates: April 19 and May 17 to Help Feed the Hungry at Grassroots | Once again, parishioners and volunteers who join their efforts are looking ahead to the monthly meal that we provide for Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. Save the dates and times: April 19th and May 17th, arriving between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. each day at the parking lot outside Old Brick.

Plan to bring a side dish, a dessert, or items for their pantry to be enjoyed round-the-clock by the 50 residents of the live-in facility on Freetown Rd. To sign up, use our electronic registry no later than 12 noon on the Sunday prior to the meal on Monday. Click on the Christ Church Grassroots Meal link on SignUpGenius to learn which items are requested and to tell coordinators what you plan to bring.

Every third Monday of the month, co-coordinator Nancy Winchester acquires fried chicken at Weis and meets the other volunteers as they enter the Christ Church parking lot (s*ee above photo from March 15th*). Nancy then transports the food to Freetown Road for hand-off to the staff at Grassroots. For questions, ask Nancy or co-coordinator Shahra Toth or email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

During the pandemic, Christ Church began these parking lot drop-offs in lieu of the monthly meals that we once provided in-person at another Grassroots facility, the Dorsey/Rt. 1 Day Resource Center. That facility remains closed

except for curbside distributions, but you can find a current resource list of its needs. Look under "Related files" on our SignUpGenius link.

On their own, parishioners at Christ Church have signed up to provide the evening meal for the 50 adults and children. Consider pitching in, by picking a date to provide an entree and side dishes, or just the entree. Grassroots encourages an order of 12 pizzas -- four with cheese and the rest with meat (any kind), or rotisserie chickens (12 to make a meal), but discourages lasagna or other pasta entrees. Another welcome option is takeout from restaurants to help the workforce. Here is a link to the sign-up list maintained by Grassroots.

Grassroots Offers Training in March in QPR Skills to Help Prevent Suicides| Once again, Grassroots offer members of the community a chance to learn skills that could help save a life from suicide. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer -- the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save lives, just as individuals trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver learn what to do.

The online seminar is free to Howard County residents, employees, or students. Training will be offered for adults on Monday, March 29th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. To register go here; to learn more, email amanda@grassrootscrisis.org to speak with Amanda Ganoe, the session's organizer.

Donate Groceries for FISH in an Altar Basket or in the Yellow Bin | As in-person worship has resumed, you should find a basket of groceries for FISH of Howard County in the sanctuary. For the convenience of parishioners who continue to observe pandemic precautions, the yellow bin marked "FISH" remains on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. As we transition from winter to spring, keep the weather in mind and avoid putting items in the bin that will freeze.

March LEMS Committee Update | Some of the Lake Elkhorn Middle School students are starting to return to in-person learning this month. The LEMS committee purchased hand sanitizer for the teachers/staff and over five thousand disposable face masks for use by both teachers and students to help keep them safe while they finish out the school year. The school administration is extremely grateful for the support Christ Church has provided throughout the pandemic as they teach and learn during very unusual circumstances.

The LEMS committee is continuing to provide food for ten families one weekend a month with this month's distribution occurring on March 11th. If you have any questions or want to help, please contact lemspc@christchurchcolumbia.org.

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

Please Consider a Contribution to Christ Church.

Recent world events have been challenging for us all. It has also affected how we are able to continue to help others. Please consider contributing to Christ Church so that we may continue to support our parish staff, as well as those in need in our community and around the world. Christ Church has achieved much in the past because of everyone's generosity, and for that we are very grateful. We are still carrying out an amazing ministry for a moderate-sized church - even through this very challenging time - but it does require everyone's assistance. Each contribution helps greatly.

Text Giving

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

Online Giving

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

Our 2021 Pledge Form is Online

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

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

Vestry

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