

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

First Sunday of Advent

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Season of Advent

Hope



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!

Lighting of the Advent Candle |



First Candle | The Candle of Hope

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth. *(A person lights the First Candle here)*

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray:

People: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity |

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
People: Amen.

Trisagion S102 | Holy God

Alexander Archangelsky

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day |

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The people may be seated.

Reader: A Reading from Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 | *Qui regis Israel*



Show the light of your coun-ten-ance, O God, and we— shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, *

**how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

Antiphon

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; *

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Antiphon

Reader: A Reading from the First Epistle to Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 56 | O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Vs 1 & 2)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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

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

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed |

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

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

he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People |

Gladly we gather in the house of the Lord. In unity, we praise God's holy name. May we seek to do good and serve others. May the Lord teach us His ways and help us to walk in His path. We pray for peace and prosperity in our nation and throughout the Earth. **We walk in the Light of God.**

We ask Christ to bless the work of the Church in our needy world. May we be strengthened and encouraged to pursue Christ's truth and love. We pray for peace in areas of armed conflict, especially Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine. We pray for the safety and welfare of all immigrants and refugees throughout the world seeking opportunity and a new way of life. We pray for the Anglican Communion, especially for The Church of North India (United). In our diocese, we lift up our sister parishes. For our spiritual leaders, we ask for our Lord's wisdom and guidance, especially for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; Diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Carrie; Rector, Emmanuel; Deacon, Denise; our Christ Church staff, postulants, and vestry; and our Emeritus Rector, Richard. We ask your blessings upon the faith communities with whom we partner in ministry, especially St. Luke's Youth Center, Columbia Jewish Congregation, Patapsco Friends, and St. John's Ellicott City. **We look for the coming of Christ.**

We pray for those who are ill, especially Debbie, Sarah, Harriet, Doug, Mary Ann, Lexi, Jon, Sunny, Georgia, Dennis, Altra, Barbara, Sherry, Tim, Christine, Jan, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Nell, and those we now name. May they be wrapped in God's love and feel the healing presence of Christ at their side. We give thanks for the caring individuals who minister to those in need. We pray for the safety of those serving in the Armed Forces, especially Kofi Abdallah and Conner Warlow. We also pray for those who have died and entered eternal life, especially Raymond Nze, Lidell Ford, Sr., Yancy Moiwo & Olayemi Osunniyi, and those we now name. Please comfort those who grieve. **We turn to Our Lord for help in time of trouble.**

We extend our thanks to Christ for the incredible blessings in our lives. This week our parish celebrates the birthdays of Eva, Setutsi, David, Monica, Chizoba, Nesta & Vincent and baptismal anniversaries of Ellen, Paula & Virginia. As a community of faith, we share occasions of joy in our church family. We also welcome all visitors and newcomers to Christ Church on this first Sunday in Advent and hope that our time in worship and praise has fed your spirit. We are enriched by your presence. **In Christ we live and move and have our being.**

Lord, grant that we may enter into Advent with great anticipation and hope of new life through the love of Jesus in each other and in the world. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin |

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Offertory Anthem | The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

arr. K. Lee Scott

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 3) |

Old 100th

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 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.

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:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r, of
 pow'r_ and might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he, is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est, Ho - sa - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem | Be Known To Us

arr. Richard Shephard

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus Christ, in the break - ing of the bread.

God of hope and God of pro - mise, you have pre - pared a ban - quet for us,

Come, Lord Je - sus, come and cheer, Come and make thine Ad - vent here.

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



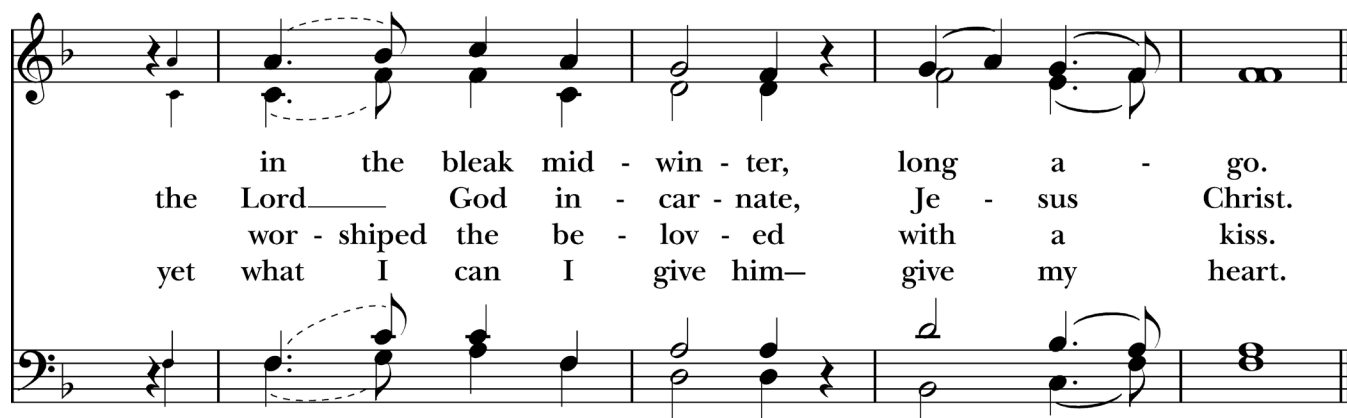
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

The people stand as able.

Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The Blessing |

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond Amen.

Closing Hymn 66 | Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lectors/Readers: Sonni Aribiah, Kayode Fatodu

Ushers: Michon Semon, Kayode Williams, Onyx Williams

Chalicer: Sonni Aribiah

10:30 a.m. Service

Lectors/Readers: Kathy Lyon

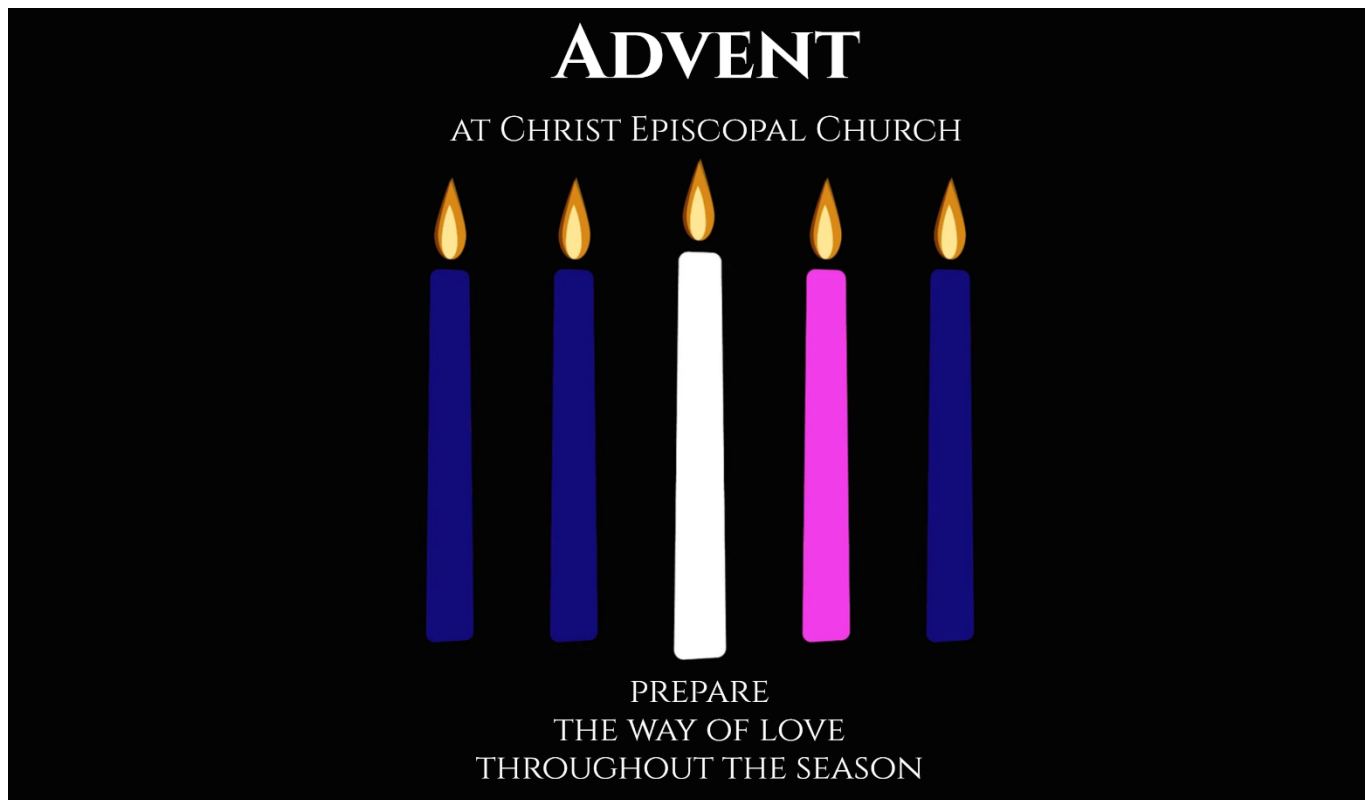
Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah,
Hope Oladipupo, Eva Oladipupo

Acolytes and Crucifer: Alex Opiri, Jasmine Opiri

Chalicer: Kathy Lyon

Altar Guild

Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente



WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/ADVENT-AND-CHRISTMAS

**PARISH CALENDAR
DECEMBER 3 TO DECEMBER 9**

Sunday, December 3

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 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 am	Sunday School
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 pm	Confirmation Class – Parish Hall, lower level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:00 – 3:00 pm	WOCC Christmas Luncheon – King’s Contrivance
2:00 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference Room
4:00 – 7:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, December 4

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	300 yr Legacy Committee Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, December 5

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Wednesday, December 6

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship Holiday Party – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, December 7

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – 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

(continued)

Friday, December 8

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	300 yr Fundraising Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, December 9

6:00 am – 12:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
10:30 am – 1:30 pm	Columbia Pro Cantare Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool Event – New Brick, lower level
2:00 pm	AA Meeting, Parish Hall, lower level
5:00 – 6:30 pm	Jazz Caroling and Cookie Exchange – New Brick
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements, email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.
For a digital copy of the complete service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website,
or visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/worship-archive

Advent and Christmas Schedule

The season is upon us! Christ Church's Advent and Christmas page contains the schedule of the main services and gatherings occurring throughout the season, so be sure to check back regularly and join us. Visit christchurchcolumbia.org/advent-and-christmas. You can also view our Parish Calendar [here](#), which includes all upcoming events on our campus, both for the parish and the community.

Christmas Flowers and Music

Christmas Flowers and Music donations in memory or dedication of a loved one are being gratefully accepted. These help fund the wonderful greenery, flowers, and musicians that assist in bringing the seasons of Advent and Christmas to life for everyone. There are two ways you can donate - you can do so digitally using our [Online Giving Form](#) and simply select "Christmas Flowers & Music" or "Christmas General Offering" from the *FUND* dropdown menu and write the dedication name(s) on the *MEMO* line. If doing so by check, you'll find both Christmas envelopes in the Narthex and in Old Brick. When using either method, please be sure to submit yours no later than Wednesday, December 20th.

Christmas and Advent Wreaths: Order Now, Pick Up this Sunday

As mentioned above, the youth are making wreaths this Saturday, but you can also order a wreath to display some holiday cheer at home! If you'd like one - specify Advent (tabletop) or Christmas (hanging), please - email kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org so we know how many to make. A suggested donation of \$30 per wreath will help fund the project, and you can pick yours up after church services this Sunday.

WOCC Christmas Feast - Sunday Afternoon

This Sunday, we will gather for the WOCC's annual Christmas Feast at [The King's Contrivance Restaurant](#). We'll meet at the restaurant at 1 p.m. The sign-up deadline was last week, but if you have any questions, please email wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Centering Prayer - December 4

Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings for Centering Prayer, a special evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are; **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Passcode is **Centering!**

First Wednesday Fellowship - December 6

Don't miss December's FWF as we celebrate the holiday season with an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest and gift swap. Wear your favorite ugly sweater to the gathering and bring a gift valued at around ten dollars so we can put it in the grab bag and share it with others. We're still working on the meal for the event, but it's sure to be delicious. Join us on Wednesday (also St. Nicholas Day!) at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall... be there!

Thursday Healing Eucharist - December 7

Christ Church offers midday worship in historic Old Brick, including readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to join us for a prayerful time as we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones, so come reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful chapel, the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

Christ Church Choirs - December 7

CEC Choirs are busy on Thursdays in December! Handbell Choir gathers from 7-7:30, and Adult Choir rehearses from 7:30-9 p.m. **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page.** Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choir. If you're interested, or if you have any questions, please speak with Larissa or email her at **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**

CEC Book Club - December 1

Join us on Zoom for the Christ Church Book Club on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. We always welcome new readers to join us, so how about you? **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Passcode is **CECbooks**. And if you'd like more info, email Ellen Hoke at **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org**

MOCC Holiday Dinner - December 16

The MOCC has its Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 16th at The Ale House in Columbia at 6 p.m. The cost is \$50. per person, **and the menu can be found here**. You can pay using **our Online Giving Form**, selecting "Men of Christ Church" from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and writing "2023 Holiday Dinner" in the *MEMO* line. Interested to learn more about the MOCC, or this event? Please email Duane Smith at **cduanesmith@verizon.net**

Meals Ministry

The Stewardship season 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 there is always someone who can provide a home-cooked meal to those who might need one. If you would like to help, or if you know someone in need, please speak with Deacon Denise or email her at **deacondenise@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.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

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

Communion to You

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

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, speak with or email Rebecca Warlow at rwarlow131@gmail.com

Parishioners Step Up, as Children's Angel Tree Wish List Fills Up

Soon after the Angel Tree went up in the Narthex, parishioners wholeheartedly embraced our annual tradition of brightening Christmas for a dozen children. Between Thanksgiving and the Dec. 8 deadline, the Outreach Commission invited parishioners to purchase new clothing and special items to complete Christmas gift packages.

Our 'angels' are children ages 8 to 13, chosen to meet a need identified by the Howard County (Central Maryland) division of **The Salvation Army**. The nonprofit organization oversees the Angel Tree initiative here and elsewhere.

You've signed up to provide a total of 48 gifts for girls and boys who are represented by tags that remain on the tree. Each child receives an outfit (pants and a top). Besides the clothing, there are three other categories for each angel: Need, Wish, and Favorite item.

Those who have signed up can view the list and your gift choices by going online to the **Christ Church 2023 Angel Tree SignUp**. It has instructions on the next steps. The most important is to label the bag containing your purchase with the name and ID number of each child (e.g., Joseph - HC281A).

The deadline to bring your **unwrapped** gifts is 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8. Put them under the tree or in the Parish Hall Operations Room. To take part by giving of your time, please volunteer on Saturday, Dec. 9, to collate packages or shop for -- but not pay for -- any unmet items. To volunteer, specify "Fulfillment" in an email to outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. The aim is to lift the hearts not only of the angels but of their families. Parents obtain unwrapped gifts from The Salvation Army to prepare for a brighter Christmas than they could otherwise afford.

Columbia Community Care Plans Holiday Help for Kids

Columbia Community Care (CCC) has announced holiday activities to help kids and their families, aiming for a children's holiday giveaway at Oakland Mills High School at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Check the **CCC Facebook Group** for updates to find out how to do your part. Or, if you wish to volunteer for duties such as sorting at CCC's pantry, go to the **"I Can Help" portion of its website**. Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Our point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers its contents.

Please Donate All Kinds of Grocery Non-Perishables and Toiletries to FISH

FISH of Howard County needs non-perishable foods and toiletries. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. Please put donations in the basket at the altar or in the marked yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and Parish Hall. The neighbors you help are grateful for all you do in their support.

Somos Amigos Sends Thanks for Helping Obtain Emilio's Hearing Aids

During a fund-raising effort in September, Christ Church parishioners generously responded to an appeal by the Outreach Commission to help a hearing-impaired patient of **Somos Amigos Medical Missions**. Emilio, 23, had been diagnosed with congenital hearing loss as an 8-year-old boy.

Specialists recommended hearing aids, accessories, and fittings for both ears. In response, the Outreach Commission donated \$1,000 in vestry-approved Outreach budget funds and raised the balance of projected expenses in parishioners' donations. Somos Amigos volunteers and parishioners Dione and Jim Mahoney presented a check from Christ Church for \$3,695 during the October clinic in the Dominican Republic.

In a letter to Christ Church, Executive Director Frank Brightwell recalled Somos Amigos' humble beginnings and their growth over 26 years as "our patients like Emilio found acceptance, genuine concern, and a quality of care unrivaled in the region."

"We have always faced one significant challenge: how do we persuade people that they should be concerned about the healthcare of an isolated population on the side of a mountain in the Dominican Republic? But you do, all of you at Christ Church, and your support propels us to continue to strive for more. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in us."

"Thank you for your recent gift of \$3,695, to be used for hearing aids and related support for Emilio. Thank you for caring, with us, about him and our other brothers and sisters who rely on us for quality and reliable healthcare."

Brightwell plans to visit Christ Church on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024. Please save the date. He most recently delivered the sermon at worship services last fall. (His remarks begin at approximately 28 minutes into the archived **video for Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022, on YouTube.**)

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.





The Jesse Tree is back! This tradition honors the genealogy of Jesus Christ, tracing his Old and New Testament ancestors and telling the history of God's act of salvation. Our own Jesse Tree - complete with beautiful hand-made ornaments by artist Jenn Lavanish - is displayed in the New Brick Narthex, along with a second wall display of Jesse Tree characters. Those who wish to honor this wonderful, daily tradition will find a brief Scripture reading and an ornament template to print, decorate, and display on a Jesse Tree of their own on our website throughout Advent.

Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/jessetree each weekday between December 1st and Christmas.

Children & Youth Ministry Schedule for December

The Children's Ministry Program for the month of December will be as follows:

December 3 from 9:30 - 9:40 a.m. rehearsal of Pageant songs with Larissa in the Sanctuary.

9:40 - 9:55 a.m.: Handbell Choir rehearsal with Kiona in the side room of the Narthex.

The rest of the time: Sunday School downstairs.

December 10 from 9:30 - 9:40 a.m. rehearsal of Pageant songs with Larissa in the Sanctuary.

9:40-9:55 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal with Kiona in the side room of the Narthex.

The rest of the time: Sunday School downstairs.

December 17 from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.: Pageant dress rehearsal and final Handbell Choir practice.

December 24 There is no 9 a.m. service and no Sunday School.

The Christmas Pageant is at 4:00 p.m. sharp, so please arrive by 3:30 p.m. Thanks!

December 24 There is no 9 a.m. service and no Sunday School.

Email Kiona (kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org) with any questions.



CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

Donation envelopes are now located in the Narthex for those needing them. If you have any questions, **please email the church office.**

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.

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 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**

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



Christ Episcopal Church

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office@christchurchcolumbia.org

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