



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST
6800 OAKLAND MILLS ROAD, COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG



Pentecost

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026
10:00 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:

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.

CHILDREN'S WELCOME SONG | Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Traditional

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!
Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!

OPENING HYMN 225 | Hail Thee, Festival Day!

Salve festa dies

Refrain



Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! blest day that art hal - lowed for



ev - er, day when the Ho - ly Ghost shone in the



world with God's grace. grace.



1 Lo, in the like - ness of fire, on those who a -
3 Hark! for in myr - i - ad tongues Christ's own, his—



wait his ap - pear - ing, he whom the
cho - sen a - pos - tles, preach to the

Repeat Refrain



Lord fore - told sud - den - ly, swift - ly, de - scends:
ends of the earth Christ and his won - der - ful works:



2 Forth from the Fa - ther he comes with seven - fold—
4 Praise to the Spi - rit of Life, all praise to the



my - sti - cal of - fering, pou - ring on all hu - man
fount of our be - ing, light that dost light - en—

Repeat Refrain



souls in - fin - ite rich - es of God:
all, life that in all dost a - bide:

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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 | Melodic Gloria

James J. Cheppon

REFRAIN:

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Choir: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. *Refrain*

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Refrain

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

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

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

Reader: *A reading from Acts.*

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

'Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Read by Bill Kirkpatrick in Turkish
Read by Sara Kirkpatrick in Portuguese

Psalm 104:25-35,37 | *Benedic, anima mea*

O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; *
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!

Reader: *A reading from 1st Corinthians.*

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS 112 | Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

Lambillotte

1. Come, Ho - ly ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And in our
 2. O Com - fort - cr, to thee we cry, Thou heav'n - ly
 3. O Ho - ly Ghost, through thee a - lone, Know we the
 4. Praise we the Lord, Fa - ther and Son, And Ho - ly

1. hearts_ take up_ thy rest;_ Come with thy grace_
 2. gift_ of God_ most high;_ Thou fount of life,_
 3. Fa - ther and_ the Son;_ Be this our firm_
 4. Spir - it with_ them one;_ And may the Son_

1. and heav'n-ly aid_____ To fill the hearts_ which_ thou hast
 2. and fire of love,_____ And sweet a - noint - ing_ from_ a -
 3. un - chang - ing creed,_____ That thou dost from_ them_ both pro -
 4. on us be - stow_____ All gifts that from_ the_ Spir - it

1. made,_____ To fill the hearts_ which_ thou_ hast made.
 2. bove,_____ And sweet a - noint - ing_ from_ a - bove.
 3. ceed,_____ That thou dost from_ them_ both_ pro - ceed.
 4. flow,_____ All gifts that from_ the_ Spir - it flow.

THE GOSPEL | John 7:37-39

Read by Alex Amponsah in Twi
 Read by Rev. Marcia Davenport in German

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

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

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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,

5
 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

9 Optional Ending

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

13

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato 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 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.

Spirit of the Living God, Spirit of Truth, be with us on this day of Pentecost. Luke in the book of Acts shared that a tongue of fire rested on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they were able to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability. May we know and may we learn in our hearts and in our lives to speak each of the languages of all people on this earth, not simply through our words but through the language of our love and our actions and through our care on this planet Earth of one another in our lives.

This day we give thanks, with all that we are, for the beginning of the Christian Church. Jesus' promise to us that he would send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled and today, as we celebrate Pentecost, we are each reminded that the Spirit of the Living God falls freshly on each of us and is beside us and within us every single day that we live. **God is with us!**

We pray for our world and we pray for our country that each of us may never forget that we, a nation of immigrants, are all sisters and brothers in God's family on this planet Earth; each created by Him and saved by the most incredible sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, and each watched over with love and care and forgiveness, every single day by His Holy Spirit. our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel, our gifted Director of Music, Larissa, and our extraordinary Director of Communications, Chris, who has kept us linked as one in heart, mind, spirit and faith. We pray, in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. Within our own Diocese we pray for: Sherwood, Cockeysville; Trinity, Towson and All Hallows, Davidsonville. Father God, Lord and Savior Jesus, we each give our deepest thanks for your Church and for your Holy Spirit in our world and in our Lives. **Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on us with each new day.**

Father God, we pray for You to protect, heal and watch over all who are ill and in need of care this week, especially Brandon, Lisa, Rita, Robin, Steve, Jim, Kaci, Kristin, Carol, MaryAnn, Alta, Ashley, Kimberly, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry. **Father God, we pray, we praise you and we give you thanks.**

We pray for all this week who have passed from this life into new and eternal life at home with you, Heavenly Father, especially for Nell Boynton, Barbara Frith & Thomas Day. **May they each be held closely in the loving arms of God in their eternal home.**

We pray for all celebrations this week, especially birthdays of Suzanne, Skip, Havilynd, Mtr. Marcia, Brad, Karey, Carlo, Kimberly, Jennifer, Steve & Alex, and wedding anniversaries of Sonni & Teddy Aribiah, and Dennis & Jenn Atkins, and baptismal anniversaries of Lorraine, Alexander, Kimberly, Phillip, Gardiner and Cindy, and the graduations of Luke Aribiah, Javier Hernandez, Monica Henia & Shereen Benka-Coker. **May their year ahead be filled with peace, love, and joy.**

God, who is love, help us to be your love in this world, God, who gives us hope eternal, we pray to you. 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Rushing Mighty Wind

*based on Acts 2:1-4, by Tammy Waldrop
Handbell Choir*

Please scan to give.



PRESENTATION HYMN 400 vs 7 |

Lasst uns Erfreuen

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC 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.

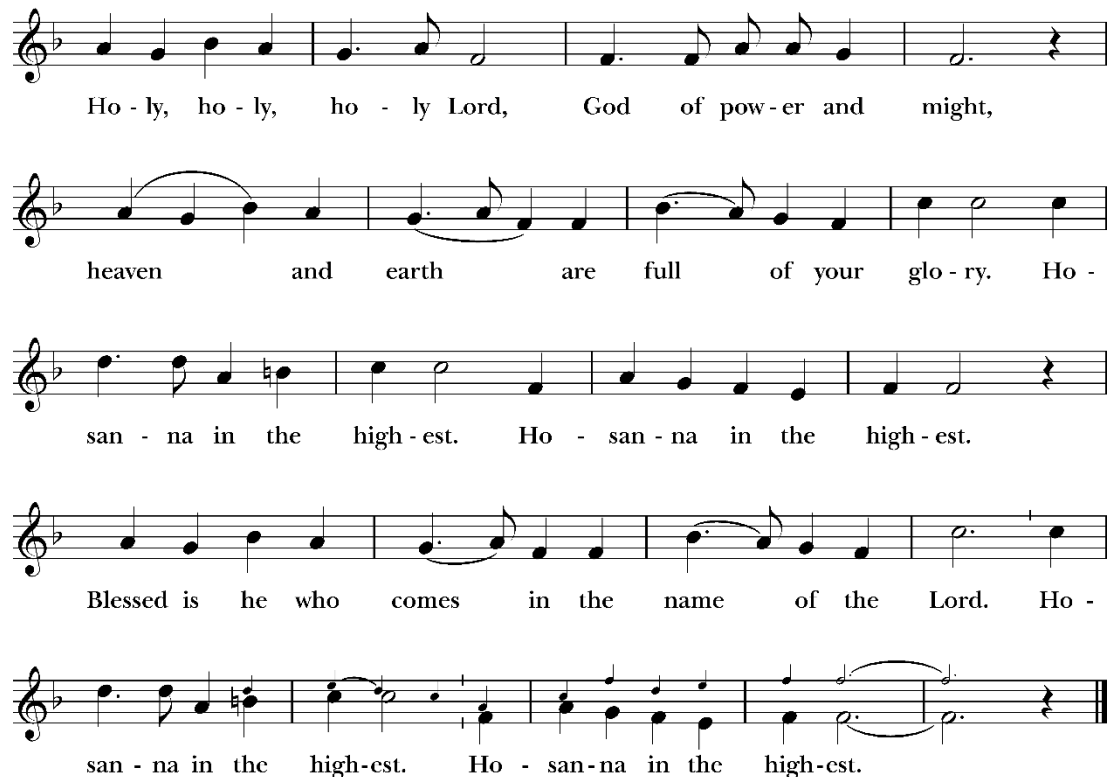
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

"Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

***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 S171 | Mode 6 melody;

adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

This setting is not used in Lent.

Antiphon: Cantor; then All



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

Cantor
1. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, from heav - en shine forth
with your glo - rious light. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

2. Come from the four winds, O Spir - it, come breath of God; dis -
perse the shad - ows ov - er us, re - new and strength - en your
peo - ple. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | South African Praises

Collected by Anders Nyberg,
arr. Stephan P. Barnicle

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

Unison or harmony

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

3
 him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

6
 ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE | Postlude on McKee

Gilbert Martin

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Assisting in Worship Today

10:00 a.m. Service

Altar Guild: Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah

Acolytes: Avery Leeman, Malcolm Leeman, Margaret Taulbee,
Abigail Boyer, Anya Sheriff, Wynstan Eguakun

Chalicians: Cheryl Lucente, Trina Neff

Lectors/Readers: Bill Kirkpatrick, Shahra Toth, Jonelle Ocloo,
Jane Adams, Sara Kirkpatrick, Pamela Pruitt,
Daphne Ntiri, Rev. Marcia Davenport

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

Tellers : Brian Farnandis, Kenny Okeke, Leanne Sheriff



PARISH CALENDAR

MAY 24 – 30, 2026

Sunday, May 24

10:00 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm Tabernacle of David – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM) – Parish Hall, CR & Zoom
1:15 – 5:00 pm Sundays @ 3 – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, May 25

All Day Memorial Day – Office Closed
7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, May 26

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm Coffee Hour - Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm Vestry Meeting – New Brick, LL & Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm 300 yr Communications Comm. Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

Thursday, May 28

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 Practice – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, May 29

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Thomas Day Memorial Service – New Brick, UL
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, May 30

1:30 – 5:30 pm Ying Shue Recital – New Brick, UL
5:00 – 9:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm Altar Guild prep
4:00 – 11:30 pm Thompson Event – New Brick, LL



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

Church Office Closed - Next Monday, May 25

Please note that the Church Office will be closed for business next Monday, May 25th. This is in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. The Church Office will reopen on Tuesday morning, May 26, for regular business hours, but if you need pastoral care on that day, please email Father Manny at revmanny@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.

We Are Extending Family Worship into June!

Instead of starting our summer break of the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship at the end of this month, we have decided to have a few more Sundays of this special service! So now, Christ Church will continue to have Family Worship through Sunday morning, June 21. Then mark your calendars - the 2026-27 season of Family Worship will begin on Sunday, September 13, as will Sunday School and all formation classes.

Spring Family BBQ & Picnic - June 14

The Men of Christ Church have rescheduled this weekend's Spring Family BBQ & Picnic for a later (and likely warmer) day and date - Sunday, June 14. This no-charge event is a new MOCC fellowship gathering that connects generations and celebrates our church family. All ages are welcome - there will be a moon bounce for the children, and fun, food, and drink for everyone.

Their raffle drawing has also been moved, which means you still have time to get in on it! Tickets are \$10 each, and three for \$20. That's right - if you buy two tickets, you get one free, which sounds like a pretty good deal. Proceeds are split 50/50 between the winner and supporting MOCC Outreach programs and events. Speak with Duane, Ed, Sonni, or any MOCC member, or email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

The MOCC are providing all the grillables, but are asking for a little side support to make this event the best possible community gathering of the year. **Please sign up to contribute items for the event.** If snacks or condiments are not your preference, you can also sign up to help with setup or cleanup on the day of the event. Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

The WOCC Summer Tea - June 20

A beloved annual event is back for 2026, and everyone is welcome to join us! The WOCC are hosting their Summer Tea on Saturday, June 20 at 11:00, so make your reservations with us as soon as possible. We gather at the Kate Pearl Tea Room in Sykesville for a few hours of delicious fruit, scones, pastries, tea sandwiches, sweets, and of course, delicious TEA!

This year, the cost for the event is \$44., which includes gratuity and all charges. The deadline for signing up is June 14, and you can do so in the Narthex of New Brick or by emailing WOCC@ChristChurchColumbia.org and letting them know

you are interested. You can then process payment by placing a check or cash in an envelope into the teapot on the table in the Narthex, or by paying online via Realm (select the WOCC fund and write "Tea" in the memo line).

Carpooling is also available, so if you would like to do this, please speak with any WOCC member or email us at the address above. We look forward to having you join us!

Get Ready for Another Summer of VBS!

Christ Church's Vacation Bible School and Choir Camp takes place this summer from Monday, June 22, to Friday, June 26, and gathers daily from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Then, after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service on June 28, we'll have a wonderful ice cream celebration for all VBS&CC participants! At VBS&CC, children will enjoy a week of Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and making new friends and seeing old ones! Snacks, lunch, and refreshments are served daily, and the program is staffed by our wonderful Christ Church parishioners, many of whom have been a part of VBS and our Choir for years.

The registration form for VBS&CC can be completed here. If you have multiple children to register, please complete a separate form for each child. The tuition is \$30/child or \$75/family, and **you can process your tuition payment here.** Volunteers are also needed, so join us and have fun! **Please email us** if you'd like to assist with the program or have any questions.

We 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, the truth is that it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish that it is. You can help your church by volunteering to be a Reader, Chalcist, Teller, the Inreach Ministry, or by 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, please 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.

New Brick Upgrades that Begin with an Incredibly Generous Gift

Recently, a gift of \$10,000 was given to Christ Church in honor of Mollie McCoy (1926-2026) by her family, the Abbotts, to assist with significant audio upgrades in New Brick. Her family is asking that fellow parishioners please prayerfully consider a gift to help match their donation, and as the Abbotts tell us, "Whether with \$25 or \$2500, please respond if you feel called, so that we can all hear the Spirit more clearly!"

Our equipment is OLD, and it has certainly seen better days (yes, the image here is one of our broken speakers, since repaired). Like all technology these days, commercial audio gear like ours is not inexpensive, but we aim to purchase items that will not only provide great value and longevity but also enhance today's worship and support New Brick's future plans. From additional microphones to cover all our clergy and guests on a given Sunday, to assistive hearing systems for the hearing-impaired, and much more, we're looking to meet our current goals and build toward the next few decades. How extensive we can go depends entirely on how much we can allocate to the project, and your generous donations will go a long way towards fulfilling our many needs. Please visit CEEvents.org/Audio if you feel called to help match their contribution. If you have any questions, please email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Father Manny. A humble and deeply heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the Abbotts - and to you, in advance, for your consideration.

Volunteers Collect More Than a Thousand Pounds of Goods During the Christ Church Spring Food Drive at River Hill Giant Supermarket

Christ Church volunteers succeeded during the Spring Food Drive on Saturday, May 16, in collecting 1,103 pounds of food and staples for the [Howard County Food Bank](#) and its partner pantry, [SAFE](#).

The collection for the Food Bank at Monday's weigh-in amounted to 828 pounds of food and 112 pounds of other goods such as diapers and toiletries. SAFE's gluten-free goods weighed 163 pounds, with the top donations being cans of tuna and jars of peanut butter at 33 pounds each.

Sonni Aribiah delivered SAFE's batch of containers on Saturday, and George and Shahra Toth hauled the bulk of the collection to the Food Bank on Monday. But the real action began at mid-morning on Saturday outside the River Hill Giant supermarket in Clarksville. Our multi-generation teams included a mother-son pair and a mom and two sons. (see photos).

When volunteers from Christ Church approached customers with our list of requested items, dozens responded by saying they were glad for the opportunity to assist hungry neighbors. Some families encouraged their children to help in handing off the purchases, proudly giving to others. Young and old purchased many items on our list, ranging from canned soups and vegetables to huge bags of rice. Several parishioners also pitched in by shopping generously to fulfil the pantries' needs.

This drive differed from our previous efforts due to corporate restrictions on the number of volunteers and the earlier time slot. Christ Church began holding a Spring and Fall Food Drive at various locations of Giant Food, selected as the most welcoming retailer, since 2018 with a break during the pandemic. During some other years, the four-hour drive has yielded a ton of non-perishables.

This spring, some people preferred to give monetarily and an increasing number donated directly online to the [Community Action Council of Howard County](#) (CAC). The drive raised \$267 in cash for CAC, which operates the food bank.

"Thank you so much for all the support to CAC," responded its representative, acknowledging our church's continuing partnership with the nonprofit.

SAFE leaders wrote: "Rest assured that these donations will make a difference to the many clients we serve. As always, we deeply appreciate the time and effort of all congregants who participated in the food drive on our behalf...Thank you for helping us to continue serving our clients in these challenging times."

For all who played a part in the Spring Food Drive, at the store or behind the scene, thanks to each and every one for doing God's work!

Save the Date: SLYC Leaders Will Visit Christ Church on Sunday, May 31

Please plan to welcome leaders of St. Luke's Youth Center ([SLYC](#)), a collaborative of West Baltimore families who together provide youth with life-enriching experiences. On Sunday, May 31, we'll hear from the SLYC team during announcements at the worship services, and Executive Director Amanda Gardner Talbot will conduct Sunday Circle.

To learn more about the spiritual underpinnings of SLYC, plan to attend Sunday Circle in person or on Zoom from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Talbot will speak on this Spring's theme, "Voices of the Gospel."

Parishioners can get better acquainted with the SLYC team during coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. service. It will be a great chance to learn about volunteer opportunities at SLYC's [Camp Imagination](#), a day camp held at a cooperating parish in Linthicum, MD.

Every summer, young people in the SLYC program engage in arts and literacy activities during five weeks of day camp followed by one week of sleepaway camp at the Claggett Center. To support that effort, Outreach Commission members recently voted to cover the cost of two children for all six weeks by contributing \$3,600 to SLYC. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Thank you!





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*
The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*
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