Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 3, 2025 | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE|Seek Ye First *Karen Lafferty 1971*

OPENING SONG | Lord, I Lift Your Name on High *Rick Founds*

1. Lord I lift Your name on high
   Lord I love to sing Your praises
   I'm so glad You're in my life
   I'm so glad You came to save us

Refrain:
You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

2. Sometimes failure grips my life
   And I need a new direction
   And I need the love of God
   And the power of resurrection

Refrain:
You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high (Repeat)

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**

GLORY TO GOD|

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

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

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, **Amen**.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY|

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

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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 | Hosea 11:1-11
Reader: *A reading from Hosea.*

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

The more I called them,
the more they went from me;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.

I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.

The sword rages in their cities,
it consumes their oracle-priests,
and devours because of their schemes.

My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call,
but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

(continued)

My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.

I will not execute my fierce anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;

for I am God and no mortal,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.

They shall go after the Lord,
who roars like a lion;

when he roars,
his children shall come trembling from the west.

They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria;
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 107:1-9, 43 | *Confitemini Domino*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.

(continued)

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.

Whoever is wise will ponder these things, *
and consider well the mercies of the Lord.

THE EPISTLE | Colossians 3:1-11

Reader: *A reading from Colossians.*

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things-- anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE SONG | Christ Be Our Light *Bernadette Farrell*

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:
Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be -- our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Refrain*

THE GOSPEL | Luke 12:13-21

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, `What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, `I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, `Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, `You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord *Samuel Sebastian Wesley*

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

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

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

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.

HE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Lord, remind us of the strength, love, joy, consolation, hope, and essentialness of your relationship with us, and of our relationship with you. In turn, we are reminded of how we are to behave toward all humankind – those people whom we know and those who are strangers to us. **Open our hearts, Lord.**

Help us when we are angry not to sin; to feel your grace when we listen to your words; to be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving of one another as God has forgiven us; to live in love as Christ loved us.
Live in us, Lord.

We pray for our leaders in our local, state and national governments that they uphold justice and demonstrate compassion for all people in their care. We pray for peace in all areas of the world and especially in the Holy Land. We ask for an end to violence between countries, in our streets and in our homes. We ask for wisdom for our Spiritual leaders. We ask for our Lord's guidance for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; Diocesan Bishop, Carrie; Rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard, Marcia, and Rebecca, and Seminarian, Mike. **Lord, we are in Your care**

When we are afraid, when we are ill or dying, when we are lonely or in trouble, help us to remember the words of The Prophet Jeremiah -- that when we seek you, we will find you, that you will answer us and deliver us from all our fears. We pray today especially for those who are ill, for Rachan, Sherry, Erica, Emmy & Danielle and those others we now name, and for those who have died, especially The Right Reverend Daniel Allotel, Bishop, Stella Fawole, Roberta Akillian & Madrainne Johnson, and those others we now name. **May your grace be upon us, Lord**.

Christ offers love so encompassing that we can scarce grasp that this is all we need to ever know. Help us, Lord, to know, in a way that is beyond human knowing, that you are everything to everyone. Help all of us who follow you to open our hearts and minds to embrace your children everywhere. In the Anglican communion, we pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and our sister churches in the Diocese of Maryland: Holy Trinity, Churchville; St. John's, Kingsville and St. Mary's, Abingdon, for the congregation and visitors here today in this church. **Be with us, Lord**.

For all that is good and wonderful in our lives, we thank you. We bless you at all times, we exalt your name together, we look to you and are radiant. We give thanks for the celebrations this week especially birthdays of James, Isabel, Aileen, Amanda, David, Bill, Allison, Paul & Carol, and wedding anniversaries of Westley & Audra Cox, David Laczynski.& Diana Hall and Drew & Traci Eaton **Thank you, Lord.**

For the unexpected strength you give to us to recover from our sins, to journey to our own holy mountain, to our own places to find you, we humbly and we deeply thank you. **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 |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SONG| Brethren, We Have Met to Worship *George Askins*
arr. Bart Millard

Please scan to give.

1. Brethren, we have met to worship
and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power,
while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy
One comes down;
Brethren, pray, that holy blessings will be
showered all around.

2. Brethren, see poor sinners round you
Slumb'ring on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving,
Can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers,
And our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray, that holy blessings will be
showered all around.

3. Sisters, will you join and help us?
Moses' sister aided him;
Will you help the trembling mourners
Who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior,
Tell them that He will be found;
Sisters, pray that holy blessings will be showered
all around.

4. Brethren, join your cries to help them
Sisters, let your prayers abound
Pray, oh pray that holy blessings will be
showered all around.

DOXOLOGY HYMN 380 (v. 1) | *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.

EUCHARISTIC 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…
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:

The Celebrant continues

Celebrant: 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."

Celebrant: 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 is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: 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.

All: ***Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

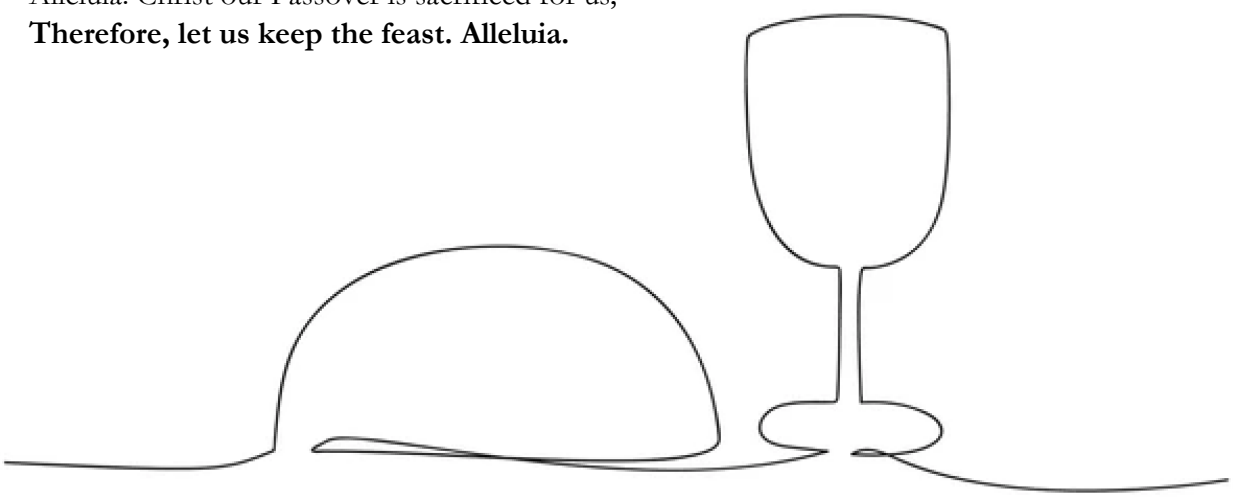
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.**



COMMUNION SONG| Here I am, Lord *Dan Schutte*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I have made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

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.**

EUCHARISTIC 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 SONG| Light One Candle *Peter Yarrow*

1. Light one candle for the Maccabee children
Give thanks that their light didn't die
Light one candle for the pain they endured
When their right to exist was denied

Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice
Justice and freedom demand
And light one candle for the wisdom to know
When the peacemaker's time is at hand

Refrain:

Don't let the light go out!
It's lasted for so many years
Don't let the light go out!
Let it shine through our love and our tears

2. Light one candle for the strength that we need
To never become our own foe
And light one candle for those who are suffering
Pain we learned so long ago

Light one candle for all we believe in
Let anger not tear us apart!
Light one candle to bind us together
With peace as the song in our heart. *Refrain*

Don't let the light go out!

It's lasted for so many years
Don't let the light go out!
Let it shine through our love and our tears

Don't let the light go out!
It's lasted for so many years
Don't let the light go out!
Let it shine through our love and our tears

Don't let the light go out!
Don't let the light go out!
Don't let the light go out!

3. What is the memory that's valued so highly
That we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died
When we cry out they've not died in vain

We have come this far, always believing
That justice will somehow prevail
This is the burden, this is the promise
And this is why we will not fail. *Refrain*

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service
Lector/Reader: Kayode Fatodu
Chalicist:
Ushers: Kayode & Onyx Williams

10:30 a.m. Service
Lector/Reader: Kathy Lyon
Chalicists: Kathy Lyon, Ivy Amponsah
Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild
Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathleen Simms

Tellers
Cathy Gold, Leane Sheriff, Rhonda Tomlinson

PARISH CALENDAR
AUGUST 3 – AUGUST 9, 2025

Sunday, August 3

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – New Brick
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, August 4

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting –Zoom

Tuesday, August 5

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 yr Race & Slavery Comm – New Brick, lower level

Wednesday, August 6

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 9:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, August 7

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, August 8

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Book Club – Zoom

Saturday, August 9

8:30 – 12:30 pm	Center for Spiritual Nourishment – New Brick
9:00 – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:30 – 430 pm	Altar Guild prep – Old Brick

This Tuesday, Visit the Friends of Sabina… and the Aribiah Family!

The stars have aligned for our annual meetup with leaders of the nonprofit **Friends of Sabina** (FoS), which will be a completely virtual gathering on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from Noon to 2 p.m. In this case, the stars are the students at Sabina Boarding Primary School, along with four visitors from Christ Church - the Aribiah family! They are on a trip to Uganda, enabling Sonni, Teddy, Jonah, and Luke to see Sabina's improvements in person. Much has changed since the Aribiahs' previous visits, and we're eager to hear about it.

With the time differences between our homes, we're hosting a very special Zoom gathering next Tuesday from 12:00 noon, and we hope that you'll log in and join us then. The link is in this week's *Christ Church Gatherings* and in tomorrow's *This Week on Zoom* email.

We know that the middle of a weekday isn't ideal for everyone, so we'll also record the virtual gathering and post it to our YouTube channel afterwards. Stay tuned for that link, which is coming soon.

Learn more about the event and our history with FoS, visit **cecevents.org/Outreach-Aug312025**.

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

Confirmation 2025 – Classes Begin Today

This year, the Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, will visit Christ Church on Sunday, November 30th, and she will confirm all the Christ Church candidates who have completed the confirmation process. The Confirmation Classes will be hybrid (in person and online) and begin on Sunday, August 3rd at 12:00 noon. Speak with Father Manny if you are interested.

Deadline for Ministry Submissions and Updates is Today

Ministry leaders, the Parish Festival and Ministry Fair 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 today, August 3 so that he can get you an updated document in time for the Fair (if you need a few more days, email him today!). 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 speak with you.

Sign Up for *Saturday Night Fever* at Toby's Dinner Theater is Today

The WOCC and guests will attend *Saturday Night Fever* at Toby's Dinner Theater on Friday, September 5th, at 6:00 p.m. Friends and families are all welcome to join in the fun, food, and music, but act now - the deadline to sign up and pay is Sunday, August 3rd. Sign up in the Narthex, or talk to any WOCC member. For payment, make checks payable to Christ Episcopal Church (*WOCC Toby's* in the memo line) or **pay via Realm** (select the *WOCC* fund and write *Toby's* in the memo line). We have a discounted group rate of $79 for adults and $74 for children (5-12), and everyone's invited!

And don't forget about our other upcoming events - we'll have our next WOCC meeting on Tuesday, September 2nd at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall and on Zoom (details coming later this summer), and we have the **Community Flea Market and Craft Fair** on Saturday, September 20th - our largest fundraiser of the year. Gather with us for both!

Join 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 Episcopal 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 19th. 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Centering Prayer - Monday

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church, or by emailing **centering@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Yoga Camp - Tuesdays and Thursdays

This summer, Jane Adams will host Yoga Camp at Christ Church for all parishioners and members of the public. Jane is a yoga expert with decades of teaching experience and leads every session. We gather every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m., and each session is one hour long. Yoga Camp is open to those already involved in yoga and those interested in trying it for the first time. You can sign up for each date using our online form at **cecevents.org/YogaCamp**.

Two Days, Two Films - August 8 & 9

In early August, there will be two film screenings in the lower level of the Parish Office Building. On Friday, August 8th at 7:00 p.m., the film *Amazing Grace* will be shown, and you can view the trailer for the movie **here**. Then, at the Center for Spiritual Nourishment the next morning at 9:00 a.m., a showing of *The Ultimate Gift* will take place, and you can view that film's trailer **here**. So, bring some movie munchies to share, settle in and enjoy - and prepare for lively discussion!

Center for Spiritual Nourishment - August 9

Join seekers of a deeper relationship with the Divine at the 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment. The CSN offers free experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit by offering safe spaces to explore an array of opportunities for spiritual growth. This gathering is for anyone interested in spiritual nourishment, regardless of religious affiliation or spiritual beliefs, and you can come for one session or the entire morning. This month's CSN includes free group sessions for Spiritual Direction, Yoga, Contemplative Meditation, Community Bike Ride (weather permitting), and Self and Spirit: Intro to St. Ignatius's spiritual exercises. We will also be showing a movie, *The Ultimate Gift*. The morning then concludes with a short Reflection Circle Service. Whether you've joined us before or are a first-timer, we are sure that there's something special waiting for you here. Learn more at **cecevents.org/CSN-August2025**.

The Annual Christ Church Parish Festival and Ministry Fair – Sunday, August 24

Christ Church's Parish Festival & Ministry Fair is back! There's only one worship service that day, August 24, so join us in New Brick 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 2025 Flea Market and Craft Fair - September 20

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 20th from 9am to 2pm (rain date 9/27), and takes place on the Christ Church campus. This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. You can have your own space in the market, or if you're cleaning out closets or garages the church will be sponsoring the white elephant tables & welcomes your unwanted treasures. Visit **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market**

InReach Ministry

Christ Church's Inreach Ministry is taking shape and welcomes both those in need of our services and those wishing to help others by volunteering for this ministry. You can learn more about our Inreach Ministry, how to sign up if you're in need, or how to volunteer to help the ministry, by speaking with Michon Semon or Ron Baran, by visiting our website at **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/inreach**, or by emailing **inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You!

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild or Buildings and Grounds ministries. None of these require 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 Altar Guild, please email **altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org**. For those interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at **office@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Zoom to Uganda with Friends of Sabina!

The stars have aligned for our annual meetup with leaders of the nonprofit, Friends of Sabina (FOS), which will be a completely virtual gathering on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from Noon to 2 p.m. In this case, the stars are the students at Sabina Boarding Primary School and four visitors from Christ Church. The Aribiah family is on a trip to Uganda, enabling Sonni, Teddy, Jonah, and Luke to see Sabina's improvements in person. Much has changed since the Aribiahs' previous visits, and we're eager to hear about it.

You're invited to log into Zoom as your schedule permits; there will be a recording if you must miss a portion and want to catch up later. The Zoom link will be in tomorrow's *This week on Zoom* email.

FOS operates the primary school and a nursery program that together enroll 424 students in Sanje, Uganda. FOS Co-Director Ann Marie Davis, who is on site, will lead an informative show-and-tell during the Zoom. She will be joined remotely by Co-Director Maria White and assisted in person by Sponsorship Coordinator Deborah Nakiduuli, Librarian Richard Tumusiime, and Administrator Moses Nsubuga.

We're anticipating another moving performance by the choir and keeping an eye out for sponsored students who remain at Sabina in primary grades: Roger, Herbert, Purity, Geofrey, Lydia and Sharon.

Nearly a dozen parishioners at Christ Church began sponsoring individual students in 2020. A photo collage of seven of the youngsters, pictured at that point in time, appears on the **FOS page** of the Christ Church website. By now, these students have completed primary grades at Sabina and enrolled in secondary schools.

All of these deserving youngsters come from families who otherwise cannot afford their schooling, and sponsors commit to fund an annual scholarship and to keep in touch. One aim is to form relationships, like family across the miles. FOS helps accomplish that goal by encouraging an exchange of letters and occasional video calls. For information on becoming a sponsor, email **outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Christ Church began supporting Sabina Primary School more than a decade ago by first establishing a library. Besides the Aribiahs, parishioners Steve and Linda Alpern and the late Charlie Hoke and Ellen Boudreau Hoke have traveled there. Consider making a future trip; you can inquire about it during the Q&A portion of next week's Zoom meetup.

Sabina's library has become a resource not just for the school but for the surrounding community. The Outreach Commission at our May meeting approved donating $3,300 to FOS to pay the librarian's salary, periodical subscriptions, and a portion of internet service. Funds come from the Vestry-approved, 2025 Outreach budget derived from your pledges and contributions.

Thanks to all!

FISH and CCC Combine Pantries, Making it Easier for You to Help People in Need by Donating Staples in a Shared Bin and by Volunteering for FISH Phone Duty

Recently **FISH** and **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) partnered to provide food services for Howard County residents. The two organizations have merged their food pantries. CCC will distribute food, including by home delivery, from the groups' newly combined pantry. FISH will continue to supply the pantry by picking up donated goods from Christ Church and other cooperating churches, schools, and civic organizations.

Keep putting non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket. Otherwise, there's now just one convenient location for your donations: A bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC".

Please keep bringing baby wipes and diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6. These remain in great demand, according to CCC's April Lee, manager of the combined pantry. CCC continues to distribute groceries, staples and baby supplies at three sites on Saturday mornings. For information go online to **Get Help**.

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. You could be the one to lend a helping hand, by lending an ear!

FISH of Howard County needs phone volunteers to help our Howard County neighbors in need. You can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assisting those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. For more information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email him at **andydelong.fish@gmail.com**. Thank you always for your support and for welcoming FISH at Christ Church.

Christ Church's LEMS Backpack Drive is Now Underway

The students and families at Lake Elkhorn Middle School rely on us each year to help provide assistance with school the best prices. We will then load the supplies into 125 backpacks after the second worship service on Sunday, August 17th, so come downstairs, have a sandwich, and help fill them.

If you can't come that day, plan to visit New Brick on Friday, August 22, at 2:30 p.m. to help load the school supplies into cars and drive them to LEMS. That afternoon, they will have their Annual *Back to School Block Party*, where families will register their children and enjoy a picnic from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to stay to help distribute the backpacks to those appreciative students and families.

Please email us and let us know if you can come to either or both of these events by emailing Cathy Whittaker **LEMS@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Each year, we ask for the congregation's support in providing these school supplies, and you always come through (thank you so much!). We don't have a line in the church's annual budget for this, so we rely on and deeply appreciate your direct support. You can give to the LEMS campaign by writing a check to Christ Church with "LEMS" in the memo line, or you can give online at **https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/give/lems**. Either way, your gifts are very much appreciated.

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S OUTREACH, YOUTH, AND OTHER PARISH NEWS

including website and email links, and Zoom meeting details

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children & Family Ministries*
Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Assistant*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (*Junior Warden*)
Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*)
• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams • George Toth
• Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*