

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, YouTube, or Facebook pages

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE – *Pastorale on Advent Themes*
Variations on *Lo, How a Rose*

R. Currie
arr. M. Bradshaw
Nelda Clelland, guest organist

OPENING HYMN 66

Stuttgart



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

FIRST CANDLE—THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Celebrant: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth. (A person lights the First Candle here)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray:

People: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

RESPONSE

Ana Hernandez

First time: Cantor/Choir; Second time: All

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

If in your heart you make a manger for his birth then God will once a -
gain become a child on earth. If in your heart you make a manger for his birth
then God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth.

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. **Amen.**

TRISAGION (*Said 3 times*)

BCP, p. 356

Celebrant: Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
People: **Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

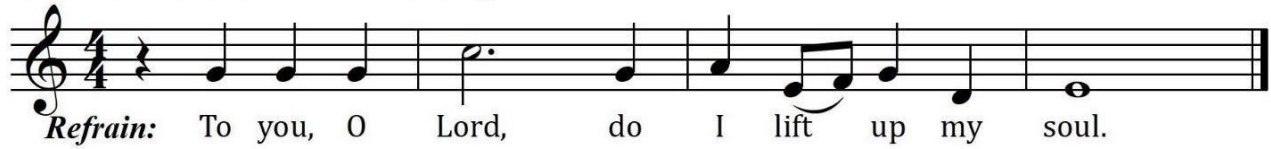
The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

First time: Cantor/Choir Following times: All*The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *

let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O LORD, *

and teach me your paths. Refrain

Lead me in your truth and teach me, *

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *

for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *

remember me according to your love

and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. Refrain

Gracious and upright is the LORD; *

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right *

and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. Refrain

THE EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

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

SEQUENCE HYMN 56 (v. 1, 2)

Veni Emmanuel

The first verse is sung as the Gospel is processed into the midst of the community; the second verse is sung as it is processed back to the altar.

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

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

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

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

SERMON

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

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 worshiped 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

During Advent, we await the Lord's promise that a righteous branch will spring up from the house of David to execute justice and to bring salvation and safety to His people. May we realize that the kingdom of God is very near. Let us lead our lives in a new way with a bright vision for the future.

We pray for the insight and strength to change our world through love, to combat poverty, disease, unemployment, homelessness, violence, and oppression. We hold up in prayer our spiritual leaders: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Robert, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; Marcia, our Associate Priest; Denise, our Deacon and Richard, our Rector in Emeritus, asking for wisdom and compassion as they minister to others. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. We pray, ***Lord, lead us in your truth.***

In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for the parishes of St. John's, Kingsville; Christ Church, Columbia, and Christ the King, Woodlawn. We pray for our leaders in government, both nationally and internationally, that they may pursue peace and improve the lives of their citizens. We pray especially for our President, Joseph, Congress, and judicial officials to exercise sound judgment and genuine kindness in all their decisions. We pray, ***Lord, may your everlasting truth guide us.***

We extend a warm welcome to all newcomers and visitors with us today, both online and in person. You enrich our worship and praise by your presence in our midst. We hope you will join us in the future in our community outreach ministries and as we extend love and care to people within our parish. We pray, ***Lord, you give meaning to our lives.***

We pray for those ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette, and those we now name. We ask for healing and the warmth of Christ's presence in their lives. We remember those who have died and entered into God's realm of Light, especially Stuart Cracraft, Carolyn Schlanger, Alma Carter & Sarah Mercer. We give our love and comfort to the friends and family who mourn their loss. We pray, ***Lord, you are our strength in times of trouble.***

With joy, we remember the birthdays of Matthew, Emily, Kayode, Rosa, Ginger, Gavin, & Randolph, and anniversaries of Amanda & Hao Cheong and Harrington & Pauline Gardiner celebrated by members of our parish. We are so privileged to share in these special occasions in the lives of our faith community.

We pray, ***Lord, we are so grateful for our blessings. We lift our souls and put our trust in You. Amen.***

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon: 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.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING — *An Advent Prayer*

Allen Pote

*Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin.
Come holy Jesus, and make us pure within.
Inspire each heart with illumined surprise,
Enkindle a flame anew. Increase our faith and strengthen our lives,
Show us the joy of living life in you. Amen.*

DOXOLOGY 380, V.3

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.**

The people stand as able.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

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:

***All:* Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

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 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. *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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

St. James Advent Service, arr. Richard Shephard

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus Christ, in the break - ing of — the bread.

God of hope and God of pro - mise, you have pre - pared a ban - quet for us,

Come, Lord Je - sus, come and cheer, Come and make thine Ad - vent here.

COMMUNION HYMN – LEVAS 13

Harmony

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing,— O

Fine

my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

Unison

1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, ———
 2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, ——— To wake the
 3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, ———

na - tions un - der - ground, ——— Look - ing to my God's right

D.C.

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score is divided into several systems. The first system is labeled 'Harmony' and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and some moving lines. The lyrics 'My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing,— O' are written below. The second system continues the 'Harmony' section with the lyrics 'my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.' and is marked 'Fine'. The third system is labeled 'Unison' and features three vocal parts (1, 2, and 3) with different lyrics: '1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, ———', '2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, ——— To wake the', and '3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, ———'. The fourth system continues the unison melody with the lyrics 'na - tions un - der - ground, ——— Look - ing to my God's right'. The fifth system is marked 'D.C.' (Da Capo) and repeats the melody with the lyrics 'hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.'.

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 – 54

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people, who respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – Noel

arr. W. Gudger

Today's altar candle was donated by Barbara Scott-Johnson in loving memory of Dr. Brady B. Johnson.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Advent I - This Sunday | Join us on Sunday morning, the First Sunday of Advent, as we celebrate Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Our 10:30 service will be livestreamed on our [Christ Church website](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#) pages for those who are joining us remotely. If you'd like to attend in person, just [complete the brief attendance form on our website](#), and please wear your mask at all times while indoors.

Choir, Sunday School and Adult Forum | These gatherings will not occur this week and weekend, so join us next week. Email us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org if you need more information.

Advent and Christmas Season at Christ Episcopal Church | On our website this weekend, you'll find our entire schedule for the 2021 Advent and Christmas season. We will also have an Advent and Christmas trifold that provides a brief outline of upcoming gatherings, and you can grab one in the Narthex on Sunday.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help us this Monday morning, as we gather to put together our Advent and Christmas mailing. If you have a few hours and can help out, please call [or email](#) the Church Office. The more we have, the easier it becomes. Thanks!

#Giving Tuesday - November 30th | In the midst of the blessings of Thanksgiving, we are each invited to make a gift to our favorite charitable organizations. Christ Church is inviting parishioners to support our Youth and Music Ministries this Giving Tuesday. You can do so by visiting [our Online Giving Form](#) and selecting either "Music Ministry," "Christmas Music," or "Youth Ministry" from the *Fund* dropdown menu. Your donations will help us deepen and strengthen these two important ministries. Thank you.

Advent Quiet Day - Saturday, December 4th | We are happy to announce that in-person Advent Quiet Day is back for 2021. This annual gathering at the start of Advent will take place in the New Brick Sanctuary on Saturday, December 4th from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. This time together helps us to focus and retain our perspective in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We are blessed to have Reverend Kirk Kubicek leading our morning retreat this year and will have COVID precautions in place throughout the gathering, with required masking and social distancing. Prior to the morning session, we will gather in New Brick's Great Hall for packaged breakfast and conversation. Everyone is welcome to join us for an enriching time together, complete with readings, discussions, and moments of quiet meditation. Our morning gathering will conclude with a Eucharist in New Brick. More details will be on our website this weekend.

WOCC Christmas Gathering - Sunday, December 5th | We will be holding our annual WOCC Christmas Gathering virtually, taking place on Sunday, December 5th from 1-4 p.m. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is 821 7276 7335 and Password is Christmas!. There's lots of other news, including information on our 2021 Holiday Gift Drive for Springfield Hospital. [You can see all of the current WOCC News on our website.](#)

Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study gathers in person next Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and will be a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. [Next week's gathering focuses on these readings.](#) You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and let's all study together. If you're interested, simply gather with us on Wednesday morning in the Great Hall.

CEC Book Club – Fridays | There is no Book Club this week. We'll gather virtually next Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and continue to discuss *What Did Jesus Ask?*, a collection of essays by theologians and notable people on questions asked by Jesus in the New Testament. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is 894 0227 6226 and the Password is CECbooks. We will soon begin discussing our next book, *The Dream of God* by Verna Dozier.

Centering Prayer – Saturdays | Centering Prayer is a form of contemplation, a method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. We invite you to log in this Saturday and see what Centering Prayer is all about, and how it can find a unique and valuable space in your own life. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is 812 7402 2854 and Password is Centering!. Please email us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org and we'll answer any questions you might have.

We Need a Few New Shepherds... Can We Count on You to Help? | We are seeing more new faces whom we would like to see return and eventually become members, so we're putting together a *Shepherds and Newcomers* program that we hope will help with this. The responsibility of a Shepherd is to get to know the family, make them feel welcome, and introduce them to other parishioners. [You can learn more about the ministry here](#). Newcomers are vital to Christ Church - we were all newcomers once, remember - so we hope you can be a part of this important ministry.

We Need More Ushers and Lectors! | The church needs you! We need ushers and lectors for both services, especially during the 8 a.m. service. You will serve at specified scheduled services and select events, will know your schedule well ahead of time, and all ushers and lectors will receive training before scheduling. Please contact Yeti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Altar Flowers and Gifts | If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and sign-up sheet online at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>. You can also sign up 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. Any questions, please call the Church Office.

Garden Tribute for Seiko Shields | As a tribute to Seiko Shields, we are collecting spring and summer bulbs for flowering plants to be planted in the near future. These flowers around the church grounds will become a living memorial called *Seiko's Garden*. You are invited to drop bulbs off at the Church Office. Thank you!

Diocese of Maryland's COVID Info | Howard County remains in the Yellow Phase at this time. The entire breakdown of Yellow Phase (Delta variant) guidelines is located [here](#). The Bishops of our Diocese have also released a COVID-19 Vaccination Directive that you can view [on this page](#). Please note that masks are still required indoors at Christ Church as we continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and ease restrictions with care and consideration as conditions warrant.

Be Aware of Email Phishing Scams, Especially During this Holiday Season | We want to make you aware of [email and text message scams that are targeting individuals and leaders of religious institutions around the country](#). There are also recent reports of Maryland and Howard County churches having been affected by this issue, including Christ Church. [You can learn about these phishing scams, and what you can do to help stop them, on our website's blog](#).

What a Haul! Thanks for Donating 400 Pounds of Thanksgiving Side Dishes for Distribution by the Howard County Food Bank | Dinner tables this year will be laden with all the fixings, thanks to the generosity of Christ Church parishioners. The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive yielded 11 cardboard flats full of items, amounting to an estimated 400 pounds of groceries to help the [Howard County Food Bank](#) feed local families and individuals. Thanks to all for bringing in non-perishable items such as stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, and canned fruits and vegetables. We also provided entrees for many of those tables, thanks to carry-over funds from parishioners' donations in 2020. Christ Church donated \$650 to the [Community Action Council of Howard County \(CAC\)](#), which operates the food bank, for its purchase of alternatives to whole turkeys. The food bank obtained partial or whole chicken roasters, vegetarian options, and options with the proper protein for those on dialysis. These were delivered to those who are homebound and would not cook a 16-to-19 pound turkey (the usual food bank size), along with the side dishes. Meanwhile some of the fixings were distributed in the usual way, as households picked up menu items and turkeys at the food bank.

Christ Church Has Launched Its Annual Angel Tree Drive to Provide Christmas Gifts for a Dozen Howard County Children | The Outreach Commission invites you to help bring the joy of Christmas to a group of 11- and 12-year-olds. We are focusing our support on children in this age range to meet a need identified by the Howard County (Central Maryland) division of The Salvation Army. The nonprofit organization, which oversees the Angel Tree initiative here and elsewhere, has announced a new theme for 2021: “Wear, Need, Want, Read!”

Please plan to provide one or more gifts for a girl or boy on our list. There are a dozen children in our group. Each one will receive an outfit, consisting of pants and a top. Besides the clothing, there are three other categories this year for each Angel - *Wish*, *Need*, and *Educational Item*. Some people prefer to sign up for a single slot, such as the practical (need) category for one child. Some parishioners desire to complete the entire “package” for an angel by signing up in all four categories. Another shopper might choose the clothing (outfit) category for multiple Angels.

This year’s drive has launched in two steps. The first is fully online. Go to the [Christ Church Angel Tree 2021 SignUp Link](#) to make your choices. It has instructions on next steps.

The second stage begins Sunday, November 28, after the Angel Tree appears in the Narthex. In keeping with tradition, we’ll have the list of all the children’s names so that you can refer to it when selecting in person. But in a nod to digital progress, we’ll ask that you actually sign up for your angel by using the online form. Someone will be on hand after both worship services on Sunday and again on December 5 to assist if you wish to log on then. The deadline to bring unwrapped gifts is Friday, December 10.

If you wish to participate by giving of your time, please volunteer for one of two duties: Sign-up or Fulfillment. The former is to help people log on to a device after services on November 28th and December 5th. The latter is to collate packages or to shop for --but not pay for-- any unmet items. Fulfillment occurs from December 10th through December 12th. To volunteer, specify *Sign-up* or *Fulfillment*, or both, in an email to outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

For any parishioners who have pandemic concerns and prefer completely contactless delivery, there is an arrangement between Salvation Army (Central Maryland) and Amazon. To use this method, you’ll need to choose an Angel from a list that differs from the one given to Christ Church. Please request instructions on how to proceed by emailing outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Through either method, we will lift the hearts not only of these Angels but of their families. Parents obtain the unwrapped gifts from The Salvation Army to prepare for a Christmas that will be much brighter than they could otherwise afford.

Collection Drive Continues to Provide Diapers, Personal Care Items for CCC | At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to support Columbia Community Care (CCC) by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put any of these items in the yellow bin that's marked “CCC” and located inside the Parish Hall. You can drop off items on weekdays when the Church Office is open or bring them on Sunday.

FISH Has an Updated Request: Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks | As the holidays begin, organizers for FISH of Howard County are making a more festive request than the previous one. Cookies, crackers, and snacks are what’s needed at the pantry to fulfill shopping lists. They also say thanks to Christ Church for its response to their earlier needs, which produced an adequate inventory of household cleaning supplies and personal items. The bin is on the breezeway near the door to the Parish Hall.

Have a Pizza and Help Bridges to Housing Stability to End Homelessness | Put away the turkey leftovers next Tuesday, because we have the opportunity to help Howard County residents find and keep affordable housing by eating out. Ledo Pizza will hold a benefit for Bridges to Housing Stability from open to close on Tuesday, November 30th. The restaurant is located at 6955 Oakland Mills Rd., Columbia, MD 21045. Its phone number is 410-381-5550. Please use the code 306-159-855 at checkout online or, if ordering in person, mention Bridges, and 10 percent of your total meal purchase will be donated. Christ Church has a warm relationship in helping Bridges, starting with our participation in a countywide chili cook-off in 2019. At the Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser held in 2020, Christ Church won a Silver Ladle Award. Then, at the 2021 Chili & Challenge, we won the Gold Ladle. For a glimpse of how the funds we have raised are helping people, read about Carmen and her 22-year-old son among Bridges' success stories.

Springfield Hospital Donations | The Women of Christ Church will once again be collecting Christmas gifts for our friends at Springfield Hospital. Though we haven't been able to make our usual visits due to the pandemic, we will be gathering gifts for them to bring a little Christmas joy. If you would like to contribute, we have placed a large container in the Tower Room to accept your unwrapped donations. We will need them by December 15th, in order to meet their deadline. If you want to donate gifts but can't get them to church, please contact Cathy Gold or email info@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will find a way. Here is the current wish list from Springfield Hospital, in case you would like suggestions.

Baltimore Seafarer Ministry | Our next delivery date by the WOCC to the Seafarers Center is Tuesday, December 7th. Find the drop-off bin marked "Seafarers" in the Tower Room of New Brick. Each year, the WOCC helps prepare those Seafarers that come to the Baltimore Harbor with 'Warmth and The Holidays'. These are people who are often away at sea for very long periods of time. Please help by contributing any of these needed items: Calendars, current magazines (especially National Geographic & Smithsonian), and toiletries for their "Christmas shoe boxes" that are handed out to each Seafarer, such as: toothbrushes, small and medium-size tubes of toothpaste, travel-size shaving cream, disposable razors; and warm socks, warm hats, and gloves.



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.



The Jesse Tree Project

This Advent season, Christ Church is launching a new Advent activity for all ages called *The Jesse Tree Project*. The Jesse Tree is a Scriptural depiction of Jesus Christ's Old Testament genealogy, connecting the salvation history of the Hebrew and Christian testaments.

Parishioners are invited to construct a Jesse Tree of their own, an example of which will be in the Narthex from November 29th on. We also invite you to follow the day-by-day Facebook presentations at 12 noon each weekday throughout Advent, when a new Bible story and Scripture passage will be presented along with a reflection and short prayer, as well as a paper ornament pattern to cut out, decorate, and hang on your Jesse Tree at home. There will be a total of twenty ornaments, plus the reflections for three Advent Sunday candles.

You are invited to share your favorite Bible story from the Jesse Tree characters and stories by doing a video selfie on a particular character or story from home, either with your family and children or as an adult contributor. We will provide the scripts, prayers, reflection guidelines, and ornament patterns. Pick your person! Even choose your own favorite - every story from Creation to Mary and Joseph, Ruth to Rehab, Jonah and John the Baptist is available. Ornaments from home will join our handcrafted Jesse Tree ornaments in the Narthex to make a lasting display for years to come. We hope that many of you will take part in what we hope will become a new tradition at Christ Church!

Email Mother Marcia at marciarev@aol.com if you have any questions.



2022 Stewardship Campaign: Pledge Cards are Now Available

Thank you for supporting our campaign!

We are very excited about Christ Church's 2022 Stewardship Campaign. As we all know, the past couple of years have been terribly difficult for everyone, but through it all, each one of you has been very generous to your beloved Christ Church. We mailed out our Annual Stewardship Pledge Cards to you last month. In addition to that, you can also pledge online at www.christchurchcolumbia.org. We will also have pledge cards in the narthex. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider your support to Christ Church throughout the coming year.

Text Giving

You can now 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 towards 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

Three Strings

This Thanksgiving, unlike last year's, many of us are traveling to be with family, friends, and loved ones. The last time millions of us undertook such a journey was in 2019. Last year was different, and this year will be different because we can be with family both far and near. We can be with the family we couldn't see last year because of the pandemic. We can be with the family we love, even if we vehemently disagree with them over a myriad of issues.

St. Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, encourages us with these words: "...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." It seems a little condescending and unrealistic to give thanks when, especially, all the odds are stacked against you, when you needlessly lost a loved one because someone drove his car into a joyful parade. How do we give thanks?

Today, I want to share with you a story centered around Itzhak Perlman, a renowned American violinist who has won 15 Grammys and four Emmys. He is most celebrated for his live performances. Itzhak has had polio most of his life, and getting on stage to perform is a real challenge.

Itzhak's most memorable performance was at the Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, on November 18, 1995. When he arrived on stage and started to play, there was a loud crack. The sound was unmistakable - one of Itzhak's violin strings had snapped. But instead of stopping and picking up another violin, he simply paused, took a deep breath, and nodded to the conductor to continue.

Itzhak played with a gusto that no one had ever yet experienced from him. It was intense. It was passionate. It was as if the whole world was watching and counting on him to make the kind of music that soothes, comforts, and heals. The kind of music that lifts our spirits up and provides us with a reason to be thankful, even when we are playing on three strings instead of four.

His audience sat in awe; the hall fell silent. When it was over, everyone stood up with applause that could be heard within the walls and beyond. In the midst of the adulation, Itzhak raised his bow for silence. The hall went dead silent, and then he said, "You know, sometimes it's the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left." It's this profound statement from Itzhak that reminds me of this aphorism:

"I cried because I had no shoes until I saw a man who had no feet."

This blessed Thanksgiving, a time when we will get the chance to sit together as family, friends, and loved ones, my question is, what do you have left? And for all that you have left, for all that you do not have, can you find it within you to make music with it? Can you find it within you to be thankful for it? Can you find within you the strength that notices all circumstances but isn't defined by them? Can you find within you the resilience that overcomes obstacles?

The tragedy in our individual stories is that we often want everything to work the way we think it should work in order to find it useful or at least be thankful for it. We want to make sure that if a string snaps on our violin, we immediately have to have it fixed or replaced before we can make some sweet music with it. But life often doesn't work like that. Life teaches us that we can still make music with what we have left.

Life is such that no one is ever given everything. There's a story in Matthew's gospel about the Parable of the Talents. I share that story with my second daughter almost every morning when I drop her off at her carpool. I remind her, it is not about how much you have, it is about what you do with what you have.

Life is about playing on three strings, even when you know you are supposed to be playing on four.

This Thanksgiving, I invite you to do yourself a favor. Think about all that you have been freely given - family, friends, relationships, talent, knowledge, experience, beauty, health, qualifications, anything. Remember this, even if one string is broken, you can make some good music out of it.

This Thanksgiving, remember that three strings are more than enough, and so be thankful and remain thankful to the God who makes all things possible in our lives.

This Thanksgiving, when you gather with family, friends, loved ones, or even by yourself to break bread, be thankful and remain thankful to the God who invites us to be thankful for all things and in all things.

This Thanksgiving, I wish you nothing but the very best of the season. Happy Thanksgiving!

Manny



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The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

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Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Tim Beaty • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • Greta Pike-Barnes •

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