

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, September 14, 2025 | Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

- 1 Timothy 1:12 -



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 |

OPENING HYMN 423 | Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio



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

GLORIA S 280 | Robert Powell



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse-- a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

"For my people are foolish, they do not know me;

they are stupid children, they have no understanding.

They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good."

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled.

I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black;

for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 14 | Dixit insipiens



The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;
there is none who does any good.
The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, *
to see if there is any who is wise,
if there is one who seeks after God.
Every one has proved faithless;

all alike have turned bad; * there is none who does good; no, not one.

Antiphon

Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *
who eat up my people like bread
and do not call upon the Lord?
See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.
Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the Lord is their refuge.
Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE | 1 Timothy 1:12-17

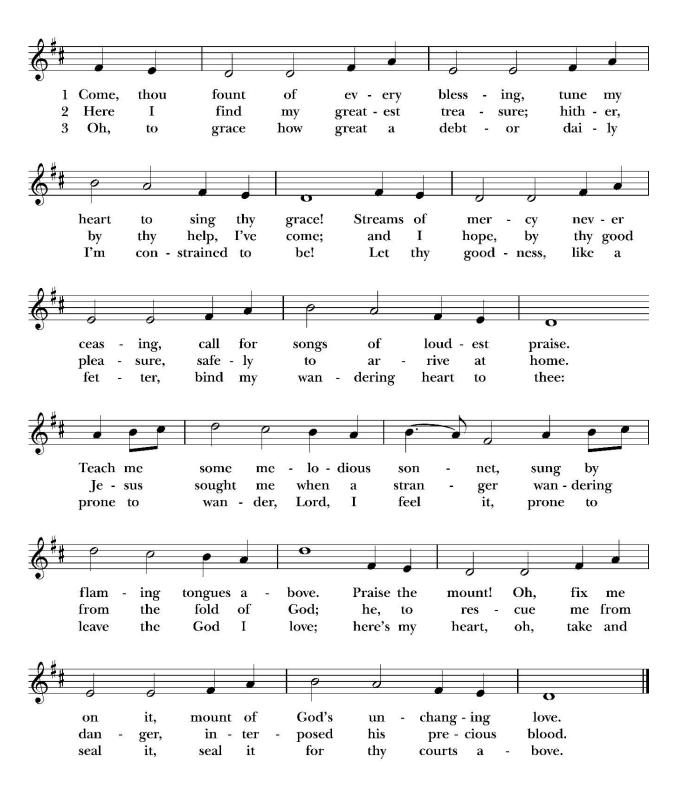
Reader: A reading from 1st Timothy.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN 686 | Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton



THE GOSPEL | Luke 15:1-10

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

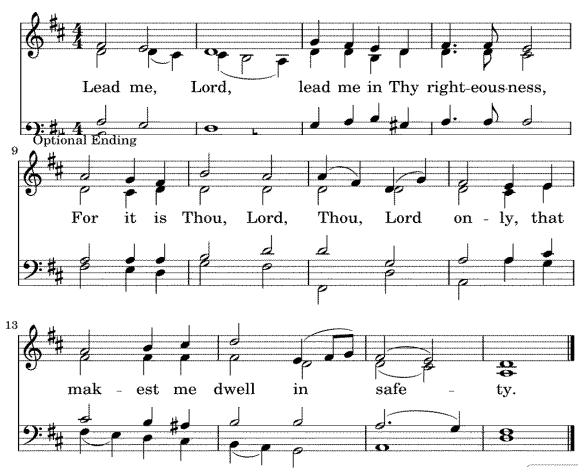
So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley



THE SERMON | 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 |

Forgiveness is a key principle in our relationships with all people and a requirement of Christ for his individual followers and in the Church. We pray, **Lord, help us to have the courage and foresight to follow You.**

We give a warm welcome to those who are new to Christ Church and those who are visiting this morning. We thank you for sharing in our worship and we look forward to meeting you. We pray for our Church Leadership: our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our Rector, Emmanuel; our Clergy, Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehi. We are so grateful for our incredibly gifted staff and our loving and dedicated congregation. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for All Saints', Sunderland, Christ Church, West River, and Middleham & St. Peter's, Lusby. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we remember The Anglican Church of South America. We pray for Your holy church and all who worship in it.

We pray for all those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, and those who care for them. We pray for those who are hungry and thirsty, and especially for our friends at the Dorsey Resource Center and Grassroots Shelter. We hold up in prayer all victims of natural disasters throughout the world. May they receive all the assistance and loving care that they desperately need .We pray this week especially for Stan, Abel, Rachan, Sherry, Erica, Emmy & Danielle, and those you now name. We pray, **Lord, may your healing touch ease their pain and restore them.**

We ask God Our Father to accept in his loving arms all those who have departed this life, especially Roberta Akillian, Charles Kirk, and those you now name. We pray for all who mourn them that they may heal in the warmth of your love. We pray, **Thank you Jesus, for the gift of eternal life**.

We thank you Lord for the many occasions we have to celebrate. We ask your blessing on all those who participated in our annual flea market this week. We rejoice with all those members of our church family who are celebrating milestones this week especially birthdays of Megan, Traci, Shirley, James, Judith & David, wedding anniversaries of David & Kimberley Mosier and Michael & Rhonda Tomlinson, and baptismal anniversaries of Daniel, Kofi & Gina. We pray, **Thank you Lord for the gifts of your creation**.

God is the source of knowledge and peace, giving to all the confidence and courage to continue, with justice and compassion. Lord, please awaken our ears to your loving word. 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.



Please scan to give.



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,

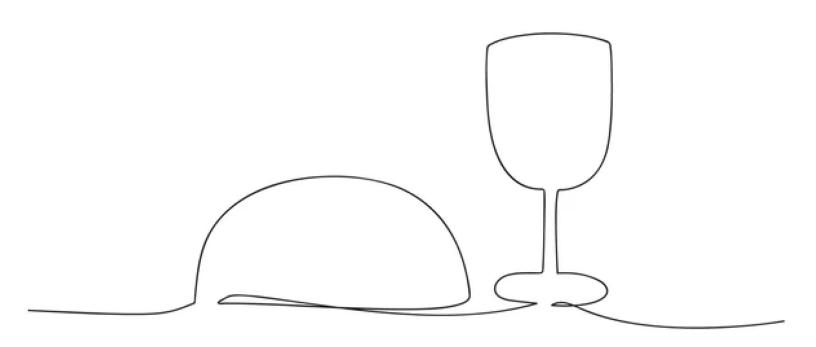
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us

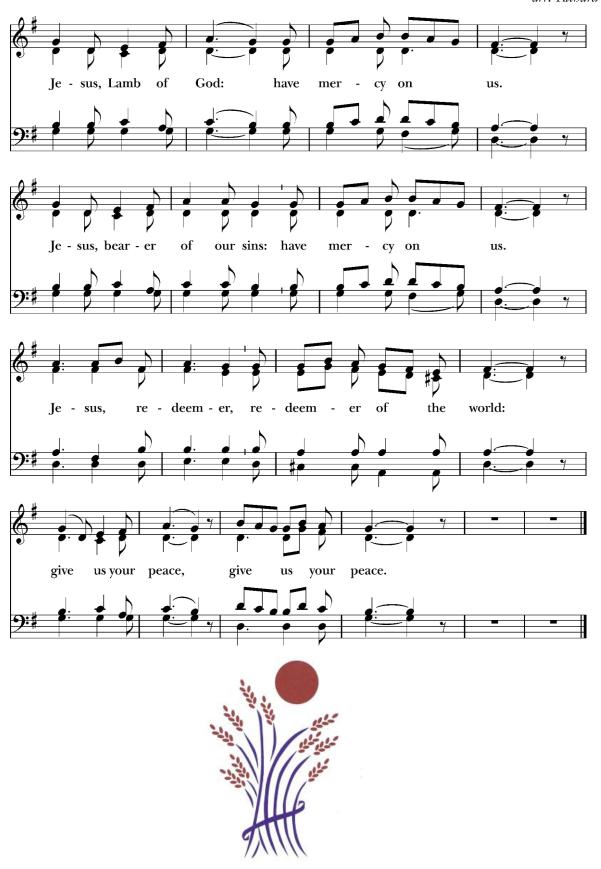
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and

the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

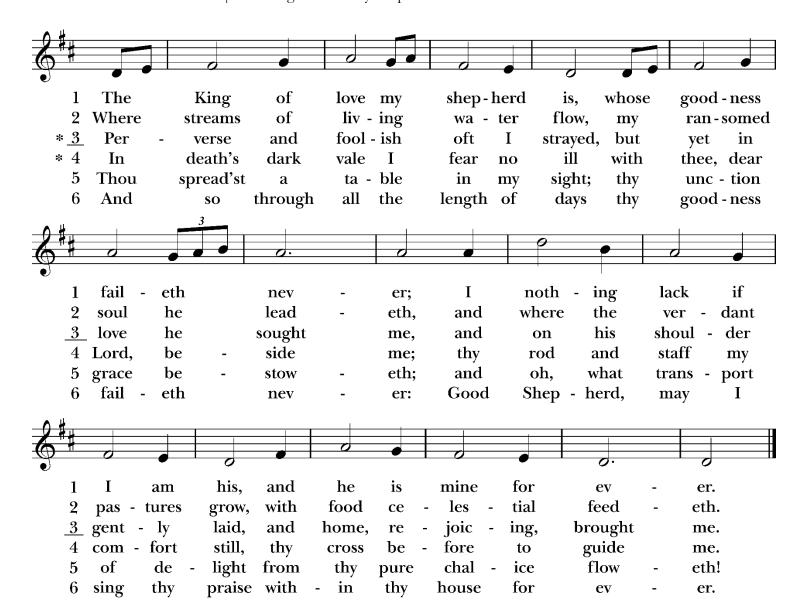
Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **People:** Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.





The Gifts of God for the People of God

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING |

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



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: Ronald Baran Chalicist: Sonni Aribiah Ushers: Michon Semon, Nancy Winchester

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Robin Bradley Chalicist: Theo Jones-Quartey Acolytes: Lucinda Hart, Ava Fox, Aston Fox Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild

Ivy Amponsah, Sonni Aribiah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms

Tellers

Brian Farnandis, Cherry Williams

VENDOR SPOTS ARE SOLD OUT.... BUT VOLUNTEER SPOTS ARE NOT!



PARISH CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 14 – 20, 2025

Sunday, September 14

8:00 am Holy Eucharist – Old Brick

8:45 am– 9:30 am Coffee Hour

9:00 am – 9:30 am Children & Family Worship – New Brick, upper level

9:30 am – 10:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level

12:00 – 3:00 pm Parish Beautification Day

12:30 – 5:30 pm Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick 1:15 – 5:30 pm Sundays @ 3 Concert – New Brick, upper level

2:00 – 4:00 pm Confirmation Class – Zoom

Monday, September 15

All Day Fr. Manny out (Day 2/11) 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, September 16

All Day Fr. Manny out (Day 3/11) 7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

6:00 – 7:00 pm Summer Yoga Camp – New Brick, lower level

7:30 – 9:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, September 17

All Day Fr. Manny out (Day 4/11) 7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

6:30 – 8:30 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, September 18

All Day Fr. Manny out (Day 5/11)
7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

6:00 – 7:00 pm Summer Yoga Camp – New Brick, lower level 6:30 – 9:00 pm Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level 7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, September 19

All Day Fr. Manny out (Day 6/11)
7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream

7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club

Saturday, September 20

All Day Fr. Manny out (Day 7/11)

All Day Flea Market

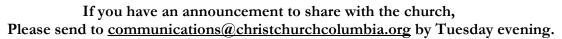
9:00 – 11:30 am MOCC Breakfast – Silver Diner

9:00 – 3:00 pm Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – New Brick, upper & lower levels

2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

3:30 – 430 pm Altar Guild prep – Old Brick

ANNOUNCEMENTS





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

Register Now for Sunday School and Youth Formation

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone ages pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate classes that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year!

Christ Church's Sunday School and Youth Formation ministry believes in growing a deep and wide faith in kids through education in the Gospel, serving our community, and fellowship with one another. From the earliest age, we want kids to know the basic truths of God's Word and how we can apply those in our daily lives. Our dedicated and trained Sunday School team provides age-appropriate groups where the kids can connect and learn with one another.

Registration is now open, so please learn more and complete our registration form here: <u>cecevents.org/SundaySchool-2526</u> (one form per child, please), so we can reserve space for your children.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please email **sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org**

Flea Market Vendor Spots are Sold Out... but VOLUNTEER Spots are Not – And They're FREE! The time for the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair is here, taking place next Saturday, September 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (rain date 9/27), and it takes place on the Christ Church campus.

Baked goods can be dropped off all day Friday and on Saturday morning.

Donations are welcome for the Book Sale and White Elephant tables, and those can be dropped off in the Parish Hall (lower level of office building) on:

- This Sunday, Sept. 14th, from 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Monday Sept. 15th to Friday Sept 19th from 9:00 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 17th, from 5:00 8:00 p.m.

And we also STILL need volunteers - LOTS of volunteers - to help with directing traffic and general assistance around the event. Put simply, this event is impossible to host without your help - and with the Flea Market being one of the largest fundraising activities of the year, it would be a great loss if we couldn't host it, so <u>please visit our online sign-up sheet</u>. Lending a hand for a few hours on September 20th (even if you only have one or two to spare) would make a world of difference. Thank you!

Elect Your Next Vestry Members – Their Info is on Our Website Now

Christ Church's Vestry has approved the following candidates for election during our Annual Meeting, taking place on Sunday, October 19th. That morning, we have one service at 10:00 a.m. followed by our Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections. You must be present to vote, but there are many other reasons to join us that day, as well (including a delicious lunch).

The nominees this year are (in alphabetical order): Denisa Abdallah, Katie Adams, Jim Berkson, David James, and Denholm Kendall. If you'd like to learn more about these candidates, you can read a brief bio and message from each on our website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2025-vestry-candidates. Representing the Vestry is a three-year term that begins after the Annual Meeting, and this year, there are four seats to be filled.

Come and See "Larissa and Friends" Recital - Saturday, October 11

We are proud to present our Music Director, Larissa Sanders, in her fall Christ Church recital - now an annual tradition. Larissa and her selection of incredibly talented musicians and vocalists will present a program of beautiful music spanning several centuries and cultures. This performance is a free-will offering, and light refreshments will be served at a reception following the performance, so come to the New Brick Sanctuary on Saturday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. for a concert that's sure to entertain everyone. Save the date, and support excellent music performed by talented musicians.

Financial Peace University - Later this Fall

As a community of faith, one of the gifts we can offer each other is the prudent use of our resources. Early this decade, before COVID-19 upended everyone's lives, we began Financial Peace University here at Christ Church, and it's back beginning this fall. This multi-week seminar aims to help parishioners manage their finances and provide them with the tools to be better stewards of what they earn. Even in its incomplete form, this was a life-changer for people who took advantage of the opportunity at the time. We are pleased to offer this class again, but it is limited to 10 people/families, so if you're interested, let us know as soon as possible. The class will meet on Monday evenings, and the cost is \$100 per person/family. For more information, please speak with Fr. Manny at church on a Sunday or email the office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

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.

Christ Church Choir is Back - Thursday Evenings

Get ready, all you singers and music lovers! The choir has resumed rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings - Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30 - and all adults are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you to give it a shot in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa at church on Sundays or email her at music@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, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others!

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 interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org, or inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org for Inreach (or visit their website page), and if you're interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

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



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
The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, Seminarian Associate
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
Nytia Perry, Nursery Care
John Prempeh Sencherey, Sexton

Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (Senior Warden) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (Junior Warden)

Andrew Eaton (Treasurer) • Ron Couch (Registrar) • Shreya Chrzanowski (Youth Liaison)

• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Jay Abbott • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms