

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, July 2, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 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 | God Bless America

Irving Berlin
Catherine Hinton, *soprano*

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.
 and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

Opening Acclamation |

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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.

People: Amen.

Glory to God | S280 Canticle 20 | *Gloria in excelsis*

setting: Robert Powell

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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Genesis 22:1-14 |

Reader: A reading from Genesis.

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 13 | *Usquequo, Domine?*

How long, O LORD?

will you forget me forever? *

how long will you hide your face from me?

How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,

and grief in my heart, day after day? *

how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; *

give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *

and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

But I put my trust in your mercy; *

my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; *

I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

A Reading from Romans 6:12-23 |

Reader: a reading from the Epistle to the Romans.

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 LEVAS 87 | More Love to Thee, O Christ

Elizabeth P. Prentiss/William H. Doane

1. More love to thee, O Christ, More love to thee!
2. Once earth - ly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest;
3. Then shall my ev - ery breath Sing out your praise;

1. Hear thou the prayer I make On bend - ed knee;
2. Now thee a - lone I seek, Give what is best;
3. This be the on - ly song My heart shall raise;

1. This is my ear - nest plea;
2. This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee,
3. This still my prayer shall be:

More love to thee, More love to thee!

The Gospel | Matthew 10:40-42

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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 Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

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.

Lord, today, tomorrow, and always, our spirits are called to attention by Your presence. We are asked to be witnesses of Your truth in our society today. We are called to attest to the sovereignty of God. Let us see and receive Your love and mercy, the real treasures of the soul. **May we hear and respond to the voice of the Lord.**

This week our country celebrates the birth of a nation founded to give religious freedom and opportunity to all. The signers of the Declaration of Independence envisioned a different type of government, one where the past did not determine the future and new lives could be created. We ask our Lord's blessing on our national, state, and local governments and for the gift of wisdom and leadership for our President, Joseph and all our elected representatives. We also pray for our spiritual leaders: our Presiding Bishop, Michael, our Diocesan Bishop, Eugene; our Bishop Coadjutor, Carrie; our Rector, Emmanuel; our Christ Church clergy, staff, and postulants; and our Rector Emeritus, Richard. We lift up the worldwide Church in the light of God, especially the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil – Province in the Anglican Communion and our sister parishes of St. John's, Mt. Washington; St. Katherine of Alexandria, Baltimore; and St. Mary the Virgin, Baltimore. **Lord, we are one Body in Christ.**

We warmly welcome all visitors and newcomers worshipping with us today. We are enriched by your presence and hope that our praise, prayers, and Eucharist bring you peace and joy. **Lord, we are so grateful for our community of faith.**

We pray for those ill in body, mind or spirit, especially Eileen, Dave, Mtr. Marcia, Fran, Doris, Patricia, Elizabeth, Patricia, Emily, Beth, Kellene, Richard, Shirley, Louise, Danny, Cindy, Roberta, Francis, Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those we now name. May they be given health and wholeness, and may they feel Christ's love in their lives. We ask our Lord's help for all those experiencing housing and food insecurity, unemployment, or struggles with family problems. We pray for those in military service, especially Kevin DeBossiere and Conner Warlow. Give each person the strength and courage to meet each day, trusting in the power of God. **Lord, reach out and heal those in need.**

We remember those who have died and entered God's eternal kingdom, especially Harriet Smith, and those we now name. May light perpetual shine on them and may God's grace surround them forever. Our thoughts and prayers are with their grieving families and friends. **Lord, let us live in faith and hope.**

Today we celebrate occasions of joy in our parish, especially the birthdays of Avery, Andrew, Donna, Beth, Frantz, Donna, Amanda & Dennis, and the wedding anniversaries of Shahra & George Toth. We are so blessed by the people in our congregation, who love and serve the Lord together. **Let us praise God.**

Christ's gift of abundant grace is powerful. Let us spread the Gospel to all who open their hearts and minds to listen and to change. Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in the world today. **Amen**

Confession of Sin |

Deacon: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
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 HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn LEVAS 221 | This Little Light of Mine

Horace Clarence Boyer

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it
 3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it

Oh

1. shine, This lit - tle light of mine,
 2. shine, Ev - 'ry - where I go,
 3. shine, Je - sus gave it to me,

Oh

1. I'm gon - na let it shine; This lit - tle light of
 2. I'm gon - na let it shine; Ev - 'ry - where I
 3. I'm gon - na let it shine; Je - sus gave it to

Oh

1. mine, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it
 2. go, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it
 3. me, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it

Oh

1. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 2. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 3. shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Vacation Bible School Dance | Vacation Bible School Students

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic 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...

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



Celebrant: 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."

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: 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.

All: **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 ur 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.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

The people stand as able.

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

Closing Hymn 717 | My Country, 'Tis of Thee

America

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of
 2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the
 3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from
 4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of

lib - er - ty, of thee I sing; land where my
 no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy
 all the trees sweet free - dom's song; let mor - tal
 lib - er - ty, to thee we sing; long may our

fa - thers died, land of the pil - grim's pride,
 rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;
 tongues a - wake, let all that breathe par - take,
 land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let freed - om ring.
 my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
 let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
 pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

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

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Sonni Aribiah

Ushers: Michon Semon, Diane LaGuerre

Chalicerist: Sonni Aribiah

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader:

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Cherry Williams

Acolytes and Crucifer: Setutsi Abdallah, Jonah Aribiah, Ava Kelso

Chalicerist: Mary Vail

Altar Guild

Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah

PARISH CALENDAR

JULY 2 – JULY 8

Sunday, July 2

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, July 3 – Church Office Closed

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 7:30 pm	Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Zoom

Tuesday, July 4 – Independence Day – Church Office Closed

12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level

Wednesday, July 5

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, July 6

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, July 7

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

Saturday, July 8

12:00 – 4:00 pm	AA BBQ/Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level & Field
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication, email 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.

Communion to You

In an effort to connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers *Communion to You*, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you want more information, **please complete this form** or **email** the Church Office.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2023 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltarflowers>. 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.

Office Closed - July 3 & 4

In observance of Independence Day, the Church Office will be closed Monday, July 3rd, and Tuesday, July 4th.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Gather with us on Mondays in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. for Centering Prayer, a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are. The Zoom link is **here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Password is **Centering!** For more info, email Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

First Wednesday Fellowship - July 5

Join us for our July FWF next Wednesday, July 5th, for a meal of summertime treats beginning at 6 p.m. followed by fun outdoor games of all sorts. Bring your outdoor games to share with everyone! If you need more info or have ideas for future FWF gatherings, please contact Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net.

Office Assistance - July 11

The Church Office needs a few people to help stuff envelopes for the upcoming quarterly statements. If you are available on Tuesday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m., please stop by or let Aisha know. Thank you.

Christ Church's Choir Camp - July 17

Make a joyful noise with handbells, singing, and music games at our Choir Camp! We welcome all singers ages 6-13 to join us from Monday, July 17th through Friday, July 21st, and we'll gather each day from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Tuition is \$30 per singer. Please speak with or email Larissa Sanders at music@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Theology on Tap - July 19

Get out of the summer heat and gather with friends to discuss interesting religious news of today with Theology on Tap! ToT is a get-together where you can chat about interesting religious articles of the day, grab a cool beverage of your choice, and enjoy informal, structure-free conversation with other parishioners. Join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19th at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia.

Vestry Candidates

It is time to nominate candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry. This year, there are four (4) slots open for election, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and are a giving member of record to Christ Episcopal Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to assist in guiding us, so we hope that you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting that's scheduled for Sunday, October 16th. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing **nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org** and they will give you more information.

Let's Go Cycling!

Enjoy a good bike ride? Diane Phillips LaGuerre (**phillipslaguerre@gmail.com**) and Kevin Osborn (**kevindosborn@gmail.com**) are organizing some short cycling trips that depart from CEC and will take advantage of bike lanes and trails around Columbia. There are some wonderful lakes and paved trails right outside our backyard, and they are great ways to see Columbia from a different perspective.

WOCC Summer Events

- **NEW DATE:** Friday, August 18th, 5:30 p.m. at Toby's Dinner Theater's "Margaritaville" - Join us with your family and friends at the theater for dinner and the musical. The sign-up sheet is in the Tower Room.
- Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, in New Brick and on Zoom.
- Saturday, September 16th – Annual Flea Market (Rain date: Sept. 23rd)

The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for this year. We have as many events as we could schedule on Saturdays so that more women can attend who are not able to come on weekdays. Email us at **WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Save the Date for Christ Church's Annual Auction!

And the countdown begins... in four months, we will hold Christ Church's 34th Annual Auction, and we'll host both an online and in-person, live auction again this year. Start thinking about great gifts and ideas that you can donate in order to help raise funds to support our common life, and keep watching this space as we gear up for online bidding during the week leading up to a fun-filled evening on Saturday, November 4th! If you have any questions, please email **auction@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We have begun gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th year, but we're always looking for more input, so join us! This celebration is such an important milestone for our church, and we want participation and ideas from as many of us as possible. There are a variety of committees that you can serve on and so we would like to encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you have ideas, are interested in assisting, or would like more information, please speak with Father Manny or email **300@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Save the Date: On Sunday, July 23, Enjoy a Coffee Hour (In-Person or Online) While Zoom Takes Us to Uganda with Friends of Sabina

What's life like in rural Uganda? Find the answer and hear why opportunities are greater for 345 students at Sabina Boarding Primary School, which Christ Church supports through the nonprofit, **Friends of Sabina** (FOS). At noon on July 23rd, parishioners are invited to join our annual Zoom Coffee Hour with FOS leaders Maria White and Ann

Marie Davis for an update and question-and-answer session. Because Ann Marie will be on-site in Saanje, Uganda, it's possible Sabina students will be able to take part in the informative show-and-tell. Maria will join remotely from the United States.

Don't miss the virtual trip – or the homemade baked goods – that you can enjoy downstairs in the Great Hall of New Brick after the conclusion of the 10:30 Worship Service. Outreach members will offer coffee, tea, beverages, and snacks during an approximately 30-minute actual coffee hour for parishioners and any others whom you wish to invite to the presentation. At noon, we'll gather at the projector and laptop and Zoom to Uganda. Or people can log on from a device remotely.

The session will run from noon until 1:30 p.m., which allows time for a Q&A with parishioners who began sponsoring individual students at Sabina in 2020. You'll find a photo collage of seven of the nine children, pictured at that point in time, on the **FOS page** of the Christ Church website.

The youngsters come from families who otherwise cannot afford their schooling, and sponsors commit to fund an annual scholarship and to keep in touch. One aim is to form relationships, like family across the miles. FOS helps accomplish that goal by encouraging an exchange of letters and occasional video calls.

Christ Church became a supporter of Sabina Primary School more than a decade ago when parishioners helped establish a library. Since then, several have traveled there, including the Aribiahs whose personal ties go back to Teddy Aribiah's childhood. The Outreach Commission continues to support the library. In addition to Sabina's students, nearby residents have come to rely on it as a resource center. At the March Outreach meeting, members approved spending \$2,500 to pay the librarian's salary, periodical subscriptions, and a portion of internet service. Funds come from the Vestry-approved, 2023 Outreach budget that is derived from your pledges and contributions. On behalf of Sabina's students and neighbors, thanks to all! And plan to see the progress for yourself during the Zoom coffee hour later this month.

CCC Seeks Volunteers as Translators and Sorters for Its Pantry Deliveries, Continues to Request Diapers, Personal Care Items

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. Look for updates, such as requests for volunteers who can serve as Spanish translators, posted in the **CCC Facebook Group** or on the **"I Can Help" portion of its website**.

For example, you'll find many slots in July remain open on **a CCC volunteer signup form** for translators. They're part of a team who arranges home deliveries for those lacking transportation to obtain free groceries. Other volunteers make the deliveries or sort 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** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill its shopping lists. Please put items in a basket that has been returned to the altar. Or drop them in the yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Supplies

Our parish enjoys an ongoing partnership with Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS). Just over a mile away, LEMS is truly our neighboring school, and at Christ Episcopal Church we believe we should love our neighbors. We established this partnership because many LEMS families are financially stressed.

One measure of whether a student lives in a family that is financially challenged is if they meet the federal guidelines for free and reduced meals (FARMS). In Howard County overall, about 14% of students qualify for free and reduced meals. However, at LEMS over 48.5% of LEMS students qualify for FARMS, the highest percentage amongst the middle schools in the county.

To help alleviate the financial hardship of parents having to buy school-required supplies (at a cost of \$50 per child), Christ Church will once again provide school supplies for 125 children for the 2023-2024 school year. The school will distribute the supplies the week of Aug 21st, so we are requesting your generous financial support now to reach this important goal. We also will need your help delivering the supplies that week.

Contributions can be made via check, online, or via text. If you'd like to write a check, please make sure you indicate "LEMS School Supplies" on the memo line. If you'd like to give online, please also write "School Supplies" in the Memo line. If you have questions about our LEMS partnership or would like to help, please contact Cathy Whittaker (catharinewhittaker@gmail.com) or Mary Vail (mevail@verizon.net). Thank you for your support!

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

CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

In May, we showed a positive net income. There were a few factors that drove this. Pledged giving continues to be in line with our commitments and Plate Offerings continue to be strong. Lastly, careful management of expenses by the various ministries continues to hold overall expenses below budget.

Drew Eaton, Treasurer

The most recent monthly report can be read [HERE](#).

We want to thank YOU.

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

Text Giving

You can 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 toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

Thank you very much for your support of our vital common life.

Help Us in Welcoming the Newest Christ Church Staff Member!

It brings great joy to share with you the news that Kiona Lookingbill was recently called to serve as our Director of Youth and Family Ministries, and she begins in July. As you see her around campus, please give Kiona, her husband, Josiah, and her son, Marcus, a warm Christ Church welcome.

You can also email Kiona at kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org

About Kiona:

Kiona Lookingbill (M.Div., BCC) was born to Korean immigrant parents in Chicago, IL. Her family lived in Champagne-Urbana, IL, and Whitewater, WI before moving to South Korea. Kiona went to elementary school there; middle school in (then) West Germany; graduated from High School of Music & Arts in Classical Piano in Seoul, Korea; and has a B.A. in Business Administration from Ewha Woman's University (not a typo), the largest woman's university of the world started by missionaries, who started higher education for women.

Kiona lived nine years in Kyrgyzstan, where she did mission support work, taught math & ESL at an international school, and served as pianist and youth leader at the International Church of Bishkek. Inspired by her missionary friends, Kiona sought a theological education at Fuller Theological Seminary, where she graduated with a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Family Pastoral Care & Counseling and a full scholarship. Kiona and her seminary friend, Josiah, got married after graduation; together they moved to Beijing, China, and taught ESL for over four years. They returned upon the birth of their son, Marcus.

All her life, Kiona has served the church using her talents: piano accompaniment, choir direction, youth ministry, outreach, and overseas missions. For the past two years, Kiona has served at St. John's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City as the day school chaplain and director of Children's Faith Formation. Kiona is a hospice chaplain who was trained at Mount Sinai, Chicago for her internship and at The Johns Hopkins Hospital for her residency.

Kiona is a postulant for Holy Orders. She completed her internship at St. John's, Ellicott City as well as her Diploma in Anglican Studies through the Stevenson School of Ministry, Lancaster Theological Seminary. Additionally, Kiona was trained in Godly Play and Walking the Mourners' Path facilitation.

Josiah Lookingbill, an HCPS educator, and Kiona have been married for eleven years. Together, they have a soon-to-be 7-year-old son Marcus, whose passion is all things Pokemon. The Lookingbills currently reside in Ellicott City and will soon be residing in Columbia.



Be a Joyful Gift to Others

A few days ago, I visited a couple who are parishioners. This beloved couple has experienced some devastating loss in recent times, the most recent being the loss of a dear friend of many, many years. There is no doubt that as we age gracefully, we will lose some of our dear ones who may be family, friends, and colleagues. The loss is ever so sharp and profound, especially when we are very close to the ones we've lost.

As we sat and talked, they asked a question: “Do you have control of your day?” In other words, do you exercise control over what happens in your day? I thought that was an interesting question. I don’t remember being asked a similar question, but it certainly gave me a pause and alerted me to how I even spend and prioritize my day, if it's ever possible. I have since thought a lot about this question, about how much control I have over my day... and if I even have control at all.

“I don’t have any control over my day,” I responded. I may plan to do X, Y, or Z; sometimes I get to all of them, and other times I get to none of them or some of them. Mostly, though, I don’t have control over my day.

I then shared a story with the couple, one about a phone call I received from another parishioner. This parishioner reached out to me about a friend in hospice. The friend isn’t affiliated with any congregation but is an Anglican, and his family would very much love to have a priest visit, anoint, and pray with them before he passes. The parishioner asked if she could give my number to the wife. “Absolutely yes,” I told them.

The wife of this friend called me and asked if I could visit, anoint, and pray for the dying husband, and I told her that I could. She then told me that earlier in life, the husband was enrolled in a seminary to become an Anglican priest when his father passed away. He had to drop out of seminary because of losing his father and she believed that it would mean a lot to him to have me visit, so I took down her address and went over to anoint and pray for the dying husband. When I arrived, I met the daughter, son, and brother of the dying man, as well as his wife. All were so gracious and glad that I made the long trip from Columbia to Washington, D.C. to offer this. Their joy was palpable. The gentleman has since passed on and I have been invited to officiate at his memorial.

(continued)



I share these two stories with you to make the point that embedded in both stories was an attempt to offer some amount of joy to others. More than that, there were attempts to be a gift of joy to those who were experiencing loss, sorrow, pain, distress, and hurt. It was a joy to be present with these two families and to share with them that God's abiding presence never ceases; in fact, his mercies never end, as they are new every morning. The reality is that it takes both you and me to bring this joy to others.

Last Sunday, members of Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission gathered together after worship to prayerfully consider the theme for our next year. After much discussion, we decided on this theme "*Be A Joyful Gift To Others.*" Romans 12 became the scripture foundation for this theme, one whose text calls upon us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. More than that, it reminds us of the ultimate gift that we are to one another.

I love verses 6-8:

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Granted that we are each a gift to the other; to be a true gift is an invitation, a solemn invitation to not only be a gift, but a **joyful** gift. To be a joyful gift to others truly acknowledges the unique ability and potential in us to be able to do anything, more than we can ever imagine for others. Our sole call isn't only about doing something but doing it cheerfully. St. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that *God loves a cheerful giver*. Are you a cheerful giver? Do you ever consider yourself as a gift who likes to give of the self with a deep sense of joy?

I am sure you can also tell stories like mine to highlight the joyful gift you have been to another person. If you have, I'd like for you to continue on that path. Don't give up on the unique quality in you. Don't give up on your ability to let the gift in you shine forth - even in the direst of circumstances. Don't give up on doing more than is required of you. Don't give up on your ability to inspire others with the gift of yourself - the one gift that you can freely and joyfully offer to all.

Indeed, you and I may not have control over our day, but we have control over how to be a gift that gives to others and does so joyfully.

If God indeed loves a cheerful giver, I have no doubt that God loves your joyful, giving self.

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Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

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

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

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