

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Last Sunday after Epiphany

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, February 19, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Home!

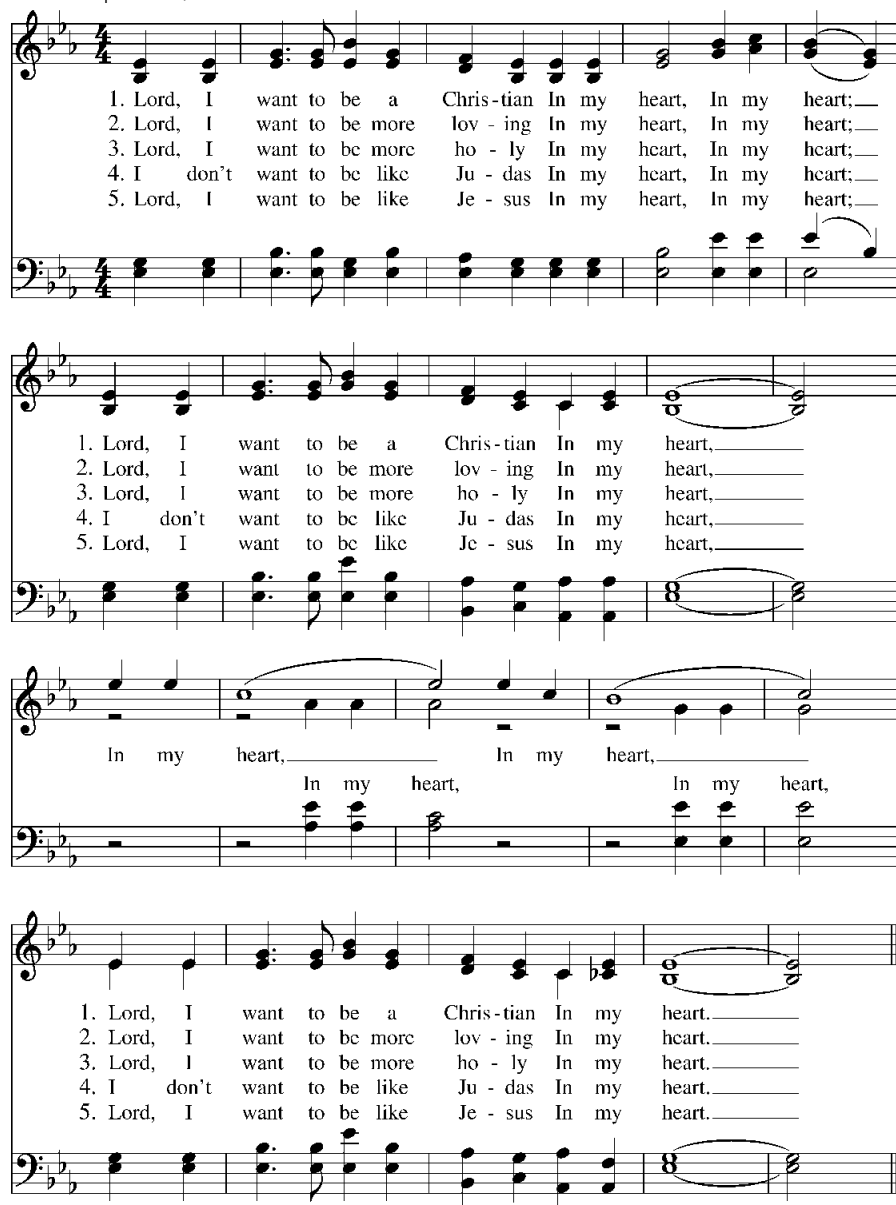
Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone 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!

Prelude | My Lord, What a Morning

Spiritual, arr. Mark Schweizer

Opening Hymn LEVAS 138 | Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Traditional



1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, In my heart;—
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart, In my heart;—
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart, In my heart;—
4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart, In my heart;—
5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart, In my heart;—

In my heart, In my heart, In my heart, In my heart,

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart._____
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart._____
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart._____
4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart._____
5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart._____

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People: **One God and Father of all.**

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

The Collect of the Day |

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

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

The people may be seated.

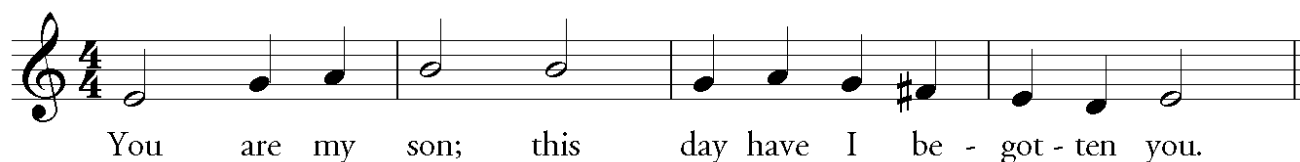
A Reading from Exodus 24:12-18 |

Reader: A reading from Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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



Why are the nations in an uproar? *

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *

against the LORD and against his Anointed?

"Let us break their yoke," they say; *

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *

the Lord has them in derision.

Antiphon

Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *

and his rage fills them with terror.

"I myself have set my king *

upon my holy hill of Zion."

Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *

he said to me, "You are my Son;

this day have I begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *

and the ends of the earth for your possession.

Antiphon

You shall crush them with an iron rod *

and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

And now, you kings, be wise; *

be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Submit to the LORD with fear, *

and with trembling bow before him;

Lest he be angry and you perish; *

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Happy are they all *

who take refuge in him!

Reader: A reading from 2 Peter.

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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 718 | God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand

National Hymn

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise,
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

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

Sermon | The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

Holy Baptism | BCP 299

The Presentation and Examination of the Candidates | Deleila Foremnik Rushton & Nkennanyelum Kiyen Okeke

Infants and Younger Children |

Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents: **We present Deleila and Nkennanyelum to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that these children you present are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: **I will, with God's help.**

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children:

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the Spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce all the sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

I do.

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

I do.

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

I do.

The celebrant then addresses the congregation:

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

***People:* We will.**

Celebrant: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant |

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

***People:* I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***People:* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***People:* I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

***People:* I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates |

Celebrant: Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Intervessor: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intervessor: Open them to your grace and truth.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intervessor: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intervessor: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intervessor: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intervessor: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intervessor: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

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

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

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Baptism |

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who pours water upon the candidate, saying:

Celebrant: I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The celebrant continues:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, spirits to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the candidates' heads, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying:

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

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 | There's a Great Day a-Coming

Patsy Ford Simms

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer B | BCP 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

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

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



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

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 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. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer | BCP 365

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

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

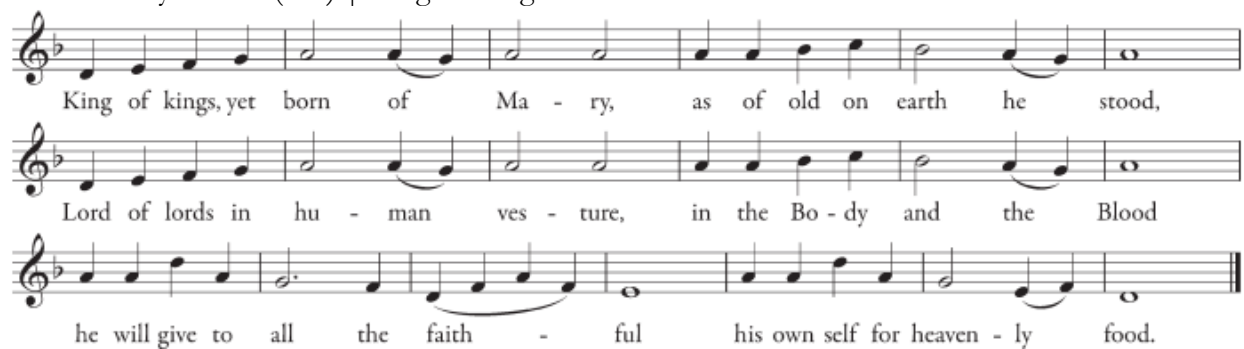
The Breaking of the Bread |

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

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

Fraction Anthem Hymn 324 (v. 2) | King of Kings

Picardy



King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood,
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 152 | Let Us Break Bread Together

Traditional



1. Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees (on our
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees (on our
 1. knees); Let us break bread wine to - geth-er on our knees (on our
 2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees (on our
 1. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
 2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
 sun, Oh Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).
 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

continued

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

Post-Communion Prayer | BCP 365

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

Harmony

Ev' - ry time I feel the spir - it, mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev' - ry time I feel the
spir - it, mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

Fine

unison

1. Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke, out of his
2. Jor - dan ri - ver chil - ly and cold, chills the

1. mouth came fire and smoke. All a - round me looked so
2. bod - y but not the soul. There ain't but one train runs this

D.C.

1. fine, asked my Lord if all was mine.
2. track, runs to heav - en and runs right back.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude | Toccata, fourth movement from *Suite Gothique*

Leon Boellmann
Ola Oladipupo, organist

**PARISH CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 19 TO FEBRUARY 25**

Sunday, February 19

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 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
10:30 – 11:30 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

Monday, February 20 – Presidents' Day – Office Closed

7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Zoom
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Tuesday, February 21 – Shrove Tuesday

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – New Brick, lower level

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 am	Ash Wednesday Service – Old Brick
10:00 – 11:00 am	Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
12:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service – Old Brick
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service – New Brick
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, February 23

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, February 24

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé Service – Old Brick
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, February 25

8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Lenten Reflection Day – Old Brick
2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
6:30 – 7:30 pm	Men of Christ Church Gathering – Stumpy's Hatchet House
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Youth Group Trip
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – 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.

Youth Formation

You adults! Have you considered a calling to help nurture the youth of Christ Church? We are in need of more teachers and assistants now than ever! No experience is required - we will provide all the materials and you will be on a team with an experienced leader. If you are able to help - even just once a month - with this important ministry, **please email our Youth Minister, Todd Domer.**

Lent at Christ Church

Our website's page with details of the 2023 Lenten schedule is now live. There are many traditional services and gatherings, as well as several new ones, and we hope to see you at many of them! Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent often, as we'll update things there regularly.

March Newsletter Deadline - This Sunday

Our February newsletter was a great success, with many ministries and groups having their upcoming details included. Some of your upcoming ministry events were missing, though, so please be sure to send any upcoming information about your ministry's activities or gatherings to Chris by the end of this Sunday, February 19th. You can email text and photos to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 21

The incredible youth of Christ Church will once again host our annual Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on February 21st! Join us in the Great Hall of New Brick for this traditional start to the Lenten season. Serving begins at 6:30 p.m. **so please sign up here so we know how much to buy.** Seating is available until 7:30 p.m. The prices are \$15. for an individual and \$25. for a family, and you can pay using cash, or using our [online giving form](#) (choose "Shrove Tuesday Dinner" in the FUND dropdown menu). You'll also get to view the beautiful handiwork of **African Team Ministries** at the event. This will be the final opportunity to get your hands on some great gift ideas, made by very talented artisans.

Ash Wednesday - February 22

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality and of what we are made of. To get our thoughts and ourselves ready and prepared for Lent, Christ Church offers worship with the imposition of Ashes next Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon in Old Brick, and 7:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary. We'll also livestream the 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. services on our website, YouTube, and Facebook pages.

And this year, *Ashes to Go* returns to Christ Church - an opportunity for those working commuters, students, and early risers to stop by and receive ashes as they start their day. We will offer a short prayer and administer the Ashes to those who cannot be with us in worship that morning, but who desire the Ashes nonetheless. Simply look for the *Ashes to Go* banner in the main driveway, and stop by between 6 and 7 a.m.

Lenten Reflection Day - February 25

Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission presents Lenten Reflection Day on Saturday, February 25th. This year, we are very blessed to have our own Seminarian Associate, Mike Looney, lead us in prayer and meditation as we deeply examine our 2023 theme, *Be an Instrument of God's Peace*. Lenten Reflection Day includes a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m., continues with the day's program, and wraps up around 12 noon with an informal Eucharist. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this exceptional start to the Lenten season.

CEC Youth Gathering - February 25

Our February Youth gathering will be go-karting at the Autobahn Indoor Go-Kart Raceway in Jessup. There will be more details to come, but the event will be on February 25th from 7-9 p.m. so mark your calendars... and get ready to start your engines!

Men Of Christ Church Gathering – February 25

Join us for an 18-and-older MOCC Gathering next Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6:30 p.m. at Stumpy's Hatchet House, 6695 Dobbin Road. Interested to learn more about the MOCC? Please contact Duane Smith at cduanesmith@verizon.net.

Jazz Vespers - February 26

Jazz Vespers is a special liturgy of Evening Prayer. Jazz Vespers will combine scripture readings, prayer, poetry, silent meditation, and rich music. Christ Church is offering this special service during the 2023 Lenten season with the hope that different opportunities for prayer, music, and reflection will deepen our spirituality. Please join us in the New Brick Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. for this uniquely enlightening service. Jazz Vespers at Christ Church begins on Sunday, February 26th. There will be light refreshments after each service.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Email the church office for the Zoom link.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

C'mon, all of you who like to sing! Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m. and everyone is welcome to take part! **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page.** Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choir! If you're interested, email music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

CEC Book Club - Fridays

We are continuing to discuss *Looking for God in Messy Places: A Book About Hope* by Jake Owensby, Bishop of Western Louisiana. It's a quick, wonderful read, so why not join us for an hour or so on Friday evenings? We are a friendly bunch and appreciate everyone's input and thoughts. The book can be purchased online at your favorite digital retailers. Interested? Email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com or text her at 301-452-7115.

WOCC Upcoming Events

Upcoming WOCC events: Wednesday, March 1 @ 6:00 p.m. - the Wednesday Evening Lenten Series meal will be provided by the WOCC; and Saturday, March 11th @ 10 a.m. - we'll have a Guided Labyrinth Walk at St. John's in Ellicott City. Look for details in upcoming news and information bulletins. Come and join us for these events. If you have other good ideas, please share them with us. Also, the next WOCC Meeting is Monday, March 6 at 1:00 p.m. We will be meeting in person (NBL) and also via Zoom and will publish the link a week before the meeting.

The 2023 Pledge Envelopes Are Here

The 2022 Christ Church pledge envelopes have arrived and are available for pickup now. They are located in the Narthex, but if you need to make other arrangements or have any questions, please **email the Church Office.**

Our Sunday Services Need Your Help

We are in need of more ushers, chalicists, and lectors for the 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. You will serve on rotational schedules (not every week) and during select events. There are no age requirements or limits, and personalized training will be provided so please consider helping out!

- **Ushers:** welcome, seat, and direct parishioners during the service
- **Chalicists (Lay Eucharistic Minister):** assist the clergy in the distribution of the Eucharist
- **Lector (Lay Reader):** read aloud to the congregation throughout the year.

Please contact Yetti at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2022 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Like Coffee? Let's Enjoy Some Together! You Can Help.

The 8:30 a.m. Old Brick Coffee Hour is in full swing (thank you!), but we really need people and ministries to help set up for the 9:30 a.m. gathering in New Brick's Elevator Room. This is an excellent opportunity for fellowship and fun, and a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners. You can work by yourself, in groups, or with another family. Perhaps a group or ministry can offer to host the occasional Coffee Hour, as well. All you need to do is provides snacks, brew the coffee, stay for the coffee hour, and help tidy up. Training will be provided. Questions? Please contact the church office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or 410-381-9365.

Christ Church Podcast - Later in 2023

In a recent *Gatherings*, Father Manny discussed the idea of creating a Christ Church Podcast, a homegrown, multimedia collaboration of our parish's many features, talents, and interests. That idea is gaining steam for a launch later this year, but we would love to involve some more people to help make this the best it can be. If you enjoy writing, are interested in researching the multilayered history of Christ Church, have an interest in audio production, like to shoot videos on your phone or camera, enjoy composing, singing, or playing music, have a particular topic you'd like to share with others, love to draw or paint... we can find a place for each of you! We're meeting again in two weeks (date and time TBD) and you're invited to join us to see how you can be an important part of this new venture. If you'd like more information or are interested in joining us, please speak with **Fr. Manny, Ann Barnes**, or email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

African Team Ministries Sale

African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. With help from Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Anglican denominations, ATM provides funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. African Team Ministries provides East African, primarily Kenyan, artisans with a market for their beautiful creations. Please peruse the ATM jewelry table that will be set up each Sunday in February leading up to Lent to view their intricate wood carvings, eye-catching soapstone décor, natural elements' nativity sets, stunning necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and much more! The support they receive is sent directly to their partnering bishops to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms. This support ensures that the children receive an education and the measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds. You can make payments using our **Online Giving Form**; just choose "African Team Ministries" from the *FUND* dropdown menu. African Team Ministries currently have children registered for sponsorship in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. We could also use help with the table on these days, so if you would like to assist, please speak with Sara Kirkpatrick.

Let's Go, Christ Church! Buy Tickets for Bridges to Housing Stability's Chilifest by March 9th to Help End Homelessness in Howard County

Bridges to Housing Stability – an organization dedicated to preventing/ending homelessness in Howard County – is holding a "**ChiliFest & Cornhole Tournament**" on Sunday, March 19th, from 1- 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. The Bridges' leaders are looking forward to doing in-person events again "for camaraderie, and to jazz people up" about ending homelessness. While there will be no chili cookoff this year, you can purchase tickets for chili meals prepared by Absolutely Perfect Catering (\$25 each) to be eaten at the event, or for carryout. Bridges is planning a festive event, and we're hoping our parishioners will participate (**Christ Church has won the "Golden Ladle" in the past for donations raised**).

The deadline to buy tickets for chili meals and cornhole registration is March 9. When buying online, look for the green box labeled "Continue to your info." Next, choose the category "Individual" and look for the wording: "Credit the following congregation with my purchase." You'll find Christ Episcopal Church in the alphabetical dropdown list. You also can purchase tickets (\$40 for 2 registrations) to compete as a team in the cornhole tournament. The cornhole competition will be outdoors, weather permitting.

There will also be live music by School of Rock, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and an in-person auction that includes amazing baskets. For additional information and to purchase tickets, click on **this link**. **Let's go, Christ Church!** With parishioners' generous support through past contributions, Christ Church will be a "Tabasco" Level sponsor. The Outreach Commission at its Feb. 13 meeting voted to donate \$500 in Vestry-approved funds to become a sponsor.

UNICEF Gets Humanitarian Aid for Earthquake Victims in Syria and Turkey

On Feb. 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey and Syria, with a mounting death toll that is greater than 41,000, countless injuries, and massive destruction. War-torn Syria already had been in crisis. UNICEF, which has helped the world's children for 70 years, had been **providing humanitarian aid in Syria**. Because it was poised to respond, UNICEF has been able to reach displaced Syrians, acting with the support of donors worldwide.

Christ Church is among these donors. On behalf of parishioners, members of the Outreach Commission voted to contribute \$750 to UNICEF to assist in humanitarian relief efforts. It is the latest in a series of disaster-relief donations that last year helped victims of flooding in Pakistan, wildfires and floods in the United States, and refugees in Europe fleeing the war in Ukraine. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to one and all who make this possible.

Save the Date: DreamBuilders Mandatory Meeting for Summer Mission Trip - March 4

If you are interested in joining DreamBuilders to repair homes in Kentucky in June, make sure you attend our **mandatory** meeting on Saturday, March 4th, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be at Temple Isaiah (12200 Scaggsville Rd., Fulton). We will have all the information you will need about the June trip, but if you have any questions before then, please see or **email Cathy Gold at cgold2000@aol.com**. It'll be a life-changing event, for you and for the people we're helping in Kentucky. Hope to see you there!

Turkish Embassy Collecting New Blankets, Sleeping Bags, Mats, and Tents

Many earthquake survivors lack shelter, and the Turkish Embassy has **posted a plea** for in-kind donations of new or unused blankets, sleeping bags, mats, and tents. They are being flown daily to Turkey, which is in the midst of a bitterly cold winter. You can take these items directly to the Embassy, which is located at 2525 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. Or if you want to help but require assistance from someone else who can transport the purchased items to the Embassy, please email Christ Church Outreach at **outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Columbia Community Care Seeks Volunteers on Saturdays, Continues to Request Diapers, Personal Care Items

Please continue supporting Columbia Community Care (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. Please look for updates, such as requests for volunteers on Saturday mornings, posted in the CCC Facebook Group or on the “I Can Help” portion of its website. For example, you’ll find a need for volunteers to sort grocery items at the CCC pantry building, 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia.

Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put any of these in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

Donate Snacks, Crackers, and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway

Organizers for FISH of Howard County are continuing to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill their shopping lists. The yellow bin is between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

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.



Blessed
are all those who put their
trust in Him.

Psalm 2:12



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Beth Johnson • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Alfred Titus-Glover