

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.



Welcome Home!

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

We are delighted you're here - welcome home!



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 * 5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 * 6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 4 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
 5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Opening Acclamation |

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

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.**

The Collect of the Day |

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

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

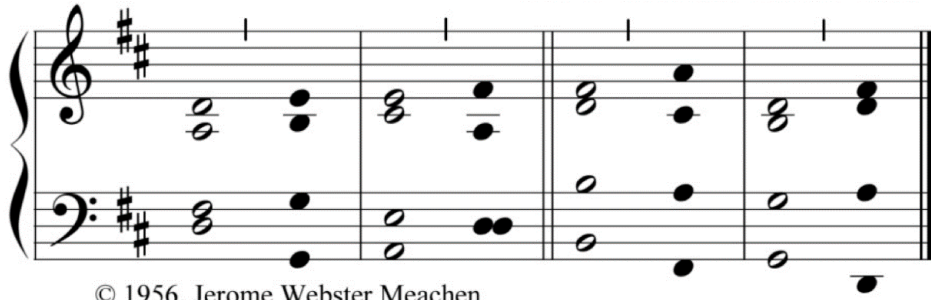
The people may be seated.

A Reading from Jeremiah 31:31-34 |

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

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.**



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How shall a young man cleanse his ¹ way? |
By keeping to your ¹ words, ||

With my whole heart I ¹ seek you; |
let me not stray from your com- ¹ mandments. ||

I treasure your promise in my ¹ heart, |
that I may not sin a- ¹ gainst you. ||

Blessed are you, O ¹ Lord; |
instruct me in your ¹ statutes. ||

With my lips will I re- ¹ cite |
all the judgments of your ¹ mouth. ||

I have taken greater delight in the way of your de- ¹ crees |
than in all manner of ¹ riches.. ||

I will meditate on your com- ¹ mandments |
and give attention to your ¹ ways. ||

My delight is in your ¹ statutes; |
I will not forget your ¹ word. ||

A Reading from Hebrews 5:5-10 |

Reader: A reading from The Epistle to the Hebrews.

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 singing of the hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn 204 | Now the Green Blade Rises

Noel Nouvelet



1 Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.

A Reading from 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.**

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

The first system of the hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staves.

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

The second system continues the melody and bass line. It begins with a measure rest for 5 measures. 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 for 9 measures. The melody and bass line continue. The lyrics are written below the staves.

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

The fourth system continues the melody and bass line. It begins with a measure rest for 13 measures. The lyrics are written below the staves. The system ends with a double bar line.

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

Sermon | The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato 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 holy 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.

Intervessor: 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 Carrie, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; Denise, our Deacon; Kiona, our Youth Minister; Mike, our Seminarian Associate; and Rebecca, our Deacon postulant.; 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: Wes, 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.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, especially giving thanks for the birth of Maeve Neff to Brad and Triona Neff, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Erica, Marilyn, Dickson, Carolyn, Calvin, Pamela, Lexi, Kim, Tim, Karen, Jim, Doug, Mary Ann, Barbara, Sherry, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred, and Nell, and those who care for them. We also pray for those serving in the military, especially Kofi Abdallah and Conner Warlow 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.

Intervessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Nana Banyin Arbuah, Farris Forsythe, and Alfreda Baran, 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.

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

Music during Healing | O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Jacques de Berthier

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Confession of Sin |

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

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.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 HOLY COMMUNION



Offertory Anthem | Chorale for Bells

J.W. Franck
Handbell Choir

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 1) |

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC 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.**

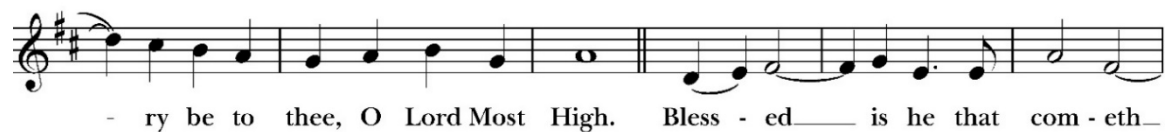
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

***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,



Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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, he brake 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, 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."

Celebrant: Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, 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; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with 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 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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Fraction Anthem S 158 | O Lamb of God, *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

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.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 203 | There Is a Balm in Gilead

Traditional

There_ is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed

whole; There_ is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul. **Fine**

1. Some - times I feel dis-cour-aged, And_ think my work's in vain,_ But_
 2. If you can-not preach like Pet - er, If you can-not preach like Paul,_ You can
 3. Don't_ ev - er be dis-cour-aged For_ Je - sus is your friend,_ And_

1. then the ho - ly spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain._
 2. tell the love of Je - sus, And say He died for all._
 3. if you lack for know-ledge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend._ **D.C.**

Please stand as able.

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.

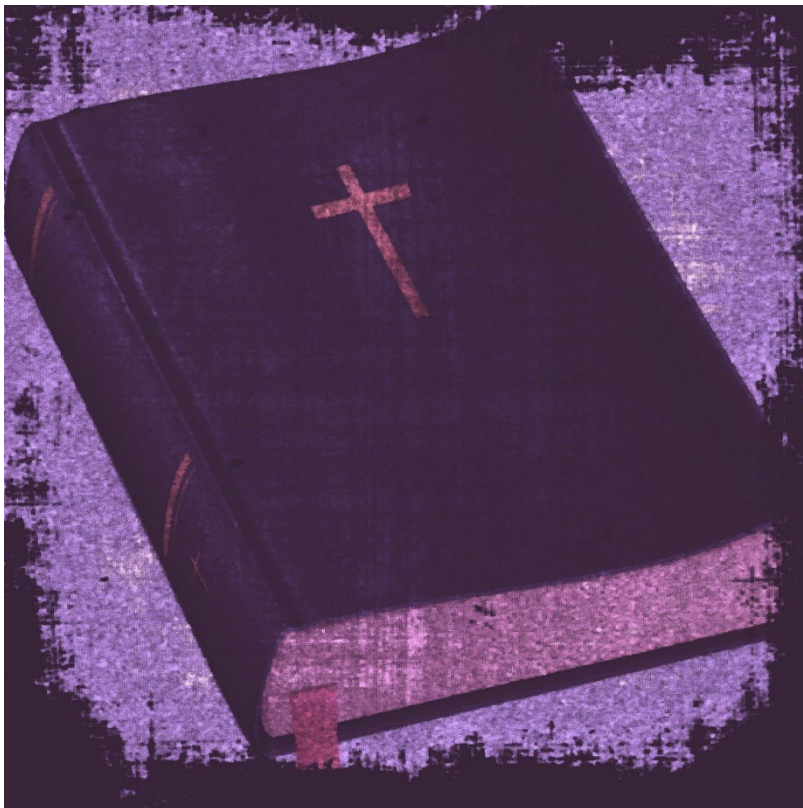
Eucharistic Visitors' Prayer | 10:30 a.m.

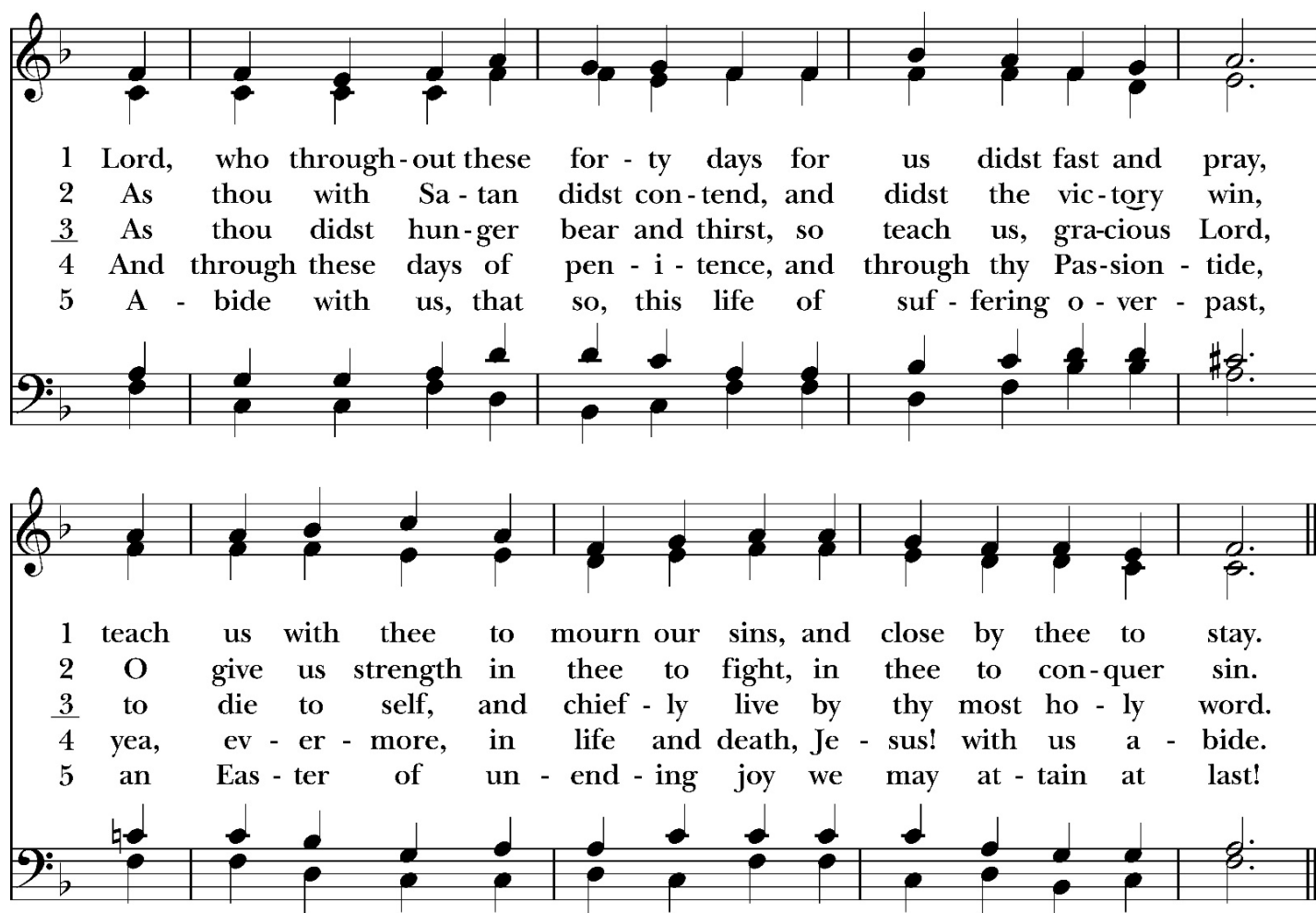
Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

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

The Blessing |

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





1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
 3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
 5 A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fer - ing o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

The Dismissal |

The Deacon dismisses the People, who respond:
Thanks be to God!
(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

Postlude |

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey

Ushers: Michon Semon, Kayode & Onyx Williams

Chalicer: Joan Harvey

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Robin Bradley

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah, Hope & Eva Oladipupo

Acolytes & Crucifer: Jasmine Opiri, Alex Opiri

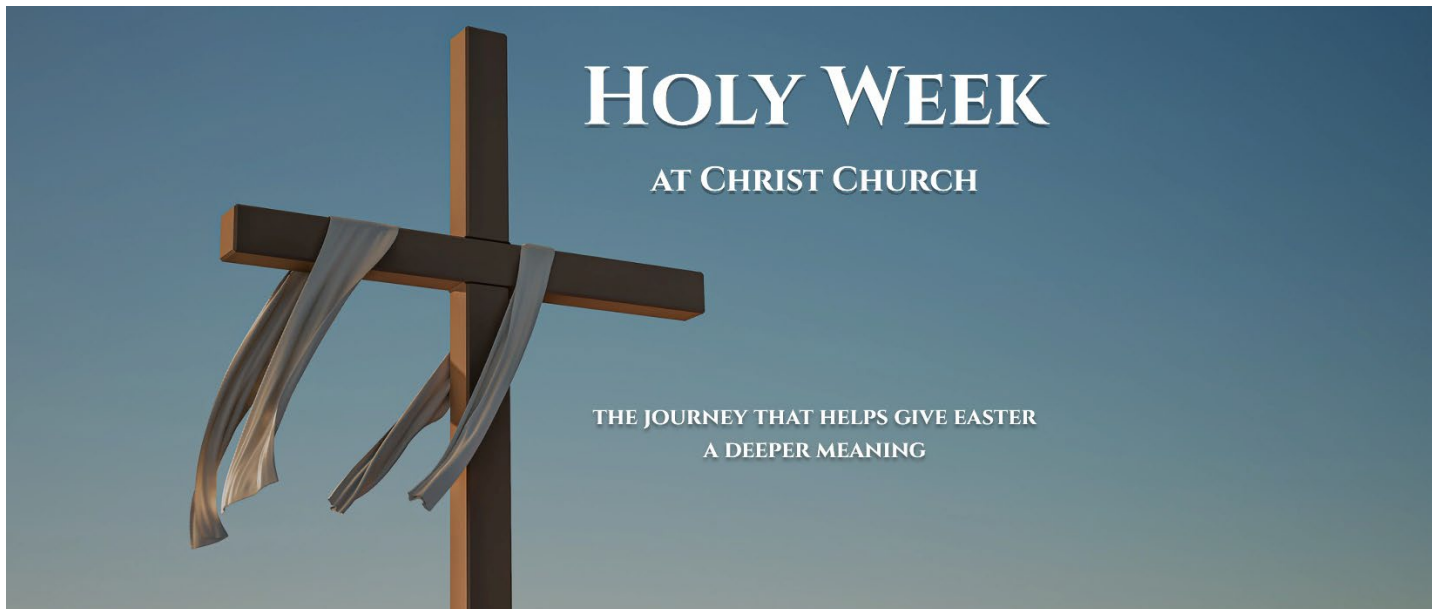
Chalicer: Ivy Amponsah & Kathy Lyon

6:00 p.m. Service

Gregory Schuckman

Pam Pruitt

Altar Guild: Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah



View Our Holy Week Schedule

www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holy-week

From earliest times, Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. It is a time when we gather together as a community of faith to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, to stand with him before his accusers, to walk to Golgotha, and to stand at the foot of his cross. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we will joyously celebrate the resurrection of Christ, lifting our voices in praise of the hope that is ours and the world's.

The heart of Holy Week observance is the three holy days, or Triduum, of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and Christ Church has services on each of these days. We also have Easter Vigil, Confirmation, and Baptism on Holy Saturday and three worship services on Easter Sunday. We hope you'll join us for all of these.

PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 17 TO MARCH 24

Sunday, March 17

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick & Zoom
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
2:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé Vespers – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, March 18

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship Planning Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, March 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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
7:15 – 8:45 pm	Theology on Tap – Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd, Columbia

Wednesday, March 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
6:30 pm	Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, lower level
6:30 pm	Youth Lenten Group – Old Brick
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, March 21

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, March 22

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

Saturday, March 23

12:00 – 1:30 pm	Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
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
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Meditations on the Passion – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 10:00 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.

Lent V - Sunday Morning

The Fifth Sunday in Lent at Christ Church has three services, beginning with Holy Eucharist in Old Brick at 8 a.m. Our Children & Family Worship gathers at 9:00, and then Holy Eucharist with choral and musical accompaniment is at 10:30, both in New Brick. Sunday Circle continues its *Addiction and Spirituality* series in Old Brick, and Sunday School, Youth Formation, and all other Sunday gatherings also take place.

Lenten Taizé Vespers - Sunday Evening

This beautiful, hour-long service of contemplative prayer and music on Sunday evenings is where parishioners offer poems, readings, and a homily that perfectly fits the season and allows us to reflect on God's love and presence in our lives, and offer prayer for ourselves and others. Join us in the New Brick Sanctuary for this very special worship.

Easter Altar Flowers and Gifts

Easter Sunday is a time that we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. If you would like to present Altar gifts this Easter, you can find our online Easter Offering form at <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/-/form/give/lenteaster>. Be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. There are also envelopes in the Narthex and the rear of Old Brick. You can also drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; include the same dedication information on the *MEMO* line of a check, please. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evening

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

First Wednesday Fellowship Meeting - Monday Evening

In May, FWF returns and so we will hold two Zoom planning meetings to help prepare. Everyone is welcome to join us for the first meeting on Monday, March 18th at 7 p.m. and we hope you do - we'd love ideas and thoughts from everyone so we can make the first fellowship of each month the best it can be. We will discuss any questions, ideas, concerns, activities, cuisine, and much more. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **865 4794 8810** and the Passcode is **Fellowship**.

Theology on Tap – Tuesday Evening

Gather with us for our monthly get-together, some casual and informal chat about religious topics and articles of the day at Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd, 8895 McGaw Rd. in Columbia at 7:15 p.m.

Bible Study and Lunch - Wednesday Morning

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. and is led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series

Christ Church's Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, one of the most cherished traditions of our Lenten season, concludes Wednesday evening at 6:30 with a communal meal sponsored by the Christ Church Vestry and is, as is tradition, followed by a presentation by our own Father Manny. This series offers insightful discussions on our theme for this year, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*.

Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursday

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 Choir - Thursday Evening

Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick and everyone is welcome to take part. No matter if you're a novice singer or a seasoned musician, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs. If you're interested, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Movie Screening and Discussion - March 22

There will be a re-screening of the film *After Death* in the lower level of the Parish House on Friday, March 22nd at 7 p.m. The film chronicles Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) and their evidence of consciousness beyond the body. According to its maker, it's a film that "explores the afterlife based on real near-death experiences, conveyed by scientists, authors, and survivors" so bring some potluck munchies to satisfy a hungry movie crowd, and we'll all discuss the film afterward. You can view the trailer [here](#) and speak with George Toth at church if you have any questions.

Holy Thursday Seder Meal & Vigil Sign-Ups

The Christian observance of the Seder meal celebrates our tradition of Christ's last supper, and so on Holy Thursday, we hold a potluck before our Tenebrae service in New Brick and overnight Vigil in Old Brick. Please visit the [**Seder Meal sign-up sheet link**](#) to bring something, and then visit [**the Vigil sign-up here**](#). If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. Manny.

Altar Guild Easter Preparations - March 30

The Christ Church Altar Guild invites all parishioners to join us in our Easter preparations. You can learn how we accomplish our tasks and help us prepare the sanctuary and altar for this most blessed time of year. Stop by New Brick on Saturday, March 30th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you!

Help Us Prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt

Just a heads-up: our Youth and Family Ministry can use hard-boiled eggs from parishioners so that we can decorate them and get them ready for the Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. Please drop off hard-boiled eggs in the couple of days leading up to Saturday, March 30th. Ask Kiona for more info on Sunday, or watch this space for more details and drop-off location next week.

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 1st (Easter Monday). It will reopen on Tuesday, April 2nd.

WOCC News

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Seafarers drive so successful! Next up: our day trip to London Town and Gardens on March 23rd and an April WOCC dinner meeting. You can learn more on our website's WOCC blog - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/wocc-s-march-news-and-events.

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 the Church Office. If you want more information, [please complete this form](#) or [email](#) the Church Office.

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.

Christ Church Sends Food Aid to Victims of War in Holy Land

At the March 11 Outreach Commission meeting, we approved a \$500 donation to [World Central Kitchen](#) (WCK) to help feed starving residents of Gaza. They have been displaced by the Israel-Hamas War that began after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7. More than a half-million people are facing “catastrophic levels of deprivation and starvation” in Gaza, according to the United Nations in a [post on Feb. 27](#).

WCK has 60 kitchens across Gaza that are awaiting a food-laden barge. In a [March 12 post](#), WCK says the food departed Cyprus on March 12 via a boat owned by the Spanish charity, Open Arms. The nonprofit organizations expect to reach Gazans despite immense logistical and security obstacles. It would be the first food aid to use a new maritime route, reports *The Washington Post* in a March 12 article, “[A Ship Carrying 200 Tons of Food is Heading to Gaza. What to Know](#).”

WCK announced [a special effort in conjunction with Ramadan](#), the Muslim holy month that began this week during which the faithful worldwide engage in fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. WCK hopes to deliver 92,000 food boxes, serving 4.7 million meals. Thanks to matching funds for WCK, the Christ Church donation could provide 700 meals during Ramadan.

This is the second contribution for humanitarian aid in the Holy Land that Outreach has approved. Last November, we sent a \$600 donation to [Episcopal Relief and Development](#) (ERD), which partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem to support its hospital ministry among the Palestinians. In both instances, these are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to all who make such donations possible. ERD provides [a link](#) to encourage prayers in a time of crisis. Please continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

Last Call: Columbia Community Care's 'Mystery' Dinner Is on Saturday, March 16

It's not too late to order tickets for an unusual fundraiser for [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC), A mystery-themed dinner takes place on Saturday, March 16, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 5485 Twin Knolls Rd., Columbia MD 21045.

Go to CCC's [events page](#) to order tickets, which are said to be available through the day of the event. Admission is \$95 for an individual or \$85 for members of a group, plus online registration fees. CCC says, "\$10 of each ticket will go to food and resources for students and families in Columbia." Guests must be 21 or older. Admission includes a three-course dinner, tax, gratuity, free parking, and the program. "Sinister Speakeasy" is an interactive murder-mystery game conducted by Whodunnit for Hire. It's for a good cause, as CCC provides groceries and other necessities to those in need at three distribution sites on Saturdays.

If you or someone you know could benefit, please go online to the ["I Need Help"](#) portion of CCC's website. Or learn how to volunteer at the sites or in other ways by visiting the ["I Can Help" portion of its website](#). Look for updates on the [CCC Facebook Group](#). Meanwhile, CCC has added paper goods to its list of needed essentials. Also please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put these 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 bins and delivers their contents.

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

FISH of Howard County needs 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.

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.

March

The Rend Collective (Christian Concert): March 17
Easter Egg Coloring & Decorating for Families with Children: March 30
Easter Egg Hunt: March 31

April

New Beginnings (Diocesan Retreat; 6th-12th Grade): April 19-21
Youth Sunday: April 28
SENIORS, Please have an outline or draft of your sermons ready by March 17th.

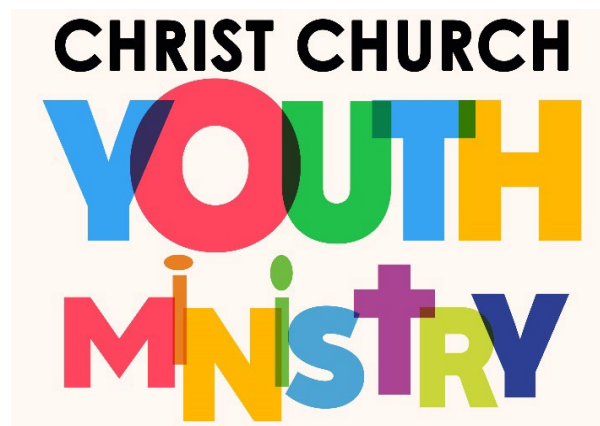
May

Mothers' Day Flower Arrangements & Sale: May 11

June

DreamBuilders Blitz-Building Mission Trip/Outreach: June 16-22
Mandatory for all confirmands.
\$700/person. DreamBuilders and Christ Church can offer scholarships.
Please register on their [website](#).

Sign up for the Youth Ministry Newsletter:
email kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org



Purposive Approach

A dear friend of mine shared a story of her new venture - she just started a blog and a podcast. "That's pretty impressive," I said to her. I will someday share with you the wonderful stories about this friend, how we met, and how she, in some profound way, shaped my life. Her modesty is such that she would decline to take any sort of credit for what has become of me. But that's just her humble nature speaking.

After sharing the news with me, she sent me the link to her blog (she's a lawyer, by the way). I clicked on the link and read it. I have since read it multiple times - mainly for the story about Pedro and Aso, two friends of hers who also shaped her life. But there's more. Her blog introduced me to a legal principle: purposive approach. That was my first experience with this principle - not that I am familiar with all legal principles, of course.

I later searched Wikipedia to learn more about purposive approach and found out that it is an attempt to go beyond the text of a legislation to determine the purpose of that legislation. In other words, it is about establishing the purpose of a particular law.

It is an approach that judges use in fleshing out the intent of the legislature, what informed the decision-making process, and - to an extent - what type of problem begs for such a legislative intervention.

I asked her if the same approach could be used in understanding scripture. Her immediate response was that yes, it can, and does in so many ways.

The first thought that came to my mind was the story of another lawyer in Luke's gospel who asked Jesus this nagging question: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this, and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus then tells the Samaritan parable to help this man understand what the law invites him to do. The pure reading of the law may not readily reveal to us who our neighbor is, in fact. That is why the lawyer asked the important question, "And who is my neighbor?"

To answer this question, you have to go beyond the text. That may be the only way to chance upon the Unspoken Word of a text.

In the Samaritan story, Jesus helps the lawyer with a purposive approach to the text. He instructs him with these words: "Go, and do likewise." In other words, go and be like the Samaritan who wasn't constrained by any allegiance to a tribe, culture, religion, or even the law. Go and be like the Samaritan who understood what a purposive approach to the law looks like. Go and be like the Samaritan whom Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative meant everything. Go and be like the Samaritan who understood the purposive construct of the law.

Purposive approach feels, to me, like the bilingual language of democracy. For starters, I think that democracy speaks only two languages. It is not English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, or even Fante, my native tongue, but it still is bilingual because it speaks the Spoken Word *and* the Unspoken Word.

All of us can, like the lawyer who went to Jesus, read and hear the Spoken Word, but someone may have to help us understand the Unspoken Word. And oftentimes, the Unspoken Word is that wound that refuses to heal, that wound which cannot be healed, that wound which only carries bandages that remind us of the tragedies of the past, those tragedies which we would prefer not to revisit.

(continued)

The Spoken Word of our democracy is our Constitution and the many laws that have been passed by Congress in support of this Constitution. The Supreme Court guides any legislation deemed as not meeting the letter and the spirit of the Constitution.

One of the pieces of legislation in support of the Constitution is the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The plain reading of this legislation - the Spoken Word - may help us understand the curative nature of this legislation. The Unspoken Word is the trauma of Slavery, Jim Crow, and Systemic Racism suffered by millions of African Americans and other minority populations.

To understand the purposive approach of this legislation is to understand that a society or even an individual must embrace corrective measures. To do so is to accept that we are never perfect nor were we created to be perfect; we were created to correct ourselves and each other when we happen to make mistakes - and that the mistakes of Slavery and its attendant evils need to be corrected.

More to the point, those who were denied the right to vote can now vote, and vote freely. There may be many, but I have yet to find someone who sincerely believes that African Americans and other minority groups do not deserve or have the right to vote. In a few months, we will be heading to the polls to elect a president, congress, state, and local elections. I would hope that if you are eligible to vote, you go ahead and vote.

If we believe that the Spoken Word of the Voting Rights Act is curative, and if we equally believe that the Unspoken Word of that legislation holds memories of a not-too-distant future that we don't want to relive, how is it that others think that weakening curative legislation serves any purpose?

"Who is my neighbor?" asked the lawyer. Jesus' response helps us to go beyond the text of the law and determine that neighbors don't come in categories.

Trust me - we learn something new every day, and reading my friend's blog exposed me to a principle I never knew could help influence my understanding of scripture.

As Lent slowly winds down and gives way to Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we are confronted with the worst of human depravity. But the joy of the Lenten season is the stark reminder of God's ultimate purpose for each of us - despite our depravity.

And so, this Lenten season and beyond, it is my prayer that you would embrace a purposive approach to life. For it is only within that purview that you understand why God loves you, and why your value and worth to God is incalculable.

Manny+

Christ Church Conversations

Episode 7: Magician

"The magic in you isn't about trickery - it is about authenticity, it is about the ability to see all the possibilities that are available to you and dreaming to make them happen. The magic in you is the gift of bringing the dream of possibilities to life."

This week, Father Manny wonders that the magician in each of us can turn things around, bring to life our dreams and the transformation we all need to make the world a better place.

We are excited to share this episode of *Christ Church Conversations* with you, our podcast series! This series will take shape in many forms - audio, video, interviews, scripture-based discussions, and so 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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