

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, May 7, 2023 | 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!



Youth Sunday

Prelude | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Beethoven

Opening Hymn | Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Rick Founds

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

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

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

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: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
***People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

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

The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Acts 7:55-60 |

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 | *In te, Domine, speravi*

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
**for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.**

My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

A Reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10 |

Reader: A reading from 1 Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

And

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may
proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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 | On Eagles’ Wings

Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"
Refrain:

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

(repeat refrain)

You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come

(repeat refrain)

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

(repeat refrain)

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

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

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

Sermon |

The people stand as able.

The Prayers of the People |

As we celebrate the Easter season and all the joys it brings, God is ever present in our lives, with the manifestation of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray for a beautiful and peaceful graduation for our seniors. May their future endeavors be blessed and our school year's end be smooth and successful. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Church in Wales. In the Diocese of Maryland, we ask the Lord's blessing for Emmanuel, Cumberland; St. George's, Mt. Savage; and St. James', Westernport. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Robert, our Diocesan Bishops; Carrie, our elected Bishop Co-adjutor; Emmanuel, our Rector; Marcia, our Associate Priest; Denise, our Deacon; Mike, our Seminarian Associate and Priest Postulant; Rebecca, our Deacon Postulant; Richard, our Rector Emeritus, and our Sunday School teachers Todd and Kevin. We pray for our leaders. May they lead our country with wisdom and understanding through difficult times. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord, guide all in harm's way and those who fight to maintain and restore peace around the world, especially Kevin DeBoissiere and Connor Warlow. We pray for all victims of gun violence and of other harms we

perpetrate against each other. We pray for all youth, kids, and those who suffer from mental health issues and other illnesses, especially Jessica, Elizabeth, Patricia, Emily, Kellene, Shirley, Louise, Danny, Cindy, Roberta, Francis, Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those you now name. We remember those who have died, especially those you now name. **Lord, let your stripes take our pain away.**

We rejoice and are thankful to celebrate this week the birthdays of Jane, Fred, Lorraine, Saah, Thomas, and Carolann, the wedding anniversary of Sara and Bill Kirkpatrick, and the baptismal anniversaries of Isaac and Alta. **Lord, we thank you for seasons of joy.**

Alpha and Omega, we pray that our world will find the peace it desperately needs and that refugees in known and unknown areas will find safe spaces for themselves and their families. **Lord, help us all to be a light in this world.**

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 Anthem | Sanctuary

Please scan to give.



Presentation Hymn 400 (v. 7) |

Lasst uns Erfreuen

**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Eucharistic Prayer B |

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer | BCP 365

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

All: **Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem | I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Who will love a little Sparrow
 Who's travelled far and cries for rest?
 "Not I", said the Oak Tree
 "I won't share my branches with no Sparrow's nest
 And my blanket of leaves won't warm her cold breast"

Who will love a little Sparrow?
 And who will speak a kindly word?
 "Not I, " said the Swan
 "The entire idea is utterly absurd
 I'd be laughed at and scorned if the other Swans heard"

And who will take pity in his heart?
 And who will feed a starving Sparrow?
 "Not I", said the golden Wheat
 "I would if I could, but I cannot, I know
 I need all my grain to prosper and grow"

Who will love a little Sparrow?
 Will no one write her eulogy?
 "I will", said the Earth
 "For all I've created returns unto me
 From dust were ye made and dust ye shall be"

refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
 One cup of blessing which we bless
 And we, though many, throughout the Earth
 We are one body in this one Lord

Gentile or Jew
 Servant or free
 Woman or man
 No more

repeat refrain

Many the gifts, many the works
 One in the Lord
 Of all

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
 One cup of blessing which we bless
 And we, though many, throughout the Earth
 We are one body in this one Lord
 We are one body in this one Lord

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.***

Closing Hymn | When the Stars Begin to Fall

arr: The Seekers

refrain:

My Lord, what a morning
My Lord, what a morning
My Lord, what a morning
When the stars begin to fall
(repeat)

You will weep for the rocks and mountains
You will weep for the rocks and mountains
You will weep for the rocks and mountains
When the stars begin to fall

repeat refrain

You will hear the shout of victory
You will hear the shout of victory
You will hear the shout of victory
When the stars begin to fall

repeat refrain

My Lord, what a morning
My Lord, what a morning
My Lord, what a morning
When the stars begin to fall

When the stars begin to fall
When the stars begin to fall

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

Today's altar flowers were donated in loving memory of our mother and grandmother, Ella Steele, who will celebrate her 101st birthday on May 10th in heaven, she is greatly missed—The Peart Family

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PARISH CALENDAR MAY 7 TO MAY 14

Sunday, May 7

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 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
4:00 – 8:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
6:30 – 9:30 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, upper level

Monday, May 8

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Grassroots Drop-off
5:00 – 7:30 pm	Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Outreach Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, lower level

Tuesday, May 9

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Buildings and Grounds Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, May 10

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	300-year Events Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	300-year Liturgy/Worship Committee Meeting – Zoom
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, May 11

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, May 12

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Lumen Christi Practice – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, May 13

9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Lumen Christi Practice – New Brick, upper level
1:30 – 4:30 pm	Peabody Recital – New Brick, upper level
2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 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

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.

Youth Sunday at Christ Church

Join us for this very special Sunday morning as it's Youth Sunday at Christ Church. They will serve as lectors sharing the readings of the day, serve as ushers and greeters who welcome you to worship, lead us in prayer for one another and the world, and provide a unique sermon from their perspective. Come and gather with us at 8 and 10:30 a.m. as a gifted and special part of our church family leads us in worship. As always, we'll livestream our 10:30 worship, which you can watch on our [**website**](#), [**YouTube**](#), [**Twitter**](#), or [**Facebook**](#) pages. Family Worship will also be in New Brick at 9:00, which is designed to engage with the youngest in our parish.

Virtual Worship Communion

In an effort to connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church will begin offering *Communion to You*, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to your home, or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you would like more information, [**please complete this form**](#) or [**email**](#) the Church Office.

Youth Formation

Every child is welcome to take part in Youth Formation at 9:30, and you can find the details on [our website's Youth Formation page](#). Please note that there will be no Youth Formation classes on Sunday, May 28th, and our last day for this spring program year will be June 4th. If you have any questions or want more information, please email Jenn Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net

The Christ Church Youth Group (grades 5-12) also meets Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the basement of the Church Office building. If you are interested in having your child join the CECYG, please email Todd for more information - youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org

Adult Formation

Our Parenting Group gathers in the New Brick Vestry Room (lower level). Bible Study will meet in the Parish Hall Conference Room. And during Sunday Circle, we continue our discussion on the Resurrection as presented in the Gospels. Join us Sundays at 9:30 in Old Brick, or you can join us virtually on Zoom; the program media and Zoom links will be in our *This Sunday at Christ Church* email. There are several Adult Formation options, and you're welcome to join any of them on any Sunday. [See our Adult Formation page on the CEC website for more information.](#)

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one any upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2023 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltarflowers>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our [Realm Online Giving Form](#); just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. [Email the Church Office](#) with any questions.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is now a hybrid gathering - you can join us in person, or you can take part virtually! Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. You're welcome to gather with us on Mondays in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. or take part virtually using your own space. The Zoom link is [here](#), the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Password is **Centering!** For more info, email Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

Midday Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the spring, Christ Church has midday worship at 12 noon in Old Brick including readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to gather for a prayerful time in the presence of God and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and share in this service that's held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Christ Church Choirs - Thursday Evenings

Music is a rich and vital part of the liturgy at Christ Church, and now we have a new way for you to take part - our handbell choir! [We posted a wonderful video of the handbell choir in action here](#), but why not take part yourself? We're always seeking more new members for both handbell and vocal choir - whether you have previous experience or not, there's a place for you. All ages are welcome, and no experience is necessary. If you're interested or have questions, please speak with Larissa at church or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Book Club - Fridays

Christ Church's Book Club began a new book recently, so there's no better time to take part. We've found that discussing books collectively has enriched the experience for each of us, and we'd love to have you take part. The book, *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City* by Andrea Elliott, [was awarded the Pulitzer Prize](#)

for nonfiction last year. Interested? Email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com or text her at 301-452-7115. Then take part for an hour or so each Friday evening for a lively discussion, as everyone's input and thoughts are welcome. Simply log in to Zoom at 7:30 p.m. for an hour or so - that link is [here](#), the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366** and the Passcode is **CECBooks**

Sunday School News

As our program year begins to wind down, we would like to thank all of the families for bringing their children to Sunday school each week. The children are a joy, and we love working with them! If your child - ages 3 through 5th grade - is not yet a part of our Sunday School, they can join us each week from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in the lower level of New Brick. Please note that we will not hold Sunday School on May 28th and our last class of the program year will be on June 4th.

Even though the program year is ending, we *will* need teachers in September! The teachers in our program are volunteers (thank you!!!) and each week, we need 2 adults in each class. Even if you can only help once in a while, please consider volunteering in this wonderful ministry so the children of our church will continue to receive a quality program. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Atkins (dandjaktins@verizon.net).

WOCC Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 6th - Spring Tea at Sweet Simplici-Tea.

Sunday, May 14th - "Hats on for Mother's Day" - wear your beautiful hat to church on that Sunday and email a picture of you in it **to the WOCC** or to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by next Wednesday, May 10th.

Monday, June 5th - An evening WOCC meeting at Maggiano's Little Italy at 6:30 p.m.

The WOCC calendar is posted in the New Brick Narthex **and on our website**, and it contains all the fun events planned for this year. Speak to any WOCC member or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Theology on Tap - May 17

ToT continues to gather throughout the spring and summer, so join us for a get-together where you can have a nice chat about interesting religious articles of the day, and an opportunity for informal, structure-free conversation with other parishioners. Theology on Tap takes place Wednesday, May 17th at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia, so come and join us at 7 p.m. for a fun evening!

Men Of Christ Church's Breakfast - May 20

Our next monthly MOCC Breakfast is on Saturday, May 20th at 9:30 a.m. Just join us at Bob Evans Columbia, 8325 Benson Drive. Interested to learn more about the MOCC? Please contact Duane Smith at cduanesmith@verizon.net.

Pentecost Sunday - May 28

On this Day of Pentecost, Christ Church will have only one Sunday service, and this will be at a special time - 10:00 a.m. Following worship will be a potluck lunch, and further details and sign-up sheets will be in upcoming communications. In the meantime, mark your calendars, and think of what dish(es) you can bring or make to share with everyone!

This is also Mother Marcia's final Sunday as Associate Priest at Christ Church. She is not leaving our parish family, so don't worry; she is just stepping back from the day-to-day staff responsibilities. We will be thanking her for her immeasurable service to Christ Church these last few years - as well as celebrating her birthday, also on this day! - so be sure to join us.

Vacation Bible School - This Summer

Vacation Bible School takes place from June 26 - July 2, and gathers each day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At VBS, children will enjoy a week of Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and friends! Snacks and refreshments are served daily. After the 10:30 a.m. service on July 2nd, we'll have a wonderful celebration with ice cream and snacks for all participants.

VBS is open to all children aged three (must be potty-trained) through 5th grade, and you can register your child(ren) at any time by completing our VBS registration form at tinyurl.com/CEC-VBS2023. The cost is \$30 per child or \$70 per family, and **you can process the payment on Realm**. Scholarships are available for those in need. Volunteers are also very much needed, so come and have fun with us! **Email us** if you're interested in registering your child, want to help with the program, or if you have any questions about the registration process.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We have begun gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th Anniversary, but we're always looking for more input, so join us! This celebration is such an important milestone for our church, and we want participation and ideas from as many of us as possible. There are a variety of committees that you can serve on and so we would like to encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you have ideas, are interested in assisting, or would like more information, please speak with Father Manny or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Inviting You to Remotely Join Us next Monday, May 8th, at the Monthly Outreach Meeting

One way to help others is to participate in Outreach at Christ Church. Why not start by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission's 7:30 p.m. meeting on Monday, May 8th? You can help to fulfill our mission, which has a local, national, and international scope. Information to log on will be provided in the Church notices about online activities. See you on Zoom!

Help Feed the Hungry on May 8, In Person or by Dropping Off Menu Items

Leaders of the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center** appreciate how Christ Church parishioners step up for our homeless neighbors on the second Monday of each month. To join us on May 8, please sign up by Sunday, May 7.

If you wish to volunteer or bring food for the Day Resource Center (DRC) at the Dorsey Center, our **DRC online signup form** describes the procedure. The drop-off time for side dishes, desserts, and fruit is 12:45 p.m. in the Christ Church parking lot near Old Brick. In-person volunteers are gathering at that time to carpool to Jessup.

Later, parishioners who cook or shop for the evening meal for 50 residents of a live-in center on Freetown Rd. make a different drop-off. Please arrive in the Old Brick parking lot between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. Get details in our **Grassroots online signup form** or, for more information, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

We most recently took part on April 10th (*above image*). Shahra Toth, with the continuing assistance of Dione Mahoney, is the coordinator. Grassroots operates both facilities, and it's efficient to provide for groups at two separate venues on the same day. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried-chicken entrees. Thank you!

The DRC and the Live-In Facility have wider needs for their pantries and welcome in-kind donations to be dropped off for delivery on the second Mondays. Look for the latest needs list online, under the words "Related Files," on each of the signup sites.

Christ Church Participates in a Baltimore Harbor Cruise to Help Seafarers

Five parishioners explored the working Port of Baltimore from the water during a late afternoon cruise on Wednesday, April 26th. The **annual excursion** was a fundraiser to aid the **Baltimore International Seafarers' Center** (BISC).

The center is among the ministries in the **Bishop's Annual Appeal** of the **Episcopal Diocese of Maryland**. It is also one of the causes supported by the **Women of Christ Church**, which collect winter woolens, calendars, and other comforts for mariners each fall. During the cruise on the waters of Baltimore Harbor, Christ Church was represented by Diane Phillips LaGuerre, Shahra and George Toth, and Paula and Chuck Rees.

BISC provides spiritual care and hospitality to members of a ship's crew who are working far from their homes and loved ones. For months at a time, crews from around the world transport goods on giant container ships. Cruise passengers got a view of the Charade, one of the ships whose crew is assisted by BISC, along with the giant cranes used to unload cargo. Passengers could also see Port of Baltimore landmarks such as the historic lighthouse, Seven Foot Knoll.

Baltimore Area Aftercare Program

As a community of those who follow the way of Jesus and his teachings, Christ Church commits to reaching out in multiple ways to serve people on the margins. We seek to meet the needs of others in broad and various walks of life. We help those who've lost a way to navigate safety under trying circumstances, such as the Afghan refugee family we sponsor. And we help people with little-to-no resources due to treacherous storms and weather, like those in Kentucky and Puerto Rico. We do not judge others as to what things they could have done differently to avoid their circumstances. Instead, we reach out time and again, as Christians who put our love of Christ before anyone or anything else.

With this same vigor, we can serve those returning home from prison. Those who've lost connection with family, those who need help with basic items such as a toothbrush and a little cash in hand. Those who may not qualify for social services because they stand judged by the history of who they'd been and what they'd done - instead of whom they have become. Christ Church can proudly say we minister to incarcerated individuals. In spite of the stringent limitations placed not only on inmates but on visitors, our own Kathy Lyon still finds a way to provide wonderful art classes to inmates at a pre-release center in Maryland. We also give some financial support to another organization to provide spiritual reading materials for inmates. These comforts can keep an inmate hopeful about the future, by just knowing someone cares.

Now it's time to help care for those recently released, or soon to be released, from prison into society. Let's help them see a new way of life and give them a chance to walk a new path. Such a program exists under the leadership of Deacon Les Roberts, also known as Brother Les. Brother Les leads the **Baltimore Area Aftercare Program (BAAP)**. This program serves individuals who've been recently released from jails or prisons, by providing basic toiletry items and clothing. **BAAP needs our help!** All we have to do is donate one or more of the basic items requested. The SignUpGenius link with those items is at - **<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA8A92DAAFFC70-april>**. Thank you for your commitment to serving those on the margins!

Columbia Community Care Requests Diapers, Personal Care Items

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. Please look for updates, such as requests for volunteers, posted in the **CCC Facebook Group** or on the **"I Can Help" portion of its website**. Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put items in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. Our point of contact is Leigh Smith, who delivers the contents of the bin.

Donate Snacks, Crackers, and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** are continuing to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill their shopping lists. The yellow bin is back in its spot between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.



OLD BRICK SURVEY

A summary of the data was compiled from the survey taken in church following the 8 a.m. worship on April 30, 2023. This survey had twenty-three participants, all of whom were non-clergy attendees at this service. It does not include everyone, of course, who attends 8 a.m. regularly - we usually have between 30-35 attendees - but this provides a good representative sampling of parishioners at that service.

Perhaps because I've been focusing on the logistical challenges with our three services and concern with using Old Brick again for one of these, I was surprised at the number of positive responses to the questions about worshipping in Old Brick; perhaps you will be, too.

A common concern, of course, is that we must continue to work toward better heating/cooling in Old Brick. The Wardens, Father Manny, and the Vestry are currently investigating a better system with hopes of having it installed in the Fall of this year.

Thank you to those who participated in this survey. If anyone in the parish wishes to review the data fully, just let me know and I'll arrange a time to meet you in person with the survey responses.

Jan DeBoissiere
Senior Warden, Christ Episcopal Church
wardens@christchurchcolumbia.org

You can read the summary at
<https://tinyurl.com/CEC-OBsummary>

Christ Church STEWARDSHIP

TIME TALENT TREASURE



WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

We also want to thank YOU.

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.

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **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**

Pledge for 2023

At Christ Church, we are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who continually support our ministry of faithful service, and we pray that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for this calendar year. You can bring your pledge cards to church with you at any time, pick up and complete a pledge card in the Narthex, or **pledge online** (choose "Pledge for 2023" in the *FUND* dropdown menu). Thank you very much for your support of our vital common life.



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Beth Johnson • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Alfred Titus-Glover