

# Christ Episcopal Church

*Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ*

Taizé Vespers | Sunday, February 25, 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

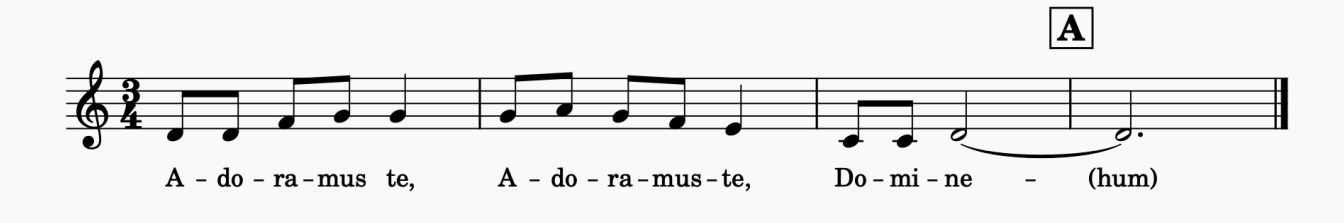
Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for 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 Domine (We Adore You, O Lord)

*Cantor will sing verses. All respond with refrain.*




*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*

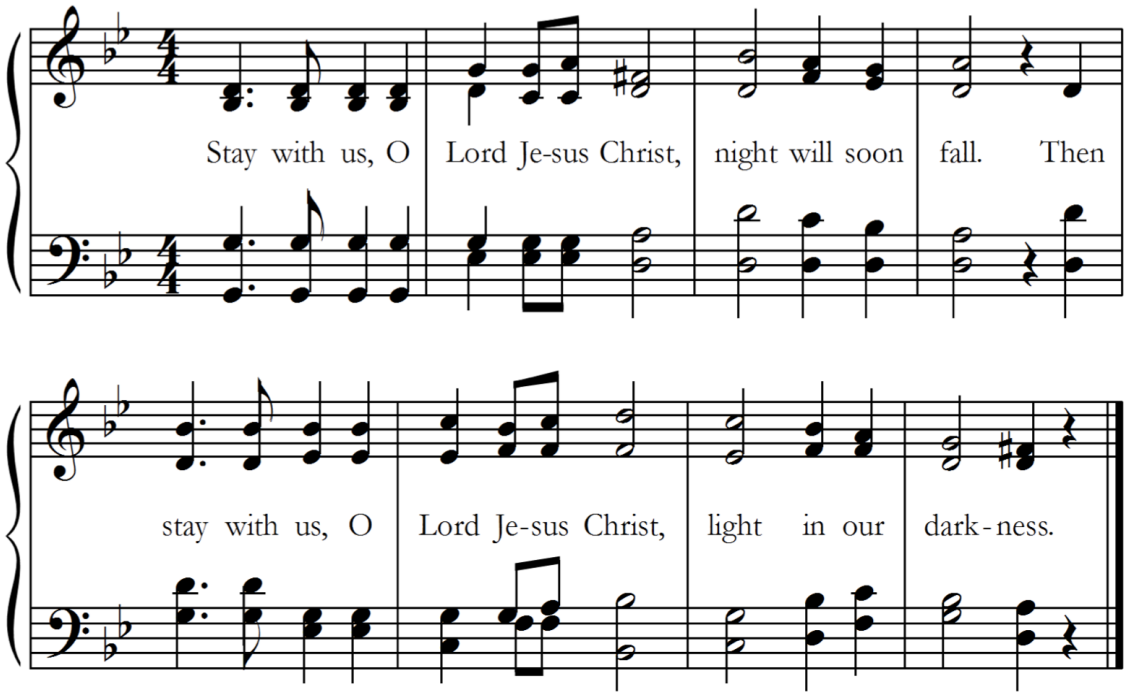
Let us pray.

***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 | Stay With Us



Denial is underestimated as a state of being. Denial is an ever present and even splendid thing when seen in the light of its merciful and elemental powers to cradle and hold an identity until it is ready to move on. Faced with depth of loss and disappearance in the average life, a measure of denial is creative, necessary and self-compassionate: children are not meant to know they are one day to die and older adults are not meant to tell them. Refusing to face what we are not yet ripe and ready to face can help us to live in the present.

Denial fully experienced, also enables us to understand the full measure of our reluctance thus becoming a way of both paying attention to and appreciating what is asking to be seen. Denial is a beautiful transitional state every human being inhabits before they are emancipated into the next larger context and orphaned, often against their will, from an old and very familiar home.

Denial is ever present and unavoidable in a human life, even in the most accomplished guru; even in the Dalai Lama, it is necessary dynamic so that the overpowering elements of a waiting, terrifying universe can be held for now, over the horizon; denial belongs to us all.

Denial can be a prison if inhabited in too concrete and unmoving a way, but denial is also a necessary stepping-stone and a compassionate foundation for viewing those unable to take the next courageous step. Denial can be a beautiful skin shed, left to be seen, or even to beautify and beatify others as they follow, wearing our former clothes. To understand the true nature of our reluctance through observing and then inhabiting our denial is to see directly into the soul's wish to participate.

All of us live with temporary names and temporary stories which allow us to breathe the air of the present while looking into the eyes of enormous powers that make up our immediate horizon of understanding. Denial comes to a natural end through the force of attention and intentionality to this horizon; much better to pay attention to what beckons than to try to look at what by definition, we are not ready to look at. To live in denial is to be very good company. Denial is the crossroads between perception and readiness, to deny denial is to invite powers into our lives we have not yet readied ourselves to meet.

*The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.*

Psalm 84 | *Quam dilecta!*

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;**
**my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
**by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,**
**my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
**they will always be praising you.**

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
**whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

*Continued*

Those who go through the desolate valley will find
it a place of springs, *
**for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

They will climb from height to height, *
**and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
**hearken, O God of Jacob.**

Behold our defender, O God; *
**and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

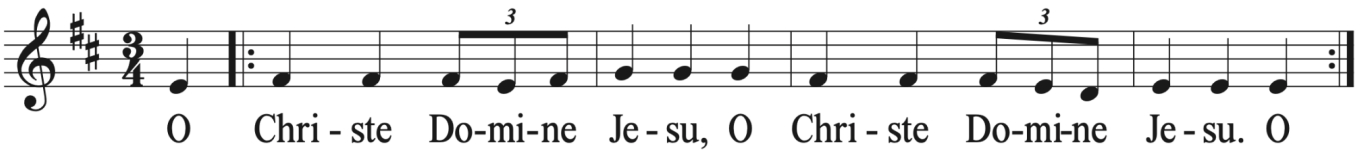
For one day in your courts is better than
a thousand in my own room, *
**and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God**
**than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
**he will give grace and glory;**

No good thing will the LORD withhold *
**from those who walk with integrity.**

O LORD of hosts, *
**happy are they who put their trust in you!**

Song | O Christe Domine Jesu (O Christ Jesus, Lord)




Scripture Reading | 1 Corinthians 3:11-23

*Reader:* A reading from The First Epistle to the Corinthians.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

'He catches the wise in their craftiness',

and again,

'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile.'

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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

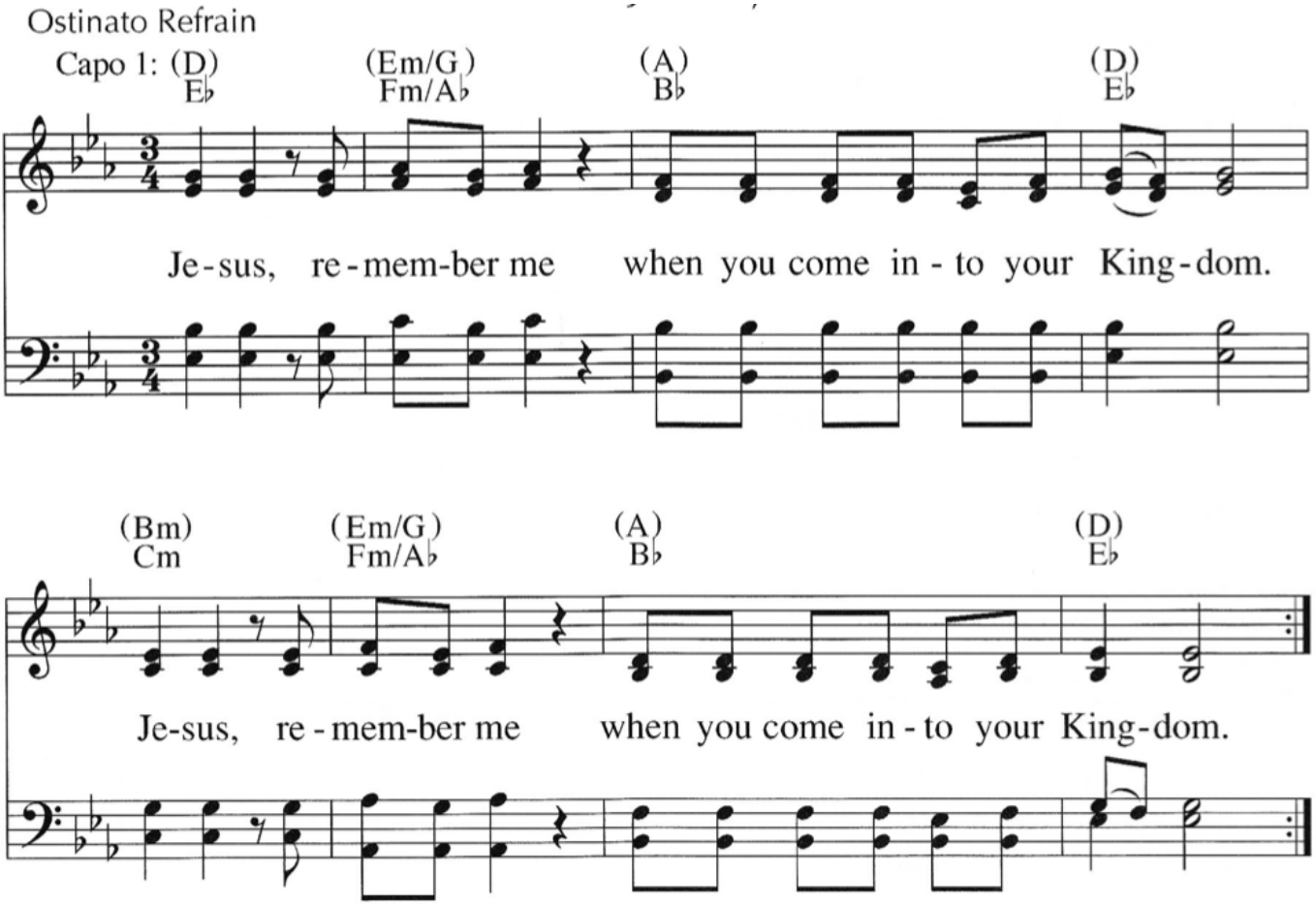
Homily/Reflection | Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Silent Meditation |

Announcements |

Offertory Song | Jesus, Remember Me

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



Poem | by Pamela Pruitt

**While I Am Sleeping**

My heart
Spends
Entire days
Teaching me
The things
That angels try
To teach it
During the night
While I am
Sleeping.

I sometimes
Wonder
How
Such a little part
Of me
Could have
So much
To say,

But, I really
Do understand.

My sacred space
Is Bigger
On
The inside.

God lives
There.

Prayers of the People |

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.**

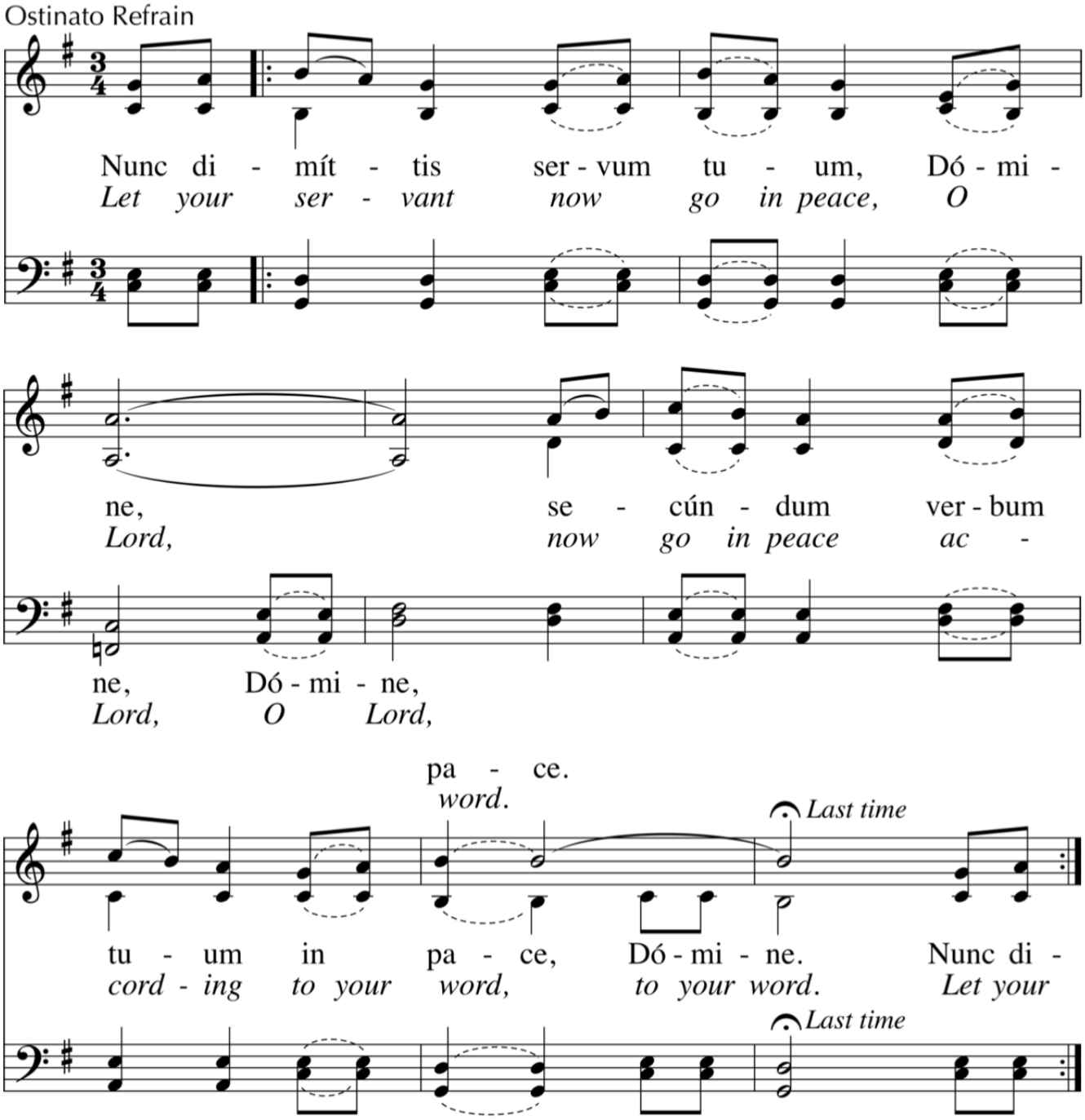
*Officiant:* The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a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




*Thank you for joining us today!*

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# PARISH CALENDAR
## FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 2

**Sunday, February 25**

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|---|---|
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 1:30 – 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, February 26**

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream |
| 7:00 pm | Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom |

**Tuesday, February 27**

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 – 11:00 pm | Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level |

**Wednesday, February 28**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room |
| 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, February 29**

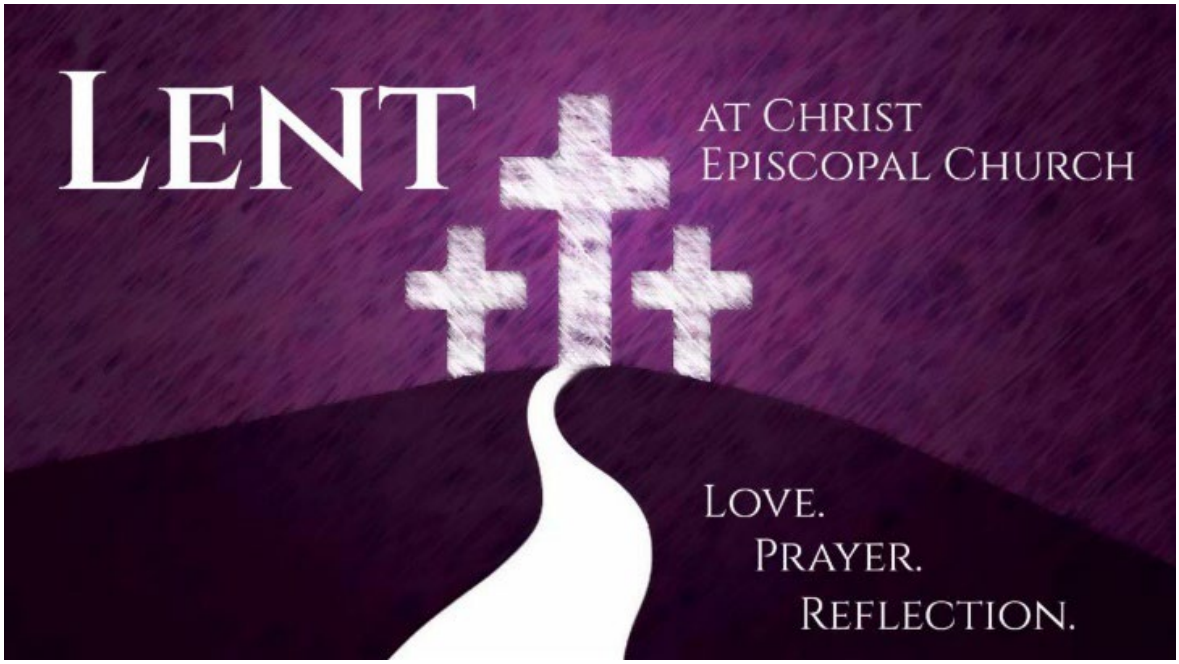
| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream |
| 9:00 am – 3:00 pm | Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level |
| 12:00 pm | Healing Eucharist – Old Brick |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom |
| 7:00 – 7:30 pm | Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level |
| 7:00 – 11:00 pm | Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level |
| 7:30 – 9:00 pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level |
| 6:00 – 9:00 pm | Boy Scouts – Field & New Brick, lower level |

**Friday, March 1**

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

**Saturday, March 2**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1:00 – 3:00 pm | Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level |
| 2:00 pm | AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level |
| 7:00 – 11:00 pm | Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level |




Our website's **Lent at Christ Church** page contains details for our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. This is also where you can read our **Daily Lenten Meditations**, which will be published every weekday morning, both there and on our Instagram and Facebook pages. in addition to those, we'll have an inspirational *Saturday Song* posted every weekend, as well - something to enjoy, to lift your spirits, and to comfort your heart. This year, our website also has a **Daily Office page** that provides links to readings for each day of the season. We hope that you'll find it to be a useful part of your Lenten journey. Be sure to bookmark all of these, or find them all on **our main page's menu bar**.

## https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**The 2024 Lenten Meditation Booklet**

Our 2024 Lenten Meditation Booklet is still available for you to take your copy home, or give one to someone you feel might truly enjoy it. The LMB also has the Lenten Daily Office readings for each day during the season, as well as an outline of our services. You can find copies in both the New Brick Narthex and in Old Brick.

**LENT at Christ Church**

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**Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings**
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 can be gotten by emailing info@christchurchcolumbia.org

**Bible Study and Lunch - Wednesday Mornings**
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 will be 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 gathering traditions of the Lenten season, continues next Wednesday evening at 6:30 with our presenter of the week, the Reverend Earl Mullins. This series offers five weeks of insightful seminars on our theme for this year, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*. A list of this year's presenters and other details can be found on our website's *Lent at Christ Church* page.

**Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursdays**
Thursday mornings, join us for midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and non-parishioners are all welcome to join in 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 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 Evenings**
Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick and everyone is welcome to take part. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether or not you are ready to commit, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs! If you're interested, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

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

**Health Ministry Request**
The Christ Church Health Ministry would appreciate it if you'd fill out a short questionnaire we've made, one that will help teach us what to focus on. You can find the form here, and it only takes a minute to complete. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Diane Phillips LaGuerre or Bunmi Daramaja, or email health@christchurchcolumbia.org.

**WOCC News**
The WOCC is continuing with our collection of scarves, hats, and gloves for the Seafarers, and will be accepting donations until March 15th. The collection bin labeled "Seafarers" is located on the table in the Tower Room by the Narthex. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting items, patterns can be found at the following link: https://seamenschurch.org/programs-services/christmas-at-sea/patterns-publications. And remember, our next meeting is on Monday, March 4th at 1:30 p.m. in New Brick and on Zoom.

**MOCC News**
On Friday, March 1st, the MOCC will have a Bowling Night Out at Bowlero, 7100 Carved Stone in Columbia. We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. for this event. 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 blog post - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/mocc-february-news. If you would like to help or have any questions, please email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org

**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.

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

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

**Learn What's New at Somos Amigos: Founder & CEO Frank Brightwell Will Deliver the Sermon and Lead Sunday Circle at Christ Church Today**
After Christ Church parishioners generously helped a hearing-impaired patient of Somos Amigos Medical Missions last fall, its founder made an observation in his thank-you note:

"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."

If you're curious about our connection to a clinic that operates four times a year in the small village of Naranjito, please plan to learn more about Somos Amigos on Sunday, Feb. 25. Founder and Executive Director Frank Brightwell will deliver the sermon at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services and take part in a Q&A during Sunday Circle at 9:30 a.m. in Old Brick and on Zoom.

Get ready with some questions, such as: What became of Franci, who is now a teenager, after we helped fund surgery to fix a heart defect diagnosed by clinic doctors in boyhood? Who has been spared dire consequences from diabetes as a result of an innovative insulin program that we also support? And finally, how is 23-year-old Emilio progressing in a long journey toward hearing, now that audiologists are involved in his somewhat complex case to restore congenital hearing loss?

Volunteers are one secret to the ties between Christ Church and Somos Amigos. Repeat travelers include Dione and Jim Mahoney, Shahra Toth and former parishioners Mary and Ed Keath. In the past, physicians Preethi Jackson and Ellen Boudreau Hoke also have volunteered.

The Mahoneys most recently served last October and Dione's brother-in-law, Jorge, volunteered in January as a Spanish translator for dental patients and providers. The January clinic was "a great success." says Brightwell, pointing out that Somos Amigos continues to incorporate local healthcare providers into its teams (see more photos in this week's Outreach blog).

"Our physicians saw 377 patients, and our dentists 245. Most importantly, we were able to accommodate everyone who wanted an appointment. We introduced several new (first-time) dental patients this trip, and in April we will welcome new medical patients again," he says. For diabetes screening, the clinic now employs a laboratory device intended for clinical settings. This analyzer checks blood for A1c levels and flags urine samples that contain diabetic indicators.

You'll get a chance to find out more on Sunday. Or, if you can't make it virtually or in person, you'll find descriptions of clinic accomplishments, accompanied by photos, in the Christ Church Outreach Blog of Feb. 2, 2023 and the Outreach Blog of May 18, 2023. Or go to the organization's website, where you'll learn that nearly half of rural Dominicans live in poverty with little or no access to health care. You can see how to volunteer for Somos Amigos and read about its impact. Or, simply email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org to request information.

**DreamBuilders Registration for the Triple Blitz Build**

Registration is now open for Triple Blitz Build in Hazard, Kentucky, taking place from June 16-22. After a successful trip last summer building two houses for those in need, we are headed back to Kentucky this June. If you would like to make a life-long impact on three flood-impacted families, come join us for this week-long trip. No experience necessary - we'll teach you everything you need to know, and you'll have a fun and rewarding experience. The total cost is $700. and you must have completed 9th grade to join us. Registration is open until March 4th, and we can only take 36 people, so act now! You can register at dreambuildersmd.org. Questions? Speak with Cathy Gold or Stacey Frith, or email info@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

**Look for the FISH Bin Inside the Parish Hall During Cold Weather**

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 that has been moved inside the Parish Hall during cold weather. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

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

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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**




## Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

A much-beloved tradition at Christ Church during the season of Lent is the Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, one of the most enriching and enjoyable experiences of the season. We begin the evening at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall - each week, a different ministry will provide the potluck meal - followed by our guest presenter. The gathering then concludes with a brief, informal Eucharist. Be sure to mark your calendars and not miss one week of this extraordinary series.

**The remaining clergy presenters for this year are:**

**February 28: The Reverend Earl Mullins**
**March 6: The Reverend Richard Ginnever**
**March 13: The Reverend Barbara Seras**
**March 20: The Reverend Emmanuel Ato Mercer**




**Christ Episcopal Church**
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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone*, Deacon*
Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*
Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*
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