

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Ash Wednesday

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 | 7:00 a.m. • 12:00 p.m. • 7:30 p.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!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Choral Prelude | Steal Away

African American spiritual, arr. Malcolm Arnold

The people stand as able.

Salutation and Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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 Joel 2:1-2,12-17 |

Reader: A reading from Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near--
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse at the 7:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. service, and chanted at the 7:30 p.m. service.

Psalm 103 | *Benedic, anima mea*

Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgives all your sin
and heals all your infirmities,

Who saves your life from the pit
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness,

Who satisfies you with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness and judgment
for all those who are oppressed with wrong.

He showed his ways to Moses,
his works to the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
long-suffering and of great goodness.

continued

He will not always chide us,
neither will he keep his anger forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy also toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father pities his own children,
so is the Lord merciful to those who fear him.

For he knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

The days of man are as grass;
he flourishes as a flower of the field.

For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures forever and ever upon those who fear him,
and his righteousness upon children's children,

Even upon those who keep his covenant
and think upon his commandments to do them.

The Lord has prepared his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

O praise the Lord, you angels of his;
you that excel in strength,
you that fulfill his commandment;
and hearken unto the voice of his words.

O praise the Lord, all you his hosts,
you servants of his that do his pleasure.

O speak good of the Lord, all you works of his;
in all places of his do minion;
praise the Lord, O my soul.

Reader: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

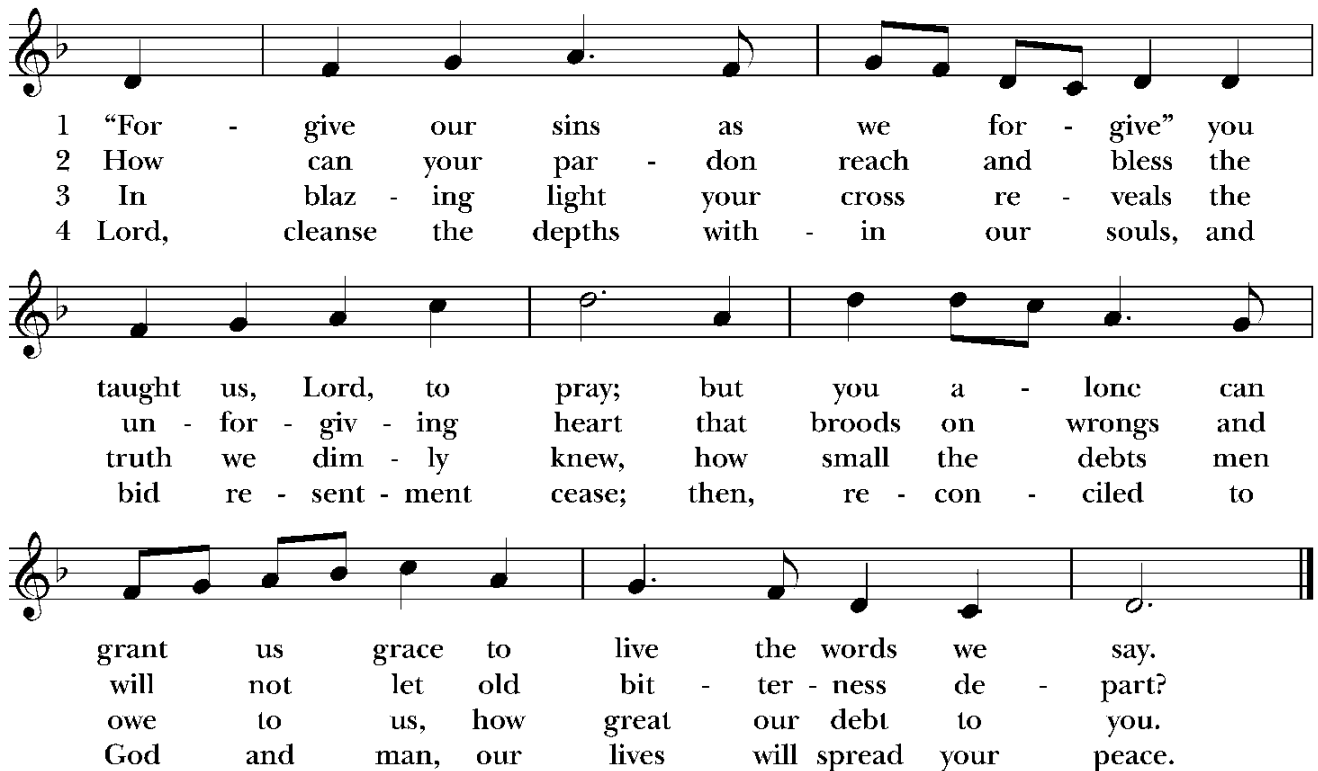
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn 674 | Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Detroit



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give" you
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew, how small the debts men
bid re - sent - ment cease; then, re - con - ciled to

grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owe to us, how great our debt to you.
God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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

Sermon | The Rev'd Marcia Davenport – 7:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector – 7:30 p.m.

The people stand as able.

The Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent |

Celebrant: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling as able.

The Imposition of Ashes |

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Meditation during Imposition of Ashes | Grief

Poem by LeRoy V. Brant & Music by William Grant Still
Catherine Hinton, soprano

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 51 | *Miserere mei, Deus*

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness; *
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, *
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults, *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; *
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou shalt judge.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness, *
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts, *
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; *
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins, *
and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence, *
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again, *
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

continued

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, *
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health; *
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall show thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee; *
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

O be favourable and gracious unto Sion; *
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

Litany of Penitence |

All: Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Celebrant: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice
and contempt toward those who differ from us,
***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come
after us,
***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
***People:* Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Celebrant: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
***People:* That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
***People:* Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but
rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment
to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and
remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere
hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things
may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure
and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People:* Amen.**

The Peace |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Welcome and Announcements |

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Offertory Anthem | Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Theron W. Kirk

The people stand as able.

Presentation 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.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**

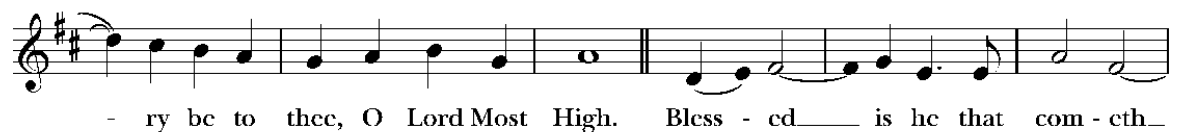
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

***People:* It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People: 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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem | *Spoken at the 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. service.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Fraction Anthem S 158 | O Lamb of God, *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 29 | Near the Cross

Fanny J. Crosby & William H. Doane

1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross, There's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
 3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4. Near the cross, I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

1. Free to all, a heal - ing stream Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 2. There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Sheds its beams a - round me.
 3. Help me walk from day to day With its shad - ows o'er me.
 4. Till I reach the gold - en strand Just be - yond the riv - er.

In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er;

Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be - yond the riv - er.

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

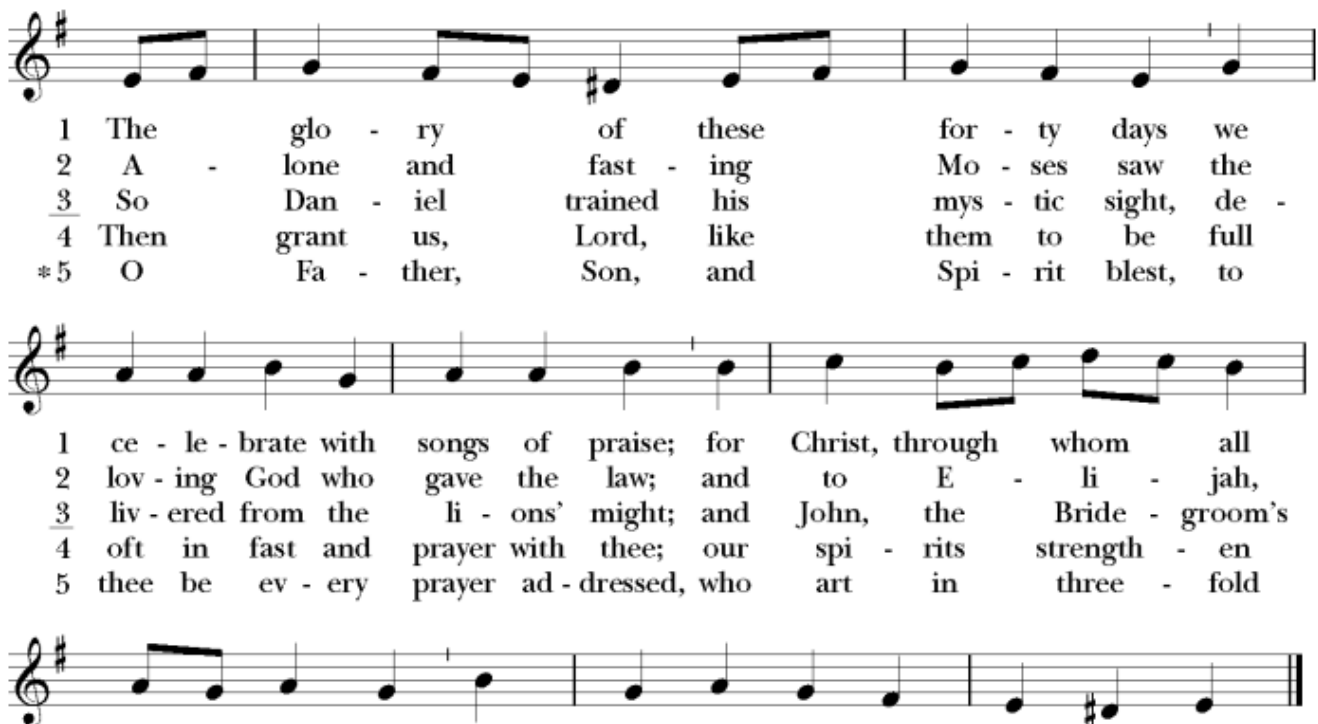
All: Almighty and everliving God,
we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us,
in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing |

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

Closing Hymn 143 | The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt uns, Herr



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to

1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold

1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

The Celebrant dismisses the people, who respond:

Thanks be to God.

(The Alleluias are omitted during Lent)

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rebecca Warlow

Joan Harvey

Greg Schuckman

PARISH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 14 TO FEBRUARY 18

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

6:00 – 7:00 am	Ashes to Go – Drive-up to New Brick lower level entrance
7:00 – 8:00 am	Ash Wednesday Service – Old Brick
12:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service – New Brick, upper level
5:30 pm	Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom
7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, February 15

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
5:45 – 6:45 pm	Health Ministry Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 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	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, February 16

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, February 17

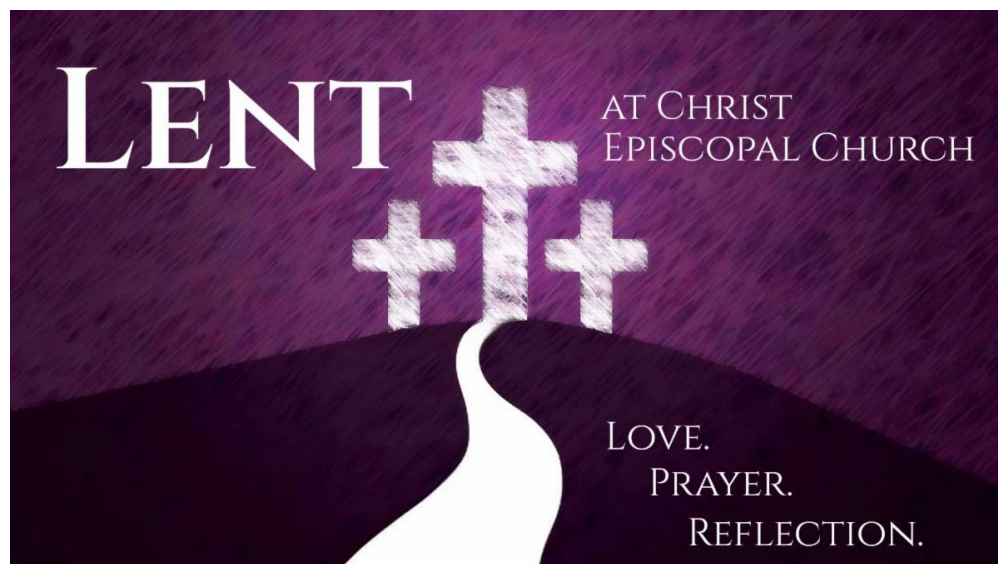
8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Lenten Reflection Day – Old Brick
9:30 – 11:30 am	Men of Christ Church Breakfast – IHOP, Columbia
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Sunday, February 18

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level

continued

9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:00 – 2:00 pm	After Death Movie Screening & Lunch – New Brick, lower level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:30 – 4:30 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room
2:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level



To practice Lent is to draw near, and better understand, Jesus Christ. Lent is a season of intentional discipleship under Christ, and with Christ. We also practice Lent to bond more closely with fellow Christians who are on the same journey - not only with those at Christ Episcopal Church, but also with all those around the world. Along the way, our sin and habits are put to death, and we learn to internalize and share in Christ's resurrection power.

The [Lent at Christ Church](#) page is now live on our website, which contains details for our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. We'll continue to add more details as they take shape, and we hope to see you at many of these events.

This is also where you can read our [Daily Lenten Meditations](#), which will be published every weekday morning, both there and on our Instagram and Facebook pages. In addition to those, we'll have an inspirational *Saturday Song* posted every weekend, as well - something to enjoy, to lift your spirits, and to comfort your heart. You can also pick up your own copy of the Lenten Meditation Book today in the Narthex. Get one while supplies last.

This year, our website also has a [Daily Office page](#) that provides links to readings for each day of the season. We hope that you'll find it to be a useful part of your Lenten journey.

Bookmark all of these, or find them all on [our main page's menu bar](#).

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/LENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening

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

Pick Up Your Lenten Meditation Booklet

Our 2024 Lenten Meditation Booklet is ready. Many thanks to Ellen Hoke for her efficient and dedicated work in getting this to us all in such a short amount of time. The LMB also has the Lenten Daily Office readings for each day during the season, as well as an outline of our services. For those of you more digitally-minded, you'll be able to read a Daily Meditation each weekday morning from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week online

Lenten Reflection Day - February 17

Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission presents Lenten Reflection Day on Saturday, February 17th. This year, we are thankful that The Reverend Kirk Kubicek will lead us in prayer and meditation as we examine our 2024 theme, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*. Lenten Reflection Day includes a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m., is followed by the day's program, and then wraps up around noon with an informal Eucharist. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this exceptional and inspirational start to the Lenten season.

Lenten Taizé Vespers - February 18

Each Sunday evening during Lent at 6 p.m., Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. This community promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Our Taizé Vespers service mirrors Taizé-style attention to silence, holy words, prayer, and singing, and offers a chance to meditate and reflect on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way. Gather with us in the New Brick Sanctuary for this very special Sunday service.

Post-Worship Movie Screening and Discussion - February 18

On February 18th following the 10:30 a.m. service, there will be a showing of the film *After Death* in the Vestry Room (NBL). The film chronicles Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) and their evidence of consciousness beyond the body. It's a film that, according to its maker, Angel Studios, "explores the afterlife based on real near-death experiences, conveyed by scientists, authors, and survivors" and is "a cinematic peek into the unknown that examines the spiritual and scientific dimensions of mortality, inviting viewers to contemplate the possibility of life after death." Bring some potluck munchies to satisfy a hungry movie crowd, and we'll discuss the film afterward. Want more info? The trailer can be viewed [here](#). If you have any questions, please speak with George Toth at church.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series – Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of New Brick.

One of the most cherished traditions at Christ Church during the season of Lent is the Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series, one of the most enriching Lenten experiences of the season. This series offers five weeks of insightful and life-transforming seminars on our theme for this year, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*, a theme inspired by Romans 12:6-8 and 2 Corinthians 9:7.

The clergy presenters for this year are :February 21: The Right Reverend Eugene Sutton. February 28: The Reverend Earl Mullins. March 6: The Reverend Richard Ginnever. March 13: The Reverend Barbara Seras. March 20: The Reverend Emmanuel Ato Mercer

We begin each evening at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall - each week, a different ministry will provide the potluck meal - followed by our guest presenter. The evening then concludes with a brief, informal Eucharist.

Christ Church Conversations, Episode 3: Turbulence

"When we honor the past, we accept the truth of the past, as unsavory they may be... we accept a unique responsibility to create a better world."

As Black History Month begins, Father Manny reflects on the historical turbulence of our past, while keeping a sharp eye on the need to move into the future with a resolve to improve on mistakes already made.

We are excited to share the second episode of *Christ Church Conversations* with you, our new podcast series! This series will take shape in many forms over time - audio, video, interviews, scripture-based discussions, and so much more - but as it's still in its earliest stages, we're keeping things somewhat simple. Soon, we'll be on major podcast platforms and have a page on our website, so as we grow, we hope you'll grow with us.

You can listen [here](#), or find every episode on our website: www.christchurchcolumbia.org/conversations

Bible Study and Lunch Skips a Week

Christ Church's weekly Bible Study and Lunch gathering takes this week off in observance of Ash Wednesday, but you can find the readings for next Sunday [here](#). We will pick things up on Wednesday, February 21st. Each week, we will meet in the Conference Room in the Parish House, explore the Lectionary readings for that Sunday, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Wednesday Bible Study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

WOCC February News

On Saturday, February 24th, we will be meeting at [St. John's Episcopal Church](#) for a Lenten Labyrinth Walk. We will be meeting there at 11:00 a.m. Afterward, we are planning to have lunch together, hopefully at Touche Touchet Café in Elkridge. Please feel free to join us, and click the above link for Google Maps information. We are also continuing with our collection of scarves, hats, and gloves for the Seafarers, and will be accepting donations until March 15th. The collection bin labeled "Seafarers" is located on the table in the Tower Room by the Narthex. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting items, patterns can be found at the following link: <https://seamenschurch.org/programs-services/christmas-at-sea/patterns-publications>. Finally, our next meeting is on Monday, March 4th at 1:30 p.m. at New Brick and on Zoom.

Health Ministry Request

First of all, the Christ Church Health Ministry wants to thank you for your participation in our various events and gatherings last year, and we are gearing up for much more in 2024! As we do, we want to know how to best serve you, our fellow parishioners, with any health-related needs or concerns you might have. We'd appreciate it if you'd fill out a short questionnaire we've made, one that will help teach us what to focus on. [You can find the form here](#), and it only takes a minute to complete. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Diane Phillips LaGuerre or Bunmi Daramaja, or email health@christchurchcolumbia.org.

CEC Book Club - Friday

It's never the wrong time to join Christ Church's Book Club, especially since we have just begun a new book - and one on an element of Maryland history - *Madness: Race and Insanity in a Jim Crow Asylum* by Antonia Hylton. It's about Crownsville State Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in southern Maryland (presently out of commission). We are always welcoming new people into our group, so if reading and exchanging shared experiences sounds fun to you, log in and join us! [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Password is **CECBooks**. Email Ellen Hoke at bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. The daily practice of this prayer could 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. Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings, but you can also take part virtually from wherever you are; [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596**, and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Healing Stations

Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, email Rebecca Warlow at healingministry@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

The RDF typically helps fulfill the needs of those in our community. There are real people with real needs that we help support, 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.

Meals Ministry

Stewardship focuses on the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, and one way to do so is by lending a hand to those in need. Christ Church's Pastoral Care Commission is growing its Meals Ministry to ensure that someone is always available to provide a meal to those who need one. If you would like to help, or if you know someone in need of this service, please speak with Deacon Denise or email her at deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Communion to You

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.

WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF OUR BELOVED CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

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

TEXT GIVING: You can now 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 towards 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.



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

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*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

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

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*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