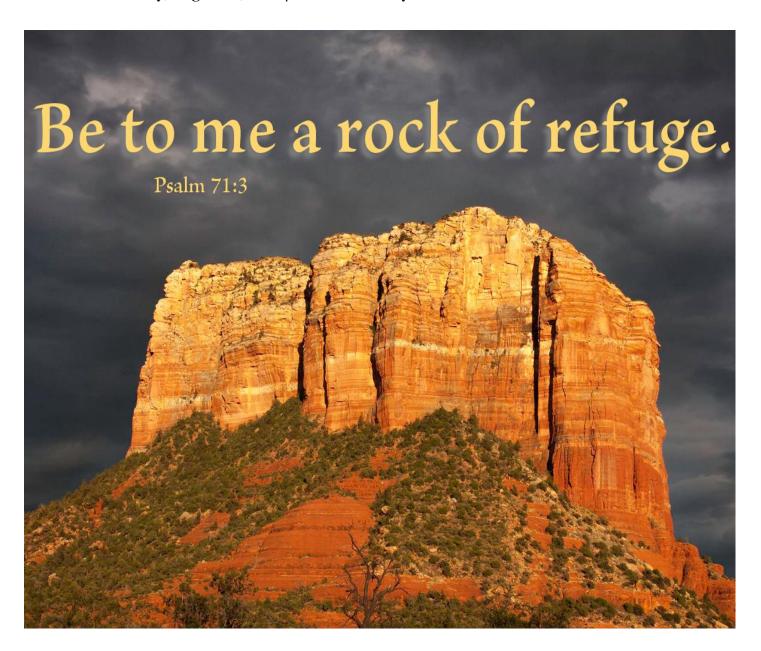


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, August 24, 2025 | Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - PARISH FESTIVAL



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.

OPENING HYMN VF 109 | People of God

Earth and All Stars



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

GLORIA S 280 | Robert Powell



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever

and ever. Amen.

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 1:4-10

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,

says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 71:1-6 | In te, Domine, speravi

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; * let me never be ashamed.

In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; * incline your ear to me and save me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; * you are my crag and my stronghold.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, * from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

For you are my hope, O Lord God, * my confidence since I was young.

I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; * my praise shall be always of you.

THE EPISTLE | Hebrews 12:18-29

Reader: A reading from Hebrews.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

The people stand as able.



THE GOSPEL | Luke 13:10-17

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. **People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.



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

THE SERMON | Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector

THE NICENE CREED |

All:

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Lord, you often ask each one of us to reach out to others in ways that we never envisioned or even thought possible. With courage and faith, may we answer the call. May we see the brighter future that our Lord has planned for us and be willing to take the steps and the risks to make it happen. We pray: **Open our eyes and our minds to a new life**

We ask Christ's blessing for the worldwide Church that seeks to transform our lives, that, through justice, mercy, and love to care for all of God's creation. May we be moved to act to resolve hunger, homelessness, hostility, violence, and oppression. May we be given the determination and insight to bring health to people everywhere. We pray for all the communities in Gaza and the Ukraine, who are severely affected by bombings, shootings, destruction, injuries, and lack of food. Lord, help us to bring peace, healing, and sustenance to these regions. We pray: For strength and courage to meet new challenges each day

We give thanks for the Anglican Communion and extend our prayers today for the Church of the Province of Southeast Asia. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for our sister parishes: St. Barnabas, Sykesville, St. Christopher's, Linthicum, and St. John's, Ellicott City. May our spiritual leaders—Presiding Bishop Sean, Diocesan Bishop Carrie, Rector Emmanuel, and Clergy Richard and Marcia —be granted wisdom and compassion in their decision-making. We pray for our local, state, national, and international government leaders. We ask for understanding and collaboration in times of crisis. We give thanks for our opportunities to worship together and warmly welcome all visitors and newcomers who have joined us today. Our ministries of outreach into the community and in-reach to our parish continue, and we seek your help. We pray: For harmony and humility as we interact with one another

(continued)

In the presence of illness, pain, and disabilities, we pray for healing and wholeness of body and spirit, especially for Hayden, Rachan, Sherry, Emmy & Danielle. May their caregivers remain compassionate and hopeful. We also remember those who have died and entered eternal life, especially Roberta Akillian and those you now name. We pray: May love and mercy abound

We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the occasions of joy in the lives of our faith community. Today we ask God's blessing for the birthdays of Samuella, Kevin & Sara, anniversaries of Janet & Isaac Olajide and Denisa & Ayub Abdallah, and the baptismal anniversary of Alex. We pray: May each of us shine Christ's light in the world

Let us serve the Lord, showing genuine affection for others, acting honorably, giving generously, extending hospitality to all, and overcoming evil with good. **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 |



THE HOLY COMMUNION



OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Dan R. Edwards Handbell Choir



Please scan to give.

DOXOLOGY HYMN 380 (v. 1)

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.

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:











The Celebrant continues

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 |

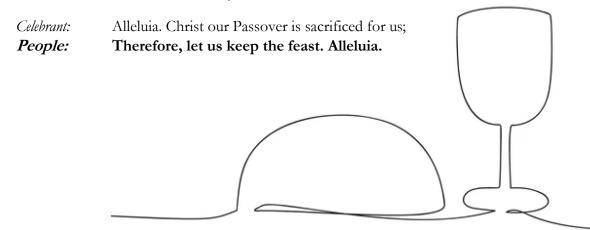
Celebrant:

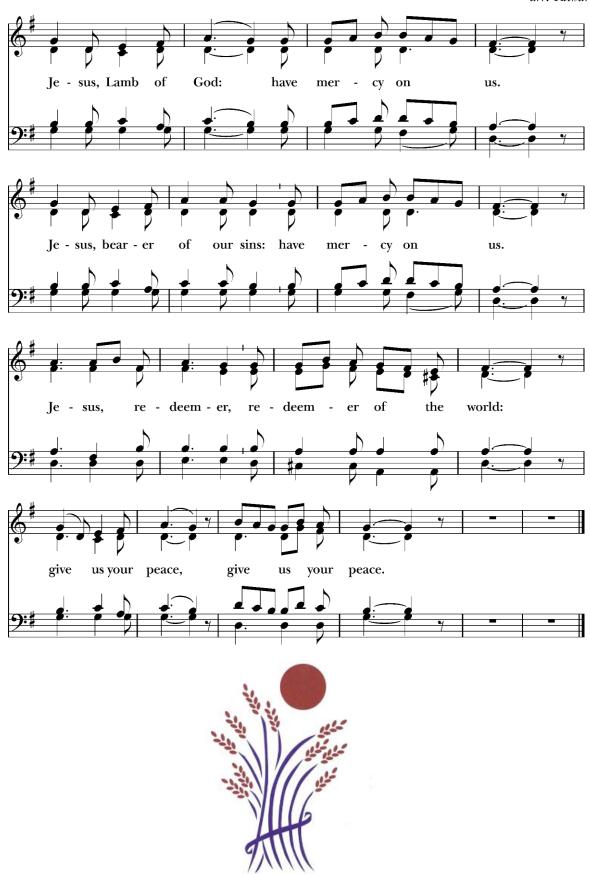
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 |

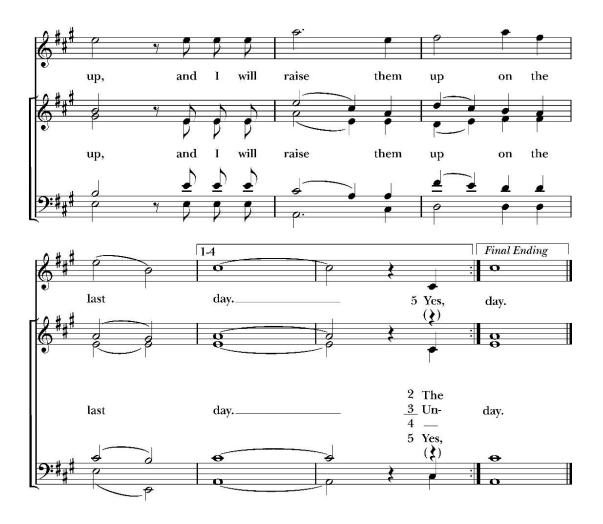




The Gifts of God for the People of God



(continued)



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.

EUCHARISTIC 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 dismisses the people who respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE |

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Stay after church today for the...



The Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair, an annual tradition, is back, and takes place today - a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! We'll have BBQ goodies, fun for all ages, and an opportunity to learn about the many ministries that make Christ Church a very special place.

Stick around (or come back) after the 10:30 service!

Assisting in Worship Today

10:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney, Theo Jones-Quartey Chalicists: Dione Mahoney, Sonni Aribiah, Theo Jones-Quartey Ushers: Kayode Fatodu, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild

Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah

Tellers

Mary Oladipupo, Sarah Mugo

PARISH CALENDAR

AUGUST 24 – AUGUST 30, 2025

Sunday, August 24

8:00 am Holy Eucharist – New Brick

10:30 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level

10:00 – 11:00 am Blessing of Sunday School

11:30 am- 2:00 pm Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - New Brick, lower level

12:30 – 5:30 pm Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, August 25

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level

7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, August 26

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

6:00 – 7:00 pm Summer Yoga Camp – New Brick, lower level

Wednesday, August 27

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

6:30 – 8:30 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, August 28

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, August 29

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream 7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream

7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club

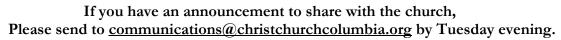
Saturday, August 30

9:00 – 3:00 pm Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

3:30 – 430 pm Altar Guild prep – Old Brick

ANNOUNCEMENTS





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

Join the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun. We have a few submissions to date, but you are welcome to submit yours, as well. If you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Episcopal Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. This year, four Vestry slots are open; we need your unique gifts to help us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 19th. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org, and they will let you know what's needed for this process. Thank you for your consideration.

Financial Peace University Returns

As a community of faith, one of the gifts we can offer each other is the prudent use of our resources. Early this decade, before COVID-19 upended everyone's lives, we began Financial Peace University here at Christ Church, and it's back beginning this September. This multi-week seminar aims to help parishioners manage their finances and provide them with the tools to be better stewards of what they earn. Even in its incomplete form, this was a life-changer for people who took advantage of the opportunity at the time. We are pleased to offer this class again in the fall, but it is limited to 10 people/families, so if you're interested, let us know as soon as possible. The class will meet on Monday evenings, and the cost is \$100 per person/family. For more information, please speak with Fr. Manny at church on a Sunday or email the office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church's Fall Service Schedule

On Sunday, September 7th, 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 popular 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 music accompaniment, and it's also in New Brick. Sunday School, Youth Formation, Sunday Circle, and all of our other formation and fellowship gatherings also begin that day. No matter what service or classes you choose, we hope to see you because EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

InReach Ministry

Christ Church's Inreach Ministry is taking shape and welcomes both those in need of our services and those wishing to help others by volunteering for this ministry. You can learn a bit more about our Inreach Ministry on our website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/inreach or by emailing inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also speak with Michon Semon or Ron Baran when you're at church on Sunday.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You!

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild or Buildings and Grounds ministries. 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 interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org and if you're interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Beckoning One and All to Get Involved in Christ Church Outreach

As you get ready for fall, consider making Outreach a greater part of your life. Start by pausing during the Parish Festival and Ministry Fair on Sunday, Aug. 24, to pick up a brochure and chat with a member of the Outreach Commission about opportunities. If you prefer to get information online, please email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Some activities occur year-round and others are seasonal. Here are a few to anticipate as autumn approaches:

Our Fall Food Drive is scheduled Saturday, Oct. 4, at a local supermarket to collect non-perishable goods for the <u>Howard County Food Bank</u> and gluten- and allergy-free items for <u>SAFE Food Pantry</u>. (Exact time and place will be announced.) The annual Thanksgiving Drive for the food bank begins on Sunday, Nov. 2. The heartwarming Angel Tree Drive begins on Sunday, Nov. 23 to buy Christmas gifts for middle-school age children. Early in December, at a date to be named later, volunteers help bag the unwrapped gifts for transport to the Salvation Army of Howard County, which conveys them to families who would have a bleak holiday otherwise. As you respond to a call to help the less fortunate, keep in mind the scripture that underpins our mission: *And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."* Matthew 25: 40

You can read about the most recent supermarket food drive in the <u>Outreach Blog of April 9, 2025</u>. Read about both holiday drives in the <u>Outreach Blog of Nov. 21, 2024</u>.

Buy DreamBuilders Tea and Coffee on Sunday at the Parish Festival

Look for coffee and tea being sold to benefit <u>DreamBuilders</u> at the Parish Festival on Sunday, Aug. 24. There's no chocolate at this time of year, but we have plenty of tea and a small selection of fair-trade coffee. It's for a good cause so teams can prepare to rebuild after disasters. The group most recently traveled to Kentucky for the third year in a row to build homes after devastating floods.

Go Golfing Next Month to Help Bridges to Housing Stability

Golfers can have fun and support a worthy cause on Friday, Sept. 19. <u>Bridges to Housing Stability</u> will hold the fourth annual <u>Sheehy Toyota Birdies for Bridges Golf Tournament</u> at The Timbers of Troy, 6100 Marshalee Dr., Elkridge, Md. Participants will help Bridges achieve its mission – advocating for affordable housing and helping individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads. The tournament begins with a light breakfast, a shotgun start at 9 a.m., and a full day of golf, food, and awards. Check-in opens at 7:45 a.m. The cost for a single golfer is \$200, or \$800 for a foursome, which covers greens fees, unlimited range balls, food and beverages. By golfing during "Birdies for Bridges," you'll help to provide a path to self-sufficiency and further Bridges' aim to prevent and end homelessness in Howard County. Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges in various ways since 2019.

FISH and CCC Have Combined Pantries, and FISH Needs Phone Volunteers

Earlier in the summer, <u>FISH</u> and <u>Columbia Community Care</u> (CCC) partnered to provide food services for Howard County residents. The two organizations have merged their pantries. FISH will continue to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. CCC will continue making distributions at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery. For information, go online at CCC's <u>Get Help</u> page. CCC's three distribution sites are open on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the following locations: Long Reach, Suite 107, 8775 Cloudleap Ct.; Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and The Barn at Oakland Mills Village Center, 5853 Robert Oliver Place, all in Columbia. For updates, and other community activities, check the <u>CCC Facebook Group</u>. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please keep bringing baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes. Thanks for your support.

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S OUTREACH, YOUTH, AND OTHER PARISH NEWS

including website and email links, and Zoom meeting details





Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road Columbia, MD 21045 (410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org office@christchurchcolumbia.org The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, Associate Rector for Children & Family Ministries
Michael Looney, Seminarian Associate
Larissa Sanders, Director of Music Ministry
Ola Oladipupo, Assistant Organist
Yetti Lipede, Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator
Diya Jackson, Office & Youth Ministry Assistant
Christopher Pouch, Communications Administrator
Amanda Kirkpatrick, Nursery Care Coordinator
Nytia Perry, Nursery Care
John Prempeh Sencherey, Sexton

Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (Senior Warden) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (Junior Warden)

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

ran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams •

• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, Rector Emeritus
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, Associate Rector Emeritus