

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Third Sunday of Easter

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sunday, April 23, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Home!

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

Prelude | Prelude au Kyrie

Jean Langlais

Opening Hymn 460 | Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Hyfrydol

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the
*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we
3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the
*5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the

1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the
2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is
3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the
4 Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of
5 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the
3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -
4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -
5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery

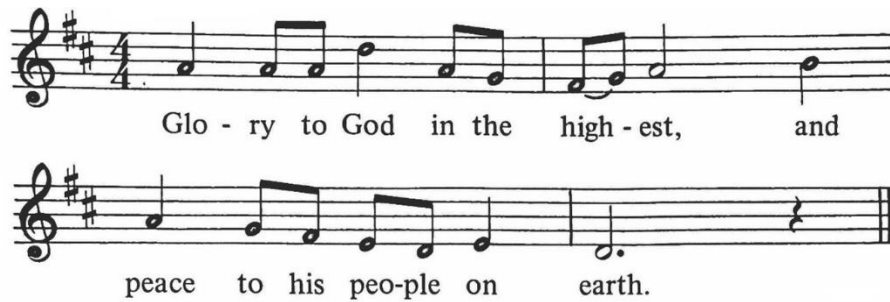
1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

**Choir:**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. **Refrain: all sing**

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain: all sing**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the
right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer. **Refrain: all sing**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
Glory of God the Father. Amen. **Refrain: all sing**

The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread:
Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

People: Amen.

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Acts 2:14a,36-41 |

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel
know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers,
what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus
Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is
for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."
And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt
generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons
were added.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

Antiphon

How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

Antiphon

Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

O LORD, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!**

Antiphon

A Reading from 1:17-23 |

Reader: A reading from 1 Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

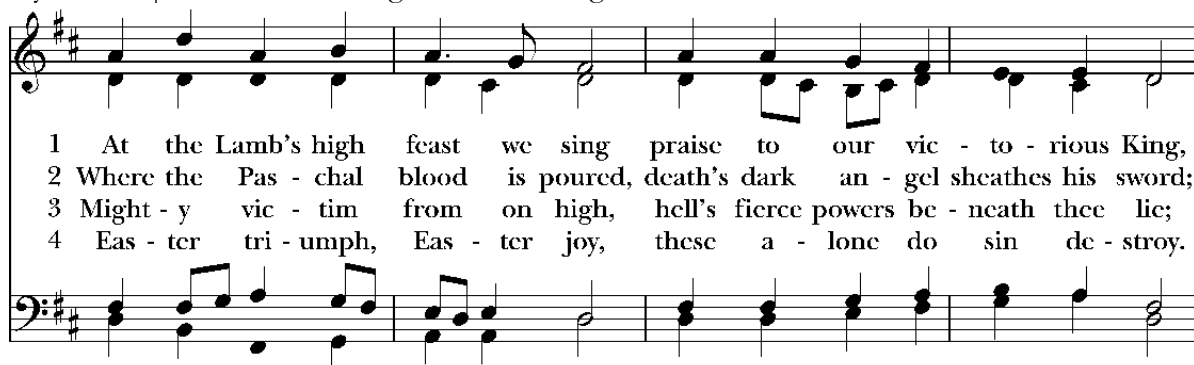
Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

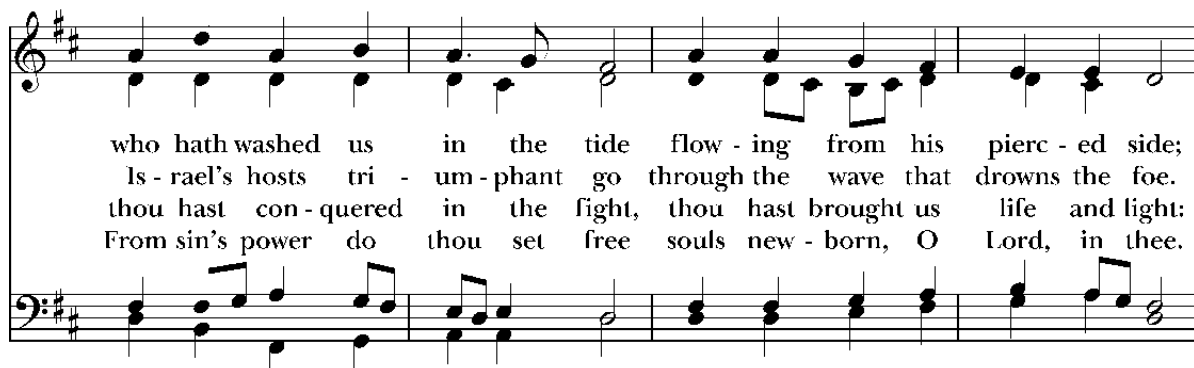
The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn 174 | At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

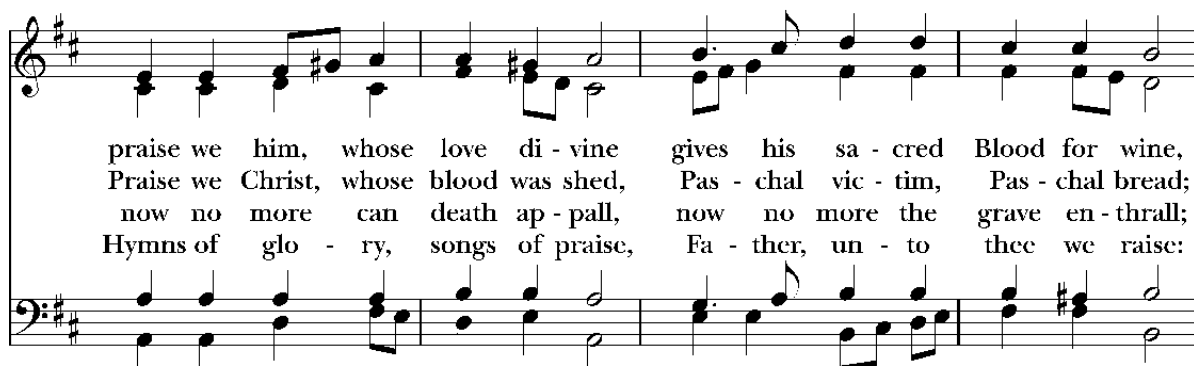
Salzburg



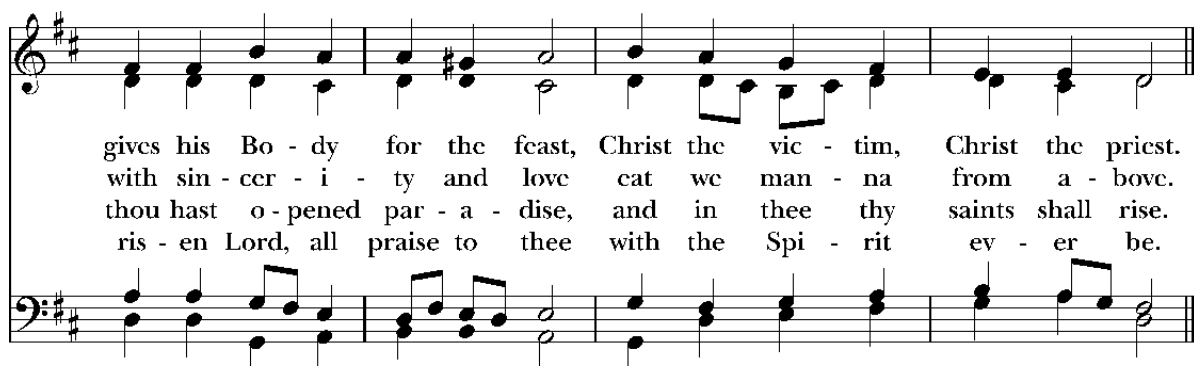
1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.



who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.



praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:



gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love cat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

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

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Sermon | The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

The Prayers of the People |

Risen Lord, we offer our praise on this third Sunday after Easter. You have forgiven our sins through the sacrifice of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. You support the fallen, heal the sick, and free the captive. You sustain and redeem all lives through Your love, kindness, justice, and mercy. **Lord, we praise You.**

We offer prayers on behalf of all who suffer in this world, that they might see better times. We pray for peace wherever people use violence to subdue, subjugate, or terrorize others. For survivors of violence, we seek comfort and the ability to forgive. For perpetrators of violence, we ask that the Holy Spirit bring them to repentance. For the hungry, the homeless, and the imprisoned, we pray for hope and help. For our national and world leaders, we ask for wisdom, compassion, and humility. **Lord, we seek Your help.**

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who carry Your word to every corner of the world. We seek your protection for those who do so despite persecution and peril. We are so grateful for our spiritual leaders: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Robert, our Diocesan Bishops; Carrie, our elected Bishop Co-Adjutor; Emmanuel, our Rector; Richard, our Rector Emeritus; and all Christ Church clergy, staff, vestry, and postulants. In the Anglican Communion, we give thanks for the work of the Church of the Province of Uganda. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St Luke's, Brownsville; St. Mark's, Lappans; and St. Paul's, Sharpsburg. We welcome with gratitude all who are new or visiting with us today. **Lord, help us to spread Your word.**

Merciful God, we seek healing for those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit, especially Richard, Mtr. Marcia, Patricia, Emily, Kellene, Shirley, Louise, Danny, Roberta, Francis. Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those you now name. We pray for the souls of those who have departed this life, especially those you now name. We ask for comfort for all who mourn. **Lord, give your servants strength.**

This week, we remember with joy and thanksgiving the birthdays of Victoria, Phillip & Wes, and baptismal anniversaries of Ian, Marie & Karen. **Lord, thank you for their lives.**

Gracious Lord, may we share Your love and mercy to all we meet in the coming week. May we ever be mindful of Your great love and compassion so that we can act in accordance with Your will for us. Thank you for all you have done for us. **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 | The God Who Rules This Earth

Richard G. Jones / David McCarthy
in honor of Tim and Sherry Beaty

Please scan to give.



Presentation Hymn 400 (v. 7) |

Lasst uns Erfreuen

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Eucharistic Prayer B |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

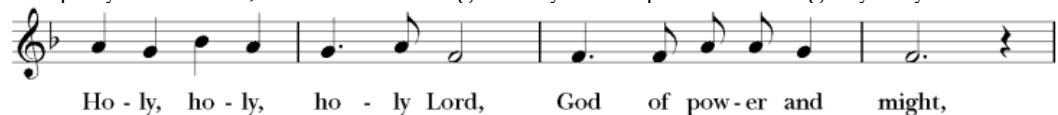
***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

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, according to his command, O Father,

All: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer |

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

Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal-lowed be your Name, your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread.
For-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king-dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into five systems, each corresponding to a line of the prayer. The first system ends with a repeat sign, and the fifth system ends with a double bar line.

The Breaking of the Bread |

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Cantor: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Cantor: The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Cantor: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

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

Communion Hymn LEVAS 67 | I Love the Lord

Traditional

1. I love the Lord, He heard my
 2. I love the Lord, He heard my

1. cry and pit - ied ev - 'ry groan.
 2. cry and pit - ied ev - 'ry groan.

1. Long as I live and trou - bles rise,
 2. O let my heart no more des - pair

1. I'll has - ten to His throne.
 2. while I have breath to pray.

Please 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 Blessing |

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond Amen.

Closing Hymn LEVAS 42 | He Lives

Alfred H. Ackley

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; —
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care, —
3. Re - joice, re - joice. O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing. —

1. I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say; —
2. And though my heart grows wea - ry I nev - er will de - spair; —
3. E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! —

1. I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, —
2. I know that He is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast, —
3. The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find, —

1. And just the time I need Him — He's al - ways near. —
2. The day of His ap - pear - ing — will come at last. —
3. None oth - er is so lov - ing, — so good and kind. —

He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day! —

He lives, He lives,

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. —

He lives, He lives, sal - va - tion to im - part! —

He lives, He lives,

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart. —

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader/Chalicerist: Joan Harvey

Ushers: Kayode Fatodu, Yetti Lipede

9:00 a.m. Service

Ushers: Eva & Hope Oladipupo, Yetti Lipede

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Sarah Thomas

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Bete Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Acolytes and Crucifer: Setutsi Abdallah, Hannah Boyer, Luke Aribiah

Chalicerist: Al Bracey

Altar Guild

Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett

PARISH CALENDAR

APRIL 23 TO APRIL 29

Sunday, April 23

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 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
10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
11:30 am	Beaty Celebration – New Brick, lower level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, April 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
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Lay Pastoral Care Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, April 25

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – Old Brick & Zoom

Wednesday, April 26

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 pm	300-year Music Ministry Meeting – Zoom
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, April 27

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

Friday, April 28 – Arbor Day

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

Saturday, April 29

9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:00 – 5:00 pm	WOCC Card Making – New Brick, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – 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.

This Sunday at Christ Church

The Third Sunday of Easter has three worship services - join us for our Old Brick Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., Family Worship in New Brick at 9:00, or the 10:30 service with music and choir in the New Brick Sanctuary. As always, we'll livestream our 10:30 worship, which you can watch on our [website](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#) pages.

Youth Formation

Every child is welcome to take part in Youth Formation at 9:30, and you can find the details on [our website's Youth Formation page](#). Also on that page is a link to the Sunday School registration form, so please sign your children up so we can plan accordingly (use one form per child, please). The Christ Church Youth Group (grades 5-12) also meets Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the basement of the Church Office building. If you are interested in having your child join the CECYG, please email Todd for more information - youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org

Please note that there will be no Youth Formation classes on Sunday, May 28th, and our last day for the spring program year will be June 4th.

Adult Formation

Our Parenting Group gathers in the New Brick Vestry Room (lower level). Bible Study will meet in the Parish Hall Conference Room. And during Sunday Circle, we will be looking at commentaries centered around the Resurrection, a series exploring perspectives on Resurrection. We will be learning how various individuals have expressed their perspectives on the subject, and discussing among ourselves how we interpret this important topic. Join us Sundays at 9:30 in Old Brick, or you can join us virtually on Zoom; the program media and Zoom links will be in our *This Sunday at Christ Church* email. There are several Adult Formation options, and you're welcome to join any of them on any Sunday. [See our Adult Formation page on the CEC website for more information.](#)

“Beaty Birthday Bash” - Sunday Afternoon

Sherry and Tim Beaty are both now officially 80 years young! This Sunday, April 23rd, they, along with many of their family members, will attend the 10:30 service, and then gather down in the Great Hall (LLNB), where the family will host a fun get-together. Parishioners of all ages who want to join in the festivities are welcome and encouraged to join us! A light lunch will be served, along with a birthday cake... and perhaps some “gentle” roasting of your hosts. But PLEASE, no gifts. However, cards - especially humorous ones - are very welcome.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is now a hybrid gathering! You can join us in person, or you can take part virtually. Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to gather on Mondays in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. For more info, email Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

Join One of the Christ Church Choirs!

Music is an extremely important part of the liturgy at Christ Church, and now we have a new way for you to take part - handbell choir! [We posted a wonderful video of our handbell choir in action here](#), but why not take part yourself? We're always seeking more new members for both handbell and vocal choir - whether you have previous experience or not, there's a place for you. All ages are welcome, and no experience is necessary. If you're interested or have questions, please speak with Larissa at church or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Midday Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the spring, Christ Church will have midday worship at 12 noon in Old Brick including readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to gather for a prayerful time in the presence of God and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and share in this service that's held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

CEC Book Club - NEW BOOK

Christ Church's Book Club begins a new book this week, so there's no better time to join us. We've found that discussing books collectively has enriched the experience for each of us, and we'd love to have you take part. The new book, *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City* by Andrea Elliott, **was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction last year**, and although you can find it at many booksellers, we can get you started with the first three chapters; email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com or text her at 301-452-7115. Then take part for an hour or so each Friday evening for a lively discussion, as everyone's input and thoughts are welcome. Simply log in to Zoom at 7:30 p.m. for an hour or so - that link is **here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366** and the Passcode is **CECBooks**

First Wednesday Fellowship - May 3

Join us for the return of our First Wednesday Fellowship! Our next FWF event is on May 3rd and will be a wonderful feast at 6 p.m. followed by group games of all sorts! If you need more info or have ideas for future FWF gatherings, please contact Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or **sign up here**. Then, mark your calendars for our summer FWFs: June 7, July 5, and August 3!

Sunday School News

As our program year begins to wind down, we would like to thank all of the families for bringing their children to Sunday school each week. The children are a joy, and we love working with them! If your child - ages 3 through 5th grade - is not yet a part of our Sunday School, they can join us each week from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in the lower level of New Brick. Please note that we will not hold Sunday School on May 28th and our last class of the program year will be on June 4th.

Even though the program year is ending, we *will* need teachers in September! The teachers in our program are volunteers (thank you!!!) and each week, we need 2 adults in each class. Even if you can only help once in a while, please consider volunteering in this wonderful ministry so the children of our church will continue to receive a quality program. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Atkins (dandjatkins@verizon.net).

WOCC's Spring Events

Save the dates for upcoming events:

- **Saturday, April 29 from 3-5 p.m.** - Card making with Emily; \$10 for materials; Need money and numbers by this Sunday, April 23rd (pay by Realm or check/cash in Narthex; memo is "WOCC Cards w/Emily")
- **Saturday, May 6 at 12 noon** - The WOCC's Annual May Tea at Sweet Simplici-Tea; \$32 for formal lunch & tea; need money and numbers by this Sunday, April 23rd (pay by Realm or check/cash in Narthex; memo is "WOCC May Tea")
- **Monday, May 1 at 1 p.m.** - WOCC monthly meeting in New Brick and on Zoom.

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. Speak to any WOCC member or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Pentecost Sunday - May 28

On this Day of Pentecost, Christ Church will have only one Sunday service, and this will be at a special time - 10:00 a.m. Following worship will be a potluck lunch, and further details and sign-up sheets will be in upcoming

communications. In the meantime, mark your calendars, and think of what dish(es) you can bring or make to share with everyone!

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We have begun gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th Anniversary, but we're 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 would like more information, please contact Fr. Manny at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thank you.

Group Event Cancellation

Due to scheduling conflicts, the upcoming *Resurrection and New Life* spiritual direction series scheduled for this May has been canceled. If you need more information, please speak with Fr. Manny, or email him at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

Making Summer Plans? Be Sure to Include VBS!

Vacation Bible School takes place from June 26 - July 2, and gathers each day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At VBS, children will enjoy a week of Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and friends! Snacks and refreshments are served daily. After the 10:30 a.m. service on July 2nd, we'll have a wonderful celebration with ice cream and snacks for all participants.

VBS is open to all children ages 3 (must be potty-trained) through 5th grade, and you can register your child(ren) at any time by completing our VBS registration form at tinyurl.com/CEC-VBS2023. The cost is \$30 per child or \$70 per family, and **you can process the payment on Realm**. Scholarships are available for those in need.

Volunteers are also needed, so come and have fun with us! **Email us** if you're interested in registering your child, want to help with the program, or if you have any questions about the registration process.

Salvation Army Gets Aid for Tornado Victims in Arkansas, Neighboring States

On March 31, violent **tornadoes tore through Little Rock and other parts of Arkansas**. Widespread damage is still being felt. In communities such as Wynne, Ark., **churches and the high school were destroyed**, keeping children out of class until April 12. It was just one of the multiple tornadoes that struck Arkansas and neighboring states, devastating areas from Bollinger County, Mo., to Sullivan County, Ind. The Salvation Army, which has a **disaster plan** in place, responded rapidly – **helping those in the path of destruction** with meals, water, and emotional and spiritual care.

Christ Church responded, too. On behalf of parishioners, members of the Outreach Commission voted at its meeting on April 10 to contribute \$400 to Salvation Army disaster relief, sending \$200 to Arkansas and \$200 to neighboring states. It is the latest in a series of disaster-relief donations, including a donation to the Salvation Army last month to aid tornado survivors in Mississippi and one earlier this year to UNICEF to help earthquake victims in Syria and Türkiye. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Please accept heartfelt thanks for making these donations possible.

Baltimore Area Aftercare Program

As a community of those who follow the way of Jesus and his teachings, Christ Church commits to reaching out in multiple ways to serve people on the margins. We seek to meet the needs of others in broad and various walks of life. We help those who've lost a way to navigate safety under trying circumstances, such as the Afghan refugee family we sponsor. And we help people with little-to-no resources due to treacherous storms and weather, like those in Kentucky

and Puerto Rico. We do not judge others as to what things they could have done differently to avoid their circumstances. Instead, we reach out time and again, as Christians who put our love of Christ before anyone or anything else.

With this same vigor, we can serve those returning home from prison. Those who've lost connection with family, those who need help with basic items such as a toothbrush and a little cash in hand. Those who may not qualify for social services because they stand judged by the history of who they'd been and what they'd done—instead of whom they have become. Christ Church can proudly say we minister to incarcerated individuals. In spite of the stringent limitations placed not only on inmates but on visitors, our own Kathy Lyon still finds a way to provide wonderful art classes to inmates at a pre-release center in Maryland. We also give some financial support to another organization to provide spiritual reading materials for inmates. These comforts can keep an inmate hopeful about the future, by just knowing someone cares.

Now it's time to help care for those recently released, or soon to be released, from prison into society. Let's help them see a new way of life and give them a chance to walk a new path. Such a program exists under the leadership of Deacon Les Roberts, also known as Brother Les. Brother Les leads the **Baltimore Area Aftercare Program (BAAP)**. This program serves individuals who've been recently released from jails or prisons, by providing basic toiletry items and clothing. **BAAP needs our help!** All we have to do is donate one or more of the basic items requested. The SignUpGenius link with those items is at - **<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA8A92DAAFFC70-april>**.

Thank you for your commitment to serving those on the margins!

Columbia Community Care Requests Diapers, Personal Care Items

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. Please look for updates, such as requests for volunteers, posted in the **CCC Facebook Group** or on the **“I Can Help” portion of its website**. Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put items in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. Our point of contact is Leigh Smith, who delivers the contents of the bin.

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

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** are continuing to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill their shopping lists. The yellow bin is back in its spot between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

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

TIME TALENT TREASURE



WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF 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 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**

Pledge for 2023

At Christ Church, we are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who continually support our ministry of faithful service, and we pray that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for this calendar year. You can bring your pledge cards to church with you at any time, pick up and complete a pledge card in the Narthex, or **pledge online** (choose "Pledge for 2023" in the *FUND* dropdown menu). Thank you very much for your support of our vital common life.



Christ Episcopal Church

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office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

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