

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sunday, April 28, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



Youth Sunday

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 |

Processional | Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Michael W. Smith

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You (x2)

[Chorus] To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You (x2)

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.**



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.

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Acts 8:26-40 |

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live forever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's forever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

A Reading from 1 John 4:7-21 |

Reader: A reading from the First Epistle of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation | Lord, We Lift Your Name On High

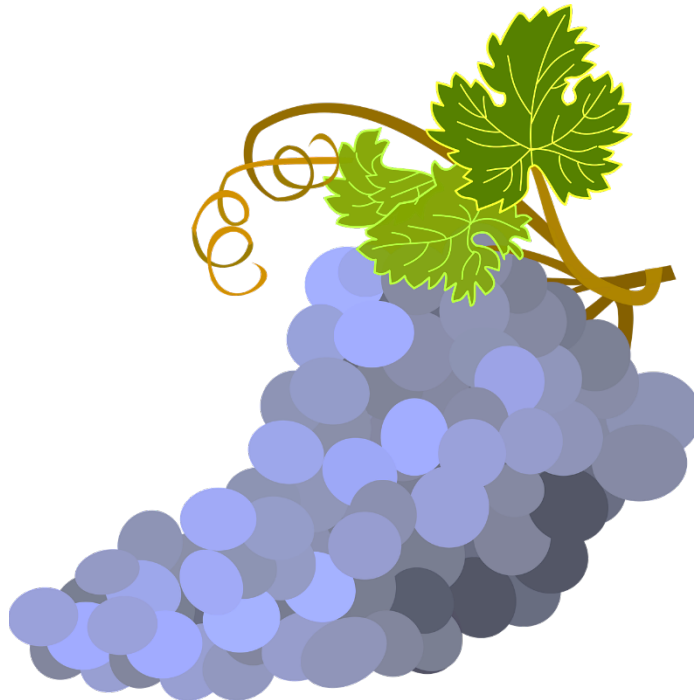
Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us
You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high (x2)

The Gospel | John 15:1-8

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

The first system of the hymn is written in treble and bass staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

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

The third system is marked as an 'Optional Ending' and begins with a measure rest. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are written below the staves.

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are written below the staves.

The people may be seated.

The people stand as able.

The Prayers of the People |

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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 | Blessed Be Your Name

Matt Redman

[Verse 1] Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name
Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name
Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

[Chorus] Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

[Verse 2] Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name
Every blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

[Chorus]

[Bridge] You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

[Chorus]

Please scan to give.



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.

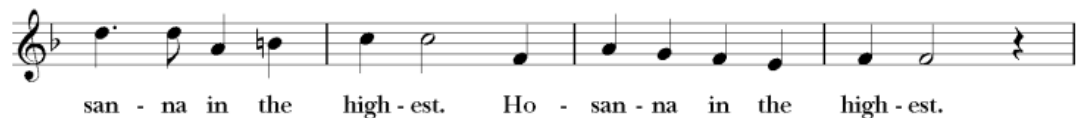
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All: **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.**

The Lord's Prayer | *sung*

Our Father [**Our Father**]
Who art in Heaven [**Who art in Heaven**]
Hallowed be Thy Name [**Hallowed be Thy Name**]
Thy Kingdom Come [**Thy Kingdom Come**]
Thy Will be done [**Thy Will be done**]
On Earth [**On Earth**]
As it is heaven [**As it is heaven**]
Give us this day [**Give us this day**]
The bread we need [**The bread we need**]
And forgive our sins [**And forgive our sins**]
As we forgive those [**As we forgive those**]
Who sin against us all [**Who sin against us all**]
And lead us not [**And lead us not**]
Into temptation [**Into temptation**]
But deliver us [**But deliver us**]
From evil [**From evil**]
[All together] **For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever**
Forever [**forever**]
And ever [**and ever**]
[All together] **Hallowed Be Thy name.**

The Breaking of the Bread |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewiss

organ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world:___ grant us peace.

Communion Hymn | 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Matt Redman

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul!
I'll worship Your holy name

[Verse 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

[Chorus]

[Verse 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

[Chorus]

Communion Hymn | Jesus in My Heart

There's Jesus in my heart.
There's Jesus in my heart.
There's Jesus in my heart,
Praise the Lord.

He died to save us all.
We'll listen to His call.
There's Jesus in my heart,
Praise the Lord.

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.**

The Blessing |

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

Closing Hymn | They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

[Chorus]

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

[Chorus]

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

[Chorus]

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

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. service

Acolytes: Alex Opiri, Jasmine Opiri, Jude Lutabi

Lectors: Ainsley Couch, Deepti Jackson, Eva Oladipupo

Message: Jonah Aribiah, Setutsi Abdullah, Hannah Boyer, Gavin Couch

Ushers: Anya Sheriff, Mikailu Sheriff, Shreya Chrzanowski,

10:30 a.m. service

Acolytes: Caleb McKenna, Ava Kelso

Lectors: Caleb McKenna, Hope Oladipupo, Deepti Jackson

Message: Jonah Aribiah, Setutsi Abdullah, Hannah Boyer, Gavin Couch

Ushers: Ainsley Couch, Anya Sheriff, Shreya Chrzanowski

Instrumentalists

Setutsi Abdallah, Jonah Aribiah, Danny Jackson; Samuel Jackson, Kiona Lookingbill

Altar Guild

Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah, Ed Koharik, Nicole Moon-Koharik



PARISH CALENDAR

APRIL 28 TO MAY 4

Sunday, April 28

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
2:00 pm	Leister Quartet Jazz Concert – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, April 29

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, April 30

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 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Wednesday, May 1

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
6:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, May 2

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – 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, May 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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, May 4

9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Youth Flower Sale
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
6:00 – 12:00 am	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,

email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

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

Come to Christ Church for a Jazz Concert - Sunday Afternoon

Celebrate **Jazz Appreciation Month** with a lively jazz concert featuring The Leister Quartet this Sunday at 2 p.m. in New Brick. Come and support the band that provided us with so much wonderful music during our Jazz Vespers and Jazz Eucharist services! 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.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a weekly evening prayer gathering that 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 are always welcoming new participants - anyone can join us! We gather on Thursday evenings at 7:00 (Handbells) and 7:30 (Vocal), so whether you're a novice (or shower!) 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 is reading and discussing the bestseller *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks. We are always welcoming new people to the group, so if reading and sharing our perspectives sounds enjoyable to you, learn more about the book **here**, grab it from your favorite bookseller, then 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. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Password is **CECBooks**. Email Ellen Hoke at bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

First Wednesday Fellowship Celebrates Cinco de Mayo - 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! Call the Church Office or email info@christchurchcolumbia.org if you need more info.

CEC Annual Spiritual Life Retreat in Rehoboth Beach - May 3

Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission presents a springtime retreat gathering. From May 3-5, we'll head to The DuPont Memorial House in Rehoboth Beach, 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 more information is 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 departing 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 (children accompanied by a parent/guardian) 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 - May 4

The Youth Ministry is excited to present the 2024 Mother's Day Flower Sale at Christ Church, with gorgeous flowers and handmade arrangements available for purchase. Stop by our campus on Saturday, May 4th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we'll be set up on the lawn facing Oakland Mills Road. More info can be found later in this email.

Bishop Sutton Retirement Picnic - May 5

On Sunday afternoon, May 5th, there will be a retirement celebration picnic in honor of Diocesan Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton. All are welcome to gather at the Delaplaine Barn at the Claggett Center at 4 p.m. that afternoon. If you'd like to take part, [please be sure to register here](#).

WOCC May Meeting - May 6

Join the WOCC for our May meeting at a new time on Monday, May 6th - from 7:30 to 9 p.m. We hope that this new time slot allows for those who might work or have obligations during the daytime to join us. We hope that you will! It will be a hybrid meeting, so feel free to meet us in New Brick, or log in and join us via Zoom - [the link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **843 0204 4790**, and the Passcode is **cecWOCC**.

CEC Center for Spiritual Nourishment Inaugural Event - 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.

Mother's Day Flower Arrangements - May 11

On Saturday, May 11th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Christ Church youth and parishioners will get their hands in the dirt to make and sell handmade Mother's Day flower arrangements. More details to come; speak to Mike Looney at church if you'd like to participate.

Spring Tea - 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 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.

NAMIWalk - June 1

The CEC Health Ministry is participating in the National Alliance on Mental Illness' NAMIWalk in Cockeysville, and they would like you to do the same! The Walk is 2.5 miles, though there is also a shorter route this year, one that's a little less than a mile. **We have set up a NAMI page for our group**, and would love to have as many people of all ages join us. If you can't, please consider donating so we can help raise awareness - you can do so using the link above, or by donating **directly to the Health Ministry via Realm** (just write "NAMI" in the *MEMO* line and we'll write a check to NAMI on behalf of Christ Church). Please speak with Diane Phillips LaGuerre for more information, or **read our recent Health Ministry blog post on the CEC website**. You can also read more about this NAMIWalks event **here**.

Let's Catch a Game at Camden Yards! June 12

In June, First Wednesday Fellowship breaks tradition and meets the second Wednesday as we head 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. We still have tickets available, so sign up in the Narthex or Old Brick, or **email the Church Office**. Also, let the office know if you'd like to carpool round-trip from the church to the stadium.

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!

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.

What a Blessing! Our Spring Food Drive at River Hill Giant Supermarket Collects More Than a Half Ton of Food for Two Howard County Pantries

Christ Church volunteers enthusiastically persuaded shoppers to buy and donate hundreds of canned goods, boxes of pasta, and more during the Spring Food Drive last Saturday, April 20 (see photos). The collection for the Howard County Food Bank filled the bed of two pickup trucks, and produced an impressive total at weigh-in: 1,440 pounds. A ton weighs 2,000 pounds.



The Food Bank is operated by the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC), which strives to reduce food insecurity in Howard County, where needs are great. Its partner pantry, **SAFE**, provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income households. We collected four bins, weighing 120 pounds, of gluten-free food for SAFE.

Once again, this drive at the River Hill Giant Supermarket in Clarksville was multi-generational, with one family group and a range of volunteers from elementary-school age to grandparents. Some worked a one-hour shift while others chose to stay from noon until 4 p.m., all doing God's work. Thanks to each and every one who signed up!

Some Giant customers preferred to give cash or checks, ranging from \$1 to \$50. That produced a contribution of \$187 to the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC). It operates the **Food Bank**, which offers family-choice shopping like at a grocery store. This has become a vital resource for the three refugee families being assisted by the Christ Church-led Refugee Ministry.

A CAC representative responded with an expression of gratitude for the half-ton of goods and the monetary donation: "Thank you, thank you, thank you! We truly appreciate the work you all have done for CAC and for our Marketplace community! Please pass on our gratitude to your volunteer team at Christ Episcopal."

Similarly, a SAFE leader wrote: "Thank you for conducting the food drive this past Saturday. We would like to reiterate how grateful we are for your continuing support to help SAFE serve its clients."

For those interested in continuing to help SAFE, you'll find information online about its month-long **"People-Powered Food Drive"** in May. SAFE maintains **a donation bin at Christ Church** near the rear exit of the Parish Hall.

Have Fun Outdoors & Help Bridges at Its May 5 Chili and Cornhole Event

Chili has been a key part of fundraising for **Bridges to Housing Stability**, an advocate for families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Then Bridges added a cornhole tournament to its repertoire. How about a Christ Church team in 2024? If you're polishing your cornhole skills, please email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

This year the **Beans & Bags** event will be held on Sunday, May 5, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Centennial Park, Pavilion H, 4760 Woodland Rd., Ellicott City 21042. The real competition has to do with funds raised through individual donations or by meals purchased to enjoy at the park or for carry-out. Tickets are \$25 for an adult and \$10 for a child. Please **order your tickets** now to help Christ Church vie for an award.

The event is a crucial annual fundraiser, and Christ Church is a sponsor at what Bridges calls the “Ghost Pepper” level in recognition of a contribution as outlined in the [Outreach Blog of April 18, 2024](#). It’s a worthy cause, including recent Bridges’ initiatives described in the [Outreach Blog of Feb. 15, 2024](#).

Columbia Community Care Needs Diapers and Other Baby-Care Items

Columbia Community Care (CCC) continues to need baby-care items and diapers. Sizes 4-6 are in the greatest demand, as are 3T-4T and 4T-5T pullups. Please continue to collect these along with sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put them 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.

Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information by going online to the [“Get Help”](#) section of CCC’s recently revamped website. Or [learn how to volunteer](#) at CCC’s distribution sites or as a translator or a shopper at its pantry. Check for updates on the [CCC Facebook Group](#).

Look for the FISH Bin on the Breezeway near the Parish Hall

FISH of Howard County requests non-perishable foods and toiletries, which we collect in the basket at the altar or in a marked yellow bin on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. **FISH** provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Needs Your Help

Tracey Williams, the counselor at LEMS, has asked Christ Church to supply a dinner for the families and provide childcare during the next workshop on 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.

Enjoy Food and Drink to Help Support DreamBuilders!

Come join us at Bushel & Peck restaurant in Clarksville, MD on Wednesday, May 15th from 5:00 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. PLUS, if you come to the fundraiser between 5-7 p.m., you’ll be able to enjoy our favorite Christ Church band - Small Delusions!

Between the services on May 5th and 12th at Christ Church, we’ll have two items for sale: the first is a batch of 50/50 raffle tickets that cost \$5 each or are 5 for \$20. The winning ticket will be drawn at the restaurant on May 15th, but you don’t need to be present to win (we’ll contact the winner that evening by phone if they’re not present). Those days, you can also buy DreamBuilders chocolates, tea, and coffee in advance of Mother’s Day. All proceeds from the sale of these items will be used towards the costs of building the three Kentucky homes this summer.

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

Christ Church's FLOWER SALE



cosmos
coleus
wax begonias
marigolds
vincas
geraniums



and so much more

**May 4th at Christ Church
6800 Oakland Mills Rd
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**



or PRE-ORDER NOW



Christ Church's Youth Ministry is excited to present the 2024 Mother's Day Flower Sale, with a wide selection of gorgeous annuals available. These beautiful blooms can be sold individually, but hanging baskets and handmade arrangements are also available for purchase. Stop by the Christ Church campus on Oakland Mills Road next Saturday, May 4th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as we'll be set up on the front lawn.

Can't attend the sale that day? Not to worry! You can also use our Flower Sale Order Form at <https://tinyurl.com/CECflowersale2024> to request your flowers and we will do our best to fulfill your request** and you can pick them up at a later time. You can also use the QR code in the image to view the form. Simply peruse it to see the selection of flowers we have on offer, pick your favorites, and submit the form. It's that easy! We'll also have any leftover flowers available for sale during church on Sunday, May 5th.

**Although we will do everything we can, we unfortunately can't guarantee specific colors for digital orders, so attending in person is best if you can. And if there are any remaining, all flowers not sold on Saturday will be available for sale after worship services on Sunday, May 5.



A Message from our Treasurer:

Giving in March remained strong. As we look ahead to next year and our desire to bring on an Associate Rector, it is important that we continue show that we are ready to support a second member of the clergy in our congregation.

Expenses were a little high for the month of March but, that should be no surprise to readers of last month's newsletter. We are still in line with our budget on a year-to-date basis.

Net income for the year remains strong and looks much better than the Budget and last year. This is positive news and, if sustained, demonstrates our readiness for an important next step.

*Best Regards,
Drew*

You can view the latest monthly financial statement at tinyurl.com/CEC-financialreport03312024

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.

THANK YOU.

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>



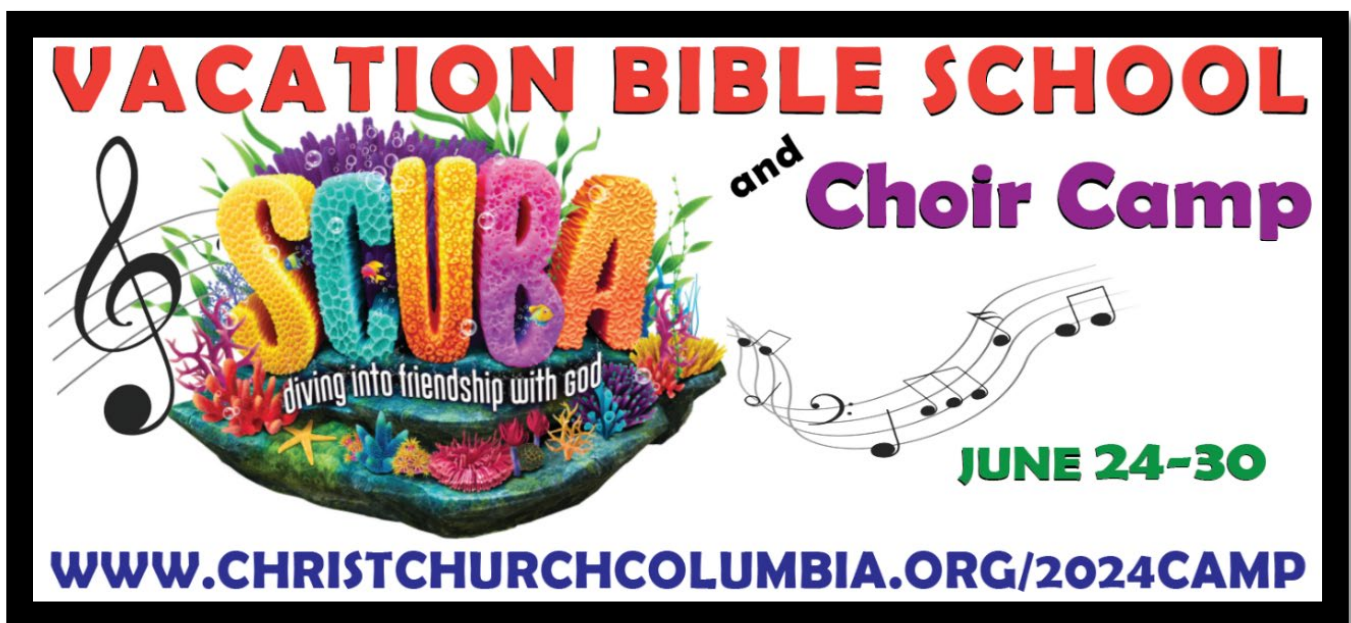
Episode 11, part one: A Joyful Gift

"What really excited me was the belief that each of us can be a joyful gift to others."

This week, Father Manny expresses to us that in Christ Church's Spiritual Life Theme for 2024 - Be a Joyful Gift to Others - the focus isn't so much on the gift, but whether it is a joyful giving of the gift... a joyful giving of the self.

We are excited to share this episode of Christ Church Conversations with you, our new podcast series! This series takes shape in several forms - audio, video, interviews, scripture-based discussions, and much more - and you can find us on major podcast platforms. Visit our website, choose your favorite podcast format, and take this journey with us.

You can listen right now [here](#), or find every episode on our website:
www.christchurchcolumbia.org/conversations





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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