

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Palm Sunday

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sunday, March 24, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

We are delighted you're here - welcome home!

The Liturgy of the Palms

Opening Acclamation and Collect |

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

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

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Blessing and Collect |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

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

***People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

***People:* Amen.**

Celebrant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

***People:* Hosanna in the highest.**

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.

***People:* In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Jim Schempp, bagpipes

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', light of God. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

A Reading from Isaiah 50:4-9a |

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

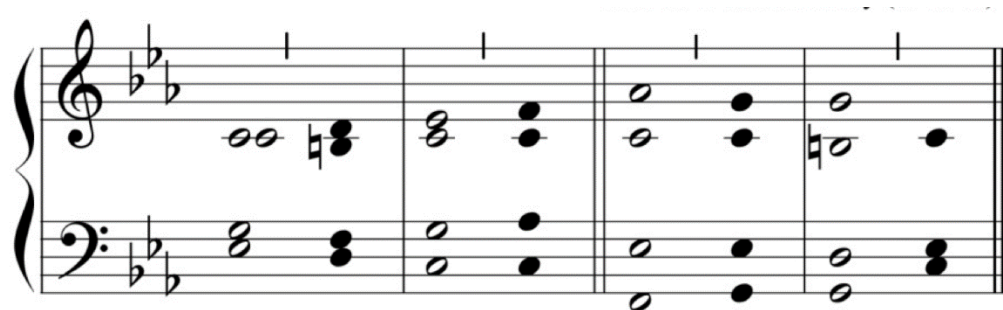
Reader: The word of the Lord.

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



The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse at the 8:00 a.m. service and sung at the 10:30 service.

Psalm 31:9-16 | *In te, Domine, speravi*



Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in ¹trouble; |
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my ¹belly. ||

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with ¹sighing; |
**my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are con- ¹sumed. ||**

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my ac- ¹quaintance, |
when they see me in the street they a- ¹void me. ||

I am forgotten like a dead man, out of ¹mind; |
I am as useless as a broken ¹pot. ||

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all a- ¹round; |
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my ¹life. ||

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O ¹Lord, |
I have said, "You are my ¹God. ||

My times are in your ¹hand; |
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who perse- ¹cute me, ||**

Make your face to shine upon your ¹servant; |
and in your loving-kindness ¹save me. ||

A Reading from Philippians 2:5-11 |

Reader: A reading from The Epistle to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death--
 even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

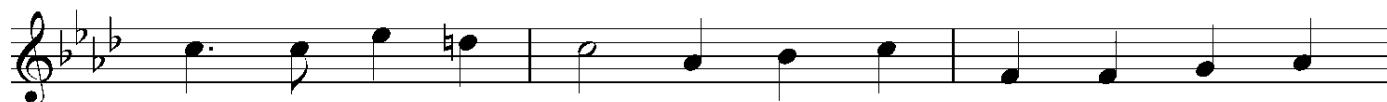
The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn 156 | Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

The King's Majesty



1	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	Hark!	all	the	
2	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	In	low	-	ly
3	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	The	an	-	gel
4	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	Thy	last	and	
5	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	In	low	-	ly



1	tribes	ho	-	san	-	na	cry;	thy	hum	-	ble	beast	pur	-	sues	his
2	pomp	ride	on	to	die;	O	Christ,	thy	tri	-	umphs	now	be	-		
3	ar	-	mies	of	the	sky	look	down	with	sad	and	won	-	dering		
4	fierc	-	est	strife	is	nigh;	the	Fa	-	ther	on	his	sap	-	phire	
5	pomp	ride	on	to	die;	bow	thy	meek	head	to	mor	-	tal			



1	road	with	palms	and	scat	-	tered	gar	-	ments	strowed.			
2	gin	o'er	cap	-	tive	death	and	con	-	quered	sin.			
3	eyes	to	see	the	ap	-	proach	-	ing	sac	-	ri	-	fice.
4	throne	ex	-	pects	his	own	a	-	noint	-	ed	Son.		
5	pain,	then	take,	O	God,	thy	power,	and	reign.					

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

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

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

Sermon | The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

The Prayers of the People |

Intervenor: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

***People:* That we all may be one.**

Intervenor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***People:* That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intervenor: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***People:* That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intervenor: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***People:* That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intervenor: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***People:* That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Intervenor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***People:* That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intervenor: Give to the departed eternal rest.

***People:* Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intervenor: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***People:* May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Intervenor: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect, to which the people respond “Amen.”

The Peace |

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

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

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

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Offertory Anthem | King Jesus Is a Listening

Spiritual, arr. William Dawson

Please scan to give.



Presentation 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

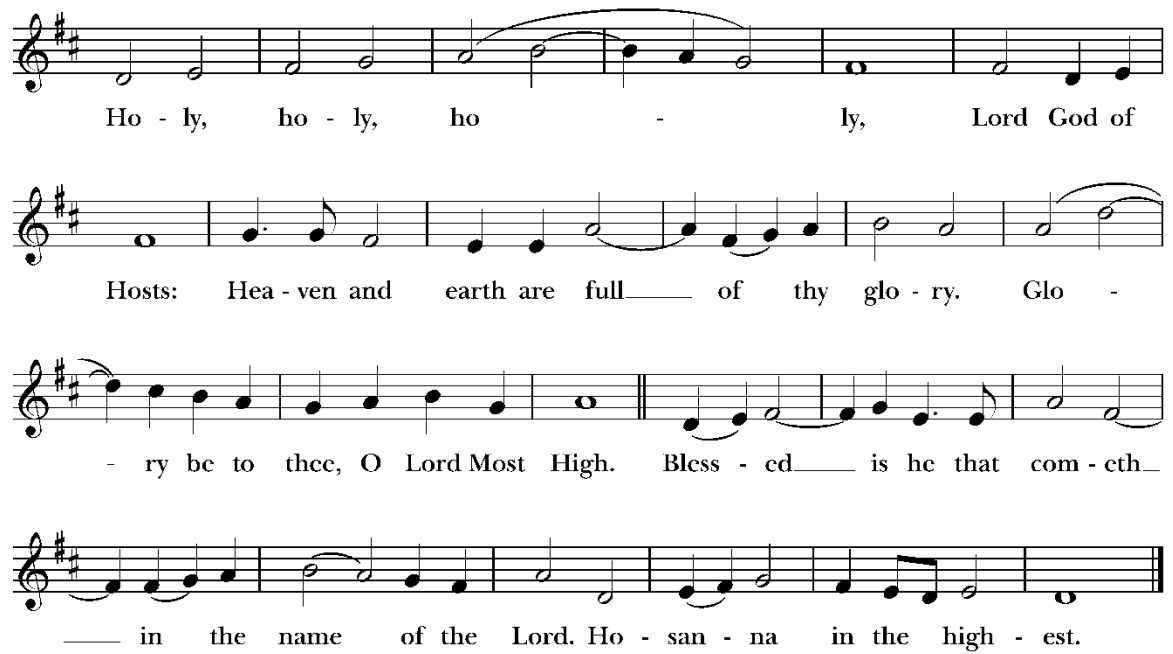
***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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...

...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:



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.

Celebrant: 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."

All: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem S 158 | O Lamb of God, *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

1. In re - mem - brance of me,
2. (In re -) mem - brance of me,

1. eat this bread. In re - mem - brance of me, drink this wine. In re -
2. heal the sick. In re - mem - brance of me, feed the poor. In re -

1. mem - brance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is
2. mem - brance of me, o - pen the door and let your broth - er

1. done. In re -
in, Let him in.

continued

Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed; drink and re - mem - ber

too. That this in my bod-y and pre - cious blood shed for

you, shed for you. In re - mem-brance of me

search for truth. In re - mem-brance of me al-ways love. In re -

mem-brance of me, don't look a - bove, but in your heart

— look for God. Do this in re - mem-brance of me.

Please stand as able.

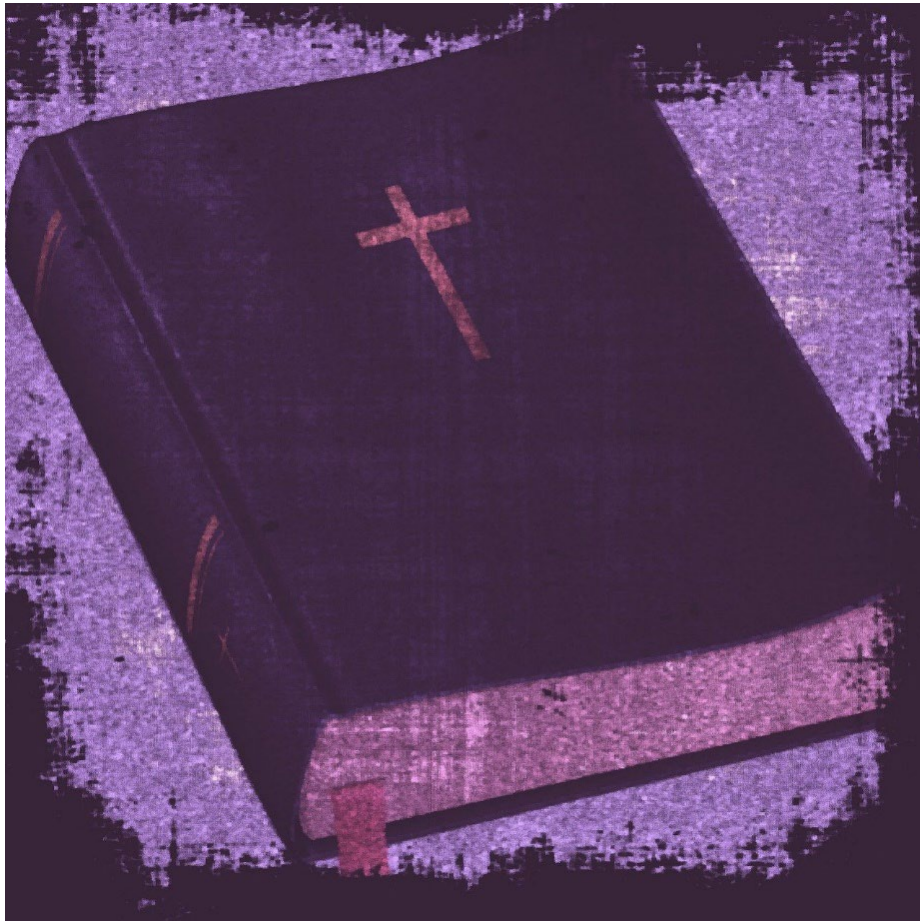
Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

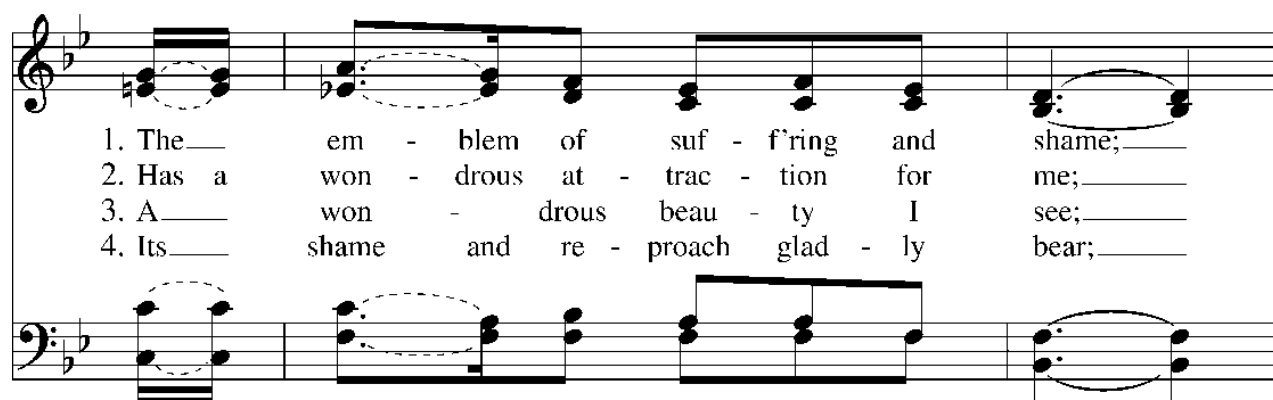
The Blessing |

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

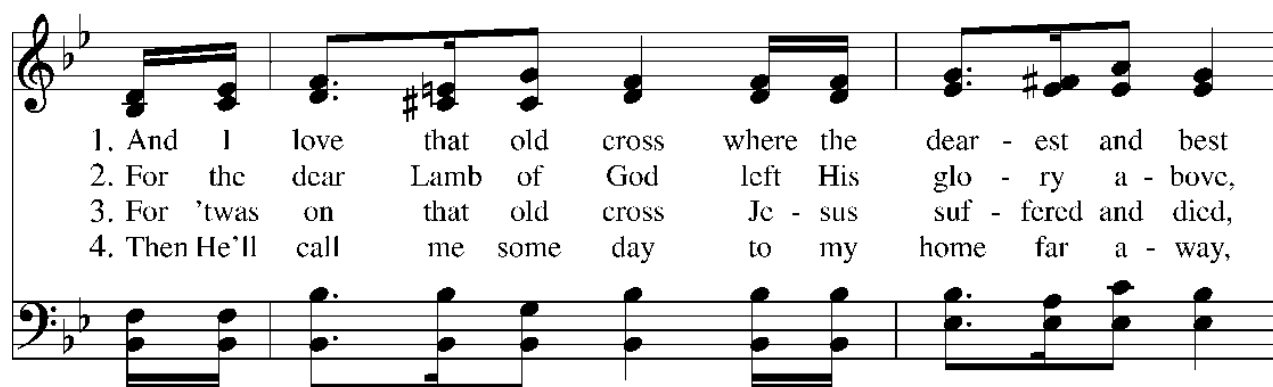




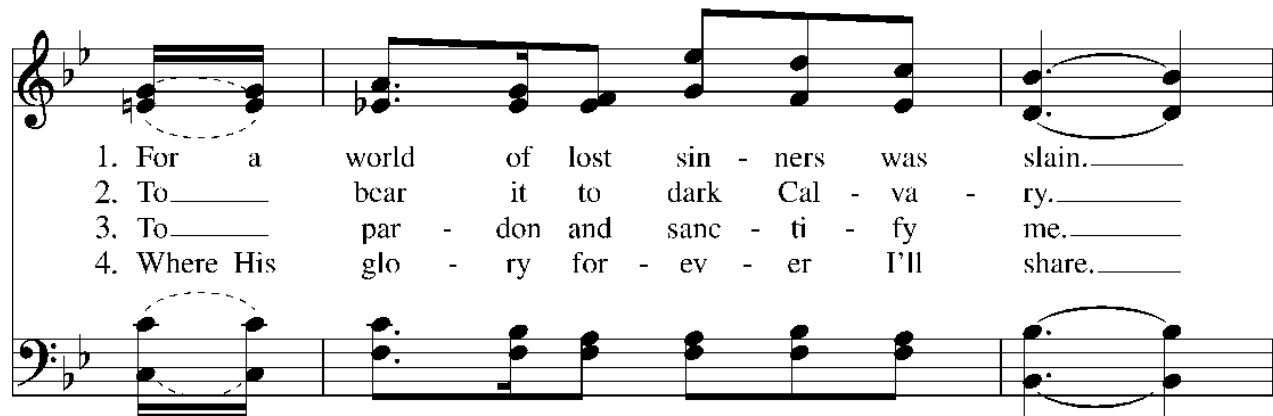
1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross,
 2. Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,
 3. In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
 4. To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



1. The em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
 2. Has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
 3. A won - drous beau - ty I see;
 4. Its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



1. And I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
 2. For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry a - bove,
 3. For 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
 4. Then He'll call me some day to my home far a - way,



1. For a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 2. To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 3. To par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 4. Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

old rug - ged cross_____

So I'll cher - ish the cross, the old rug - ged cross,

Till my tro - phies at last I lay down;_____

old rug - ged cross,_____

I will cling to the cross, the old rug - ged cross,

And ex - change it some day for a crown._____

The Dismissal |

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

(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

Postlude | Verset X, 'In the Glory of the Invalides'

Marcel Dupre

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Greg Schuckman

Ushers: Michon Semon

9:00 a.m. Service

Ushers: Cherry Williams, Yetti Lipede

Acolytes: Ava Fox, James Mercer

Chalicerist: Rebecca Warlow

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Robin Bradley

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, JB Hanson, Cherry Williams, Bete Dagne, Yetti Lipede

Acolytes and Crucifer: Deepti Jackson, Jasmine Opiri, Alex Opiri

Chalicerists: Cheryl Lucente, Ivy Amponsah

6:00 p.m. Service

Pam Pruitt

Lumen Christi Dancers

Marcia Freeman

Peggy Hoffman

Veronica Ivey

Shahra Toth

Sharon Werth

Suzanne Ziobro

Altar Guild

Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente

PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 24 TO MARCH 31

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Meditations on the Passion – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, March 25

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

Tuesday, March 26

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 – 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 8:30 pm Vestry Meeting – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Wednesday, March 27

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
7:00 – 9:00 pm Tenebrae – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 8:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

8:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 pm Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
5:00 – 6:00 pm Seder Service – New Brick, lower level
6:00 – 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Potluck – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
9:00 pm Vigil in Old Brick Begins

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday – Church Office Closed

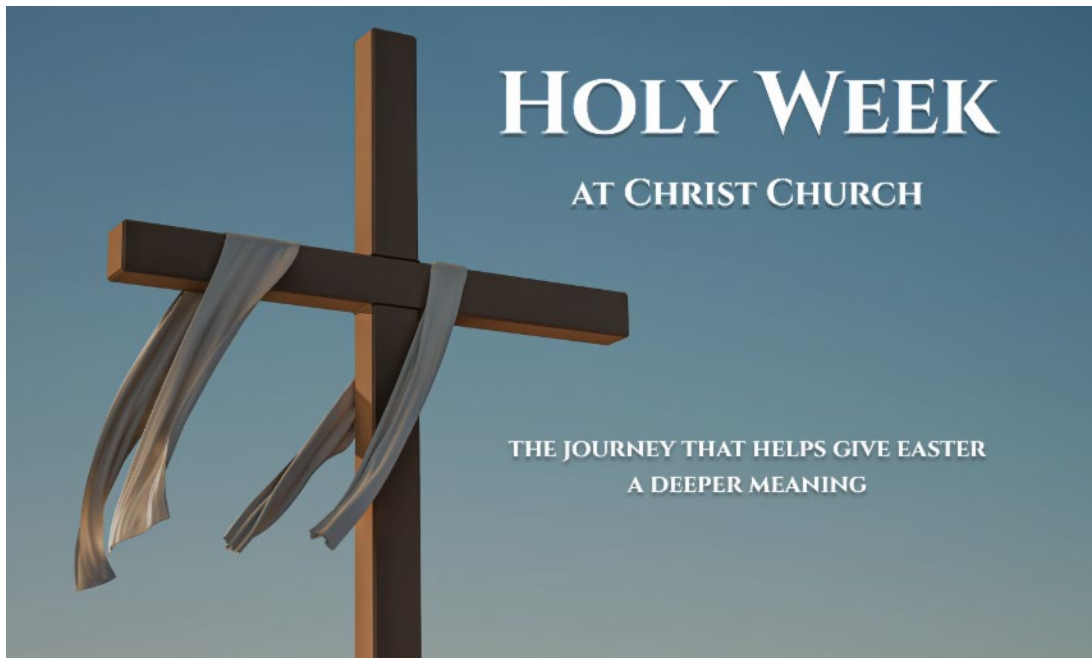
12:00 pm Vigil in Old Brick Ends
12:00 pm Good Friday Service – New Brick
7:00 pm Good Friday Service – New Brick
8:00 pm – 12:00 am Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, March 30 – Holy Saturday

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Easter Egg Decorating – Parish Hall, lower level
11:00 am – 2:00 pm Altar Guild Easter Preparations – New Brick, upper level
2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 9:00 pm Easter Vigil – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

8:00 am Easter Eucharist – Old Brick
9:00 am Easter Family Service – New Brick, upper level
11:00 am Easter Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
6:00 – 10:00 pm Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level



Meditations on the Passion

Sunday, March 24
at 6:00 p.m. in New Brick

Tenebrae

Wednesday, March 27
7:00 p.m. in New Brick

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28
5:00 p.m. Seder meal in New Brick
6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Potluck in New Brick
7:00 p.m. Eucharist in New Brick, with foot-washing and stripping of Altar
9:00 p.m. Vigil in Old Brick

Good Friday

Friday, March 29
12:00 noon in New Brick
7:00 p.m. in New Brick
Veneration of the Cross and Eucharist

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil and Eucharist, Lighting of the New Fire, Confirmation, and Baptism

Saturday, March 30
7:00 p.m. in New Brick

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31
8:00 a.m. in Old Brick
9:00 a.m. Family Service in New Brick
11:00 a.m. with music and choir in New Brick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,

email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Meditations on the Passion - Sunday Evening

This Sunday evening, Christ Church presents Meditations on the Passion, a special service of poems, readings, dance (with our **Lumen Christi liturgical dance ministry**), song, and prayer. Join us Sunday at 6:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary as we contemplate the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a way that makes us realize the immense love He has for each one of us, a love that is capable of suffering and death to free us from our sins.

Formation Classes Return in Two Weeks

There are no Adult or Youth Formation classes on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday, but they will resume on April 7th.

Easter Altar Flowers and Gifts

Easter Sunday is a time that we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. If you would like to present Altar gifts this Easter, you can find our online Easter Offering form at <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/-/form/give/lenteaster>. Be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. There are also envelopes in the Narthex and the rear of Old Brick. You can also drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; include the same dedication information on the *MEMO* line of a check, please. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Maundy Thursday Sign-Ups - Next Thursday and Friday

On Maundy Thursday, we recount the story of Jesus sharing his last meal with his friends. That same night, he went out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. His friends, being weary, slept as Jesus prayed. Despite Jesus inviting them to stay awhile, the friends couldn't help themselves. The Christian observance of the Seder meal celebrates our tradition of Christ's last supper, and so on Maundy Thursday, we hold a potluck before our service in New Brick. Please visit the **Seder Meal sign-up sheet link** to bring something for this communal meal.

We also remember that night with a Vigil in Old Brick following the Maundy Thursday service. The Vigil will run from 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28th until noon the next day, March 29th. During each hour, we invite two parishioners to participate in the Vigil by signing up for a time slot of your choosing. Visit **the Vigil sign-up here**, and you're welcome to sign up for just an hour, or a couple of hours. For more information, please contact Fr. Manny.

Help Get Your Church Ready for Easter

During major holidays throughout the year, the Altar Guild welcomes and appreciates volunteers who come to our special preparation events. The Christ Church Altar Guild invites all parishioners to join us in our Easter preparations and help us prepare the sanctuary and altar for this most blessed time of year. Stop by New Brick on Saturday, March 30th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you!

WOCC Upcoming Events

St. John's Episcopal Church in Elkridge will be opening its labyrinth on Good Friday for a Lenten walk from 12:00-1:30. The walk will include the stations of the Cross. All are welcome. And don't forget that the April WOCC meeting will be on April 1st at 6:30 at Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd Tap House, which is located at 8895 McGraw Road Suite 1, Columbia. Join us!

Centering Prayer - Monday Evening

Centering Prayer is a weekly evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. The daily practice of this prayer could lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. this Monday. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Bible Study and Lunch - Wednesday Morning

Christ Church's Bible Study meets each Wednesday morning in the Conference Room of the Parish House, explore the Lectionary readings for that Sunday, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Wednesday Bible Study begins at 10:00 a.m. and is led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursday

On Thursdays, join us for midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick, with readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful, historic chapel - the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

Christ Church Choir - No Rehearsal March 28 & April 4

The choir is rehearsing tonight but is taking a rehearsal break next week and on April 4th. They will rehearse on Thursday evenings in New Brick beginning again on April 11th and everyone is welcome to take part. No matter if you're a novice singer or a seasoned musician, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs. If you're interested, please email Larissa at [**music@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org)

Help Us Prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt

Just a heads-up: our Youth and Family Ministry can use hard-boiled eggs from parishioners so that we can decorate them and get them ready for the Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. Please drop off hard-boiled eggs between next Thursday evening, March 28th (Maundy Thursday) and Saturday morning, March 30th. They can be placed in the refrigerator in the lower level of the Parish Office building. Thank you!

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Friday, March 29th (Good Friday) and Monday, April 1st (Easter Monday). It will reopen on Tuesday, April 2nd.

VBS and Music - a Great Match!

This summer, Christ Church is hosting a special program - Vacation Bible School AND Choir Camp! This series takes place from June 24 to 28th and gathers daily from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. At VBS&CC, children will enjoy a week of Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and friends! Snacks, lunch, and refreshments are served daily, and after the 10:30 a.m. June 30th service, we'll have a wonderful celebration with ice cream and snacks for all participants. The cost for VBS&CC is \$30 per child or \$75 per family, and **you can process payment here**. Volunteers are needed, so come and have fun with us! **Email us** if you want to help us with the program, or if you have any questions. Visit [**www.christchurchcolumbia.org/vbs**](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/vbs) for more details, and we'll see you this summer!

Communion to You

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

Healing Stations

Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, email Rebecca Warlow at healingministry@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

The RDF typically helps fulfill the needs of those in our community. There are real people with real needs that we help support, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF for us to help our neighbors. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help.

Welcome Spring by Making Plans for Our Next Food Drive to be held Saturday, April 20th from 12-4 p.m. at River Hill Giant Supermarket in Clarksville

Now that spring has officially arrived, let's plan for one of the most rewarding ways to mark the season. It's not about cherry blossoms or preparing to plant a garden. Instead, it's time to get ready for the Spring Food Drive, which is exactly one month away.

The drive will be held on Saturday, April 20, from noon to 4 p.m. at River Hill Giant, 6050 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville, Md., 21075. Walk-ins and children are welcome as Christ Church continues a hands-on, family-friendly activity that occurs twice a year, in spring and fall. The one held last April was especially sweet because the pandemic had put us on pause from 2019 to 2023.

Groceries collected next month will go to two food pantries. One is the Howard County Food Bank, which is operated by the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC). The other is **SAFE**, its partner pantry that provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income families and individuals.

The need is great among struggling households, due to inflation and other causes. To learn more about food insecurity locally, listen to Food Bank Director Carrie Ross and others on the **HoCo Community Chat in October 2023**, a podcast of the Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services.

During our food drives, it's clear we are doing God's work (*above photo*). Volunteers wearing Christ Church aprons or T-shirts engage arriving shoppers and offer a reusable shopping bag that displays Old Brick and contact information. We ask that they purchase items on a list that the Outreach Commission prepares in collaboration with the Food Bank and SAFE. The newly-motivated customers then shop a grocery list in hand, returning later with canned goods, boxes of cereal, pasta, and more.

In 2023, Christ Church collected slightly more than a ton (2,268 pounds) of non-perishable groceries for the Food Bank and multiple bins of gluten-free and allergy-safe products for SAFE. Some people who declined to shop for items instead gave cash, which amounted to a total of \$396 donated to CAC. Our spring and fall drives were held at Giant stores in Clarksville and Elkridge, respectively, with a total participation of about three dozen volunteers.

Next month, closer to the Spring Drive, look for signups to volunteer and fliers posted at church and online. Meanwhile, save the date and time: April 20th from 12 to 4 p.m. For information, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Columbia Community Care Holds Anniversary Event, Asks for Baby-Care Items Including Large-Size Diapers

To mark its fourth anniversary, **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) held a recognition event on Thursday, March 14, at The 3rd in Columbia, MD 21044. Christ Church was represented by Vestry member Diane Phillips LaGuerre, who is a member of the Outreach Commission.

It was a celebratory occasion to look back on a time of crisis when Maryland entered a pandemic lockdown in March 2020. Many students were going hungry without the school meals that they had grown to depend upon. That's when a local teacher founded CCC to collect and distribute essentials to families in need. After individual parishioners began helping, Christ Church became a regular supporter in June 2020.

On March 17, pantry manager April Lee posted a plea for diapers on the **CCC Facebook Group**: "At the CCC pantry we are now basically out of all diaper sizes except for size 1 and we have no baby wipes. PLEASE, if you are able to help us, we need diapers and baby wipes to help our struggling families. Sizes 4-6 are in the greatest demand (and there are less per box), as are 3T-4T and 4T-5T pullups."

Please continue to collect diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers for CCC. Put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers its contents.

Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information on times and locations of three Saturday distribution sites by going online to the **"I Need Help"** portion of CCC's website. Or learn how to volunteer at the sites or in other ways by visiting the **"I Can Help" portion of its website**.

Look for the FISH Bin on the Breezeway near the Parish Hall

FISH of Howard County needs non-perishable foods and toiletries, which we collect in the basket at the altar or in a marked yellow bin on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. **FISH** provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

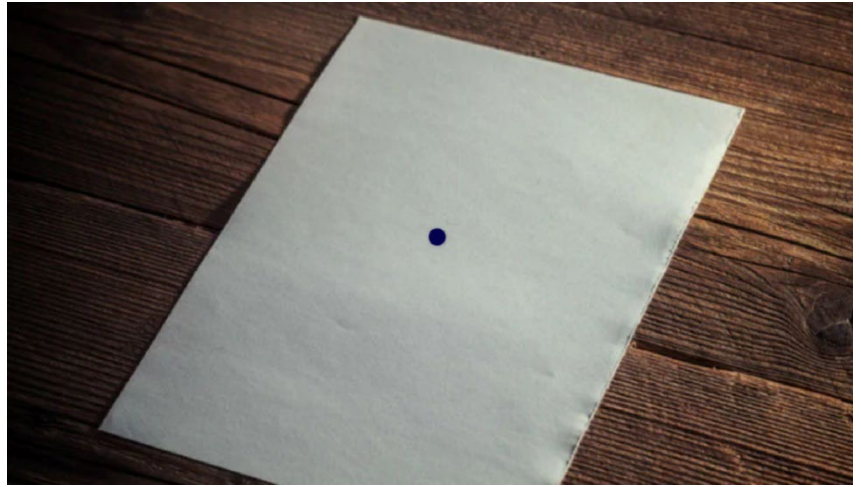
In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.



A Joyful Gift

I had the privilege of concluding our 5-week Wednesday Evenings at Lent program yesterday. This is part one of what I shared yesterday on our parish theme: *Be A Joyful Gift To Others*.

There's a story of a teacher who told his students that he would be giving an exam the following day. Each student came prepared the following day to take the exam. When they



got to the classroom the professor was already seated in his chair. On each desk was a piece of paper that had been turned upside down. When it was time for the exam, the professor asked each student to turn the paper over.

The students were surprised to discover that there were no questions, just a simple dot in the middle of the paper. For their question, the professor asked the students to write what they saw on the paper. After the exam, the professor collected the paper and then adjourned the class.

At the next class, the professor shared his disappointment with the students—each student wrote about the dot that was in the middle of the paper. No one wrote about the sea of white that surrounded the paper.

We often limit ourselves to the little dot. He said, and because of that we miss the incredible beauty of life and the love that draws us into the life of others.

There's a story of a lady who worked at NIH, originally from Canada. Her work was one where she worked primarily on rare cancer diagnoses. Whenever she discovered a rare form of cancer in any patient, she would have followed that patient all through their life.

But the interesting thing she did, which wasn't part of her job description, was to conduct research into her patients' families. This was to help her discover the potential of the same ailments in the family and to understand how the cancer developed and if there was something that she could learn in her efforts to help with a cure.

She didn't limit herself to the dot in the middle; she saw everyone who was connected to that dot, and she saw the others who appeared invisible on paper but who were alive. She wasn't only a gift to her patients, but to their families as well.

When Christ Church's **Spiritual Life Commission** met last year to reflect on a theme for this year, I felt so blessed by the depth of input from all our members. It is always humbling to see parishioners share their thoughts on important parts of our common life.

What really excited me was the belief that each of us can be a joyful gift to others. The *others* weren't necessarily defined— who are they? What sort of people are we talking about? Are these people we know or don't know? Who are the others?

But the fact that the commission didn't define who the others are, reminded me that each of us is an other, so we didn't have to define it.

When I think about the other, I think about the story of the Good Samaritan. The Levi, Priest, and the Samaritan. Everyone was an other. But for the Samaritan, the otherness of the wounded man made no difference.

After narrating the story, Jesus asked, "Who was the neighbor to the wounded man?" and the lawyer answered the Samaritan. His response was 'Go and do likewise.' Go and be like the Samaritan. Don't be constrained by the otherness of someone. We are, each one of us, an other.

A few years ago, I told a story about a South Carolina lawyer who was an Episcopalian. This lawyer detested the idea of shaking hands during the peace. And so, each Sunday, during the peace, he would fold his arms and frown his face. He was in a space where no one was the other, yet everyone is an other.

On his 40th wedding anniversary, the lawyer took his wife to the Bahamas to celebrate their anniversary. They arrived in Bahamas and did all the touristy thing. But then they decided to worship at the local Anglican cathedral on the Sunday - remember, this man worships every Sunday.

To his utter amazement, he and his wife were among the minorities in the sanctuary. For the first time in his life, he saw himself as the other. For the first time in his life, he found himself in a space where who he was and how he looked was of little to no significance to people with whom he worshipped.

During the peace, something amazing happened. He saw his fellow worshippers being gay, joyous, and going around shaking hands and hugging like we used to do here at Christ Church before the pandemic.

The wife didn't have a problem shaking hands. But something dawned on this lawyer; it was like an epiphany moment, reality did set in, and he realized that he couldn't fold his arms or frown his face. He simply couldn't do the same thing that he used to do back in South Carolina.

The spirit of the people in the congregation and the giving of one to the other was so infectious that this lawyer couldn't help but be transformed by that experience and extend his hand to shake the hands of the other. The more cynical reason is that he knew where he was and that if he had folded his arms and frowned his face, they would've run him out of that sanctuary. He knew there was no way that he could have disrespected his fellow worshippers by folding his arms.

The lawyer returned to South Carolina a changed man who had then begun shaking hands on Sunday during worship.

The point here is that you are an other, and I am also an other. That is probably why we didn't feel the need to define who the other is with our Spiritual Life Theme. But more than each being just an other, anyone can be a joyful gift to everyone else. And for that reason, the other needs no definition.

If the other needs no definition, can we offer ourselves as gifts to whoever the other is? The question is, can we offer ourselves as joyful gifts? The issue here isn't so much about the gift but whether it is a joyful giving of the gift - a joyful giving of the self.

Manny+

revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

Stewardship

at Christ Church

**TIME
TALENT
TREASURE**

You can read the latest Vestry-approved report for January 2024 [here](#).

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge

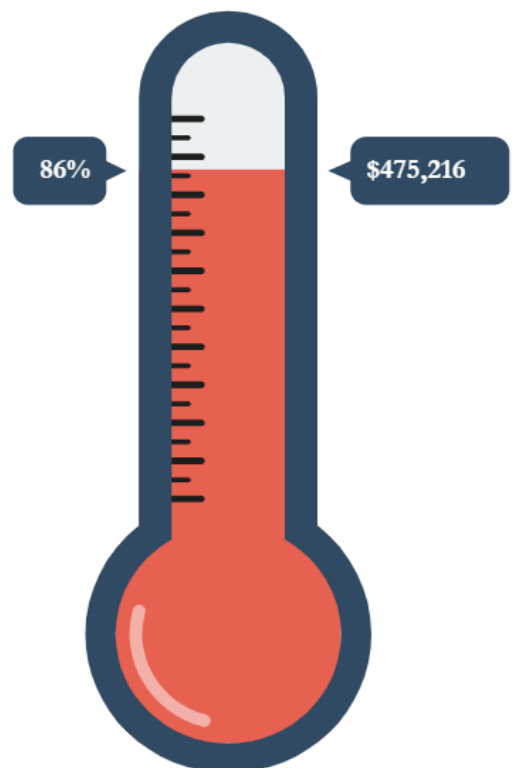
Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply send a text with the word **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our [overview page](#) for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

GOAL: \$550,000





Christ Episcopal Church

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office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The Rev'd Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams