

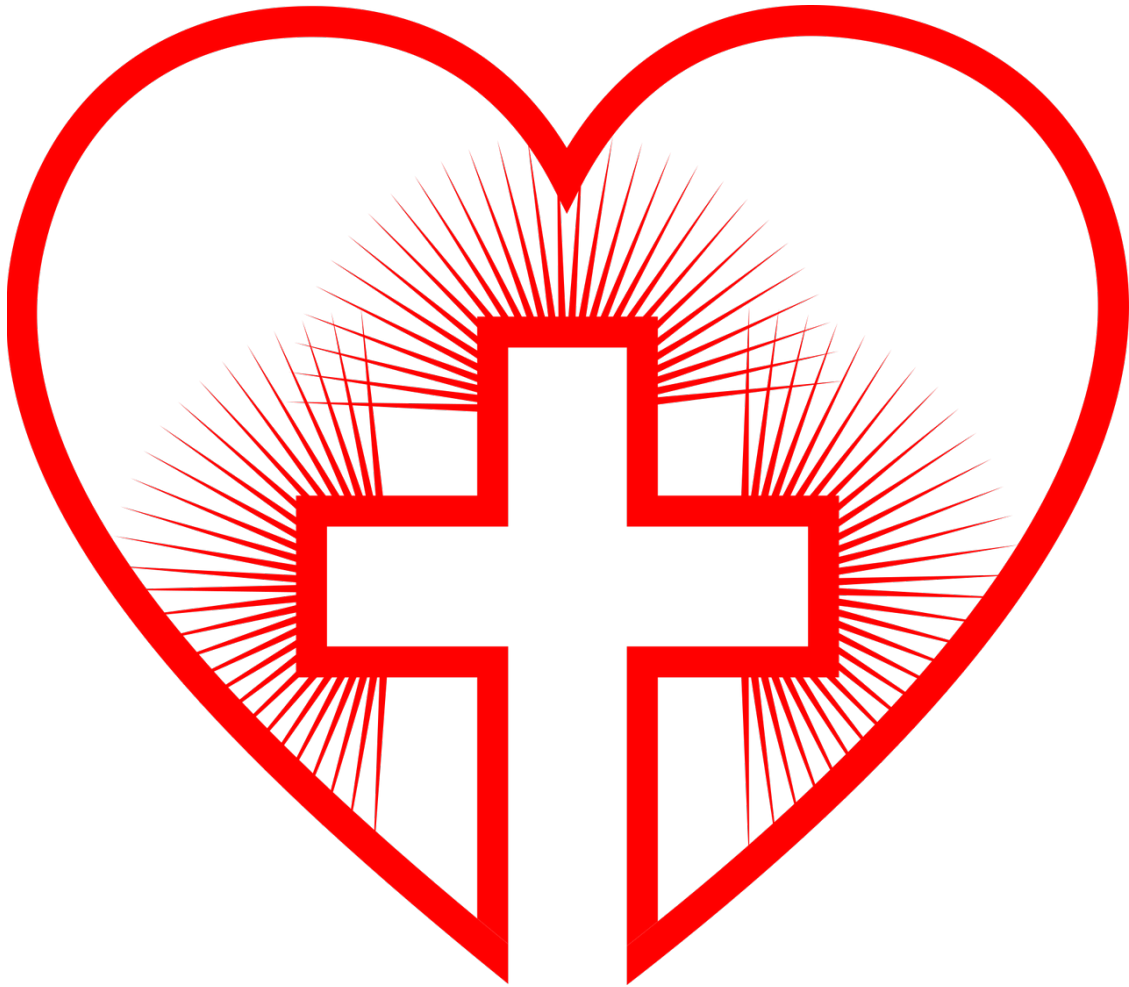
Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, July 23, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



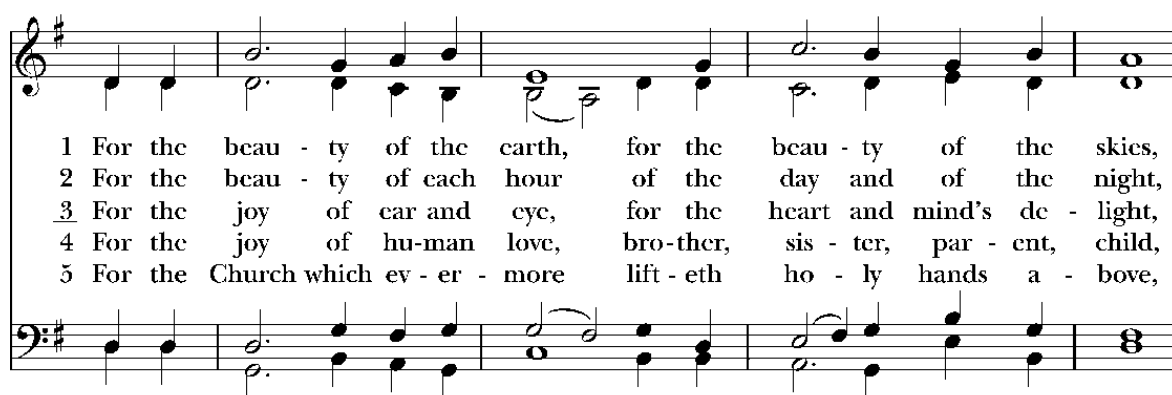
Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

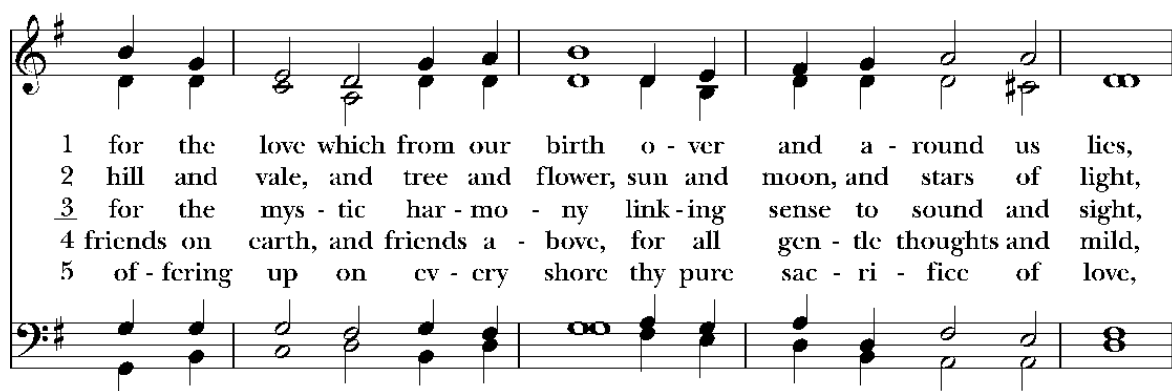
We are delighted you're here - welcome home!

Prelude | Prelude

Jean Langlais
Ola Oladipupo, organ

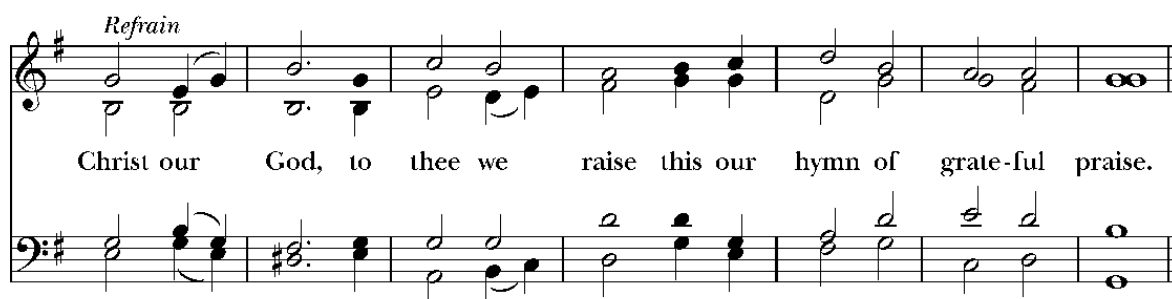


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,



1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

Refrain



Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine
 to the world so freely given,
 faith and hope and love divine,
 peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Genesis 28:10-19a |

Reader: A Reading from Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalms 139: 1-11, 22-23 | *Domine, probasti*

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
 Darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

A Reading from Romans 8:12-25 |

Reader: A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2 What God's al-might - y power hath made, his gra - cious mer - cy
3 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his watch - ful
glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the



our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
eye ne'er sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of his might, lo!
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the



ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.
All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

The Gospel | Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

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

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of

Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

Sermon | Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

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.

Fear, uncertainty, and feelings of inadequacy can rule our lives if we forget the messages contained in the Gospel. The antidote to fear and uncertainty is faith, and that in our weakness, the love of Christ empowers us to accomplish things beyond our imagining. We pray that we may increase our understanding and be strengthened through the Spirit, saying, **Fill us with the fullness of God.**

We pray for all those throughout the world who are bowed down by unbearable burdens and who despair of receiving help and solace. Lord, be near to them and hear the silent prayers of their hearts. Open our spirits to the ways we may serve your people, as we say, **Fill us with the fullness of God.**

We pray for our Church leaders, that they may be guided by the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit and always rooted in love. We pray especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene, our Diocesan Bishop; Carrie, our Bishop Coadjutor; Emmanuel, our Rector; our Christ Church clergy, staff, and postulants; and Richard, our Rector Emeritus. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of Central Africa. In our diocese, we lift up St. Andrew's, Pasadena; St. Luke's, Eastport; and St. Margaret's, Annapolis. Hear us, O Lord, as we say, **Help us to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge.**

We lift up all those who suffer from any illness of mind, body, or spirit. We pray especially for Richard, Pamela, David, Dennis, Dave, Fran, Doris, Elizabeth, Emily, Beth, Kellene, Richard, Shirley, Louise, Danny, Cindy, Roberta, Francis, Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those we now name. Fill them and their caregivers with Your strength and nourish them with Your love. We pray for those in our parish family who are in harm's way, especially Kevin DeBoissiere and Conner Warlow. **Lord, be near to those who call upon You.**

We remember those who have gone home to our Creator and are in the company of all the saints, especially Laurie Benner, and those we now name. Give comfort and fortitude to those who mourn, as they continue to walk in Your light and love. **Lord, be near to all who call upon You.**

We rejoice in the blessings of family and friends and are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate birthdays for Caleb, Joshua, Harrington, Philip, Jay, Julia & Thomas, wedding anniversary for Carol & Jay Abbott, and baptismal anniversaries for Chelsea and Ross. We give thanks and ask Your blessing on all who are new or visiting our church. We ask that they may be refreshed and renewed by their worship today as they continue their faith journey. **Lord, we praise You, we bless You, and we glorify You.**

Father, Mother, Creator of all, You have given us roots and grounded us in the love of Your Son. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that each of us may persevere in the work you have given us to do, with Jesus' words ever present in our hearts and minds: "It is I; do not be afraid." **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 Anthem | Prayer of St. Francis

Carol McClure
Choir Camp

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 3) |

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

***People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

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



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

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

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

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

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

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer | BCP 365

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

All: **Our Father,**
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

The musical score is written for organ and voice. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The organ part is indicated by the word 'organ' above the first staff. The lyrics are: '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.' The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

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

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____
 2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____
 3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____
 4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____

1. Thou art the pot - ter, I am the clay! _____
 2. Search me and try me, Mas - ter, to - day! _____
 3. Wound - ed and wea - ry, Help me, I pray! _____
 4. Hold o'er my be - ing Ab - so - lute sway! _____

1. Mold me and make me Aft - er thy will, _____
 2. Pur - er than snow, Lord, Wash me just now, _____
 3. Pow - er all pow - er Sure - ly is thine! _____
 4. Fill with thy Spir - it 'Til all shall see _____

1. While I am wait - ing, Yield - ed and still, _____
 2. As in thy pres - ence Hum - bly I bow, _____
 3. Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine! _____
 4. Christ on - ly, al - ways, Liv - ing in me! _____

The people stand as able.

Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond Amen.

Closing Hymn LEVAS 12 | We're Marching to Zion

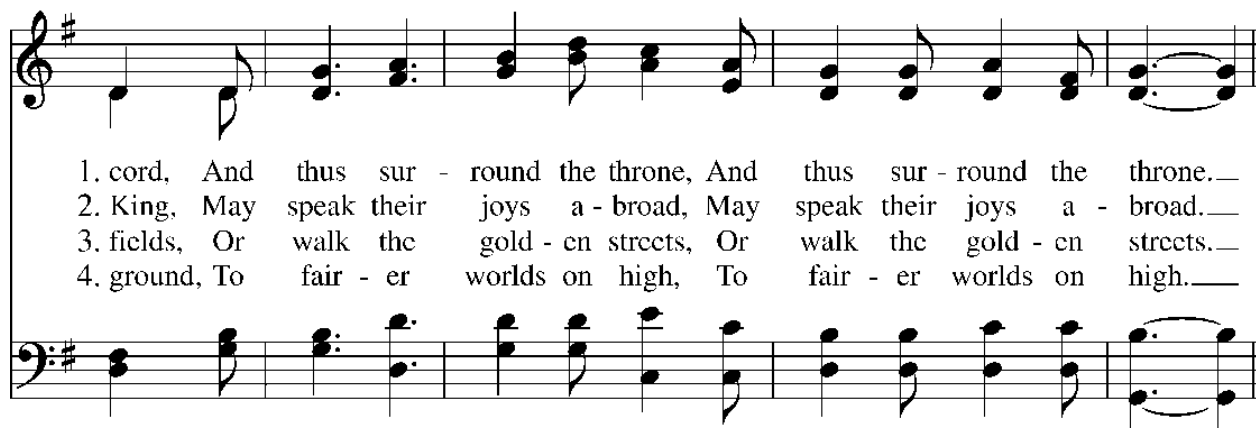
Isaac Watts/Robert S. Lowry



1. Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known; Join
 2. Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God; But
 3. The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets Be
 4. Then let our songs abound, And every tear be dry; We're



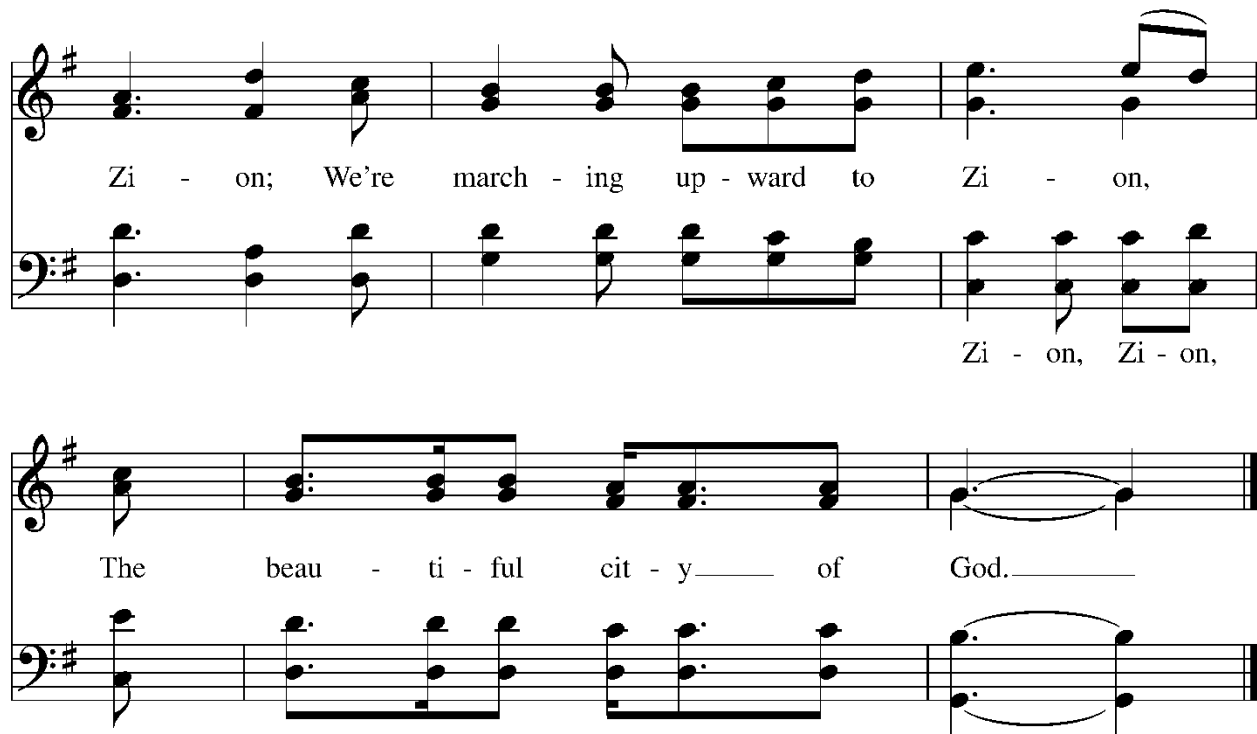
1. in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet ac -
 2. children of the heavenly King, But children of the heav'n - ly
 3. before we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly
 4. marching through Immanuel's ground, We're march-ing thro' Im - man - uel's



1. cord, And thus surround the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.
 2. King, May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys a - broad.
 3. fields, Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the gold - en streets.
 4. ground, To fairer worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.



We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti-ful, beau - ti-ful
 We're march - ing on to Zi - on,



The Dismissal |

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

Postlude | In dir ist Freude (In Thee Is Joy) BWV 615

JS Bach

*Today's altar flowers were donated in celebration of
Jay and Carol Abbott's 39th anniversary on July 28th.*

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney

Ushers: Kayode & Onyx Williams

Chalicerist: Dione Mahoney

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Bete Dagne, Cherry Williams, Alex Amponsah

Acolytes and Crucifer: Gavin Couch, Luke Aribiah, James Mercer

Chalicerist: Steve Alpern

Altar Guild

Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah, Eileen Harlee

PARISH CALENDAR

JULY 23 – JULY 29

Sunday, July 23

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
9:00 am	Cycling for Health and Fellowship
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:00 am – 1:30 pm	Friends of Sabina Meeting – New Brick, lower level & Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, July 24

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 7:30 pm	Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Youth Parents & Volunteers Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, July 25

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – Old Brick & Zoom

Wednesday, July 26

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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Thursday, July 27

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

Friday, July 28

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

Saturday, July 29

2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
2:00 – 8:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication, email communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.
For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Join Us! Cycling for Health and Fellowship Begins this Sunday

How about joining us for some group cycling before or after church? Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn are organizing invigorating cycling trips that depart from CEC and take advantage of bike lanes and trails around Columbia. There are some beautiful lakes and paved trails right outside our backyard, and are great ways to see parts of our community from a different perspective. This Sunday is our inaugural trip, and we hope to return to Christ Church in time for the 10:30 service. Please contact Diane or Kevin at cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org if you'd like more information.

Parishioners, We Need Your Unique Gifts!

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

Help Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Recently, Father Manny shared the challenges that have plagued the Rector's Discretionary Fund with us. The RDF typically funds - among other things - rental assistance, gas and electric bill aid, financial support, mortgage assistance, and transportation needs. Since the beginning of the pandemic and our advent of online giving, we have seen a significant drop in income; however, the needs of those in our community have not subsided. There are real people with real needs that we support on a consistent basis, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF in order for us to help our neighbors. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help. Whether large or small, we thank you very much for your support of this vital fund.

Youth Ministry Meeting on Zoom - July 24

There will be a youth meeting for all youth parents and volunteers this Monday, July 24 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. If you have any questions, please speak with Kiona this Sunday or email her at kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org. The Zoom link is **here**, the Meeting ID is **839 6350 1680** and the Passcode is **Youth**

Centering Prayer - July 24

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

Jazz Eucharist - July 30

At 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 30th, gather with us for Jazz Eucharist, a vibrant liturgy that combines our usual Sunday morning worship with live music performed by The Leister Quartet. This service will be filled with special songs and music throughout, so don't miss it!

CRAB FEST! First Wednesday Fellowship - August 2

Get ready for the tastiest FWF gathering yet! We are planning a BBQ and crab extravaganza that will leave no taste buds unhappy, followed by summer fun and fellowship. If you'd like to indulge in some crabs, it's \$25. per person to cover our cost of getting the freshest ones around - and you're welcome to BYOB! No cost for joining us for BBQ, but donations are always welcome.

Barbecue @ The Rectory - August 5

Father Manny is inviting all parishioners to a barbecue gathering at the rectory on Saturday, August 5th at 3:00 p.m. for a fun afternoon to fellowship together. In addition to succulent ribs, hotdogs, burgers, and chicken, we will have delicious Ghanaian food... and we will have a Moon Bounce for the KIDS!!! The rectory is located around the corner from the Christ Church campus at 9259 Brush Run, Columbia, MD 21045. You don't have to bring anything - your presence is what's most important.

Sunday School Teacher Training - August 20

The CEC Sunday School is still looking for people to help out with our fall Sunday School curriculum. If interested, join us for a meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service. If you would like more info, please speak with Jennifer Atkins, Kiona, or Father Manny at church.

Christ Church's Parish Festival - August 27

The Annual Christ Church Parish Festival and Ministry Fair are back this year! There's only one service that day - Sunday, August 27th - so we'll begin with Holy Eucharist in New Brick at 10 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! Every Christ Church ministry will have tables set up around the campus with information, and you can speak with their members and learn more about how they contribute to our common life - and how you can, too.

WOCC September Meeting - September 5

Join the WOCC for our first meeting for the second half of 2023 on Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, so you're welcome to gather with us in New Brick or on Zoom. The details will be available later this summer. The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick and on our website and contains all the fun events planned for this year. Come join us for these events! Speak to any WOCC member, or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Annual Flea Market and Crafts Fair - September 16

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful annual event, the Christ Church Flea Market, presented by the WOCC. You can reserve your spaces now and get more information further down in this email.

CEC Health and Wellness Fair - September 30

The Christ Church Health Ministry is creating a Community Health and Wellness Fair for Saturday, September 30, on the Christ Church campus. Many health-related tables, booths, and presentations will be available, and everyone's invited to take part. Stay tuned for more information.

Christ Church's Annual Auction - November 4

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

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

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

Communion to You

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

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2023 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltarflowers>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Attend our In-Person or Virtual Coffee Hour While Zoom Takes Us to Uganda with Friends of Sabina at Noon on Sunday, July 23

It's almost time to join in on a virtual trip to Africa with leaders of the nonprofit, **Friends of Sabina** (FOS). You'll learn why students at Sabina Boarding Primary School have excelled in their studies and get a chance to interact with students who are sponsored by parishioners at Christ Church. Two more youngsters are now available for sponsorship.

Please plan to attend an in-person coffee hour after the second worship service on Sunday, July 23. At noon, everyone is invited to join our annual Zoom session with FOS leaders Maria White and Ann Marie Davis. You can log in from home, or elsewhere - [the Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **884 9649 3637** and the Passcode is **Sabina** - Or, you can simply remain in the Great Hall of New Brick while enjoying the homemade baked goods, snacks, coffee, and tea to be provided by the Outreach Commission.

Ann Marie is on-site in Sanje, Uganda, where she will be accompanied by Sabina students. Maria will join the informative show-and-tell remotely from the United States. The session will run until 1:30 p.m., which allows time for a Q&A with parishioners who began sponsoring individual students at Sabina in 2020. Find a photo collage of seven of the nine children, pictured at that point in time, on the **FOS page** of the Christ Church website.

FOS is currently seeking sponsors for 10-year-old Roger, whose favorite subject is literacy and whose favorite hobby is soccer, and for 15-year-old Phionah, whose favorite subject is biology and whose hobbies include netball and choir. For information, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

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

In **a newsletter** entitled "Breaking Records and Building Dreams," FOS shared the impressive accomplishments of the class (See photo) that completed its schooling in December. Students in the uppermost grade level, called P7, performed exceedingly well on a test that determines their academic futures in the Ugandan education system. "Our

P7 class of 2022 has set a new record, after 20 years, with all students achieving First Grades or Division One in the Primary Leaving Exam. This incredible feat is a testament to the hard work of our students and teachers, the non-teaching staff, and the unwavering support of our friends of Sabina.”

Christ Church became a supporter of Sabina Primary School more than a decade ago when parishioners helped establish a library. Since then several have traveled there, including the Alperns, the Hokes, and the Aribiahs. In fact, the Aribiah household’s ties go back to Teddy’s childhood. Through the Outreach Commission, the church continues to help fund the library, which also serves as a resource center for nearby residents.

CCC Will Co-Host a Summer Essential Resources Day on Saturday, July 29, at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center

Please spread the word: **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) will help sponsor a community event on Saturday, July 29 that includes a panel discussion and a free expungement clinic. Co-sponsors are the Howard County **Office of Human Rights and Equity** (OHRE) and **OhanaHC**. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., in Columbia.

The panelists, who speak at 10:20 a.m. on a theme of healing and liberation, are Dr. Denise Boston, OHRE equity and restorative practices manager; Dr. W. Henry Gregory, Jr., clinical psychologist; Jason Downs, an attorney with Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck; and Misty Nace, outreach specialist, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. More information will be posted on the **CCC Facebook Group**.

Please continue to support CCC by volunteering and by collecting baby supplies. To volunteer, go to the **“I Can Help” portion of its website**. As for items, the group has a persistent need for wipes and large-size diapers (4,5, and 6) and pull-ups (3T-4T, 4T-5T). Please keep collecting these, in addition to sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

Donate Snacks, Crackers, and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill its shopping lists. Please put items in a basket that has been returned to the altar. Or drop them in the yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Supplies

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

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

To help alleviate the financial hardship of parents having to buy school-required supplies (at a cost of \$50 per child), Christ Church will once again provide school supplies for 125 children for the 2023-2024 school year. We are requesting your generous financial support now to reach this important goal. Please join us to pack the supplies in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, August 16 at 9:00 am. The school will distribute the supplies the week of Aug 21st, so we also will need your help delivering the supplies that week. Strong arms and larger vehicles are helpful.

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

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

CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

We want to thank YOU.

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

Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at [**info@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org)

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



Reserve Your Spaces Now for the WOCC Flea Market!

The 2023 Flea Market and Craft Fair is taking place on Saturday, September 16th (rain date 9/23) and you can now reserve your space(s)! Grab one for \$15., two for \$25., three for \$35., or four spaces for \$45. If you have rented space in the past, you should have recently received a registration form. We also have forms available in the Narthex, or you can download a copy at <https://tinyurl.com/CEC-FleaMarket>. You can also email wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org and we'll send you one.

To pay for your reservation, you can use Realm - simply use this link to get to it: <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/give/fleamarket>. You can also pay by cash or check, as in years past. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at the WOCC email address above.

We will also be looking for volunteers, crafts, bakers, and books! It's the WOCC's biggest fundraiser of the year, and proceeds are used to help Christ Church. We're getting organized for this big event, so stay tuned for more information and opportunities to participate. The more people that take part, the more successful this important event can turn out to be!

The Spirit at Work

Hello, parishioners – I hope you are having a great summer and staying cool. When I last contributed to the *Christ Church Gatherings* article, I wrote about my excitement about starting a new ministry at Vantage Point, a senior-living community in Columbia. After my mother moved in there a couple of months ago, I was asked to restart a Protestant Worship Service at 2:00 on Sundays. Prior to Covid, they had a weekly service with priests from multiple denominations who would lead services.

In preparation for our first worship service on June 25th, I collaborated with Father Manny and Deacon Denise to develop a service based on the Holy Communion Under Special Circumstances, a liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer. I worked with a Vantage Point community member, Ruth Bell, to develop our plans for the service and how to best spread the word within the complex. The staff at Vantage Point were great at providing the resources we needed. And, our Christ Church community stepped up, as always! The Altar Guild provided extra effort to prepare pre-consecrated elements for our communion. As I look back and think about how the idea of worship grew into reality, I am aware of the constant presence of the Holy Spirit. In each encounter, as we lived into our dream of creating a Christ-centered community at Vantage Point, the feeling of love and knowing we were being the hands and feet of Christ was empowering.

A particular encounter that exemplifies the Spirit at work was when I reached out to Sam Jackson to see if he would be willing to play music periodically at services (full disclosure: Sam was volunteered by Preethi when I mentioned the new service to her – thanks Preethi!). For those of you that do not know Sam, he often plays guitar at the 10:30 service. Sam was immediately receptive, and I asked if we could get together to practice a couple of songs. I had no doubt that Sam could step in and play great; however, I was nervous.

We did not know how many people might attend our first service - we hoped for five to ten. Not knowing what to expect, and not trusting my ability to lead the singing of hymns in a small group, I felt like one thing I could do to have some control was to practice the hymns with Sam. He invited me over to rehearse, and my soul was further settled when Preethi joined us and agreed to sing at the service. What a blessing! Having Preethi and Sam at my side as we embarked on this journey was incredible. In hindsight, I think I was channeling my overall nervousness of starting a ministry for the first time into my jitters about being able to hold the tune in case no one else sang.

Prior to the two o'clock start, Sam played peacefully as we made our final preparations and welcomed residents to the service. Twenty-eight loving souls showed up for worship! The Spirit was stirring as we enjoyed singing, praying, and communion together. Afterwards, many enjoyed refreshments and fellowship and many of us expressed our joy at being together in the name of Christ. We planted a seed and it was beginning to sprout.

Today, as I look back on our first month of services, I see how the Spirit was at work providing the connections we needed to continue to grow our new ministry. My childhood piano teacher, who has been playing the organ at the church of my youth for thirty-five years, is in the rotation of musicians and played during our third service. When we needed a musician for the fourth week, CEC parishioner Judith Gaffer and I found ourselves in conversation after the service at CEC two weeks ago. She mentioned she wanted to hustle upstairs to see the guest organist who was *also* in the Guild. "Wait, what? There's a Guild? And you are in it?" I thought. I would learn Judith had her first church organist gig in 1961. She played for us joyfully at Vantage Point this past Sunday. We are blessed to have such an amazing group of musicians to support our ministry. Additionally, the service at Vantage Point will be led by a priest from a local Methodist Church this coming Sunday. She was invited by Ruth to join us in worship last Sunday and agreed to be in the rotation of worship leaders.

God continues to provide.

Our new ministry is off to an amazing start! In the coming weeks, Father Manny and Deacon Denise will lead worship and we hope to add clergy from other local churches to the service schedule. Anyone from CEC who feels called to offer their gifts of music, delivering the homily, or anything else you can think of, please let me know. I am so grateful for the unending support from the CEC community. The seeds of our faith are growing and the Spirit is at work. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Mike

seminarian@christchurchcolumbia.org



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Chaplain Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

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

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

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