



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, September 13, 2026 | Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

bless
the LORD
Oh MY SOUL

Psalm 103:1

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:

www.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.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 410 | Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven

Lauda anima

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for a unison or harmony setting. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are as follows:

1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:
praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed by 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**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are scat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Genesis 50:15-21

Reader: *A reading from Genesis.*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

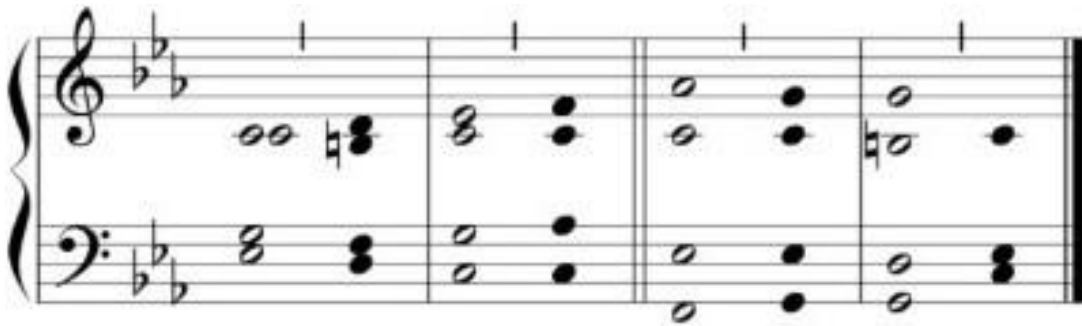
Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 103:8-13 | *Thanksgiving for God's Goodness*



The Lord is full of compassion and ¹ mercy, |
slow to anger and of great ¹ kindness. ||

He will not always ¹ accuse us, |
nor will he keep his anger for ¹ ever. ||

He has not dealt with us according to our ¹ sins, |
nor rewarded us according to our ¹ wickedness. ||

For as the heavens are high above the ¹ earth, |
so is his mercy great upon those who ¹ fear him. ||

As far as the east is from the ¹ west, |
so far has he removed our sins from ¹ us. ||

As a father cares his ¹ children, |
so does the Lord care for those who ¹ fear him. ||

THE EPISTLE | Romans 14:1-12

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 674 | Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive

Detroit

1 "For - give our sins as we for - give" you
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew, how small the debts men
bid re - sent - ment cease; then, re - con - ciled to

grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owe to us, how great our debt to you.
God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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

Make Thy way plain be-fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on-ly, that

mak-est me dwell in safe-ty.

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 worshipped 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 |

Forgiveness is a key principle in our relationships with all people and a requirement of Christ for his individual followers and in the Church. We pray, **Lord, help us to have the courage and foresight to follow You.**

We pray for our Church Leadership: our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia. We are so grateful for our incredibly gifted staff and extend our loving welcome to those who are new to Christ Church and those who are visiting this morning. We thank you for sharing in our worship and being a part of our dedicated congregation. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St. John's, Deer Park, St. Mark's, Lappans, and St. Matthew's, Oakland. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we remember The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. We pray **for Your holy church and all who worship in it.**

We pray for all those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, and those who care for them. We keep our Refugee Ministry in our prayers. We pray for those who are hungry and thirsty, and especially for our friends at the Dorsey Resource Center and Grassroots Shelter. We hold up in prayer all victims of natural disasters throughout the world. May they receive all the assistance and loving care that they desperately need. We pray this week especially for Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry and those you now name. We pray, **Lord, may your healing touch ease their pain and restore them.**

(continued)

We ask God Our Father to accept in his loving arms all those who have departed this life, especially Pam Foulds and those you now name. We pray for all who mourn them that they may heal in the warmth of your love. We pray, **Thank you Jesus, for the gift of eternal life.**

We thank you Lord for the many occasions we have to celebrate. We ask your blessing on all those who participate in our annual flea market this week. We rejoice with all those members of our church family with celebrations this week especially the birthdays of Danny, Traci, Judith & David, wedding anniversaries of Kimberley & David Mosier and Rhonda & Michael Tomlinson, baptismal anniversaries of Daniel, Gina & Kofi and other milestones. We pray, **Thank you Lord for the gifts of your creation.**

God is the source of knowledge and peace, giving to all the confidence and courage to continue, with justice and compassion. Lord, please awaken our ears to your loving word. **AMEN**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

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.

Please scan to give.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Where charity and love are, God is there.

Maurice Durufle

PRESENTATION HYMN 380 vs 3 |

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 HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

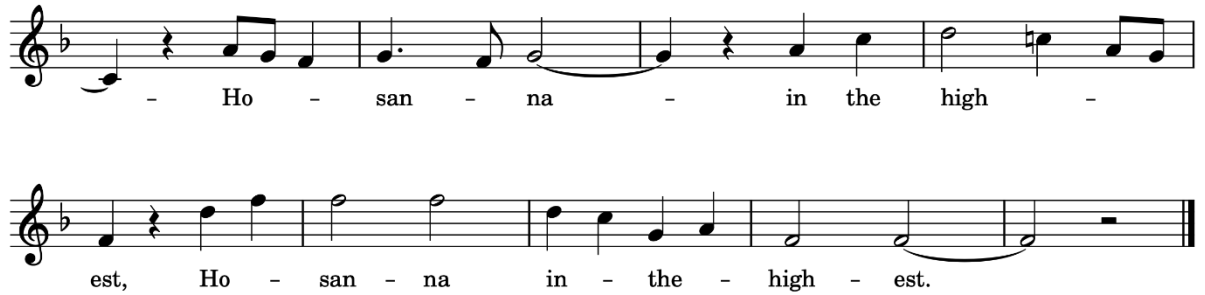
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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:





Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 |

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;
People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



FRACTION ANTHEM LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

organ

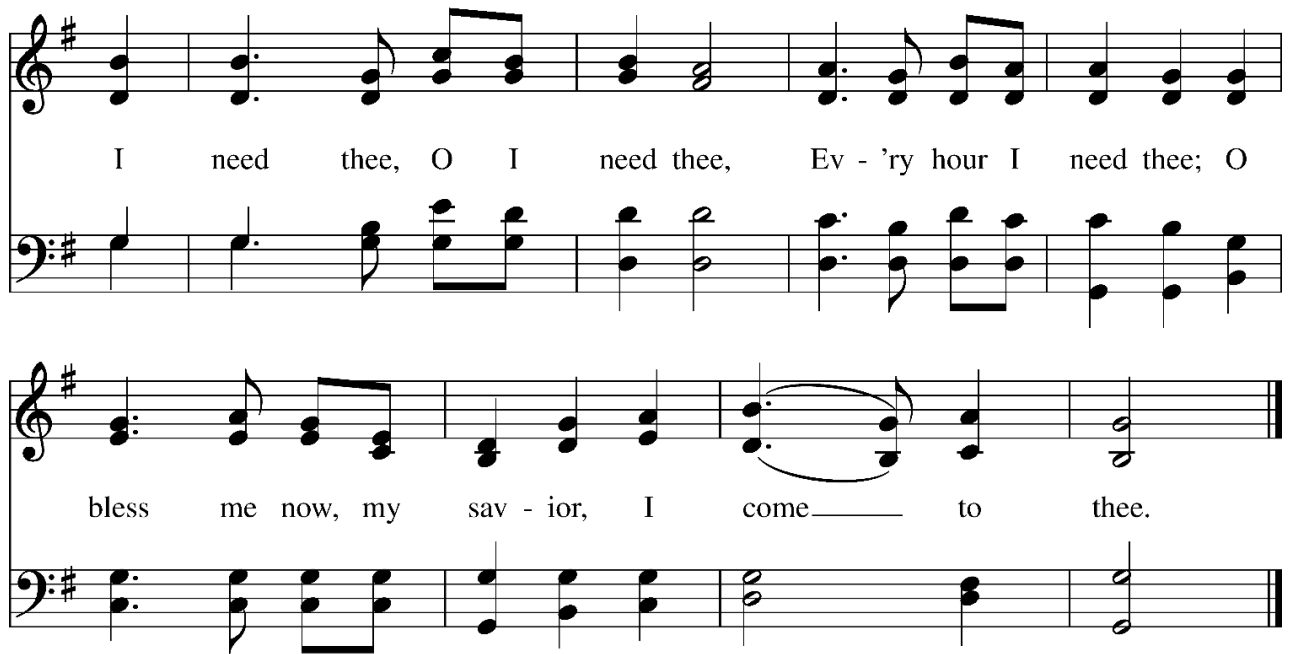
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
 world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins of the world:___ grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS 192 | I Need Thee Every Hour

Annie Hawks/Robert Lowry

1. I need thee ev - 'ry hour, Most gra - cious___
 2. I need thee ev - 'ry hour, Stay thou near___
 3. I need thee ev - 'ry hour, In joy or___
 4. I need thee ev - 'ry hour, Teach me thy___

1. Lord; No ten - der voice like thine Can peace___ af - ford.
 2. by; Temp - ta - tions lose their power When thou___ art___ nigh.
 3. pain; Come quick - ly and a - bide, Or life___ is___ vain.
 4. will, And thy rich prom - is - es In me___ ful - fill.



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.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

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 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!
 3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;
 4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;
 5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!
 2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.
 3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.
 4 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.
 5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

6 Then bless his holy Name,
 whose grace hath made thee whole,
 whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:
 O bless the Lord, my soul!

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pamela Foreman, Sandra Griffin

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Nesta Henlon

Lector/Reader: Nesta Henlon

Ushers: Michon Semon, Nancy Winchester

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Eli Wasula, Hope Spencer, Lucinda Hart

Chalicerist: Ivy Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Alex Amponsah

Ushers: Cherry Williams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers

Amanda Kirkpatrick, Andy DeLong

PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 13 – 19, 2026

Sunday, September 13

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:45 – 9:30 am Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am Family Service
9:30 – 10:20 am Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Zoom
4:30 – 7:30 pm Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, September 14

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 – 1:00 pm Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off – Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 4:00 pm Meal for Rt. 1 - Parish Hall, LL & parking lot
6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm Outreach Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, LL

Tuesday, September 15

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm Coffee Hour - Zoom
1:00 – 10:00 pm IRC Prep - Parish Hall, LL
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom
7:30 – 9:30 pm 300 Communication Committee Meeting – Zoom

(continued)

Wednesday, September 16

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Exercise Class – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Theology on Tap (ToT) – Frisco & the Reckless Shepherd
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300 Yr Leadership Committee Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, September 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	EfM: Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, September 18

All Day	Flea Market Set-up
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 7:00 pm	Sundays @ 3 Dress Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, September 19

9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Flea Market
8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Vision & Strategy Committee Meeting New Brick, LL & Zoom
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
ANNUAL
FLEA
MARKET
AND CRAFT FAIR
AT
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
6800 OAKLAND MILLS ROAD, COLUMBIA MD
INFO@CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG



ChristChurchColumbia.org/flea-market





ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS

Christ Church's Fall Service Schedule Begins THIS Sunday, September 13

This Sunday, September 13, Christ Church begins its fall schedule with three services. The first service takes place in Old Brick at 8:00 a.m. and does not contain music. Our popular Family Worship returns to New Brick at 9:00, featuring songs, stories, and communion centered around the younger members of our church. Then at 10:30, we have Holy Eucharist with choral and musical accompaniment, also in New Brick. Sunday School, Youth Formation, Sunday Circle, and all of our other formation and fellowship gatherings also begin today. No matter what service or classes you choose, we hope to see you because **EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**.

Register for Sunday School - Begins THIS SUNDAY, September 13

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone from pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and engaging classes, and we're looking forward to an exciting year! The next Sunday School year begins on September 13, and registration links are on [our website's Sunday School page](#).

Our Youth and Family Ministry is growing—an amazing blessing—but it also means we need a little help. Right now, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to step into our preschool Sunday School classrooms for the next program year, beginning in September. You don't need a degree in theology, of course, just a warm heart and a willingness to share God's love with our littlest ones. The curriculum and all supplies are provided for you, and we have a team of clergy and leaders to help you get started and support you along the way. If you can help us fill these spots, please speak with Mother Marcia Davenport at church or email revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also call the Church Office to see when she is in her office.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Theology on Tap - Wednesday, September 16

Brew and banter, lager and laughs! Theology on Tap is a fun, informal get-together to grab a beverage and enjoy structure-free conversation about interesting religious, spiritual, and social topics. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16 at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. If you have any questions, please speak with any MOCC member or email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Christ Church Choir is Back! - Thursday Evenings

Get ready, all you singers and music lovers! The choir has resumed rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings - Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30 - and all adults are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you to give it a shot in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa at church on Sundays or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Flea Market UPDATE - Saturday, September 19

Soon, it'll be time for the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus.

Setup is from 7-9 a.m. that morning, and cleanup is from 2-3 p.m. We can use a lot of help for those and to contribute to and run the Baked Goods, Food Court, and Book Sale tables. We also need more people to help with traffic management. There are sign-up sheets for all of these in the Narthex of New Brick.

The drop-off of donations for the Book Sale is in the lower level of the Parish Hall at:

- Sunday, Sept 13th from 9:00 am -12:00 pm
- Monday, Sept 14th to Friday, Sept 18th from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, Sept 16th from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

We still have spaces available to rent for the event - **you can reserve your spaces now!**

This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. There will be housewares, jewelry, books, clothing, tasty baked treats, grilled goodies, and so much more! Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website, which goes live today - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market

MOCC Breakfast - Saturday, September 26

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition, and in September, it will take place one week later than usual - on Saturday, September 26. Set your GPS to **Silver Diner at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia**. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome.

Elect Your Next Vestry Members - October 18

Christ Church's Vestry has approved the following candidates for election at our Annual Meeting, to be held on Sunday, October 18. That morning, we have one service at 10:00 a.m. followed by our Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections. You must be present to vote, and you can read brief bios and messages from each candidate on our website soon. Representing the Vestry is a three-year term that begins after the Annual Meeting, and this year, there are four seats to be filled.

Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor

This year, we have had more people request **Communion to You**, a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners. To fulfill this need, we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV). If you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church or contact the Church Office. And if you require this service for yourself or someone you know, **please fill out this brief form**, or call the Church Office. We will ensure that Communion gets there.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild.

None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. If you want to know more about the Inreach Ministry, please speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at cecevents.org/Inreach, or email us at inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will get you started. For those interested in assisting as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

Do You Have a Green Thumb? Help Columbia Community Care to Harvest and Tend Its Garden Plot at Freetown Farm as Long-Term Plans Take Shape

Columbia Community Care (CCC) invites volunteers to join in cultivating its garden plot at Freetown Farm, 8000 Harriet Tubman Lane, Columbia, Md., 21044, in partnership with **Community Ecology Institute** (CEI).

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance for slots on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m., on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Go online to this [CEI signup page](#) to register for a slot.

CCC encourages both novice and experienced gardeners to help “plant, weed, and maintain this source of fresh, nutritious food for local Howard County families.” So far the harvest has been bountiful: 170 pounds of fresh produce for local families.

“Now we need your help to keep the garden growing for all seasons! Make a donation to help us purchase supplies OR volunteer to get your hands dirty prepping, planting, and harvesting with us!” CCC Executive Director Erika Strauss Chavarria posted Sept. 7 on CCC’s Facebook page. She linked to a Sept. 2 [blog post](#) that outlines a fundraising campaign to buy tools, seeds and other gardening supplies for next season and to hire a facilitator to be known as a land steward.

“CCC has always believed that access to food is a human right, and that how we provide that food matters just as much as what we provide. A garden is one of the clearest ways we can put that belief into practice,” CCC posted.

Please Fill the Altar Basket and Parish Hall Bin with Goods for FISH/CCC

It’s been more than a year since CCC and **FISH** partnered and merged pantries. CCC delivers food to Howard County residents and distributes it at three sites on Saturday mornings, except on holiday weekends. For information, visit [Get Help online](#). FISH picks up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label “FISH/CCC”. Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents, offering guidance and financial support because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. For information, ask Christ Church parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong, or email andydelong.fish@gmail.com. You could be the one to lend a helping hand by lending an ear! As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. Thank you!

Inviting You to Join Our Monthly Outreach Meeting on Monday, Sept. 14

Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. Look for our Monday *This Week on Zoom* email, [or visit this link next Monday evening](#). See you on Zoom!

Help Feed the Homeless this Monday, as Our Meal Team Continues to Provide Meals at Two Grassroots Venues

On the second Monday of each month, Christ Church serves a hot midday meal at the Day Resource Center (DRC) in Jessup and supplies the menu for an evening meal at the emergency shelter in Columbia. Both are operated by the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**. We last participated on Aug. 10.

A team led by Outreach member Shahra Toth serves the midday meal in person. Please check our [**DRC online signup form**](#), which describes the procedure. To help on Monday, Sept. 14, bring your side dishes or items for the DRC pantry to the Parish Hall no later than 12:45 p.m. The group of servers will carpool to the Leola Dorsey Center, departing the parking lot near Old Brick at 1 p.m.

To bring food for the shelter's evening meal, check our [**Grassroots online signup form**](#). Please mark side dishes and place them in the Parish Hall kitchen by 12:45 p.m., or hand them directly to the carpool - and please note the change in time.

It's efficient to provide for both venues on the same day, in total feeding more than 150 people. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried-chicken entrees. Thank you!

Your generosity has again helped ease life for our homeless neighbors, who rely on the DRC for pantry items that include food, sundries, and more. The Outreach Commission approved spending \$132 for 90 cans of Spam, delivered last month. Thanks to parishioners' contributions to Christ Church, Outreach can draw upon Vestry-approved funds to help those in need – locally, nationally, and internationally.

'Birdies for Bridges' Golf Tournament to be Held on Friday, Sept. 25

It's not too early to hit the practice greens. [**Bridges to Housing Stability**](#) will hold its annual [**Sheehy Toyota Birdies for Bridges Golf Tournament**](#) on Friday, Sept. 25, at The Timbers of Troy, 6100 Marshalee Dr., Elkridge, MD. Participants will help Bridges achieve its mission – advocating for affordable housing and helping individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

The tournament begins with a light breakfast, a shotgun start at 9 a.m., and a full day of golf, food, and awards. Check-in opens at 7:30 a.m. The cost for a single golfer is \$200, or \$800 for a foursome, which covers greens fees, unlimited range balls, food, and beverages.

The event is for a worthy cause. All proceeds from Birdies for Bridges will benefit Bridges and its work to provide a path to self-sufficiency to prevent and end homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy in Howard County.

Christ Church has supported Bridges in various ways since 2019, most recently last fall, when a group of volunteers spent several workdays refurbishing a Columbia townhouse. Known as [**Guilford House**](#), it is the residence of several returning citizens who have gotten their lives on track after incarceration. Bridges operates this transitional housing in partnership with the Howard County Department of Corrections.

Read about improvements – made indoors and out – by a team led by Vestry and Outreach member George Toth in the [**Outreach Blog of Dec.18, 2025**](#). “The transformation is night and day!” said Sarah Hicks, Affordable Housing Program Manager at Bridges.

Join Us for a Bike Ride that Supports a Great Cause - October 2

Ride4Refuge Columbia is a community bike ride on Friday, October 2, 2026 (Rain Date: October 9), where neighbors, congregations, and Global Refuge supporters will come together to ride 10, 20, or 30 miles [**in support of the Baltimore Welcome Center**](#). In honor of Global Refuge's 87th anniversary, riders are working together to raise \$87,000 to welcome immigrant and refugee families with compassion, dignity, and practical support.

The ride starts at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Episcopal Church - 6800 Oakland Mills Drive, Columbia, 21045. Sign-in starts at 9:30. This is an out-and-back ride, mostly on Columbia's safe and beautiful bike paths, though riders may choose shorter distances on the day of the ride. There will be a celebration and lunch at the end of the ride, back at the church.

Riders can register for the ride [**using the rider registration form link here**](#). Please share this with your riding friends! All riders must wear a helmet, bring their own water bottles, and sign a waiver on the day of the ride. All riders are expected to fundraise toward the \$87,000 goal and mobilize folks who aren't riding to donate to Global Refuge to support this effort.

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME, TOO! If you are interested in volunteering the day of the ride, [**please use this link**](#).



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson