

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Taizé Vespers | Sunday, March 10, 2024

Welcome to Sunday Taizé Vespers at Christ Church!

For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into God's presence through prayers, readings, songs, silence and poetry. And as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are loved.

May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

TAIZÉ

Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for all the world and we are all God's people.

THE PATTERN OF VESPERS

- Gathering:** God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God's bringing light into the darkness of our lives.
- Word:** God continues to communicate through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God's beloved children.
- Psalms:** Psalms are the Bible's language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.
- Meditation:** When we listen and pray while gathered in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about "just me," but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
- Prayers:** Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.
- Going Out:** As we leave the Vesper service, we are reminded of Christ's peace, presence and purpose in all of life.

Gathering Song | Adoramus te Christe (We adore you, Jesus Christ)

Alternate between Latin and English refrains.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are written below the staves, with Latin and English versions provided for each line. The first system covers the first line of the Latin text and the first line of the English text. The second system covers the second line of the Latin text and the second line of the English text. The third system covers the third line of the Latin text and the third line of the English text. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style, with the two parts moving in parallel motion.

A - do - ra - mus te Chris - te, be - ne - di - ci - mus ti - bi,
We a - dore you, Je - sus Christ, and we bless your ho - ly name;

qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum,
tru - ly your cross and pas - sion bring us life and heal - ing,

qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum.
tru - ly your cross and pas - sion bring us life and heal - ing.

Officiant: God dwells in you.

People: And also in you.

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Song | O Lord, Hear my Prayer

The image shows a musical score for a song in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Consolations | Longing

Longing is the transfiguration of aloneness, the defenseless interior secret core of a person receiving its overdue invitation from the moon, the stars, the night horizon and the great tidal flows of life and love. Longing is divine discontent, the unendurable present finding a physical doorway to awe and discovery that frightens and emboldens, humiliates and beckons, makes us into pilgrim souls and sets us on some road that starts in the center of the body, and then leads out, like an uncaring invitation, like a comet's passing tail, glimpsed only for a moment but making us willing to give up our perfect house, our paid for home and our accumulated belongings.

Longing is felt through the lens and even the ache of the body, magnifying and bringing the horizon close, as if the horizon were both a lifetime's journey away and living deep inside at some unknown core – as if we were coming home into a beautifully familiar, condensed strangeness.

In the longing and possession of romantic love, it is as if the body has been loaned to someone else but has then from some remote place, taken over the senses – we no longer know ourselves. Longing calls for a beautiful, grounded humiliation; the abasement of what we thought we were and strangely, the giving up of central control while being granted a watchful, scintillating, peripheral discrimination. The static willful central identity is pierced and wounded, violated and orphaned into its own future as if set adrift on a tide: like Moses in his floating cradle, bumping along the reeds of the Nile, like a child lost in a panicked moving crowd and at times, like a creature stunned, gripped and lifted by a passing hawk.

Longing has its own secret, future destination, and its own seasonal emergence from within, a ripening from the core, a seed growing in our own bodies; it is as if we are put into relationship with an enormous distance inside us leading back to some unknown origin with its own secret timing indifferent to our wills, and gifted at the same time with an intimate sense of proximity, to a lover, to a future, to a transformation, to a life we want for ourselves, and to the beauty of the sky and the ground that surrounds us.

continued

Longing is nothing without its dangerous edge, that cuts and wounds us while setting us free and beckons us exactly because of the human need to invite the right kind of peril. The foundational instinct that we are here essentially to risk ourselves in the world, that we are a form of invitation to others and to otherness, that we are meant to hazard ourselves for the right thing, for the right woman or the right man, for a son or a daughter, for the right work or for a gift given against all the odds. In longing we move and are moving from a known but abstracted elsewhere, to a beautiful, about to be reached, someone, something or somewhere we want to call our own.

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 19 | *Caeli enarrant*

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *

cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *

**then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Psalms 46 | *Deus noster refugium*

God is our refuge and strength, *

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
**and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;**

Though its waters rage and foam, *

and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

The LORD of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The LORD of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
**he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

"Be still, then, and know that I am God; *

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth."

The LORD of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.



Scripture Reading | Galatians 4:21-5:1

Reader: A reading from Galatians.

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written,

‘Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children,
burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs;
for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous
than the children of the one who is married.’

Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? ‘Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.’ So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily/Reflection | Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Silent Meditation |

During the singing, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in prayer.



Poem | by Pamela Pruitt

The Empty Tomb

When I was
A little girl,
Easter was
The same
To me
As New Year's Day --
I got
New clothes
To wear.

New life
Only meant
Another house,
Another school,
Another town.

And now
That I
Know
The difference,
They are
Still
The same.

The message of
Christ's Empty Tomb
Brings
A New Year
For each of us

Everyday.

With all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord, who is our hiding place in times of trouble, who surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for all who are hungry—whether hungry for power and glory or hungry for a simple meal. Show the mighty that you alone can satisfy their deepest need, and feed the poor from the abundance of your good creation. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for the church in times of trial—whether tested by tempestuous change or tempted by safety of the status quo. Give us peace when anger and fear threaten to divide us, and challenge us when we are too comfortable in this world. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for leaders in high places—whether determined to help those who suffer or distant from the cries of the oppressed. Open their eyes to see your saving power at work, and open their ears to hear your prophets' calls for justice. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

Lord God, instruct us in the way we should go and let your steadfast love surround us always; in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer |

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

Officiant: The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**

1st time in Latin, all following repetitions in English.

Ostinato Refrain

Nunc di - mīt - tis ser - vum tu - um, Dó - mi -
Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O

ne,
Lord,

se - cún - dum ver - bum
now go in peace ac -

ne,
Lord,

Dó - mi - ne,
O Lord,

pa - ce.
word.

tu - um in pa - ce, Dó - mi - ne. Nunc di -
cord - ing to your word, to your word. Let your

Last time

Last time

Caitlin Gompf, soprano
Catherine Hinton, soprano
Maureen Monk, flute
Larissa Sanders, piano

Thank you for joining us today!

PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 10 TO MARCH 16

Sunday, March 10

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
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 & Zoom
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:15 – 5:30 pm	Sundays at Three Concert – New Brick, upper level
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
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé Vespers – New Brick, upper level

Monday, March 11

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off
3:15 pm	Grassroots Drop-off
7:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	300 yr Events Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 pm	Outreach Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, lower level

Tuesday, March 12

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Boy Scout Event – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Building and Grounds Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 – 12:00 pm	Piano Recording – New Brick, upper level
10:00 – 11:00 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom
6:30 pm	Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, lower level
6:30 pm	Youth Lenten Group – Old Brick
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, March 14

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
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, March 15

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 10:00 pm	Event Setup – New Brick, lower level
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, March 16

8:30 am – 2:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, upper level
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Building and Grounds work day
9:30 am -	Men of Christ Church Breakfast
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
4:00 – 11:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Easter Altar Flowers and Gifts

Easter Sunday is a time that we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. If you would like to present Altar gifts this Easter, you can find our online Easter Offering form at <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/-/form/give/lenteaster>. Be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. There are also envelopes in the Narthex and the rear of Old Brick. You can also drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; include the same dedication information on the *MEMO* line of a check, please. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Lent and Holy Week at Christ Church

Our website's **Lent at Christ Church** page details our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. **Daily Meditations** are published each weekday morning, and an inspirational song each Saturday. This year, our website also has a **Daily Office page** that provides links to readings for each day. And now, you can find all of Christ Church's Holy Week details at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holy-week

Centering Prayer - Monday Evening

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. this Monday. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Bible Study and Lunch - Wednesday Morning

Christ Church's Bible Study meets each Wednesday morning in the Conference Room of the Parish House, explore the Lectionary readings for that Sunday, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Wednesday Bible Study begins at 10:00 a.m. and is led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series

Christ Church's Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, one of the most cherished traditions of our Lenten season, continues next Wednesday evening at 6:30 with a communal meal sponsored by the Christ Church Vestry and is followed by a presentation by the Reverend Barbara Seras. This series offers insightful seminars on our theme for this year, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*.

Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursday

On Thursdays, join us for midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick, with readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful, historic chapel - the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evening

Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick and everyone is welcome to take part. No matter if you're a novice singer or a seasoned musician, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs. If you're interested, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Beautify the Church for Easter - March 16

Join us on Saturday, March 16th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help us get the church ready for Easter. Just bring your water bottle, work gloves, and your family/friends. We'll have indoor and outdoor chores as we prepare for Easter and the Bishop's visit. There are chores for all skill levels (even young kids). RSVP to Jan DeBoissiere at bng@christchurchcolumbia.org. RSVP is not required - you're welcome to just show up and help if you can. Lunch will be provided.

MOCC Breakfast - March 16

Next Saturday, we'll have our monthly Saturday breakfast at IHOP at 9:30 a.m., and EVERYONE is welcome to join us! We also have our current *Random Act of Kindness* activity - creating gift bags for new fathers at Howard County General Hospital. You can find the list of items still needed on our website's February blog post - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/mocc-February-news. If you would like to help or have any questions, please email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org

First Wednesday Fellowship Meeting - March 18

In May, FWF returns and we will hold two Zoom planning meetings in March and April to get things started. Everyone is welcome to join us for the first meeting on Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m. and we hope you do - we'd love ideas and thoughts from everyone so we can make the first fellowship of each month the best it can be. We will discuss any questions, ideas, concerns, activities, cuisine, and much more. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **865 4794 8810** and the Passcode is **Fellowship**.

Altar Guild Easter Preparations - March 30

The Christ Church Altar Guild invites all parishioners to join us in our Easter preparations. You can learn how we accomplish our tasks and help us prepare the sanctuary and altar for this most blessed time of year. Stop by New Brick on Saturday, March 30th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you!

Help Us Prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt

Just a heads-up: our Youth and Family Ministry can use hard-boiled eggs from parishioners so that we can decorate them and get them ready for the Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. Please drop off hard-boiled eggs on the days leading up to Saturday, March 30th. Ask Kiona for more info on Sunday, or watch this space for more details and drop-off locations in the coming weeks.

WOCC Upcoming News & Events

This is your final week to bring scarves, hats, and gloves for the Seafarers, as we'll be accepting donations until March 15th. The collection bin labeled "Seafarers" is 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>. The rest of the WOCC announcements - including a day trip to London Town and Gardens on March 23rd, and an April WOCC dinner meeting - are on our website's WOCC blog - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/wocc-s-march-news-and-events.

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.

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 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.

Please Zoom Into Our Monthly Outreach Meeting on Monday, March 11

Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m., when we hope to have a guest presentation about FISH. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. [The Zoom link is HERE](#), the Meeting ID is **864 9837 1844** and the Passcode is **Outreach!** See you on Zoom!

Help Prepare or Serve a Meal to the Homeless on Monday, March 11

On the second Monday of each month, it's our turn to provide meals for the homeless at the Day Resource Center (DRC) in Jessup and the Live-In Facility on Freetown Road in Columbia, both operated by the [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#). We most recently took part on Feb. 12 (*above image*).

To join us on Monday, March 11, please sign up by this Sunday, March 10. If you wish to volunteer or bring food for the midday meal, our [DRC online signup form](#) describes the procedure. Please drop off side dishes, desserts, and fruit by 12:45 p.m. in the Christ Church parking lot near Old Brick. In-person volunteers gather then to car-pool to Jessup at 1 p.m. Later, parishioners who cook or shop for the evening meal for 50 residents of Grassroots' Live-In Facility arrive in the Old Brick parking lot between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. Get details in our [Grassroots online signup form](#).

Grassroots staff serves the evening meal. It's efficient to provide for both venues on the same day. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried chicken entrees. Thank you!

(continued)

The Grassroots team at Christ Church is led by Shahra Toth, who once again stepped up to aid the DRC when it was short-handed on a recent weekend. Shahra and George Toth, who are both Outreach members, prepared and delivered pans of 30 eggs each, scrambled with cheese or ham ([see photos here](#)). The chilly weather on Saturday, Feb.17, was similar to the snowy Saturday in January when they last brought eggs for DRC's breakfast meal.

Grassroots has wider needs for its pantries, located at three sites. It welcomes in-kind donations to be dropped off for delivery on the second Mondays. Look for its [monthly needs list](#) on church bulletin boards or see "Related Files" on each signup form.

Columbia Community Care Plans Events on March 14 and March 16

Here are two save-the-dates for **Columbia Community Care** (CCC), which Christ Church has supported since June 2020, soon after its founding to help those in need during the travails of the pandemic. To mark its fourth anniversary, CCC will hold a recognition event on Thursday, March 14, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at The 3rd, 10215 Wincopin Circle, Suite 100, Columbia, MD 21044. Tickets cost \$75 each plus online registration fees. On CCC's [events page](#), the event is described as offering "Food, Drink, Entertainment, Fellowship, and Fun."

A mystery-themed fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 16, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 5485 Twin Knolls Rd., Columbia MD 21045. On CCC's [events page](#), the organization says, "\$10 of each ticket will go to food and resources for students and families in Columbia."

Admission is \$95 for an individual or \$85 for members of a group of four or a group of eight, plus online registration fees. Guests must be 21 or older. Admission includes a three-course dinner, tax, gratuity, free parking, and the program. "Sinister Speakeasy" is an interactive murder-mystery game conducted by Whodunnit for Hire.

Meanwhile, CCC has added paper towels and toilet paper to its list of needed essentials. Also please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put these in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information on times and locations of three Saturday distribution sites by going online to the ["I Need Help"](#) portion of CCC's website. Or learn how to volunteer at the sites or in other ways by visiting the ["I Can Help" portion of its website](#). Look for updates on the [CCC Facebook Group](#).

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

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

Refugee Ministry News

Please join members of our interfaith refugee ministry at a Refugee Shabbat at the Columbia Jewish Congregation on March 8th at 7:30 p.m. Naimatullah, the father in the "second family" of Afghan refugees we have connected with, will speak about the harrowing journey of his family's personal refugee experience. The service is at The Meeting House (the Oakland Mills interfaith center) in Oakland Mills, 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia. All are invited.

In other RM news, St. Andrews Episcopal in Glenelg is reaching out to sister parishes for assistance in finding two host families for two teenage Afghan refugees who are under their care. After spending nearly two years in a UAE refugee camp, Najiba and Famararz received authorization to come to the U.S. in July 2023. Since then, they've lived

with the former rector of St. Andrews and her family. They are currently in 9th grade at Glenelg High School but would relocate to a new school if needed. We seek families who can take them separately for at least one year, starting in June 2024. Please visit tinyurl.com/Najiba-Famarz for more information on Najiba and Famarz. If you might be interested in hosting and would like to learn more, please contact Deacon Denise at deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org

Help an Eagle Scout!

Jonah Aribiah, Christ Church parishioner, Youth Liason to the Vestry, and Eagle Scout with Troop 617, is looking for assistance to help complete his Eagle Scout Project. It involves the construction and installation of five raised garden beds that will benefit Homewood Center school, a Title 1 Howard County Public School, located in Columbia Maryland. Schools are designated as Title 1 schools if they have a large percentage of students from low income families and receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch meals. Being a Title 1 school, many of the students are from low-income families, and given the current high food prices, my project will be beneficial to the Homewood Center by providing the students a space where they can learn how to grow their own food and vegetables and transfer this knowledge to their home communities. This will go a long way in helping alleviate the food insecurity in the County. Growing ecology-friendly in-season food and providing a natural habitat for pollinators is also beneficial to the environment. If you are interested, please speak with Jonah on Sundays or email him at jaribiah@gmail.com.

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.

You can read the latest Vestry-approved report for January 2024 [here](#).

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.

Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge

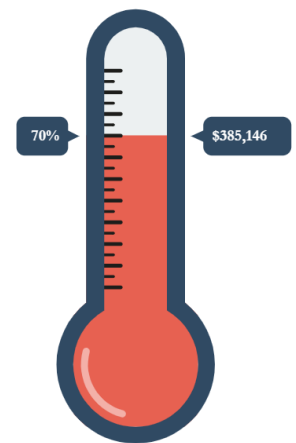
Text Giving

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

Online Giving

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

GOAL: \$550,000





Music as Prayer

“To sing is to pray twice,” is a well-known maxim often attributed to St. Augustine. Music is a vital part of many religious ceremonies. Bells or singing bowls are used in many eastern religious practices. In Europe and Western traditions, church music started with simple voices chanting and eventually developed into more complex songs and instrumental works. There is even a legend of a “secret chord” that King David (the writer of the Psalms) played that pleased God. As music in the secular world develops and changes, so too does music in the church, with different styles and practices coming in and out of fashion. Church music also varies by country, denomination, language, and even by region within countries.

During World War II, a Swiss Christian leader and theology student felt moved to try to make a difference in the world that was suffering so much. In 1940, Roger Schutz bought property in the countryside of war-torn France, in a town called Taizé. Here he prayed daily, helped to hide Jews escaping the Nazi regime, and then after the war ended, welcomed German prisoners. Brother Schutz believed that Christians must constantly respond to the changing times and changing needs around them. Fueled by Brother Schutz’s teachings, this Taizé community began to grow, with other theology students, Protestant and Catholic brothers, and young people from around the world making pilgrimages to the French countryside to pray together. As these Christians gathered, they often had difficulty learning the beautiful and complex French songs used during prayer. The community needed a way to allow everyone to join in, no matter what language they spoke.

1 Thessalonians 5: 17 tells us to “rejoice always” and “pray without ceasing.” There are many ways to approach this task. Many Christian denominations have morning and evening prayer. Catholics may be familiar with the rosary. Orthodox religions teach The Jesus Prayer as a way to concentrate and focus one’s inner thoughts while repeatedly praying, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” The community at Taizé built on these traditions and developed simple, repetitive chants, sung in many languages. These beautiful melodies are sung over and over, making them easy to learn on the spot. While singing in multiple languages, everyone will have a chance to sing in a comfortable language and everyone will have to work harder to sing an unfamiliar language. As the chants are repeated, instrumentalists add harmonies or complementary melodies. Singers become more confident and add alto and tenor harmonies. The repeated chants focus our thoughts and emotions, bringing the meaning not only to our thoughts, but to our hearts for a deeper understanding and prayerful experience.

(continued)

Please join us on Sunday evenings during Lent at 6pm to experience this beautiful form of prayer and meditation at our Taizé Vespers services.

To learn more about The Jesus Prayer, visit <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-jesus-prayer>

To read an in-depth article about the Taizé community, visit <https://crcc.usc.edu/taize-a-musical-monastic-community-formed-in-response-to-a-global-crisis-faces-new-ones/>

You can read this post and see other related images on the Christ Church website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/music-ministry-blog-march-2024

Larissa Sanders
Director of Music Ministry
Christ Episcopal Church
music@christchurchcolumbia.org



March

The Rend Collective (Christian Concert): March 17
Easter Egg Coloring & Decorating for Families with Children: March 30
Easter Egg Hunt: March 31

April

New Beginnings (Diocesan Retreat; 6th-12th Grade): April 19-21
Youth Sunday: April 28
SENIORS, Please have an outline or draft of your sermons ready by March 17th.

May

Mothers' Day Flower Arrangements & Sale: May 11

June

DreamBuilders Blitz-Building Mission Trip/Outreach: June 16-22
Mandatory for all confirmands.
\$700/person. DreamBuilders and Christ Church can offer scholarships.
Please register on their [website](#).

Questions?

Email kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org



Not Worth A Bowl Of Soup

A few days ago, I was in a conversation with a friend who lamented, rather eerily, about the broken nature of our world. It isn't the case for him that the world has been perfect and without rancor, but it just feels like nothing seems to work. Everything is out of joint. Trust in our most cherished institutions is at an all-time low. Democracy is struggling to stay above water. Our communities are struggling with a rise in poverty. Our borders have been choked by immigrants who seek a better life for themselves and their families. You only have to turn on any local news channel to hear about all the crime in our communities. There's a rise in anti-Semitism. The list goes on and on, and it often feels like our world, our communities, and our lives are choking.

To a very large extent, the challenges we face are based on the fact that each life is either questioning the value of another life or has concluded that another life is not worth a bowl of soup.

The event that triggered this conversation with my friend was the death of Alexei Navalny, a Russian political activist who died mysteriously in prison. This man had survived a poison attack, was arrested and put on trial, and eventually imprisoned after he completed medical treatment in Germany. A few weeks ago, he was transferred to a penal colony, one of Russia's harshest prisons. Why would a human being be treated like that? The honest answer is that, to those in power, his life was not worth a bowl of soup.

What I found most surprising was that those who thought that his life was not worth a bowl of soup were the same people trying to determine for others, especially his family, how this man ought to be honored. They didn't want this man's memorial service, and most especially his grave, to become a shrine.

But I thought this man was not worth a bowl of soup, so what was the goal of all the inconveniences they caused the family and those who thought that Alexei was worth more than a bowl of soup?

It is interesting to know that during the Second World War, when many Jews were locked up in concentration camps, one of the popular clichés which the Nazis used was 'Not worth the soup.' The point was that the human being that God created in God's own image - the Jew - wasn't worth the bowl of soup that was served to them.

On a typical day, the Jewish prisoners would labor and toil at these camps-doing all sorts of work. They didn't have the luxury of breakfast, lunch, and dinner. All they had for the day was a bowl of soup. But even that, before they doled off their hats and received the bowl of soup, they were reminded that their dignity wasn't worth the bowl of soup. Their lives were not worth the bullets that killed them. This is what those who had been condemned for being Jews were subjected to.

It is hard for me to fathom how human life could be dishonored in such a way!

In the Old Testament, we learn of Jacob and Esau who, as twins, were incredibly suspicious of each other. The dysfunction in that family was such that Esau returned home one day and found Jacob cooking soup. He begged him for some, but Jacob requested that Esau trades his birthright for a bowl of soup. "What had my birthright got to do with a bowl of soup? Is my birthright worth a bowl of soup? Is my dignity worth a bowl of soup?" Esau asks.

The tragedy of our lives has been one of seeing others as not being worth a bowl of soup; this, then, provides us with the excuse to treat people any way that we can because they are not worth even that!

The truth is, if human dignity were to be quantified in any way, that process questions every human's overall value - not just the value of the one whose life is on a scale, as it were, to assess its value, but also affects the life of the one who is assessing the value of that other life.

I read a story about a Chinese couple who had moved to the Coronado area in the late 1930s. They needed a house but couldn't find one to rent because of the restrictive zonal laws in that area. It just so happened that an African American couple who were both born into slavery in Kentucky were willing to rent them a place.

This Chinese couple eventually purchased the property they first rented, and then purchased an adjoining property. After many years, they sold both properties, and then - guess what? - they donated \$5 million of the proceeds to Black college students.

This is more than giving back. It is a recognition by this Chinese family that their African American landlord considered them to be worthy of more than a bowl of soup. Having lived on the margins where their dignity was under constant questioning, to perpetuate a practice that diminished them would have been unconscionable.

In return, their Chinese tenants honored them for seeing them differently, not like how the broader society saw them. These are the very practices that changes the human condition - and Lent is that time of year when we are invited to look at each other and wonder if they are worth a bowl of soup.

With their gift, the Chinese couple made the point that there's more to the human story than the indignity with which we treat each other. In fact, there is more to human dignity than a bowl of soup.

One of the reasons I appreciate Lent is the gift of self-denial. Self-denial reminds us that in order to be able to make the changes that are necessary, we should be willing to see each other as being worth more than a bowl of soup.

I'd like to end with a quote from Rumi: "Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames." I have come to realize that those who fan our flames intend for us to do well, to thrive, and to flourish. More than that, they want to see us place ultimate value on each other.

This Lenten season, set your life on fire. Provide others with the blessing of fanning the flames that burn within you. Deny yourself the lure of seeing others as not being worthy of a bowl of soup. Challenge yourself to live right, live thankfully, and see your neighbor as the neighbor that they are. That's what's going to change the challenges that we all face.

This Lent, let your bowl of soup be just a bowl of soup - because human dignity is worth far more than that.

Manny+



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The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The Rev'd Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

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