



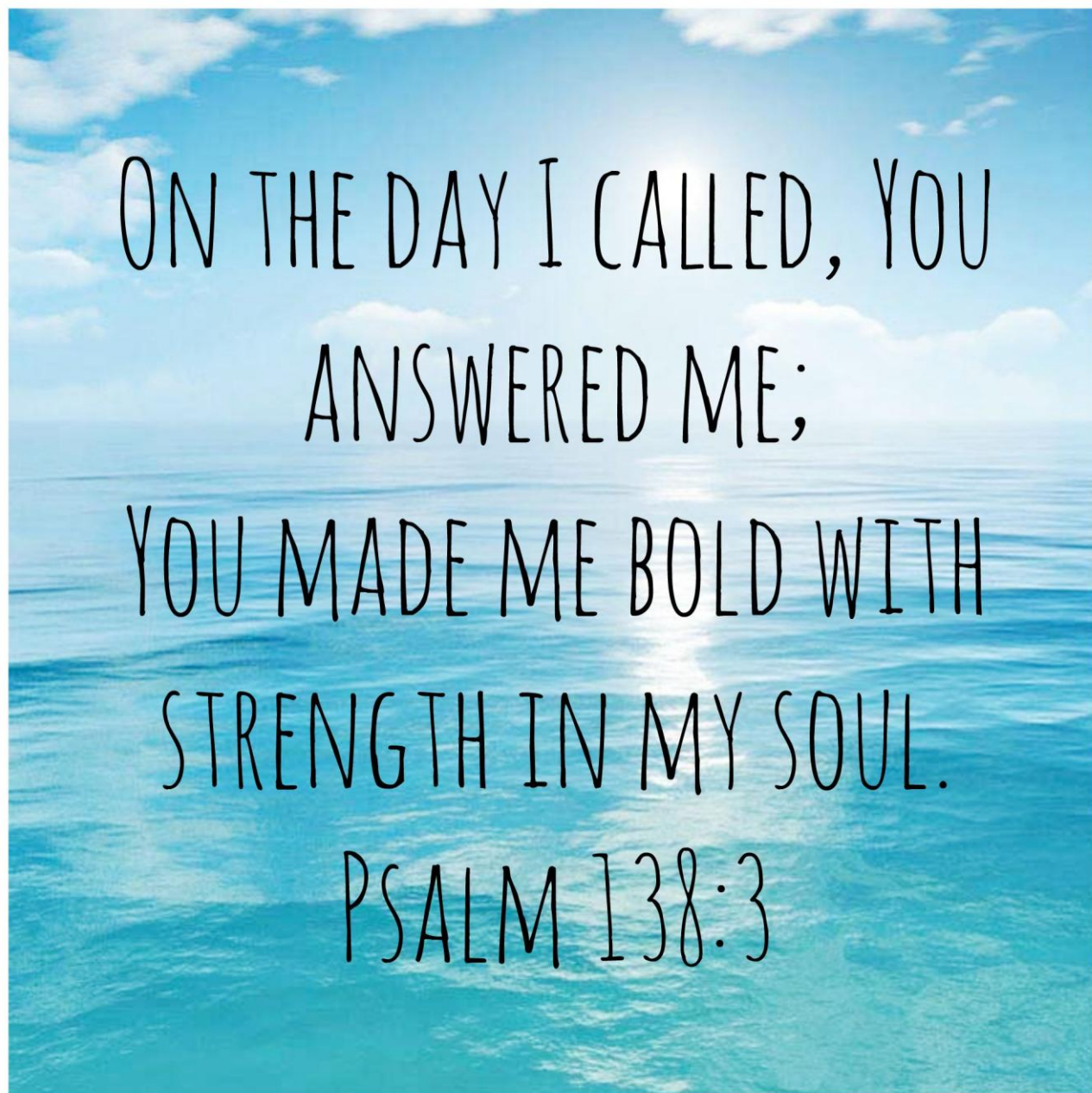
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, August 23, 2026 | Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church:

www.christchurchcolumbia.org.

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we

need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's
 bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we
 light, in its height and depth and great - ness, dawns up - on our
 go, to the child, the youth, the a - ged love in liv - ing

per - fect deed, we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship
 mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion
 quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens
 deeds to show; hope and health, good will and com - fort,

not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se - crat - ing
 healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring us to
 coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser - vants,

to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
 Spi - rit kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
 tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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**

GLORIA S280 | Glory to God

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. 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. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. 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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 51:1-6

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,

and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;

joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;

for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;

(continued)

the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;

for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;

but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 138 | *Thanksgiving and Praise*

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 12:1-8

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 707 | Take My Life, and Let It Be

Hollingside

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 16:13-20

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

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

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

9 Optional Ending
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE SERMON | Kathy Lyon, *parishioner*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

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

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

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

When we are afraid, when we are ill or dying, when we are lonely or in trouble, help us to remember the words of the psalm -- that when we seek you, we will find you, that you will answer us and deliver us from all our fears. We pray today especially for those who are ill, for Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those others we now name, and for those who have died, especially Yvonne & Baron Forbes, and those others we now name. **May your grace be upon us, Lord.**

Christ offers love so encompassing that we can scarce grasp that this is all we need to ever know. Help us, Lord, to know, in a way that is beyond human knowing, that you are everything to everyone. Help all of us who follow you to open our hearts and minds to embrace your children everywhere. Especially for teachers and students who are about to begin a new school year. Today we pray especially for the churches and people in The Church of the Province of West Africa, for the people in the churches of All Saints', Baltimore, & St. Paul's, Baltimore, for the congregation and visitors here today in this church. **Be with us, Lord.**

For all that is good and wonderful in our lives, we thank you. We bless you at all times, we exalt your name together, we look to you and are radiant. We give thanks for the celebrations this week: birthdays of Lexi, Jason, Jacqueline, Kevin, Sara & Samuella, and wedding anniversaries of Leigh & Duane Smith, Janet & Isaac Olajide and Denisa & Ayub Abdallah. **Thank you, Lord.**

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

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

THE PEACE |

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

People: **And also with you.**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY HYMN 686 | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Please scan to give.

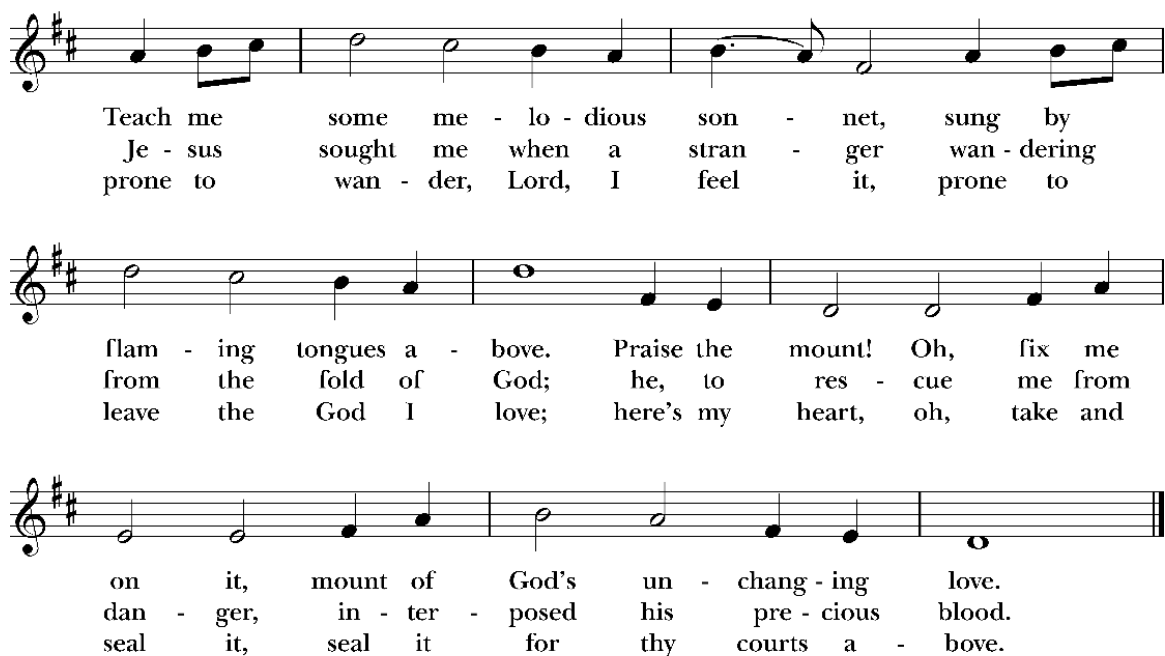
Nettleton



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly

heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a

ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to
flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and
on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

PRESENTATION HYMN 380 vs 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 HOLY COMMUNION



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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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:



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

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. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

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

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



FRACTION ANTHEM LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landmark-DeLewis

organ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world:___ grant us peace.



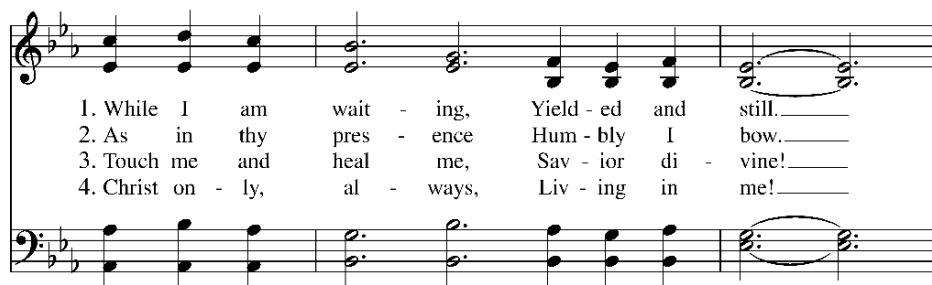
1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____
 2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____
 3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____
 4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! _____



1. Thou art the pot - ter, I am the clay! _____
 2. Search me and try me, Mas - ter, to - day! _____
 3. Wound - ed and wea - ry, Help me, I pray! _____
 4. Hold o'er my be - ing, Ab - so - lute sway! _____



1. Mold me and make me Aft - er thy will, _____
 2. Pur - er than snow, Lord, Wash me just now, _____
 3. Pow - er all pow - er, Sure - ly is thine! _____
 4. Fill with thy Spir - it 'Til all shall see _____



1. While I am wait - ing, Yield - ed and still, _____
 2. As in thy pres - ence Hum - bly I bow, _____
 3. Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine! _____
 4. Christ on - ly, al - ways, Liv - ing in me! _____

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.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING |

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

CLOSING HYMN LEVAS 136 | I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Indian tune

The musical score is written for three parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the soprano part, with the alto and tenor parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are as follows:

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
2 Though none go with me, still I will fol - low; though none go
3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
with me, still I will fol - low; though none go with me, still I will
hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus;
fol - low;
fore me; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pamela Foreman, Sandra Griffin

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicist: Dione Mahoney

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney

Usher: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Anya Sheriff, James Mercer, Wynstan Eguakun

Chalicians: Alfred Bracey, Theo Jones-Quartey

Lector/Reader: Sandra Griffin

Ushers: Cherry Williams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers

Mary Oladipupo

PARISH CALENDAR AUGUST 23 – 29, 2026

Sunday, August 23

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:00 am	Family Service
9:30 – 10:15 am	Acolyte Training - New Brick, UL
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour - Zoom
1:00 – 10:00 pm	IRC Prep – Parish Hall, LL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Vestry Meeting – New Brick, LL & Zoom

Wednesday, August 26

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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Thursday, August 27

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm	EfM: Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, August 28

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 9:00 pm	MOCC Family Night Out – LongHorn Steakhouse
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, August 29

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Vision & Strategy Committee Meeting – New Brick, LL & Zoom
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

And Next Week.....



**Parish Festival
& Ministry Fair**
Sunday, August 30
ONE SERVICE
New Brick at 10 a.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

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

Sign Up to Bring Lunch for the Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - Sunday, August 30

The annual Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair returns on Sunday, August 30! Join us that day for a single worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the New Brick sanctuary, followed by the festival featuring food, fellowship, and fun for all ages. During the event, you can chat with leaders from our many ministries to learn how they support the broader community around us and find a volunteer opportunity that speaks to you and helps keep our church community vibrant. **AND PLEASE SIGN UP** to bring items for our community lunch that day! There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, **or you can do so online here**. Choose from meals, sides, or dessert, and bring tasty treats for everyone.

It's Almost Time for Sunday School!

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone from pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate classes that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year! The next Sunday School year begins on September 13, and registration links are on **our website's Sunday School page**. Our Youth and Family Ministry is growing—an amazing blessing—but it also means we need a little help. Right now, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to step into our preschool Sunday School classrooms for the next program year, beginning in September. You don't need a degree in theology, of course, just a warm heart and a willingness to share God's love with our littlest ones. The curriculum and all supplies are provided for you, and we have a team of clergy and leaders to help you get started and support you along the way. If you can help us fill these spots, please call the church office.

Let Love Lead You to Consider Joining the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun! This year, four (4) slots are open, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to help us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 18. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing **nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org**, and they will let you know what's needed for this process. You can also pick up a special ***Let Love Lead*** flyer in the Narthex, **or download a copy here**. It outlines the responsibilities and commitments of a Vestry member to help you guide your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Church Office Closed - Monday, September 7

In observance of Labor Day, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, and reopen on Tuesday, September 8. If you require pastoral care during Labor Day weekend, please contact Father Manny - **revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

WOCC Meeting - Tuesday, September 8

WOCC meetings resume in September, so join us! The first is on Tuesday evening, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. and is a Zoom meeting - that info will be in next week's *Gatherings*. We are also planning our annual **Flea Market and Craft Fair for September 19**, and need all the help to run the event. We need help with setup and cleanup, and also need a lot more people to help us direct traffic. Simply put, ***this event is impossible*** to hold without the efforts of many volunteers. So, please consider joining us for this Zoom meeting to see how you can help.

Christ Church's Fall Service Schedule Begins Sunday, September 13

On Sunday, September 13th, Christ Church begins its fall schedule with three services. The first service takes place in Old Brick at 8:00 a.m. and does not contain music. Our popular Family Worship returns to New Brick at 9:00, featuring songs, stories, and communion centered around the younger members of our church. Then at 10:30, we have Holy Eucharist with choral and musical accompaniment, also in New Brick. Sunday School, Youth Formation, Sunday Circle, and all of our other formation and fellowship gatherings also begin that day. No matter what service or classes you choose, we hope to see you because **EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**.

Theology on Tap - Wednesday, September 16

Join us for brew and banter, suds and spoken word, lager and laughs... no matter what you call it, Theology on Tap is a fun, informal get-together where we can chat about interesting religious, spiritual, or social articles of the day, grab a beverage or snack, and enjoy fun, engaging, structure-free conversation with other parishioners and friends. We like to use this time to speak about things that might be considered a bit casual or light for a Sunday morning at church, but that matter to us, and we want to hear others' perspectives on them. If this sounds interesting to you, it's your kind of gathering! Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16 at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. If you have any questions, please speak with any MOCC member or email **MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

The 2026 Flea Market - Saturday, September 19

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful Columbia summertime tradition, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus. And vendors - **you can reserve your spaces now!** This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. There will be housewares, jewelry, books, clothing, tasty baked treats, grilled goodies, and so much more! Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website, which goes live today - **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market**

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing **centering@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in 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 participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor

This year, we have had more people request **Communion to You**, a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners. To fulfill this need, we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV). If you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church or contact the Church Office. And if you require this service for yourself or someone you know, **please fill out this brief form**, or call the Church Office. We will ensure that Communion gets there.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild. None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. If you want to know more about the Inreach Ministry, please speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at cecevents.org/Inreach, or email us at inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will get you started. For those interested in assisting as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

Community Action Council Gets Funds to Help Families in Many Ways

In response to community needs, the Outreach Commission at its August meeting approved a donation of \$2,500 to the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC). These are Vestry-approved funds derived from parishioners' pledges and contributions. Thank you for helping others when they need it most.

Christ Church is a long-term supporter – monetarily and through in-kind contributions to CAC's Howard County Food Bank. Our seasonal food drives at Giant supermarkets collect hundreds of pounds of non-perishable groceries each year (see photos).

The CAC is the county's official anti-poverty, non-profit agency, which posted a snapshot of its impact in Fiscal Year 2026: 242 students educated, 88 families saved from eviction, 1,359,481 meals provided, 3,999 families kept their lights on, and 688 homes made more energy efficient. With your help, that work continues.

Part of the donation will go toward the general fund, which covers aid for these services through **several essential programs**: early childhood education, housing assistance, energy assistance, and weatherization. A \$1,000 donation goes to the Howard County Food Bank, which will use the funds to provide more options for Thanksgiving dinners. Some families and individuals prefer a hen, turkey breast, or plant-based proteins rather than a whole turkey. Having a choice becomes yet another aspect of a meaningful holiday.

CAC expressed gratitude for the “tremendous support” by Christ Church. “You can be assured that the donation will go towards providing critical human services to Howard County residents in need,” said Development Specialist Todd Stubbs.

Despite being among the nation's most prosperous, many residents in Howard County struggle with rising costs and financial instability. Demand for food assistance and affordable early childhood education has grown significantly, particularly along the Route One Corridor. CAC and government officials broke ground last fall in ElkrIDGE on a site that will house a more efficient food bank and an education center, as described in a **Sept. 26, 2025 county release**. CAC received county and state funds to launch the project but is conducting a **fundraising campaign** for the balance.



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*
The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson