



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

TAIZÉ VESPERS

6:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 6, 2025 | Fifth Sunday in Lent

WELCOME TO SUNDAY TAIZE VESPERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into God's presence through prayers, readings, songs, silence and poetry. And as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are loved.

May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

TAIZÉ

Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for all the world and we are all God's people.

THE PATTERN OF VESPERS

GATHERING: God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God's bringing light into the darkness of our lives.

WORD: God continues to communicate through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God's beloved children.

PSALMS: Psalms are the Bible's language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.

MEDITATION: When we listen and pray while gathered in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about "just me," but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

PRAYERS: Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.

GOING OUT: As we leave the Vesper service, we are reminded of Christ's peace, presence and purpose in all of life.



OPENING SONG | Adoramus te Domine



Officiant: God dwells in you.

People: **And also in you.**

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lampstand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

SONG | In God alone |

♩ = 66 B Em C G D Em Am7 B Em C D G

In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.
 Mon â-me se re-pose en paix sur Dieu seul: de lui vient mon sa-lut.

Em C G D Em Am7 B Em Am B Em B

On-ly in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace. In
 Oui, sur Dieu seul mon â-me se re-po-se, se re-pose en paix. Mon

fine

CONSOLATIONS | Heartbreak

Heartbreak is unpreventable; the natural outcome of caring for people and things over which we can have no control, of holding in our affections those who inevitably move beyond our line of sight.

Heartbreak begins the moment we are asked to let go but cannot, in other words, it colors and inhabits and magnifies each and every day; heartbreak is not a visitation, but a path that human beings follow through even the most average life. Heartbreak is an indication of our sincerity: in a love relationship, in a life's work, in trying to learn a musical instrument, in the attempt to shape a better more generous self. Heartbreak is the beautifully helpless side of love and affection and is just as much an essence and emblem of care as the spiritual athlete's quick but abstract ability to let go. Heartbreak has its own way of inhabiting time and its own beautiful and trying patience in coming and going.

Heartbreak is how we mature; yet we use the word *heartbreak* as if it only occurs when things have gone wrong: an unrequited love, a shattered dream, a child lost before their time. Heartbreak, we hope, is something we hope we can avoid; something to guard against, a chasm to be carefully looked for and then walked around; the hope is to find a way to place our feet where the elemental forces of life will keep us in the manner to which we want to be accustomed and which will keep us from the losses that all other human beings have experienced without exception since the beginning of conscious time. But heartbreak may be the very essence of being human, of being on the journey from here to there, and of coming to care deeply for what we find along the way.

Our hope to circumvent heartbreak in adulthood is beautifully and ironically child-like; heartbreak is as inescapable and inevitable as breathing, a part and a parcel of ever path, asking for its due in every sincere course an individual takes, it may be that there may be not only no real *life* without the raw revelation of

heartbreak, but no single path we can take *within* a life that will allow us to escape without having that imaginative organ we call the heart broken by what it holds and then has to let go.

In a sobering physical sense, every heart does eventually break, as the precipitating reason for death or because the rest of the body has given up before it can no longer sustain its steady beat, but hearts also break in an imaginative and psychological sense: there is almost no path a human being can follow that does not lead to heartbreak. A marriage, a committed vow to another, even in the most settled, loving relationship, will always break our hearts at one time another; a successful marriage has often had its heart broken many times just in order for the couple to stay together; parenthood, no matter the sincerity of our love for a child, will always break the mold of our motherly or fatherly hopes, a good work seriously taken, will often take everything we have and still leave us wanting; finally even the most self-compassionate, self-examination should, if we are sincere, lead eventually to existential disappoint.

Realizing its inescapable nature, we can see heartbreak not as the end of the road or the cessation of hope but as the close embrace of the essence of what we have wanted or are about to lose. It is the hidden DNA of our relationship with life, outlining outer forms even when we do not feel it by the intimate physical experience generated by its absence; it can also ground us truly in whatever grief we are experiencing, set us to planting a seed with what we have left or appreciate what we have built even as we stand in its ruins.

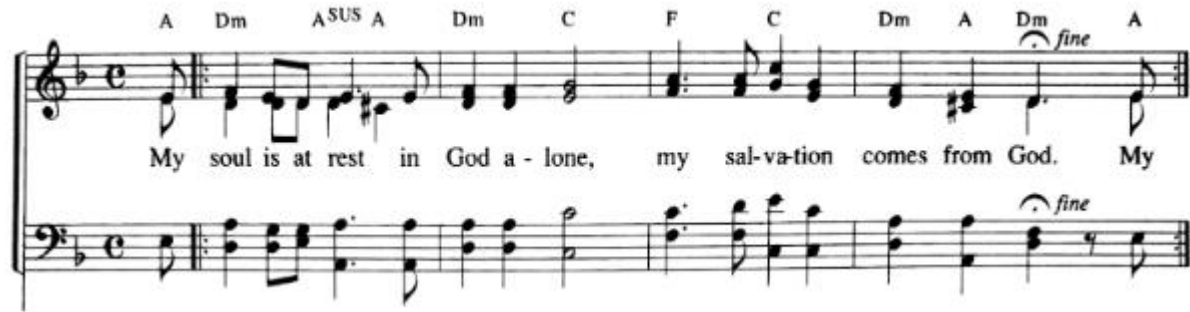
If heartbreak is inevitable and inescapable, it might be asking us to look for it and make friends with it, to see it as our constant and instructive companion, and perhaps, in the depth of its impact as well as in its hindsight, and even, its own reward. Heartbreak asks us not to look for an alternative path, because there is no alternative path. It is an introduction to what we love and have loved, an inescapable and often beautiful question, something and someone that has been with us all along, asking us to be ready for the ultimate letting go.

THE PSALM |

Psalm 126 | *In convertendo*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SONG | My Soul is at Rest |



SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 43:16-21

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
 who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
 Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
 I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
 The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
 the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

SCRIPTURE READING | Philippians 3:4b-14

Reader: A reading from Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have

suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY/REFLECTION | Rebecca Warlow, *Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate*

THE SILENT MEDITATION |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

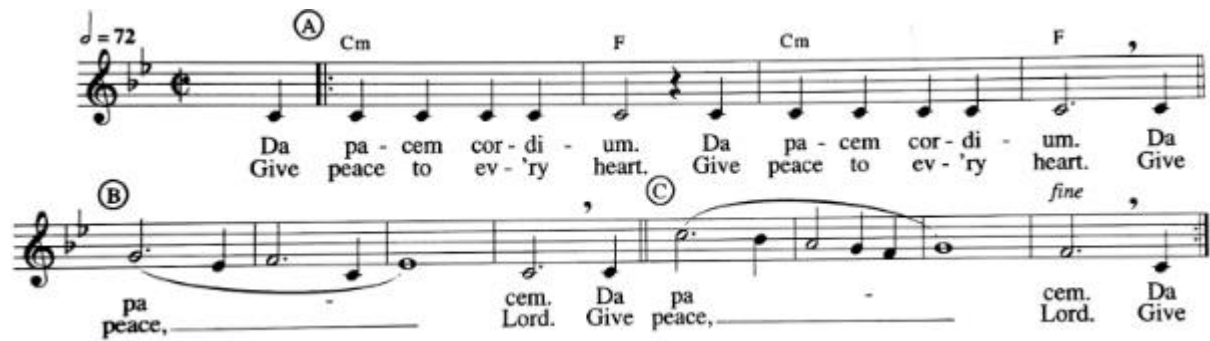


OFFERTORY SONG | Da pacem cordium |

During the singing, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in prayer.

Please scan to give





POEM | by PAMELA PRUITT

The Dance Instructor

Waltzing
In Dance Halls
And
Ballrooms
Only involves
Simple techniques,

But doing so
While
Climbing mountains,
Or when
We find
Ourselves enveloped
By life's
Stormy seas,
Requires
An Instructor

Learning to waltz
With God
Would make it
Easier.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Intervessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.
Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Diocesan Bishop, Emmanuel, our Rector; Kiona, our Deacon; Richard, our Rector Emeritus; Marcia, our Associate Rector Emeritus; Rebecca, our

Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate; and Mike our Postulant; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our President: Wes, our Governor; and Calvin, our County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Luke, Barbara, Kerry, Lucy, Wha-Ja, Sharon, and those who care for them.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intervessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially Chuck Rees & Jan Knight and those you now name, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

People: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Officiant: Let us pray.

***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.**

Officiant: The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**



Taizé

CLOSING SONG | Nunc Dimittis

1st time in Latin, all following repetitions in English.

Ostinato Refrain

musical score for the Ostinato Refrain of the Nunc Dimittis, featuring Latin and English lyrics.

First System:

Latin: Nunc di - mīt - tis ser - vum tu - um, Dó - mi -
English: Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O

Second System:

Latin: ne, se - cún - dum ver - bum
English: Lord, now go in peace ac -

Third System:

Latin: ne, Dó - mi - ne,
English: Lord, O Lord,



Caitlin Gompf, soprano
 Catherine Hinton, soprano
 Maureen Monk, flute
 Amanda McKay, viola
 Larissa Sanders, piano

Thank you for joining us today!

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



Holy Week at Christ Church

Palm Sunday is the service that signals the coming of Holy Week, and it takes place on Sunday, April 13th. Between that day and Easter, Christ Church has a dozen worship opportunities, and we hope that you'll join us throughout the week. Our website's Lenten season page has times and details for every one of our worship services, so be sure to check <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holy-week> for all of that information. You can still find all of the Lenten gatherings at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent

The Easter Challenge

Easter is our celebration of rebirth - we celebrate the risen life of Christ and open ourselves to rise with Jesus. This Easter, we challenge each parishioner to lead another person to the resurrection experience. Invite a loved one, a friend, a neighbor, a colleague, or even a total stranger to church to experience the joy of rebirth. Let's share this experience with as many as possible. Easter will be celebrated on April 20 and the services are 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m., and you can send your new guest(s) a link to www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent so they can learn more about Christ Church and our upcoming Lenten season.

Easter Altar Flowers and Gifts

Easter Sunday is a time that we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. If you want to present Altar gifts this Easter, use our online form at CECevents.org/EasterOffering. Be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. You can also drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; include the same dedication information on the *MEMO* line of a check, please.

Lenten Evening Prayer - Weeknights at 8 p.m. on YouTube, Facebook, and our website

During Lent this year, Mother Marcia Davenport presents us with a nightly evening prayer livestream, and if you haven't tuned in to any of these yet, you're truly missing out. She leads us in a brief worship using different prayer books from around the world, followed by a unique, personal reflection. They go live at 8:00 p.m. each weeknight, but you can view them all on our website at <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-evening-prayer>, our YouTube page, or our Facebook page at any time. Don't miss this beautiful way to worship in your own time at home during Lent, as it's a perfect way to close out another day.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. Email centering@christchurchcolumbia.org for the Zoom details.

Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

At 12 noon on Thursdays during Lent, Christ Church offers midday worship in Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and non-parishioners 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. Come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a midday worship.

Center for Spiritual Nourishment - April 12

Join seekers of a deeper relationship with the Divine at the 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment. The 2nd Saturday CSN offers experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit by offering safe spaces to explore an array of opportunities for spiritual growth. The CSN is for anyone interested in spiritual nourishment, regardless of religious affiliation or spiritual beliefs. Come for one session or the entire morning. April's CSN includes group sessions for Spiritual Direction, Yoga, Contemplative Meditation, Drawn to God: Praying through Art, Self and Spirit: Bible Study Resources, and Spiritual Practices: Self-Denial. The morning then concludes with a short Reflection Circle service. You can learn more about each session on our website - cecevents.org/CSN-April

Palm Sunday and Meditations on the Passion - April 13

Palm Sunday has three worship services - the 8:00 worship takes place in Old Brick. Then, the 9:00 service will begin by gathering in the Great Hall (lower level) of New Brick, and process up to the Sanctuary from there. Our final morning service at 10:30 a.m. will meet and begin worship in Old Brick, then collectively process across the campus during the service (if the weather is inclement, we will begin in the Great Hall). And on that Sunday evening, Christ Church will host Meditations on the Passion, a special service of poems, readings, dance (with our [Lumen Christi liturgical dance ministry](#)), song, and prayer. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary as we contemplate the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a way that makes us realize the immense love He has for each one of us, a love that is capable of suffering and death in order to free us from our sins.

Maundy Thursday Vigil - April 17 & 18

On Maundy Thursday, we recount the story of Jesus sharing his last meal with his friends by having a Seder meal in the Great Hall and Eucharist in the sanctuary of New Brick. We also remember that night with a Vigil in Old Brick, which runs from Thursday at 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 noon the next day, Good Friday. During each hour, we invite parishioners to participate in the Vigil by signing up for a time of your choosing. [The sign-up sheet is here](#), and you're welcome to sign up for just an hour or stay for a couple of hours. The rest of the Holy Week schedule is down further in this newsletter, or you can visit our website for all of the details - <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holy-week>.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

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Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

Rev. Kiona Lookingbill, *Deacon & Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

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

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*)

• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams •

George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms

Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector Emeritus*