

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, September 1, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Home!

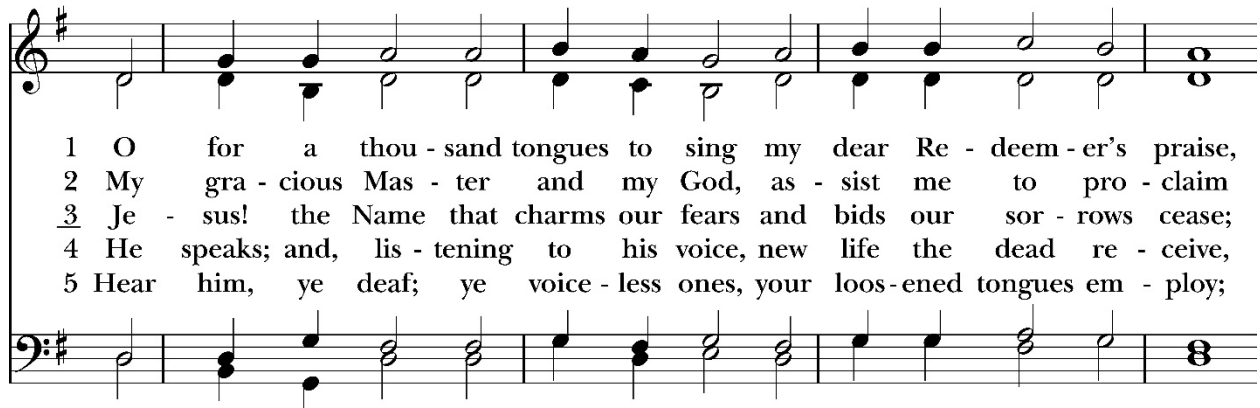
Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone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

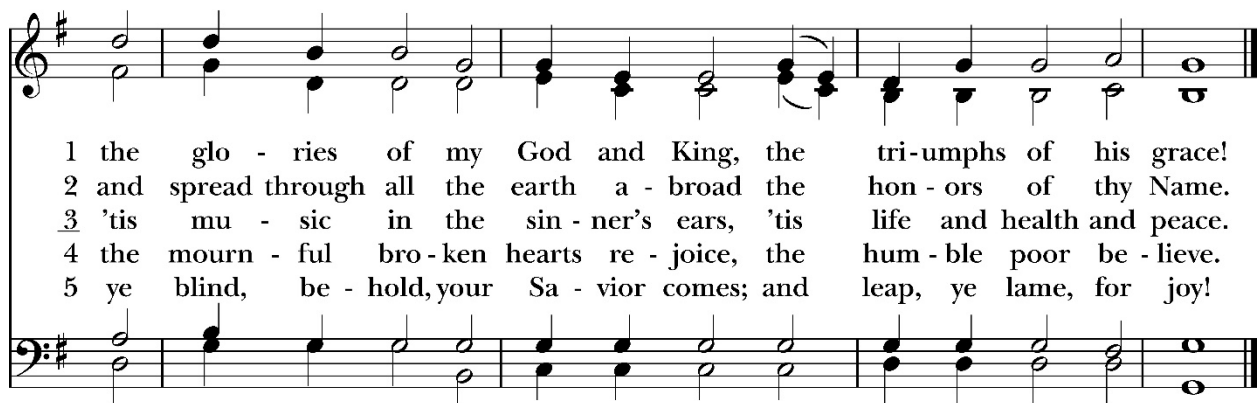
Prelude |

Opening Hymn 493 | O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heayen.

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. **Amen.**

Gloria S 280 | Glory to God

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 - 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 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



The Collect |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. ***Amen.***

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 |

Reader: A reading from Deuteronomy.

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half verse.

Psalm 15 | *Domine, quis habitabit?*

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil to his friend; *

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *

but he honors those who fear the LORD.

He has sworn to do no wrong *

and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, *

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things *

shall never be overthrown.

A Reading from James 1:17-27 |

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 660 | O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

Maryton

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee in clos - er,
4 in hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice free; tell me thy se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - ening way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
thou canst give, with thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

The Gospel | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

continued

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Deacon: 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-eousness,

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

9 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.

Sermon | Jonathan Smith

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed |

All: **We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People |

Lord, thank You for giving us work to do. No matter how great or small the task, no matter how great or small we feel, we know we can accomplish whatever you set before us, because You are our strength. When we take time to listen, we know You give us everything we need. Please help us to remember that all the labors of our hands and hearts are for the glory of Your name. **Lord, help us do Your will.**

Thank You for making us creative and inquisitive. As the new school year begins, please help us to look for You in everything we learn and everything we teach. We thank You for our students, teachers, and everyone who supports them, and for the freedom to learn. **Lord, help us do Your will.**

We pray that all Your children around the world and here at home will together accomplish many acts of love every day. We pray for our spiritual leaders, especially for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Presiding Bishop-Elect, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop, Carrie; and for Christ Church's clergy, staff, and vestry. In the Anglican communion, we pray for Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola. In our diocese, we pray for the parishes of Emmanuel, Baltimore; Grace & St. Peter's, Baltimore; and Guardian Angel, Baltimore. May we strengthen each other in faith through our prayers. **Lord, help us do Your will.**

Thank you for joining us today! Whether you are here for the first time, the first time in a long time, or have been here for years, we welcome you! Our communal prayers make a difference to all of us, and we thank you for the simple act of sharing yourself in our celebration of love. **Lord, help us do Your will.**

Lord, we know You give strength and peace to those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Please help us to open our hearts to You when we need healing and to be ready to serve as Your instrument for others in need. We pray especially for: Edvon, Kitzel, Claudia, Sarah, Jay, Rachan, Ian, Leigh, Ron, Jerry, Dick, Kristin, Dawn, Kim, Sabrina, Brian, Jim, Erica, Marilyn, Carolyn, Mary Ann, Barbara, Cindy, Tim, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred, and Nell, and those we name. Help us to share one another's burdens so that all burdens will be lighter. **Lord, help us do Your will.**

Thank You, Lord, for all those who have gone before us. We pray especially for those we name silently or aloud. May the love they shared in life continue to touch our hearts. For those who mourn, may they feel Your gentle touch through the love of others. **Lord, help us do Your will.**

Let us always remember to take a moment to celebrate the many blessings in our lives. This week we celebrate the birthdays of Jenn, Denise, Beryl, Pauline, Lee, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Janet, Jonathan & Joey, wedding anniversaries of Marquis & Greta Barnes, Tim & Sherry Beaty, and baptismal anniversaries of Patricia, Bob & Lamere. **Lord, help us do Your will.**

Lord, all our labor belongs to You. Even when our hands are resting, please let our hearts be always ready to love. In Your name we pray, **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.

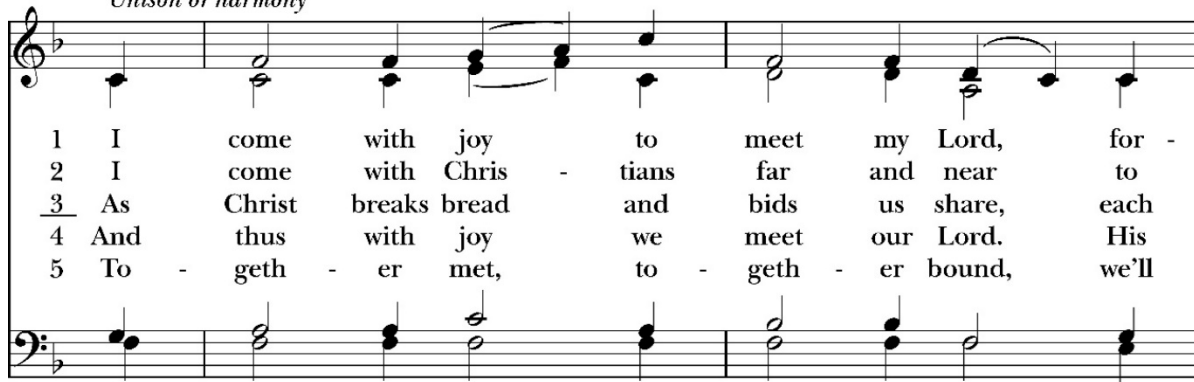
Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 304 | I Come with Joy

Land of Rest

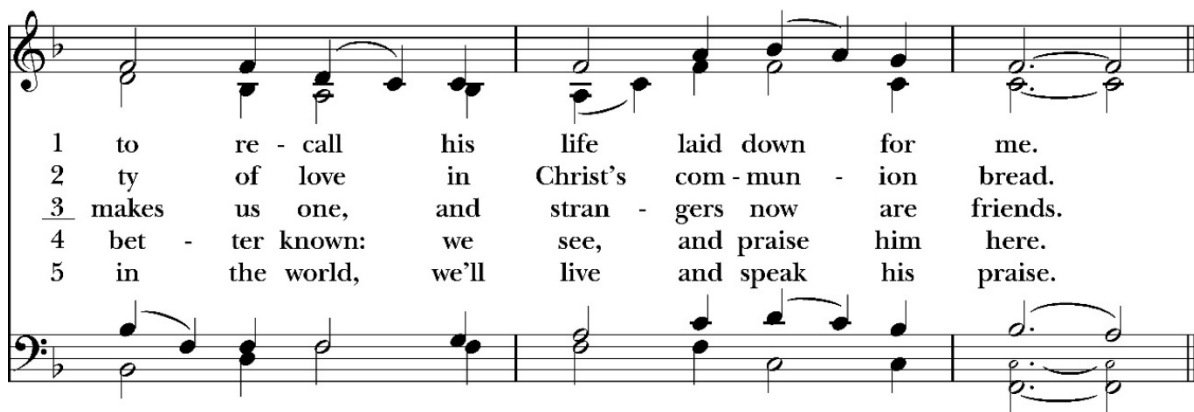
Unison or harmony



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Please scan to give.



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.

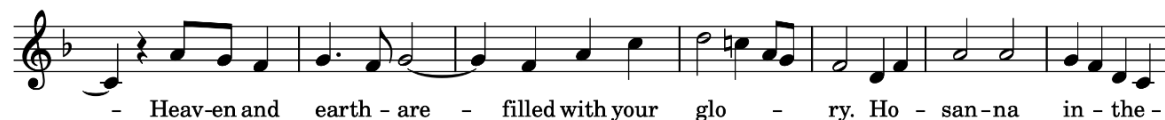
***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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."

All: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
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: 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.**

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 151 | One Bread, One Body

John B. Foley

One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all, one cup of
bless - ing which we bless. And we, though

man - y, through - out the earth, We are one

Last time ⊕

bod - y in this one Lord.

Last time ⊕

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the
3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free, wom - an or man,
 2. works, one in the Lord
 3. grown, gath - ered to one

1. — no more. One
 2. — of all. One
 3. — for all. One

D.S.

⊕ CODA

Lord.

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.

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.

Closing Hymn 293 | I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Grand Isle

1 I sing a song of the saints of God,——
2 They loved their Lord so—— dear, so dear, and——
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are

pa - tient and brave and true, who—— toiled and—— fought and——
his love—— made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for——
hund-reds of thou-sands still, the—— world is—— bright with the

lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And——
Je - sus' sake, the—— whole of their good lives long. And——
joy - ous saints who—— love to do Je - sus' will. You can

one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -
one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was—— slain
meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,

herd - ess on the—— green: they were all of them saints of——
by a fierce wild—— beast; and there's not an - y rea - son——
or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of—— God are just

God— and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.
folk like—— me, and I mean to be one too.

Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Sonni Aribiah

Ushers: Kayode Williams, Onyx Williams

Chalicerist: Sonni Aribiah

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Kathy Lyon

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

Acolytes and Crucifer: Alex Opiri, Ainsley Couch, Jasmine Opiri

Chalicerists: Ivy Amponsah & Cheryl Lucente

Altar Guild

Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah, Ed Koharik, Nicole Moon-Koharik

Tellers

Cherry Williams, Brian Fernandis, Yetti Lipede

CELEBRANT FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

The Rev. Marcia Davenport



WALK BLAMELESSLY
DO WHAT IS RIGHT
SPEAK TRUTH

PSALM 15:2

PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1 TO SEPTEMBER 8

Sunday, September 1

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – 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 – 2:30 pm	Sunday School Meeting – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, September 2 – Labor Day – Church Office Closed

7:00 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
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Tuesday, September 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 10:00 pm	WOCC Meeting – New Brick, lower level & Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 yr Race & Slavery Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, September 4

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, September 5

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Sundays at Three Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, September 6

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 11:00 pm	Event Rental Setup – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, September 7

9:00 – 10:00 am	Cycling & Fellowship
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
4:00 – 10:00 pm	Sundays at Three Rehearsal – New Brick lower level
6:00 – 12:00 am	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

IN CELEBRATION

OF HER MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH



WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE CONSIDER
CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS OUR GIFT OF THANKS
FOR DEACON DENISE.



WRITE "DEACON DENISE" IN THE MEMO LINE
ON REALM OR A CHECK.

Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,

email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

ONE WEEK LEFT - Register Now for Sunday School!

Children and Youth Faith Formation, beginning next Sunday, September 8th, is open to all ages pre-k through 12th grade and is designed to develop and enrich their spiritual lives and deepen their relationship with God. Throughout the year, we will offer Bible-based teachings and also have time to explore some of the interests and/or issues our younger parishioners face. It's an important program that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year! Visit our website for more details and registration form links: www.christchurchcolumbia.org/youth-formation

Church Office is Closed Monday

In observance of Labor Day, the Church Office will be closed this Monday, September 2, and reopen on Tuesday.

Centering Prayer - Monday

Centering Prayer is a weekly evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596** and the Passcode is **Centering!** You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church, or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

WOCC's September Meeting - Monday

The WOCC holds its first meeting for the second half of 2024 on Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:30 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, so you're welcome to gather with us in New Brick or on Zoom - the link is here, the Meeting ID is **843 0204 4790** and the Passcode is **cecWOCC**. The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick and on our website and contains all the fun events planned for the rest of this year. Come join us for these events! Speak to any WOCC member, or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

First Wednesday Fellowship - September 4

September's FWF will be on September 4th, and our theme - *Restart in September* - centers around a healthy kick-off for fall! Gather with us at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall as we try and return to healthy routines and habits after the summer. There will be a delicious and nutritious meal for dinner, along with a special challenge to participate in during the month - and those of you who bring their completed challenge back at the October FWF will be entered into an amazing gift card drawing!

Christ Church Choir - Thursday

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! The choir begins rehearsing again in New Brick starting this evening, August 29th, and people of all ages are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sundays or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Movie Night at Christ Church - September 6

Grab your favorite movie munchies (bring enough for everyone!) and come join us for a new film in the "Science Supporting Spiritual Reality" series. On Friday, September 6th at 7 p.m. in the lower level of the Parish Hall, parishioner George Toth will present the BBC documentary *The Day I Died* ([you can read more about this film here](#)). You can also read more about the background of George's film series [here](#), see the upcoming schedule [here](#), and if you're interested in presenting a film of your own at Christ Church, [please email us](#).

Christ Church's Fall Service Schedule - Begins Sunday, September 8

On Sunday, September 8th, Christ Church begins its fall schedule with three services. The first service takes place in Old Brick at 8 a.m. and does not contain music. Our Children & Family Worship resumes in New Brick at 9 a.m. and is focused on the younger members of our church. Then at 10:30, we have Holy Eucharist with choral and musical accompaniment, and it's also in New Brick. Whichever you choose, we hope to see you because ALL ARE WELCOME. Sunday School, Youth Formation, Sunday Circle, and all of our other formation and fellowship gatherings also begin that day. Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/sundays for the details.

Deacon Denise Celebration - September 8

We'd rather not think about this, but we have to... Deacon Denise's service at Christ Church is soon coming to an end, and she will then begin her new ministry at St. Peter's in Ellicott City. Before she does, we are having a huge celebration in her honor on Sunday, September 8th after the 10:30 worship. It's a potluck so please visit www.tinyurl.com/CEC-DeaconDenise and sign up to bring something for our meal together.

We are also gathering donations to go towards a "thank you" gift, so if you wish to contribute please [visit Realm](#) or place donations in the collection plate on Sunday - be sure to write "Deacon Denise" in the *MEMO* line of either method. She would also appreciate donations in her name to the Refugee Ministry. Thank you.

CEC Book Club - September 12

The CECBC will resume in a few weeks, so if you're interested in reading great books and discussing them with a friendly, engaging, and welcoming group of fellow parishioners, join us! We choose a book as a group, read a chapter or two each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so each Thursday to share our thoughts. Our next book will be [David Brooks' *The Road to Character*](#), and you can pick it up ahead of time to get ready ([it also comes in large print](#)). [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 817 9855 4366 and the Passcode is CECbooks.

The Annual Flea Market and Craft Fair - Saturday, September 14

The Christ Church Community Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC, will take place on the CEC campus on Saturday, September 14th! Spaces are now available, and you can complete yours by picking one up in the Narthex or by downloading a copy from our website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market. And start getting your gently used books, baked goods recipes, and other items ready for sale - this is the WOCC's biggest fundraiser, and proceeds help support many Christ Church activities and gatherings throughout the year.

Please donate your in-good-condition rummage sale items to the Refugee Ministry table at the flea market. We'll take just about anything that's in good condition (but not clothes and not furniture that won't fit in a car's back seat or trunk). If you need us to pick up your items, have any questions, or would like to help (you'll get first pick!), please email parishioners Paula Rees (cprees@comcast.net), Diana Hall (dbhallmd@gmail.com), or Ann Barnes (annbarnes001@comcast.net), or speak with them at church. Thank you for your support. The more people involved in this community gathering, the more successful this important event can be!

Second Annual Community Health & Wellness Fair - Saturday, September 21

Our Health Ministry is proud to announce the second annual Community Health and Wellness Fair, and on Saturday, September 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., everyone is welcome to gather in the Great Hall as many booths and presentations will address a wide range of health and wellness topics and concerns. This event can show you many ways to improve your mental, physical, or family health. Visit tinyurl.com/CEC-2024HealthFair for more details and email health@christchurchcolumbia.org if you'd like to help or have any questions.

"Leading in Divided Times" - October 8

[The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland](#) and the [One America Movement](#) are excited about the upcoming series of workshops: "Leading in Divided Times." This four-part series will allow both clergy and lay leaders to gather and will be broken into four sections. Each session will be livestreamed on Zoom beginning on the evening of Tuesday, October 8th and everyone is welcome to take part. If you would like more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3xMcq8L>.

Christ Church's Annual Auction - Begins October 26

GET READY - the 35th Annual Christ Church Auction is going to Paris! Well... not quite, but we *are* giving it a bit of French flair, and we hope you'll gather with us for what's surely to be the event of the year! Once again, we will hold the online portion for one week, with everything culminating in a fun- and fellowship-filled evening with our Silent and Live Auctions and Raffle Drawing. Start thinking about great gifts and ideas that you can donate to help raise funds that support many of our ministries and activities, and remember - the success of our Auction is greatly dependent on YOU!

Mark your calendars!

- Enter donations on the Auction website by Sunday, October 6
- The online auction runs from October 26 - November 2
- Silent and live auctions & raffle drawing on Saturday night, November 2

The Auction page on our website is up and running - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/auction - and you can find the Donation portal link there now. And check back often, as we'll provide more details over the coming months. If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions, please email auction@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/efm - is a unique small-group program based on study and practice in theological reflection, helping participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service where they live, work, and play. Now, as the first year of our EfM seminar is drawing to a close, we are looking for a few additional people to join us as we enter the next year of study and reflection. Because of the program's cyclical nature, individuals may begin their studies during any calendar year of the four-year cycle. Participation by members at a variety of levels of study will be so enriching for us all. **Visit our website** and please consider joining us - we begin on Sunday, September 8.

Our Altar Guild Needs Your Assistance

The Christ Church Altar Guild is looking for a few more people to help us in our ministry of providing clean linens and liturgical items for every worship service. We currently have three teams, but if we can create one more, then each only has to manage one week a month. If you are interested in signing up, please speak with Pam Foreman or any Altar Guild member, or visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/altar-guild.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday!

The new landing page for the 300th Anniversary celebrations is live on our website now, so visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/300 and see how we are gearing up for a year-long series of special gatherings, activities, and parties! We'll add new details all the time, so please bookmark it and revisit it often.

As you'll see, there are a variety of committees taking shape. We are always looking for more people to provide their input, and hope that you'll consider joining us. This celebration is a massive milestone for our church, and we encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you are interested in assisting, please speak with Robin Bradley at church, **complete the brief contact form on our website**, or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

We're Helping People who Depend upon the Howard County Food Bank and Others Who Struggle in Summer's Heat to Pay Their Utility Bills

The Outreach Commission at its August meeting took steps to help meet two pressing demands among our disadvantaged neighbors. Christ Church donated \$2,000 to the **Community Action Council** of Howard County, which expressed deep gratitude. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from parishioners' pledges and contributions.

CAC is using \$1,000 to buy milk and eggs for its Howard County Food Bank, which sustains many including Wanda Medina, a widow who lives in Jessup. What a difference that has made for the mother of four, who was the subject this month of a CAC email. "We want you to know some of the challenges your neighbors are facing but with your

help can overcome and thrive,” CAC wrote. Watch Medina discussing her challenges on MPT’s [State Circle program of Dec. 15, 2023](#).

CAC is using \$1,000 for energy assistance, helping people who need immediate attention in returning their power. The donation arrived before the latest heat wave! Thanks to you, CAC is better able to fulfill its motto: “Helping people, changing lives.”

Outreach Joins in Aiding an Afghan Family that Recently Arrived in Maryland

In the spirit of helping our immediate neighbors – in this case, a three-member Afghan refugee family who in June had just reached safety in the United States, the Outreach Commission approved sending \$500 from its vestry-approved budget to New Hope Lutheran Church. New Hope has recently and enthusiastically become part of the Interfaith Refugee Ministry; it plays the lead role in coordinating help, of all kinds, for what is now the ministry’s fourth Afghan refugee family.

This \$500 comes from your financial offering to Christ Church, and will go directly toward paying this new family’s housing expenses (for example, rent, utilities). As with each of the Afghan families helped by Christ Church and the Interfaith Refugee Ministry, this family is deeply grateful for our support.

Donate Items to the Flea Market, and Help Support Our Refugee Ministry

Please donate your in-good-condition rummage sale items to the Refugee Ministry table at the September 14th flea market. We’ll take just about anything that’s in good condition (but not clothes and not furniture that won’t fit in a car’s back seat or trunk). If you need us to pick up your items, have any questions, or would like to help (you’ll get first pick!), please email parishioners Paula Rees (cprees@comcast.net), Diana Hall (dbhallmd@gmail.com), or Ann Barnes (annbarnes001@comcast.net), or speak with them at church. Thank you for your support.

Enter a Golf Tournament on Friday, Sept. 20, to Help Bridges to Housing Stability

Advocating for affordable housing and helping people to keep a roof over their heads is the mission of [Bridges to Housing Stability](#). Golfers can support this good cause on Friday, Sept. 20 during the third annual [Sheehy Toyota Bridges for Birdies Golf Tournament](#) at The Timbers of Troy, 6100 Marshalee Dr., Elkridge, MD. The tournament begins with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. and features a full day of golf, food, and awards. 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 raises crucial operating funds, says Bridges Executive Director Jen Broderick. “Every swing, every hole, and every cheer helps us make real change in our community.” Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges since 2019.

Howard County Walk to End Alzheimer's - September 21

The Walk to End Alzheimer’s, an important annual drive at Centennial Park in Ellicott City, is on Saturday, September 21st this year, and your help to raise funds and awareness for Alzheimer’s care, support, and research is needed and appreciated. [You can learn more about the event and how to register or donate on their website](#). Whichever way you choose, it helps to remember those who have been lost to this disease and bring attention to the critical research needed to eradicate Alzheimer’s and mental deterioration.

Home Sweet Home

The WOCC, in partnership with Grassroots, is providing new "Home Sweet Home" kits for those who have been homeless and now found an opportunity to have a home of their own. The kits include much-needed, common materials for anyone who needs assistance with starting such an important life chapter.

[Please visit our sign-up sheet here](#), which has specific items you can provide. From trash cans to gift cards, each item will make them feel more at home. Your item donations can then be deposited into the marked bin near the Outreach table in the Tower Room of New Brick. If you have any questions or need assistance, please speak with Jo

Emily Knox or Sara Kirkpatrick at church, or email WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org. We hope you'll participate in this program, which ends on September 22nd.

Columbia Community Care Will Close on Labor Day Weekend and Postpone Reopening the Oakland Mills Distribution Site

Columbia Community Care (CCC) announced it will close its pantry and distribution sites on Saturday, Aug. 31, in observation of the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Two of the sites will reopen the following Saturday, Sept. 7, at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 107, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., and at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd. The third site, which will remain closed for a second weekend, is located at The Barn at Oakland Mills Village Center, 5853 Robert Oliver Place, all in Columbia.

When sites are open, volunteers have been arriving at 9 a.m., begin distributing to our neighbors in need between 9:30 and 10 a.m., and close by 11:30 a.m.

Go online to **learn how to volunteer** at distribution sites or as a translator or shopper at its pantry, which has relocated to the rear of the Long Reach distribution site. Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information by going online to **“Get Help”** on CCC’s website. Find updates on the **CCC Facebook Group**.

CCC continues to request baby-care items and diapers, especially sizes 4-6 and pullups in sizes 3T, 4T and 5T. Put these along with sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers items.

Look for the FISH Bin on the Breezeway near the Parish Hall

FISH of Howard County requests non-perishable foods and toiletries, which we collect in the basket at the altar or in a marked yellow bin on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. **FISH** provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their 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.

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 send a text with the word **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.



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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev. Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams