CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, January 31, 2021 | 10:00 AM

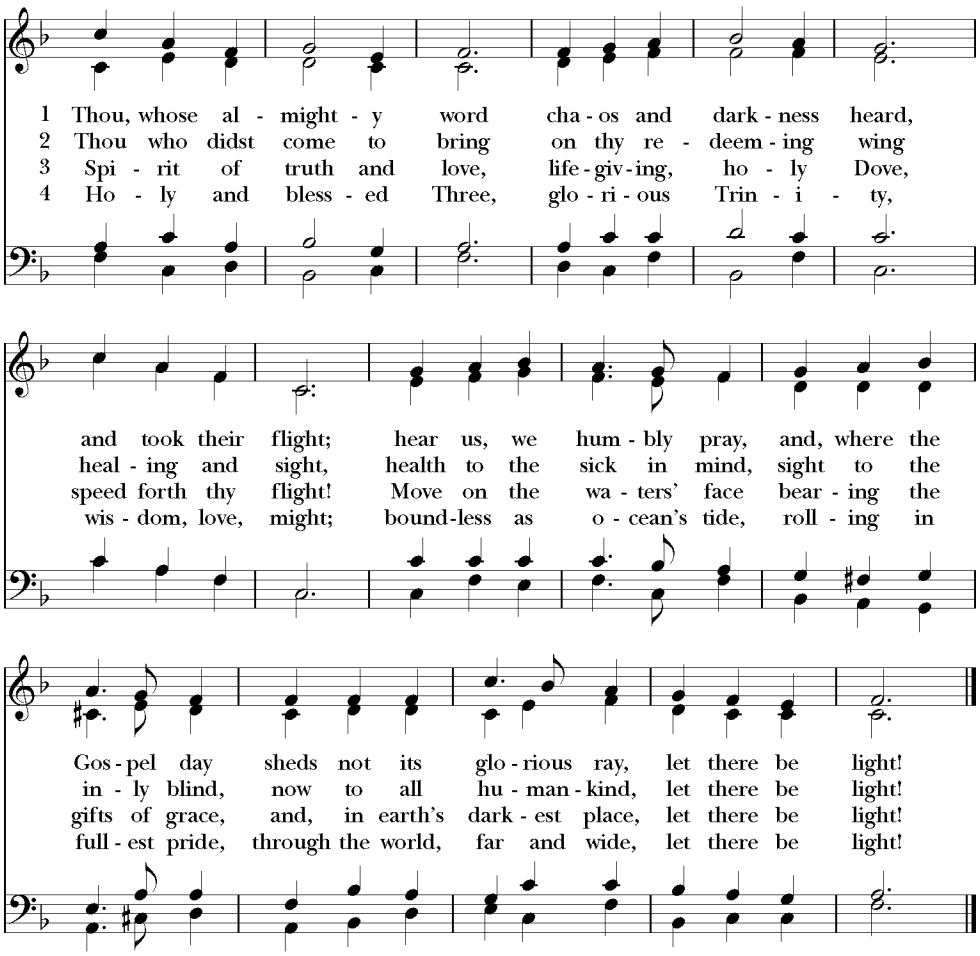
You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

The people stand as able.

OPENING HYMN *Moscow*



OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

GLORIA

Prayed in unison

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

The following psalm is chanted by the choir.

PSALM 111

Confitebor tibi
Chant: John Goss (1800-1880)

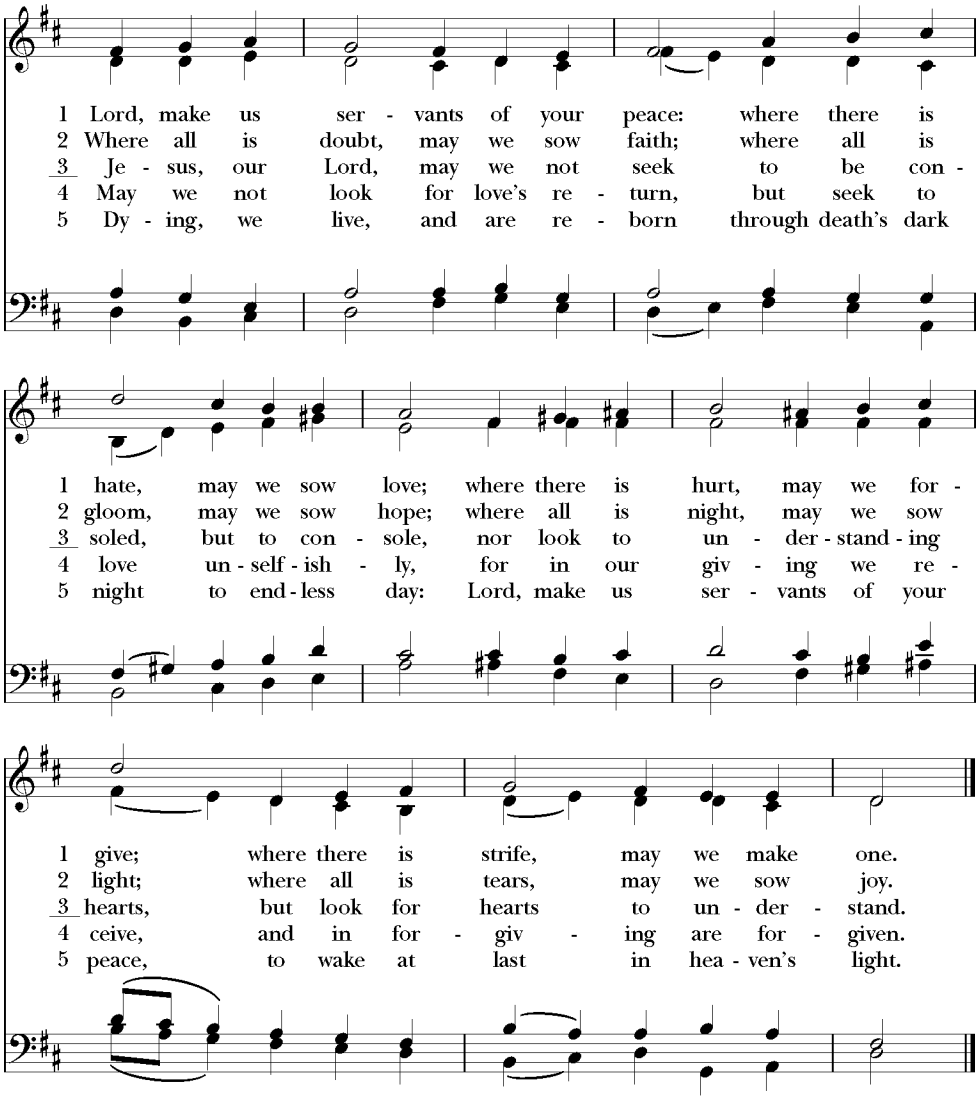
Hallelujah!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever.

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.
Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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 *Dickinson College*



THE GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Deacon: 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 Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

All: **We believe in one God,**
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We are a people of faith in the God who is the Father and Mother of us all. We are a people of faith in Jesus, who told us he would be with us always. His words are the beacon lighting the path of hope and perseverance. And so humbly bearing that knowledge in a time of fear and difficulty, we recommit ourselves to what Paul calls "the love that builds up."

We pray: **O Lord, help us step out in faith and hope to be builders and healers.**

We pray for all leaders worldwide, that they may govern with wisdom and selflessness for the good of all your children in all nations. We ask that your Holy Spirit guide our President, members of Congress, and state leaders in these challenging times.

We pray: **O Lord, help them step out in faith and hope to be your builders and healers.**

Lord, we lift up all of your people throughout the world. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. In our Diocese, we ask your blessing on Holy Comforter, Lutherville; Holy Nativity, Baltimore; and Immanuel, Glencoe. We ask for your grace and guidance for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Bishops, Eugene and Robert; our Rectors Emeriti, James and Richard; our Rector, Emmanuel; our Deacon, Denise; and our church staff and lay ministers. We ask your blessing on our entire church family and all who join in worship with us today. For the gift of your love that unites us, we rejoice.
We pray**: O Lord, help us step out in faith and hope to be your builders and healers.**

We pray you guide us to serve those suffering: from unemployment and housing instability, for those imprisoned, and those in any trouble. We lift up all those ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially Angela, Nell, Alta, Pamela, Chad, Joan, Richard, Alfred, Stan, Nick, Ashley, Anthony, Jim, Patrick, Bill, Theresa, Barbara, Anne, Victoria, Eric, and those you now name. May they and their caregivers be sustained by the promise of your presence.
We pray: **Help us, Lord, to trust in your steadfastness.**

We pray for all whom you have called into eternal life, especially Paul, Fred, and Lee Hanna, and those you now name. We are grateful for the gift of their lives and ask that you ease the pain of those who mourn.
We pray: **The Lord is gracious and compassionate.**

With gratitude and rejoicing, we celebrate the special occasions of our church family, including baptismal anniversaries, birthdays, Rebecca, Tim, Ed, Frances, Rachel, Andrew, Nicole, Bill, Mary, Nancy, Michele, Michael, and wedding anniversaries, especially Carrie & Samuel, Victoria & Samuel, Irma & James.
With joy, we pray: **We give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts.**

Lord, we ask, in the words of Marian Wright Edelman, "take our tiny acorns of service and turn them into towering oak trees of hope." Help us to always remember that you reign in the glory and the power of love, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**
The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev'd Emmanuel Mercer, *Rector*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

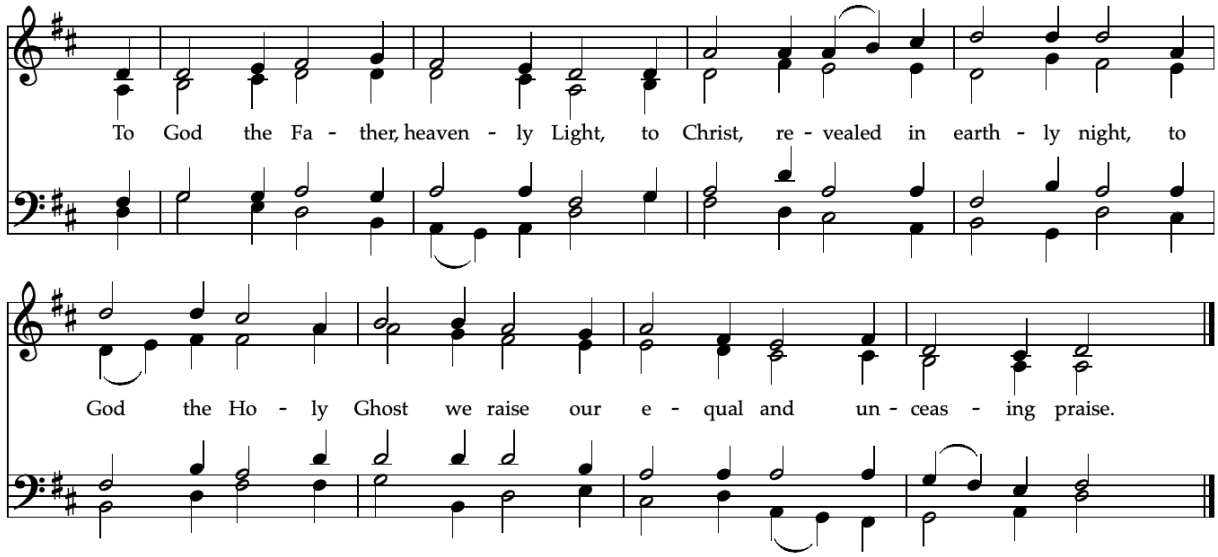
O Saviour of the World — George Alexander MacFarren (1813-1887)

O Saviour of the World,
who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us.
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.
Amen.

Text: Collect for the visitation of the sick.

DOXOLOGY HYMN

Puer nobis



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…

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

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,**
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Celebrant: 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 for ever.

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

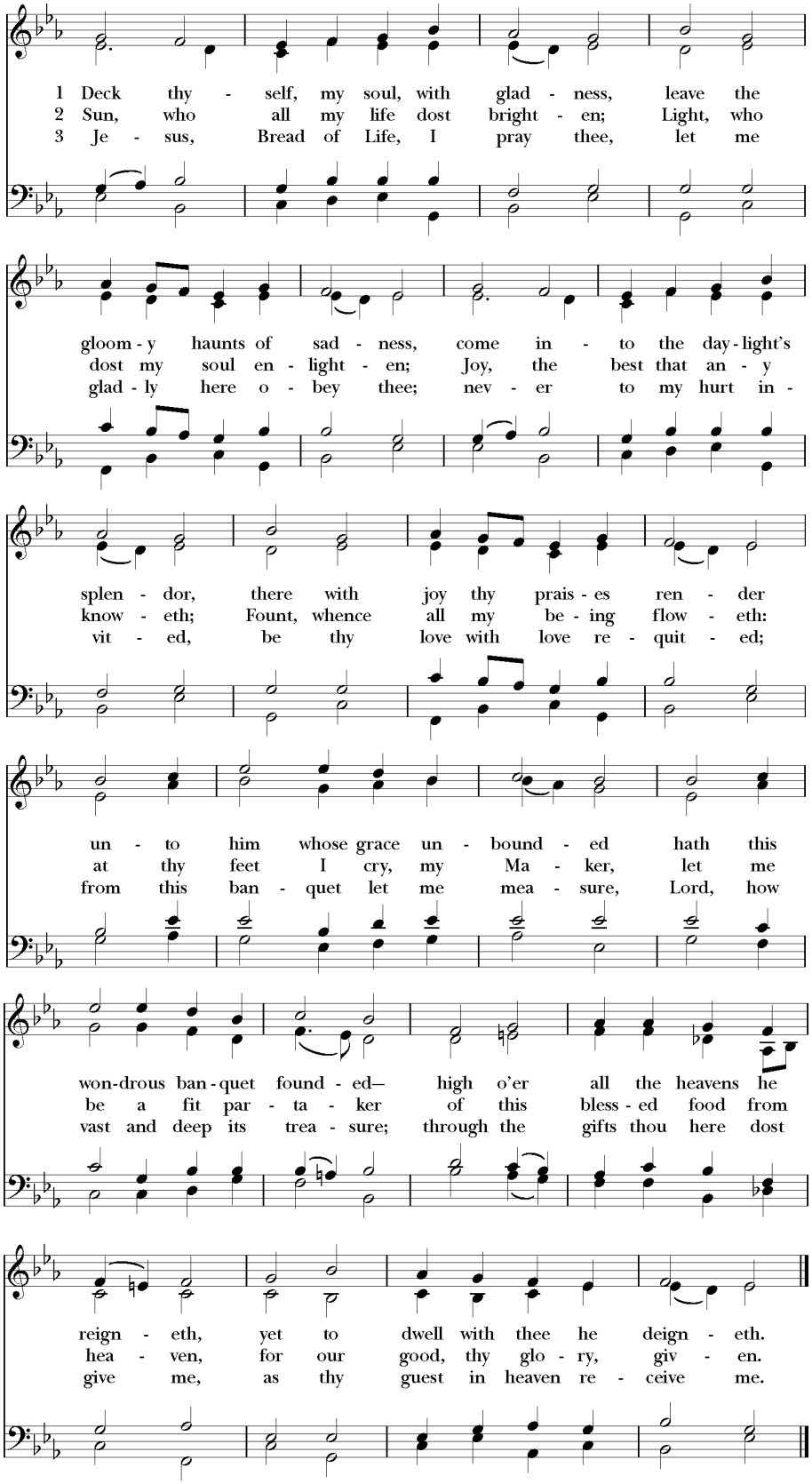
Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988)

All: **In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church,**
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving.
I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection;
I await your coming in glory.
And since I cannot receive you today
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus,

and let me never be separated from you.
May I live in you, and you in me,
in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Schmücke dich



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

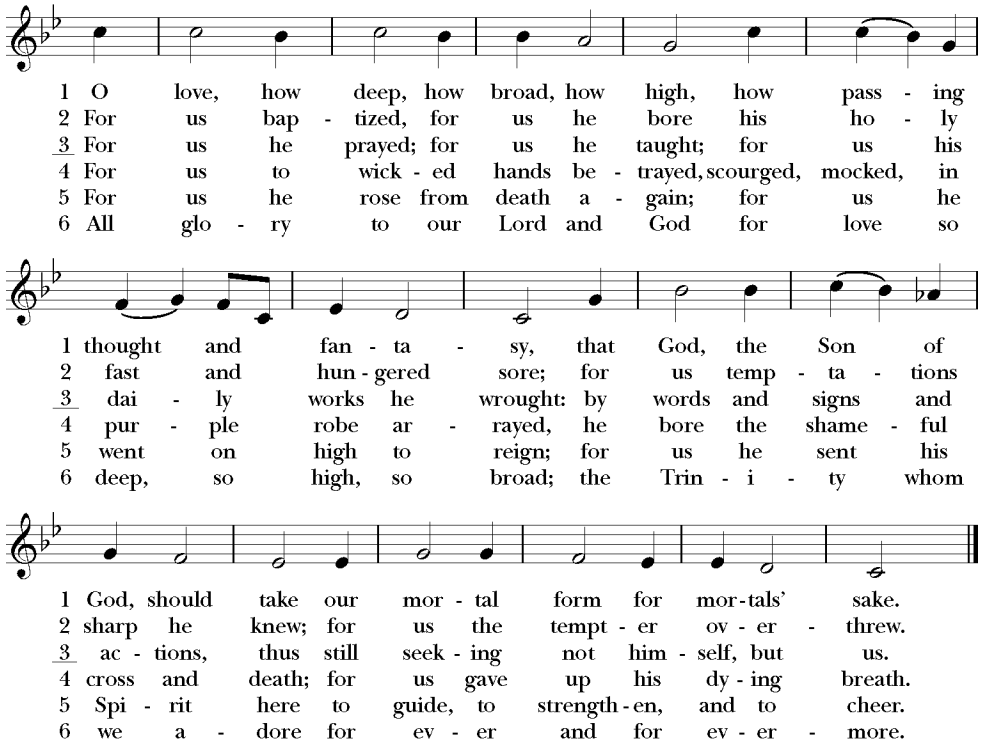
All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN

Deo gracias



THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the People, who respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

send your announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Sunday Eucharist and Fellowship | Join us online this Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. as we livestream worship from Old Brick. Our broadcast will be live on our Christ Church website, YouTube, and Facebook pages. A few minutes after the service ends, we'll have our Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom, so everyone is invited to stop by and say "HELLO!" as we catch up with one another in this new year. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is 830 0557 1585, and the password is SundayVCH. See you on Sunday!

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

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

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

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

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

Christ Church Book Club – Fridays | The Christ Church Book Club continues to discuss *Love is the Way* by the Reverend Michael Curry. This New York Times Bestseller based on his life experiences and how love has guided his decisions and was recently highlighted in an NPR radio interview. It is available on several bookseller websites in hardcover, audio, and digital formats. We've only begun this book this past week, and new interested members are more than welcome to join us. These Christ Church discussions are conducted via Zoom each week from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. If there are any questions, please contact Ellen Boudreau Hoke by cell phone at 301-452-7115, text message, or by email at efboudreau1@gmail.com.

WOCC Meeting - February 1st | The WOCC's next monthly meeting will take place next Monday, February 1st at 1:00. Once again, we will be meeting via the Zoom meeting app, which is free and available for sign up on www.Zoom.us. Feel free to join us! Please go to their site and sign up prior to the meeting. We'll provide the Zoom link later this month.

In observance of American Heart Health Month, the WOCC is inviting you to wear something red. We would like to create a social media post of everyone wearing red, so between now and Wednesday, February 10th, please send in a photo of you in your finest! Email photos to announcements@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thank you!

All the women of Christ Church over the age of 18 are members of the WOCC. If you have any questions, please contact the WOCC officers by emailing wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org: Gail Braatelien, president; Rhonda Tomlinson, vice president; Cathy Gold, financial secretary; Joan Harvey, secretary; and Pamela Brown, chaplain.

Help us Stay Connected within our Christ Church Family! | The Pastoral Care (PC) Commission is endeavoring to make occasional, brief calls to connect across our parish during these next few cold, isolated months. With the size of our congregation, we need some additional help. You needn't be part of the PC Commission to assist. We just need people willing to take five-ten names and make a quick call to check in with fellow parishioners once every two-three weeks. If you feel you have a call for this ministry of listening and hospitality, please contact PC Commissioner Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com. Thank you.

Church Office News | Our tradition has been to pick up our offering and pledge envelopes in the Narthex at New Brick, but because of our present situation, we cannot do so. Instead, the Christ Church pledge envelopes have been mailed out. If you don't get them in the coming week or so, please email us. Also, the new issue of the *Forward Day by Day* quarterly is now available. You can pick those up at the Church Office on Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

TWO WEEKS LEFT! Please Submit Your 2021 Lenten Meditations by February 7th | Each year since 2005, Christ Church has assembled a Lenten Meditation Book of written or shared thoughts, reflections, poems, drawings, songs, stories, essays, spiritual passages from books, or selections of scripture that capture our thoughts and feelings at Lent. We try to focus each year's Spiritual Life Theme in our contributions to the meditations. This year's theme is: *Be God's Light That Shines in the Darkness.*

In 2021, our Parish has a shortened time to submit contributions to this booklet, as Ash Wednesday is early this year and falls on February 17th. We hope to have our online version and a number of printed copies available on February 14th. A staff member posts daily individual meditation book submissions on the Christ Church website and on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) throughout the forty days of Lent. The Spiritual Life Commission will be happy to share last year's booklet with anyone wishing to see what type of material was submitted. Ellen Hoke (301-452-7115) and Donna Campagna (410-707-5197) are both available and willing to answer any questions by phone or text. Meditation submissions can be sent to Ellen Hoke's email at efboudreau1@gmail.com. Please help us to compile a meaningful collection of meditations to be shared with our congregation, and with thousands of viewers online. We are so grateful for our community of faith, which always continues to inspire us.

A Tasty Way to Help Bridges to Housing Stability End Homelessness | Many recall the excitement as we gathered in New Brick nearly a year ago to hold a chili cook-off to benefit Bridges to Housing Stability. It was February 9th of 2020, in those convivial pre-pandemic days when we selected Chuck Rees as the winning chef. The effort, which included the Youth Group's collection from Souper Bowl Sunday, raised $1,000. That impressive result led to more excitement last fall as Christ Church won the Silver Ladle Award during the nonprofit's Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser.

While unable to gather again in the foreseeable future, there's another way to enjoy a meal for a good cause. Next month you can help Bridges prevent and end homelessness by ordering milkshakes and burgers at Shake Shack. The timeframe is from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 24th, which is Shake Shack Donation day. On that website for the event, you'll find a flyer to download, so please spread the word. The restaurant is located on the plaza at Columbia Mall, 10300 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044. Please use the code DONATION on the Shack App, web, or kiosk when checking out, and 25 percent of your total meal purchase will go to Bridges.

Christ Church parishioners had the opportunity to participate earlier this week in a similar fundraising effort by ordering takeout pizza and other dishes from Coal Fire in Ellicott City. That restaurant gave 20 percent of every designated purchase to Bridges.

Every dollar counts as the nonprofit provides critical support and affordable housing to our most vulnerable neighbors. In its 2020 annual report, you can read about Bridges' efforts such as the vital Alliance Program that has expanded to serve 141 people living in 42 affordable rental homes in Howard County. Because Bridges tenants pay less than the market rate, they spend an average of just 31 percent of their incomes on rent compared with many low-income renters in the county who must spend more than 50 percent on housing. The annual report also lists board members for Fiscal 2021, including Christ Church parishioner James Collins.

Prayers Requested as Two Outreach Partners in Africa Face a Surging Coronavirus | Prior to the pandemic, Christ Church entered a partnership with two parishes in the Anglican Diocese of Harare in Zimbabwe. They are St. Luke's in Greendale and All Souls in Mt. Pleasant. The arrangement, in which Christ Church agreed to support annual community medical clinics, grew out of a request from parishioners Nancy and Norbert Mugwagwa. In normal times, the Mugwagwas split their residence between Maryland and Zimbabwe, attending Christ Church for a number of months and then All Souls the rest of the time.

When they departed the United States more than a year ago, taking some medical supplies in their luggage, they expected that the health clinics would be held in May and June of 2020. The Christ Church Outreach Commission planned to provide more supplies, and Fr. Manny and the Vestry received a letter from the Rev. Paul Gwese, rector of St. Luke's. He explained how they had been "supporting the vulnerable members of our community who eagerly await this medical intervention and attend our clinics in large numbers." The pandemic forced the cancellation of the clinics.

Even before the outbreak, the rector said, "The health system in Zimbabwe is currently going through serious challenges both in the public and private domains." Now the situation is far more dire. This month several government officials have perished, according to news reports.

On January 24th, Nancy Mugwagwa wrote to the Outreach Commission that COVID-19 is surging with tragic consequences in the communities where our partners are located. All Souls has lost its church administrator and two parishioners, and the Mugwagwas have lost three relatives. "This is the case in most families, and we hope the tight restrictions imposed by the curfew that includes closure of bars and nonessential businesses will help to slow down the spread," she wrote. Please pray for those in our partner parishes, All Souls and St. Lukes.

Drive Continues to Fill Yellow Bins to Help CCC and FISH | Parishioners are asked to support Columbia Community Care (CCC), an all-volunteer effort that came together in Howard County in response to the pandemic, by collecting diapers and personal care items. The organizers have told Christ Church Vestry member Diane Phillips-Laguerre that these basics are scarce.

Besides diapers in all sizes and baby wipes, CCC needs women's sanitary care products, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, and other toiletries. Please put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," just inside the Parish Hall door. You can drop off items on weekdays until 2 p.m., but we ask that you call the church office at (410) 381-9365 to let them know when you are coming.

Meanwhile, the basket of groceries for FISH of Howard County that once stood at the altar has been replaced by a yellow bin, marked "FISH" on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. During winter, please contribute items such as cereal and granola bars that will not freeze. Please do NOT bring canned goods, liquids in plastic such as juices and salad dressing, or glass containers.

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.

LEMS Committee: Volunteers Needed | The LEMS committee is continuing to contribute to the LEMS Weekend Food Program in 2021! We plan to provide food for ten families one weekend a month in the new year. If anyone is interested in volunteering with the monthly bulk purchasing, bagging, and delivering to the school when New Brick reopens, please contact the committee. With local COVID cases at their peak, we are following strict safety precautions and will expect the same of all volunteers.

The committee has also reached out to the school to find out if they need assistance at the start of the new semester and will let you know what we find out. If you have any questions, please contact lemspc@christchurchcolumbia.org. Donations can be made towards future LEMS support online using Realm and listing LEMS in the memo line.

Please Consider a Contribution to Christ Church.

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

Text Giving

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

Online Giving

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

Donate Through the Diocese

The Diocese of Maryland offers another way to give directly to Christ Church. You'll find that option here. Once on that secure page, simply choose "Christ Church, Columbia" from the list of parishes, and fill in the required fields.

Our 2021 Pledge Form is Online

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

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone*, Deacon*
Adam Detzner, *Director of Music*
Yetti Lipede, *Interim Parish Administrator*
Kareem Mack, *Cantor*
Rebecca Warlow, *Licensed Lay Preacher*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Caregiver*

Vestry

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