



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, August 9, 2026 | Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

I will listen to what
God the Lord says;
He promises peace
to his people, his faithful
servants - but let them
not turn to folly.

Psalm 85:8

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:

www.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.

OPENING HYMN 388 | O worship the King, all glorious above

Hanover

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
 2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
 3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

1 O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love!
 2 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
 3 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
 4 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
 5 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

1 Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 2 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 3 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 4 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 5 thy mer - cies, how ten - der! how firm to the end!

1 pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 2 and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
 3 and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 4 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 5 Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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. **Amen**

GLORIA S280 | Glory to God

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are scat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY|

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever **Amen**.

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | 1 Kings 19:9-18

Reader: A reading from 1st Kings.

At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 85:8-13 | *Prayer for the Restoration of God's Favour*

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 10:5-15

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

1 O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty and in power, come
 2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid, the
 3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure, and
 4 Bring to our world of strife thy sov - ereign word of peace, that
 5 O day of God, draw nigh as at cre - a - tion's birth, let

1 with thy time - less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
 2 qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
 3 fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
 4 war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
 5 there be light a - gain, and set thy judg - ments in the earth.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 14:22-33

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,

Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

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 worshipped 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

May we have faith in our hearts, seeking and searching for the Lord and for His strength, telling of Christ's marvelous deeds, speaking words of hope and promise, encountering and engaging others, bringing the good news to the world. **Sing praises to the Lord**

Lord, you have blessed us with faith and new life. May we listen to the calling of God and trust its truth. When we are asked to "Come", please free us from fear and doubt to follow with confidence and love. **Rejoice in His Peace**

Lord, watch over and guide our leaders in government, including the President, the Congress, and the Court system. Throughout the world, may the Church be an anchor in times of trouble, a force for good and an agent of transformation in individual lives and in communities. We ask that wisdom and loving care be given to our spiritual leaders: our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and our Christ Church staff and Vestry. In the Anglican Communion, we offer prayers for The Episcopal Church. In the Diocese of Maryland, we ask special blessings on our sister parishes of Resurrection, Baltimore, The Slate Project, Baltimore, and St. Bartholomew's, Baltimore. We also extend an enthusiastic welcome to all visitors and newcomers to Christ Church. Our congregation is blessed by your sharing in our worship today.

Glorify the Lord in His Majesty

We pray for those who are ill in body, mind or spirit, especially Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. May the healing hand of Christ be ever present in their lives. We also remember those who are alone, homeless, jobless, or hungry, those who are overcome with economic pressures and family responsibilities, those caught in the cycle of fear and violence and those entrapped by addiction. May their suffering end and may their lives be whole. **Endowed with His mercy**

We remember those who have entered God's eternal kingdom, especially Yvonne & BaronForbes and those you now name. We embrace all who grieve and who feel the loss so painfully. May the passing of time with continued love and care smooth the jagged edges of the hole in their hearts and give them peace in their souls. **Resting on the promise of salvation**

We give thanks for the marvelous occasions of joy in our parish. Today we celebrate the birthdays of Paul, Carol, Marilyn, Julian, Zachary, Abigail, Mary, Joy, & Benjamin, baptismal anniversary of Rachelle and wedding anniversaries of Marilyn & James Collins, and Joan & Lee Harvey. Our Church is enriched by each individual's life, their hopes, their dreams and their dedication to our Lord.

Trusting in His love

ALL: May our feet be beautiful bearing the Good News of God in Christ Jesus. AMEN

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: 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.

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 |

BLESSING OF COLLEGE STUDENTS |

OFFERTORY HYMN 426 | Songs of praise the Angels sang

Please scan to give.

Northampton

Musical notation for the first system of the offertory hymn, featuring a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

1 Songs of praise the an - gels sang, heaven with al - le - lu - ias rang,
2 Songs of praise a - woke the morn when the Prince of Peace was born;
3 Heaven and earth must pass a - way; songs of praise shall crown that day;
4 And shall Chris-tians fail to sing till on earth Christ come as King?
5 Saints be - low, with heart and voice, still in songs of praise re - joice,

Musical notation for the second system of the offertory hymn, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system.

1 when cre - a - tion was be - gun, when God spoke and it was done.
2 songs of praise a - rose when he cap - tive led cap - tiv - i - ty.
3 God will make new heaven and earth; songs of praise shall hail their birth.
4 No; the Church de - lights to raise psalms and hymns and songs of praise.
5 learn-ing here, by faith and love, songs of praise to sing a - bove.

6 Borne upon their latest breath,
songs of praise shall conquer death;
then, amidst eternal joy,
songs of praise their powers employ.

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 HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

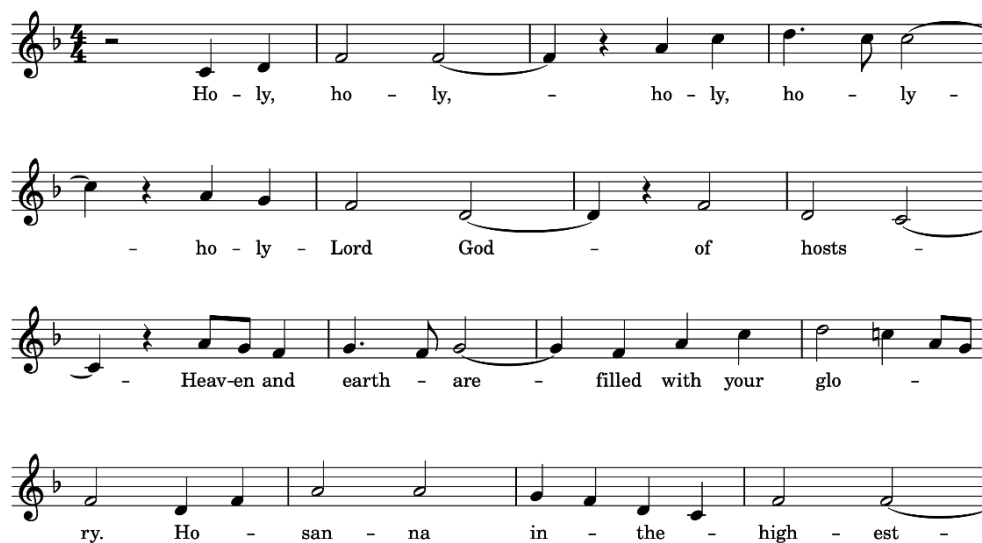
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

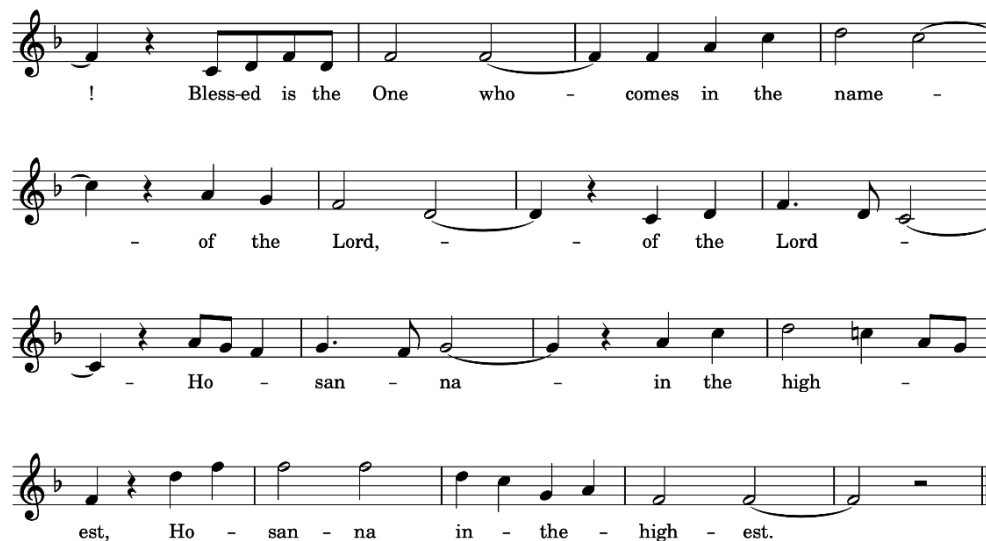
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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:





Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

organ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: _____ grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN 509 | Spirit divine attend our prayer

St. Agnes

1. Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
and make this house thy home;
descend with all thy gracious powers,
O come, great Spirit, come!
2. Come as the light; to us reveal
our emptiness and woe,
and lead us in those paths of life
whereon the righteous go.
3. Come as the fire, and purge our hearts
like sacrificial flame;
let our whole soul an offering be
to our Redeemer's Name.
4. Come as the dove, and spread thy wings,
the wings of peaceful love;
and let thy Church on earth become
blest as the Church above.
5. Spirit divine, attend our prayers;
make a lost world thy home;
descend with all thy gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come!

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.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING |

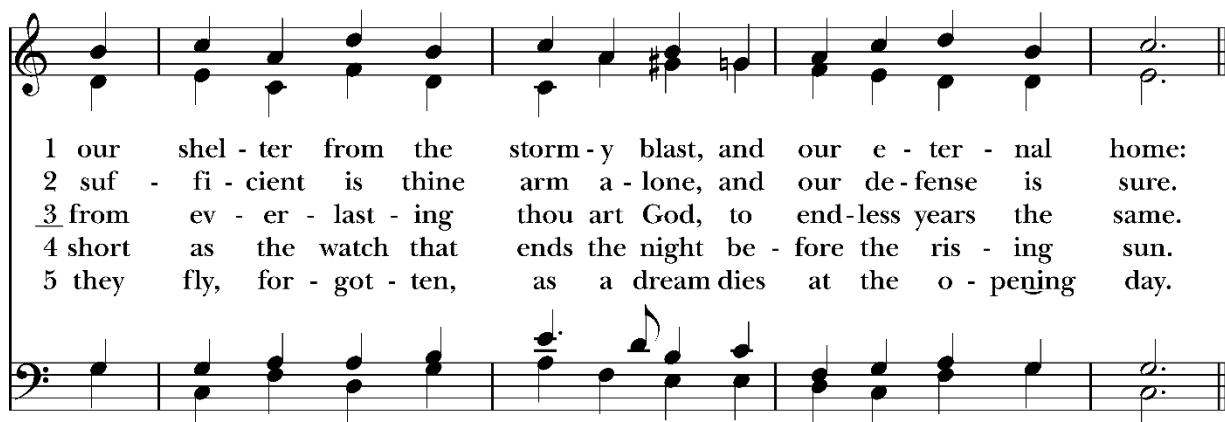
The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 680 | O God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;



1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE | Verset X, Dans la Gloire des Invalides

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

PERMISSIONS | *New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | Book of Common Prayer, 1928 and 1979, Church Publishing. Public Domain | Music and texts under copyright are reprinted and broadcast by permission under OneLicense.net #A-701378 |*

Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Cara Ocampo, Jan DeBoissiere, Maria Rios, Virginia Jarrett

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Nesta Henlon

Lector/Reader: Nesta Henlon

Usher: Michon Semon, Nancy Winchester

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Shreya Chrzanowski, Chloe Spencer, Eli Wasula

Chalicerists: Ivy Amponsah, Cheryl Lucente

Lector/Reader: Greg Schuckman

Ushers: Cherry Williams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers

Bill Kirkpatrick, Phil Wright

MINISTRY LEADERS:

Submit your flyer or trifold info
by August 16 to Chris at
communications@christchurchcolumbia.org



**Parish Festival
& Ministry Fair
Sunday, August 30**

**Learn about your church...
JOIN OUR COMMON LIFE!**

PARISH CALENDAR

AUGUST 9 – 15, 2026

Sunday, August 9

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:00 am	Family Service
9:30 – 10:15 am	Acolyte Training - New Brick, UL
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, August 10

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off – Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Meal for Rt. 1 – Parish Hall, parking lot
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Grassroots Drop-off – Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Outreach Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, LL

Tuesday, August 11

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour - Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, August 12

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, August 13

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, August 14

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, August 15

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
9:30 – 11:00 am	MOCC Breakfast – Silver Diner, Elkridge
1:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep



ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS

Zoom to Uganda with Friends of Sabina at Noon this Sunday, Aug. 9; Enjoy a Light Lunch While Bonding with Students During Our Annual Hybrid Meetup

Students at Sabina Boarding Primary School are getting ready to interact with you during our annual Zoom meetup with **Friends of Sabina** (FOS), the nonprofit organization that supports the school in rural Uganda. Plan to attend remotely or in person at noon this Sunday, August 9. Gather in the Great Hall of New Brick after the 10:30 worship service; enjoy a light lunch and dessert. We'll hear from students and on-site leaders about personal and campus progress since our 2025 meetup. It's a great show-and-tell! FOS operates the primary school and a nursery program that together enroll several hundred students in Sanje, Uganda. Nearly a dozen parishioners began sponsoring individual students in 2020, as described on the [FOS page](#) of the Christ Church website. FOS is now recruiting an additional sponsor... and it could be you! To learn more, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Christ Church began supporting Sabina Primary School more than a decade ago by first establishing a library, which has become a resource for the surrounding community. The Outreach Commission recently approved donating \$3,300 to FOS to pay the librarian's salary, online periodical subscriptions, and a portion of internet fees. Funds come from the Vestry-approved Outreach budget derived from your pledges and contributions. Thanks!

VISION/STRATEGY Update - The Christ Church Path Forward Continues

The August 1 meeting of the Vision & Strategy Committee was uplifting and centered on unity, purpose, and renewed momentum for Christ Church. Members discussed both immediate needs and long-term goals, emphasizing shared leadership, sustainable growth, and deeper congregational engagement. Dr. Bronner, the committee's facilitator, encouraged the group to clarify its vision while addressing present needs with compassion, including support for our dear sister in Christ, Diane Forbes Berthoud, during her loss. Action items were assigned across administration, small-group development, youth programs, communications, facilities, and stewardship. The meeting ended with optimism and clear direction, preparing to advance its vision and report progress at the August 8 session.

Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - MINISTRY MATERIALS DEADLINE IS NEXT SUNDAY!

Ministry leaders, this is your opportunity to speak with every parishioner about your beloved ministry and get them to join and assist your group in the coming year. If you have had a ministry trifold or flyer in the past, please prepare any new information to send to Chris by next Sunday, August 16, so that he can get you an updated document in time for the Fair. And if your ministry would like a flyer or trifold but hasn't had one before, please email him at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can arrange a time to discuss it with you.

Let Love Lead You to Consider Joining the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun! This year, four (4) slots are open, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to help us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 18. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org, and they will let you know what's needed for this process. You can also pick up a special **Let Love Lead** flyer in the Narthex, **or download a copy [here](#)**. It outlines the responsibilities and commitments of a Vestry member to help you guide your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

300th Anniversary Update

In anticipation of our monumental 300th Anniversary Celebration in 2027, the Communications and History/Race & Slavery arms of the 300th Anniversary committees began sharing insightful **History Teasers** with the parish. These Teasers began earlier in the spring with bits about **Rev. Richard Henry Waters**, followed by **"The Role of a Vestryman during the Early Years."** and **Slavery & Discrimination in Howard County and Christ Church**. In July, **Tom Baxter shared many facts from the wide-ranging topics their committee is exploring.**

August features 300th Anniversary committee member Jeannette Wild, sharing details about the history of women's suffrage in the Diocese of Maryland, including the first recorded female vestry member at Christ Church. Read more about women's journey to simply gain an equal voice in the church, both nationally and here at Christ Church.

We have so much more in store for the upcoming months, including an incredible lineup of gatherings as we celebrate our 300th year. Stay tuned!

Want to help shape this once-in-a-lifetime milestone? We'd love to have you involved. Send us an email at 300@christchurchcolumbia.org to discover how you can become a part of Christ Church's history. Thank you!

Inviting You to Join Our Monthly Outreach Meeting this Monday

Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, Aug. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. You'll also find the link in our *This Week on Zoom* email on Monday, and we'll see you there!

Help Feed the Homeless this Monday, with One Change to our Routine

On the second Monday of each month (this month, it's August 10), Christ Church serves a hot midday meal at the Day Resource Center (DRC) in Jessup and provides the menu for an evening meal at the emergency shelter in Columbia. Both are operated by the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**, which has requested earlier delivery of the shelter's food than in the past.

As a result, the drop-off for the evening side dishes has been moved up to 12:45 p.m. That will coincide with the group arriving at the parking lot near Old Brick to drop off DRC items or to join the carpool that departs at 1 p.m. for the Leola Dorsey Center in Jessup.

A team led by Outreach member Shahra Toth serves the midday meal in person. To help on Monday, Aug. 10, please check our **DRC online signup form**, which describes the procedure. We last participated on July 13. To bring food for the shelter's evening meal, check our **Grassroots online signup form**. It's efficient to provide for both venues on the same day, feeding more than 150 people in total. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried-chicken entrees. Thank you!

Your generosity has again helped ease life for our homeless neighbors, who rely on the DRC for pantry items that include food, sundries, and more. Responding to a DRC request, the Outreach Commission approved spending \$285 for 67 pairs of shorts and 20 hats. We used funds that had been donated to the church by parishioners giving to "General Outreach." A hearty thanks!

MOCC Breakfast - Next Saturday, August 15

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition, and in July, it will take place on Saturday, August 15. Set your GPS to **Silver Diner at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia**. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. You can also set a calendar reminder on your phone for every third Saturday of the month, for that's when we always meet up for this tasty start to our weekend.

Theology on Tap - Wednesday, August 19

Join us for brew and banter, suds and spoken word, lager and laughs... no matter what you call it, Theology on Tap is a fun,

informal get-together where we can chat about interesting religious, spiritual, or social articles of the day, grab a beverage or snack, and enjoy fun, engaging, structure-free conversation with other parishioners and friends. We like to use this time to speak about things that might be considered a bit casual or light for a Sunday morning at church, but that matter to us, and we want to hear others' perspectives on them. If this sounds interesting to you, it's your kind of gathering! Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19 at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. If you have any questions, please speak with any MOCC member or email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Friday Film Feature - August 21

Later in August, the film *What Dreams May Come* will be screened in the lower level of the Church Office building. Although a fantasy drama with little Biblical grounding, this film speaks to the power of Love to triumph over adversity. It had a global release when it was made, and stars Robin Williams in what was, for him, an unconventional role. Gather at 7:00 p.m. on August 21 for this favorably received film, one whose main character discovers a beautiful afterlife shaped by his imagination, and is inspired by his overwhelming love.

Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - Sunday, August 30

The Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair, an annual tradition, is back! There's only one worship service that day, August 30, so join us in the New Brick sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! We'll have BBQ goodies, fun for all ages, and an opportunity to learn about the many ministries that make Christ Church a very special place.

The 2026 Flea Market - September 19

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful Columbia summertime tradition, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus. And vendors - **you can reserve your spaces now!** This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. There will be housewares, jewelry, books, clothing, tasty baked treats, grilled goodies, and so much more! Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website, which goes live today - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members 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 held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

2026 Auction Assistance is Needed! How About YOU?

Yes, it's early, but planning a great annual auction takes months, and we need help soon! As we gear up for our 2026 Annual Auction—***A Night in the Emerald City***—we need your energy, ideas, and enthusiasm to make it an unforgettable evening. An event like this takes a village, and we are looking for volunteers to help coordinate behind the scenes. Whether you have

an hour a week to spare or want to take on a larger role, there is a place for you on the team. We'll have an introductory Zoom in a few weeks, and we hope you'll jump on when we do - stay tuned for those details. We are especially eager to welcome Christ Church's younger adults and newcomers to jump in! This is a fantastic opportunity to meet fellow parishioners across generations and build lasting friendships within our church family. The auction, as many will attest, is a very creative, fun, and vital fundraiser for our church - the LARGEST fundraiser, in fact. It doesn't require much energy right now, but the more people we have, the easier the entire production becomes. If you're interested in helping, or just have questions, email auction@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we'll help you. Thanks!

Help Shape Our Littlest Hearts!

Our Youth and Family Ministry is growing—an amazing blessing—but it also means we need a little help. Right now, we are looking for three enthusiastic volunteers to step into our preschool Sunday School classrooms for the next program year, beginning in September. You don't need a degree in theology, of course, just a warm heart and a willingness to share God's love with our littlest ones. The curriculum and all supplies are provided for you, and we have a team of clergy and leaders to help you get started and support you along the way. If you can help us fill one of these three spots, please speak with Mother Marcia Davenport at church or email revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also call the Church Office to see when she is in her office.

Interested in Learning About EfM? This Might Be Your Chance to Join this Rewarding Program

Education for Ministry at Christ Church (EfM) is a rewarding long-term program, a unique, small-group series based on study and practice in theological reflection, helping participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service. The first few years of EfM at Christ Church have been extremely insightful for its participants, many of whom have experienced unexpected yet beautifully transformative experiences while gaining friendships with others in the study group. Starting now, they're opening a few extra participant spots for next season for both sessions, which begin towards the end of this summer. Even if you're currently unsure whether it's the right fit for you, now is the time to ask questions and learn as much as you can from its current participants, so you can make an informed and prayerful decision. Learn more by visiting www.christchurchcolumbia.org/efm, and by speaking with Mother Marcia Davenport at church.

Lay Preaching Webinar Rewatch

Last week, the Episcopal Preaching Foundation hosted a webinar for those interested in lay preaching. Lay preaching plays a vital role in broadening the voice of the church, allowing people to share unique perspectives, personal experiences, and authentic reflections on scripture with their fellow faith community. By bringing diverse background stories and everyday life insights into our sanctuary, lay preachers help bridge the gap between worship and daily Christian living, not only enriching the spiritual life of the congregation but also helping nurture and equip members to recognize and live out their personal callings to service. If you didn't get a chance to register, or if you might be interested in lay preaching but are unsure about how you might fit into the process, [you can watch the webinar here](#) and see if it might be for you. If, after viewing this webinar, you're more interested in this ministry, speak with Father Manny, and he will help you.

Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor

This year, we have had more people request [Communion to You](#), a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners. To fulfill this need, we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV). If you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church or contact the Church Office. And if you require this service for yourself or someone you know, [please fill out this brief form](#), or call the Church Office. We will ensure that Communion gets there.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, it requires a great deal of

work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild. None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. If you want to know more about the Inreach Ministry, please speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at cecevents.org/Inreach, or email us at inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will get you started. For those interested in assisting as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

New Brick Audio Upgrades - An Update

Two months ago, we began a fundraising initiative, thanks to a very generous donation from the Abbotts in memory of Mollie McCoy. In a wonderful display of faithful communal support, we received many more donations, and this week, we entered into an agreement with a local audio installer that specializes in houses of worship. More details are coming soon, but the upgraded system will include more wireless microphones, a new set of speakers for the sanctuary, an amplifier, a mixer, and more, including a hardware-based, ADA-compliant, assistive-listening system for those with hearing challenges. The entire system is designed to be scalable, meaning we can add more hardware components to it based on our growing needs. There is more to be done, but we are excited by this next chapter in our mission to provide a better experience for the entire Christ Church family. We don't have any install timeframe yet, but when we do, we'll share it. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to email our Communications Administrator, Chris, at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Father Manny.

Let Your Love for Christ Church Show! Get a Few of Our New Magnets

Bring a part of Christ Church into your home with our beautiful new custom magnets! We are offering two unique 3" x 5" designs: our classic CEC shield, and the vibrant 300th Anniversary *Learning from Our History, Living into Our Future* tree. Perfect for your refrigerator, filing cabinet, car, or any magnetic surface, these heavy-duty magnets are a wonderful way to show your parish pride and support our community. Each magnet is yours for only \$6, or you can get one of each for just ten dollars! Speak with Yetti at church, stop by the office to pick yours up, or leave a good-faith donation in the boxes in the Narthex and grab yours there. You can also pay in advance - [simply go to Realm](#) and write "Magnet" in the memo line - or pay by cash or check when you get yours. Thank you for helping promote our amazing church while supporting the 300th Anniversary celebration!

LEMS, Christ Church's Nearby Middle School, Needs Our Assistance. You Can Be That Help.

Last Sunday, Lake Elkhorn Middle School Outreach's Cathy Whittaker caught us up at church on plans for this coming fall. Here's what she said:

"We had the pleasure of meeting with the new LEMS Principal, Tony Esposito, last week. He has been a teacher and principal for over 20 years in Howard County and is excited about his new position.

We also met with Cindy Drummond (our liaison), and we talked about possible ways that we can work together over the coming school year. The committee is so pleased to have Cindy in the position of Community School Site Coordinator, as she knows what the students and teachers actually need for the upcoming school year and helps us avoid duplicating the efforts of other organizations that help support the school.

The first thing that we discussed was purchasing Agenda Books for all the middle school students. In the past, the district provided these, but that is no longer the case. Agenda Books would be very helpful as they provide a standardized year-long planner in which students would record their assignments and other school events.

We will also be funding appreciation events for the teachers to support staff social-emotional health and well-being. There is no money in the county budget for teacher appreciation. Therefore, it is up to the PTSA to raise funds for such activities. As

you can imagine, most schools have a much bigger PTSA budget because families in those schools are able to contribute much more. We could partner with the PTSA for things like breakfasts, cook-outs, and the health bags that we distributed last year. We will be putting together health bags and delivering them to the teachers. We would be welcome to actually come to provide a breakfast or other event, or just fund it.

We also will be ordering school supplies that are on the school supply list. The amount that we can provide is dependent upon your contributions. Last year we were able to purchase enough items to help 125 students start out the school year. We will not be putting the supplies in backpacks since other organizations provide these and the school actually has backpacks left over from the previous year.

We will continue to help with the monthly pantry as we have in the past. We distribute protein boxes of fresh food from the Roving Radish after school on the third Wednesday of each month. We also deliver non-perishable food on that day that is distributed by school social workers to families who are particularly challenged economically.

Volunteers are always welcome. They include one-time and weekly commitments for activities such as:

- Lunch and recess monitoring
- Classroom tutors
- Mash-Up Day (6th Grade August)
- Turkey Trot (November)
- National History Day (January)
- Field Days (June)

There are other activities that we don't quite have the funding for right now without your help. For example, Liz Thurston is the teacher in the Academic Life Skills class (ALS). This is a self-contained classroom for students whose IEP team has determined they would benefit from this program. Liz needs funding for two enrichment programs:

- Kind Cafe - The students sell coffee and treats to staff for a minimal cost. They learn to interact with others, keep a budget, and other activities related to running a small business.
- Best Buddies - LEMS "typical" students are paired with students in the ALS class about 4 times a year and they have parties with a variety of activities. It helps the ALS student feel more a part of the school and teaches the buddies to better understand students with disabilities.

If you would like to give financially to LEMS, you can write a check and put "LEMS" in the memo line, or you can give online using the LEMS drop-down label.

We need your help for the School Block Party on Friday, August 21. That is the day the school supplies will be delivered around 10:00, so you could help load supplies and drive over to the school. We also need people to be at the table from 11:00 to 2:00 to let attendees know about CEC church activities.

Cindy is always very generous in offering ways that LEMS can support us as well. She will advertise church events (e.g., the flea market, dinners) in the weekly LEMS Heart Smiles Bulletin. Finally, she offered to help with a Clean Up Day at CEC, if we give her some lead time. If you are on a committee that might benefit from LEMS student help, please let us know.

Apologies for the very long message. If you have questions, please contact us! You can email LEMSPC@christchurchcolumbia.org to reach us directly, or speak with me, Jenny Cecil, Jan DeBoissiere, or Sara Kirkpatrick at church any time! We deeply appreciate your strong commitment to this partnership and are excited to have you join us in this endeavor."

Christ Church has a beautiful and long-standing relationship with LEMS, assisting them in many times of need. You can see your fellow parishioners' generous work [on our website's many LEMS-related blog posts](#). The fact that there are more than one hundred posts speaks to the loving-kindness and unconditional action that Christ Church puts behind its LEMS ministry. Click that link to read those, and thank you for your prayerful consideration in 2026!

Collection of Lightweight, Natural-fiber Clothing Continues Until Aug. 30 to Help Visually-Impaired People and their Families in Nigeria

Christ Church is supporting a late-summer clothing drive by Living Above Limitation Charity Foundation (LALCF), which

sends lightweight, natural-fiber garments to visually-impaired people in Nigeria. Their disabled residents and their families face greater barriers than the general population and may not be able to afford sufficient clothing.

Dr. Liz Trimmell of Laurel, Md., founded the charity to provide Braille classes, vocational training, white canes and similar aids to the blind. Read about its work on [its Facebook page](#). She made a presentation last Spring to the Outreach Commission, which is sponsoring the drive under the direction of Sonni Aribiah. Her planned shipment by ocean freighter is intended to arrive in time for Christmas in Calabar, Nigeria, which is Sonni's hometown. The visually-impaired men and women who rely upon LALCF for better lives – and their spouses and children – eagerly anticipate its arrival.

At Christ Church, the deadline is Sunday, Aug. 30, which is the same day as the Parish Festival & Ministry Fair. Look for the marked box in the Narthex. New or gently used clothing should be suitable for wear in a tropical climate and made of cotton, linen, flax, bamboo, and other natural fibers. No synthetics! Please bring the following:

- **Men's** – T-shirts and polo shirts (Sizes S–XL); Lightweight pants and jeans (waist sizes 28–42); Shorts (S–XL); Casual button-down shirts (S–XL).
- **Women's** – T-shirts (Sizes S–XL or 6–18); Casual dresses and skirts (Sizes S–XL); Blouses and tops (Sizes S–XL or 6–18).
- **Children's** – Everyday play clothes for boys and girls; School-appropriate clothes, all sizes; Infant and toddler clothes, all sizes.

Please Fill the Altar Basket and Parish Hall Bin with Goods for FISH/CCC

FISH and **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) partnered last year and merged pantries. CCC continues to hand out food by home delivery to Howard County residents and at three sites on Saturday mornings, except on holiday weekends. For information, go online to [Get Help](#).

FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label “FISH/CCC”. Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents to provide guidance and financial support because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email andydelong.fish@gmail.com.

You could be the one to lend a helping hand by lending an ear! As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. Thank you!







Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson