CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 21, 2021 | 10:00 AM

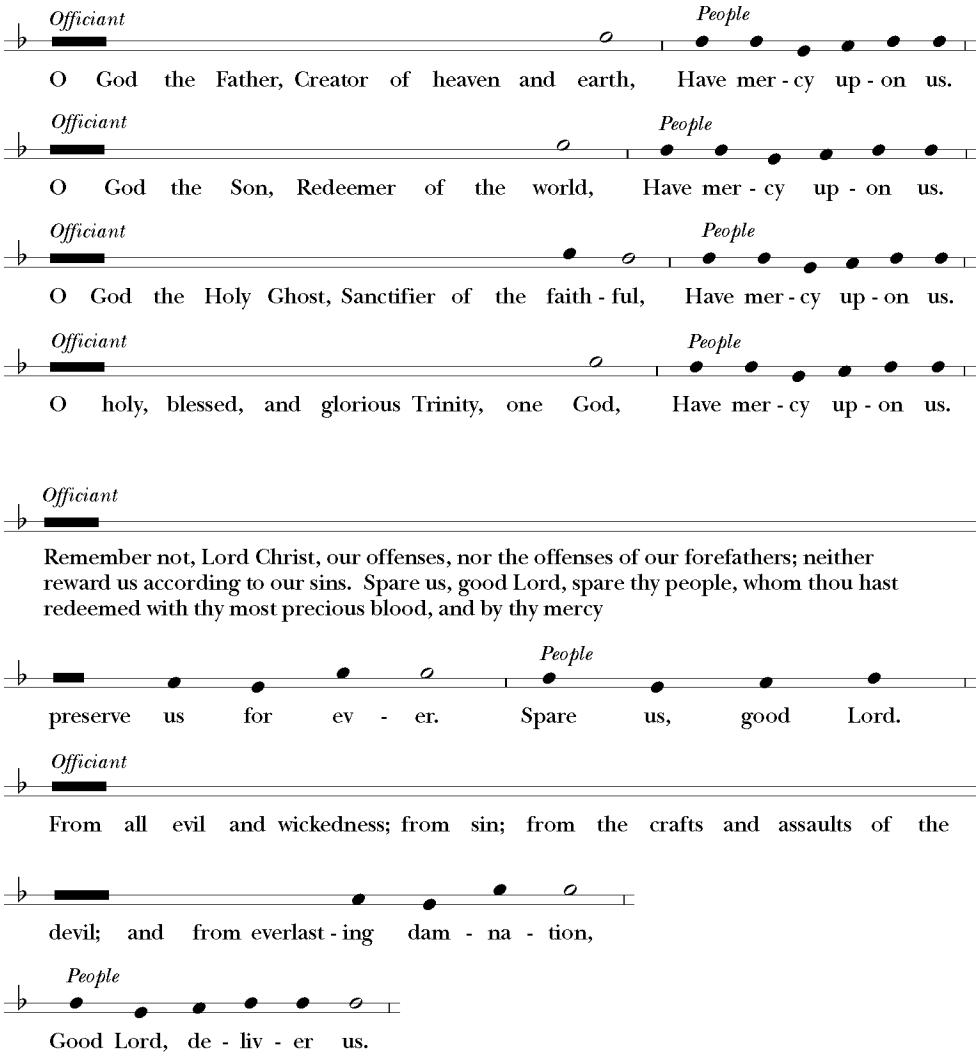
You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

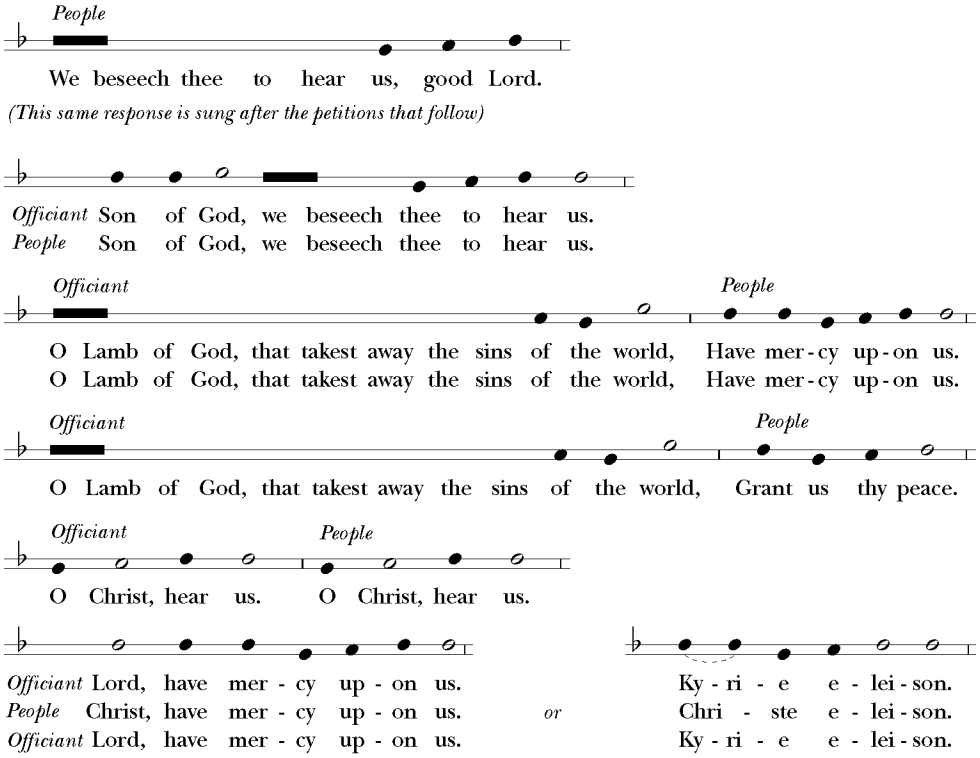
The people stand as able.

THE GREAT LITANY



(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,



Opening Acclamation

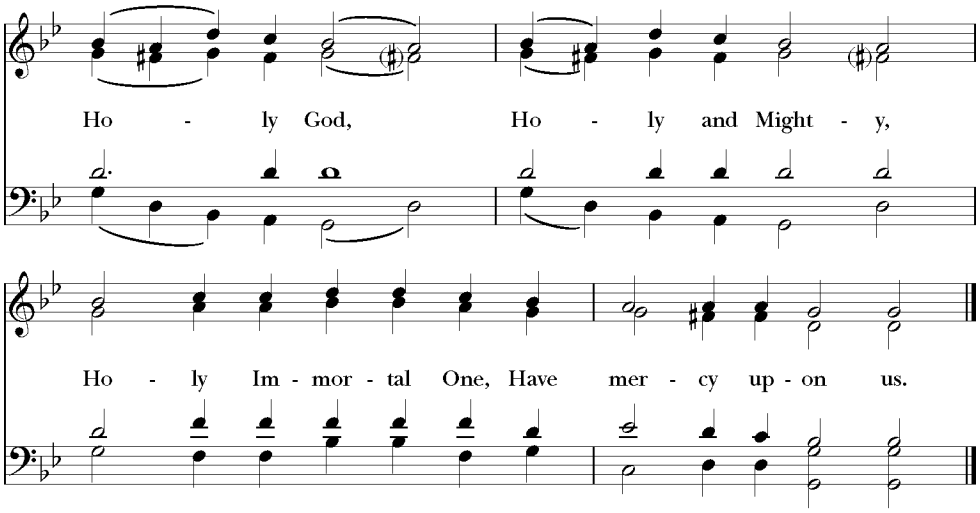
Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;
People: **His mercy endureth for ever.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trisagion

Sung three times



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST READING — Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

The following psalm is chanted by the choir.

PSALM 25:1-9 — *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

Chant: Jonathan Battishill (1738-1801)

Unto thee, O LORD, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in thee: *
O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.

For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed; *
but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.

Show me thy ways, O LORD, *
and teach me thy paths.

Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me: *
for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my hope all the day long.

Call to remembrance, O LORD, thy tender mercies, *
and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.

O remember not the sins and offences of my youth; *
but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O LORD, for thy goodness.

Gracious and righteous is the LORD; *
therefore, will he teach sinners in the way.

Them that are meek shall he guide in judgment; *
and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.

All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, *
unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

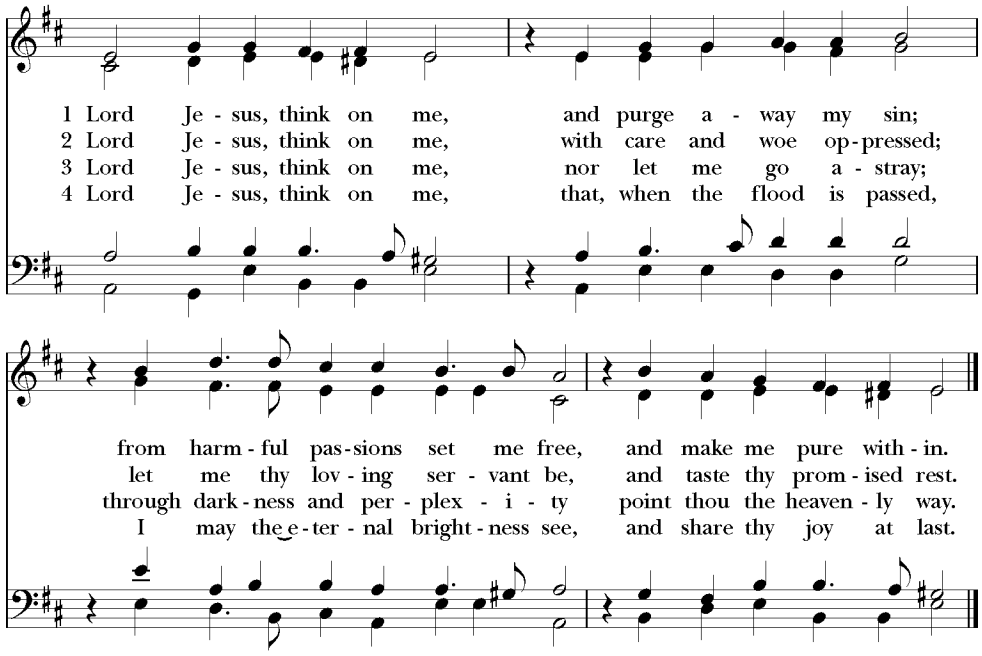
THE EPISTLE — 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

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

SEQUENCE HYMN — *Southwell*



THE GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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

SERMON The Rev'd Emmanuel Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

All: **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead:
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: 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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Robert, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; and Denise our Deacon; 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 Joseph, our President: Lawrence, 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 Angela, Nell, Alta, Pamela, Chad, Joan, Richard, Alfred, Stan, Nick, Ashley, Anthony, Jim, Patrick, Bill, Theresa, Barbara, Anne, Victoria, Eric, Jim, Seiko, Sarah, Jimmy and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Elizabeth Farris and George Phillips, 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.

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

People: **Amen.**

The Confession is omitted today due to the chanting of the Great Litany.

The Peace

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

People: **And with thy spirit.**

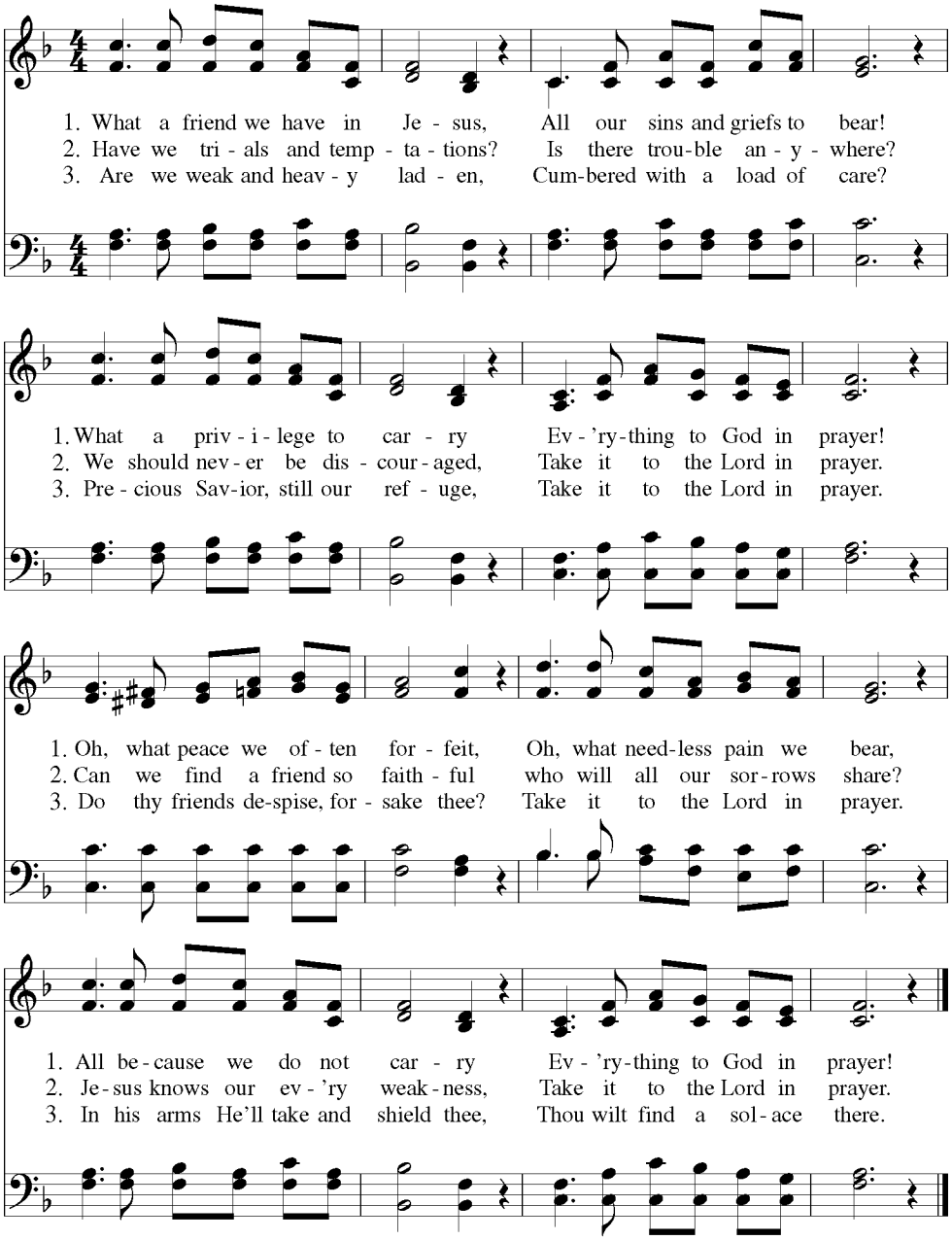
The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

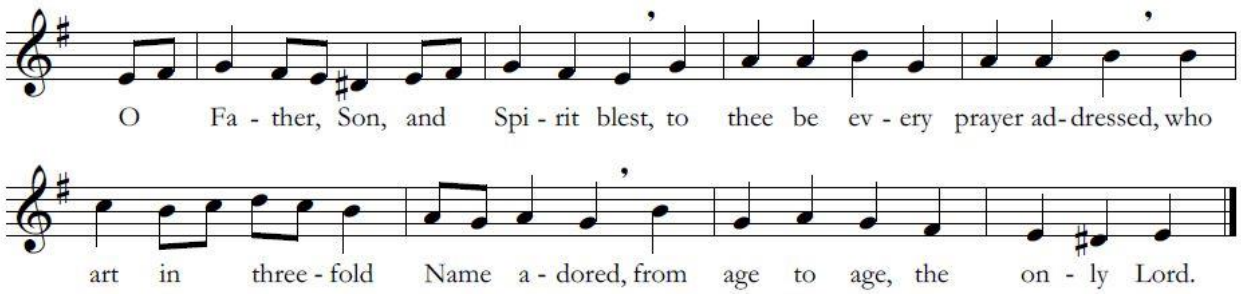
The Rev'd Emmanuel Mercer, *Rector*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn



PRESENTATION HYMN *Erhalt uns, Herr*



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Celebrant: Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

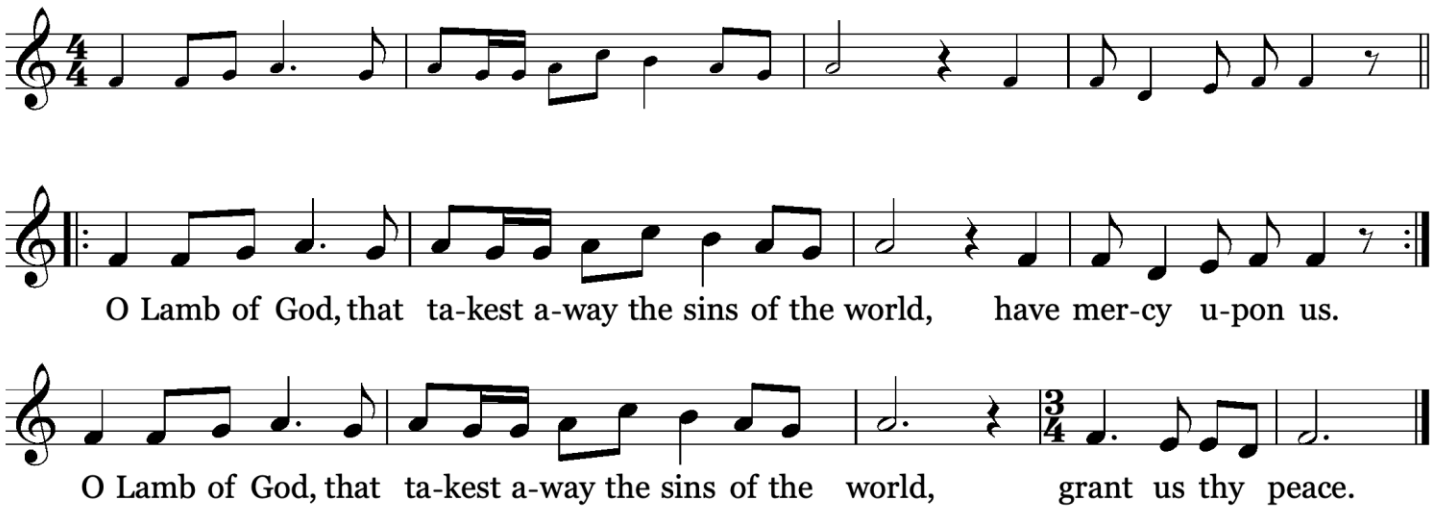
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

AGNUS DEI

Mass in Honor of St. Bernadette
Richard K. Fitzgerald (1979-)



PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

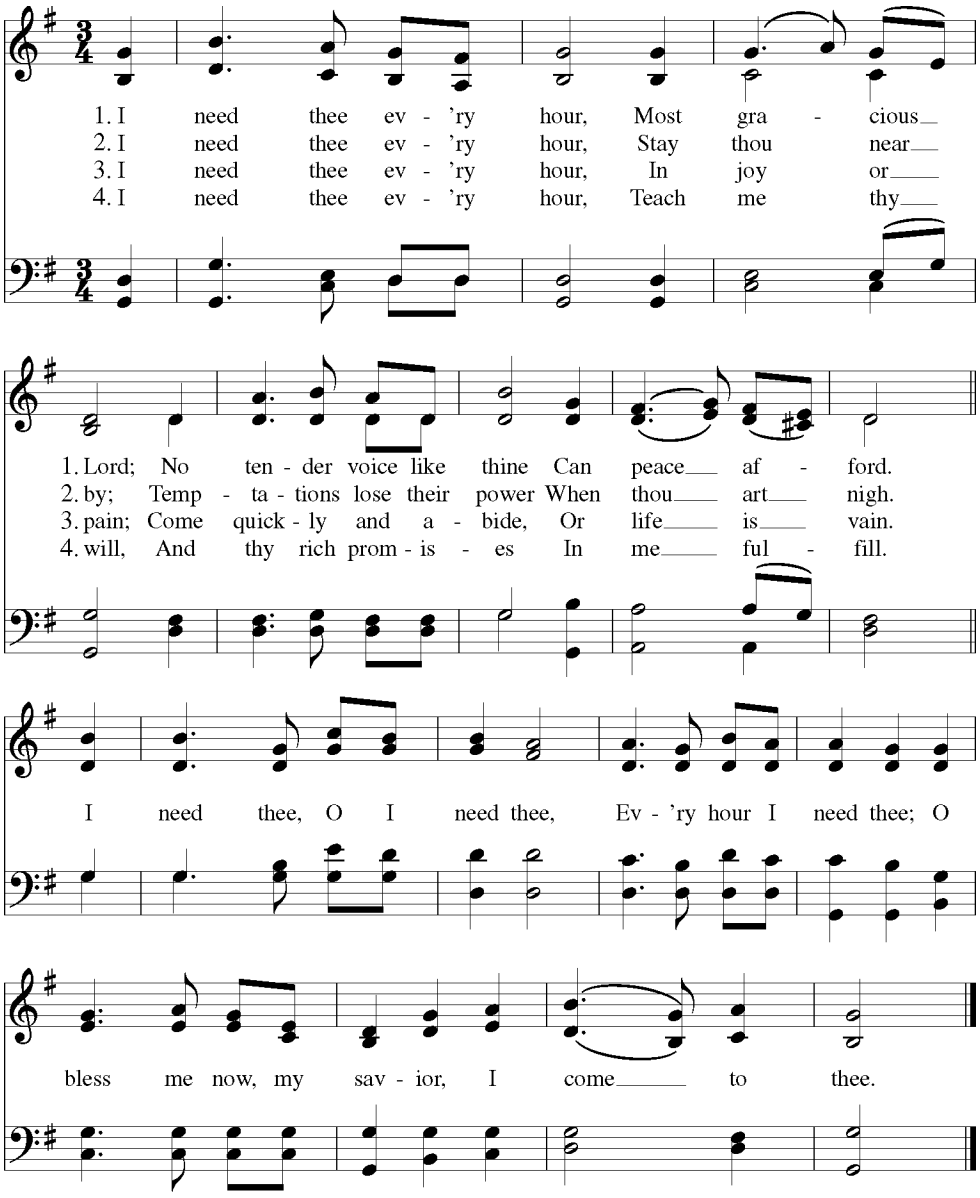
All: **We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Armed Forces Prayer Book (1951)

All: **In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church,**
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving.
I present to Thee my soul and body
with the earnest wish that may always be united to Thee.
And since I can not now receive Thee sacramentally,
I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate Thee from me.
May I live and die in Thy love. Amen.

Communion Hymn



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

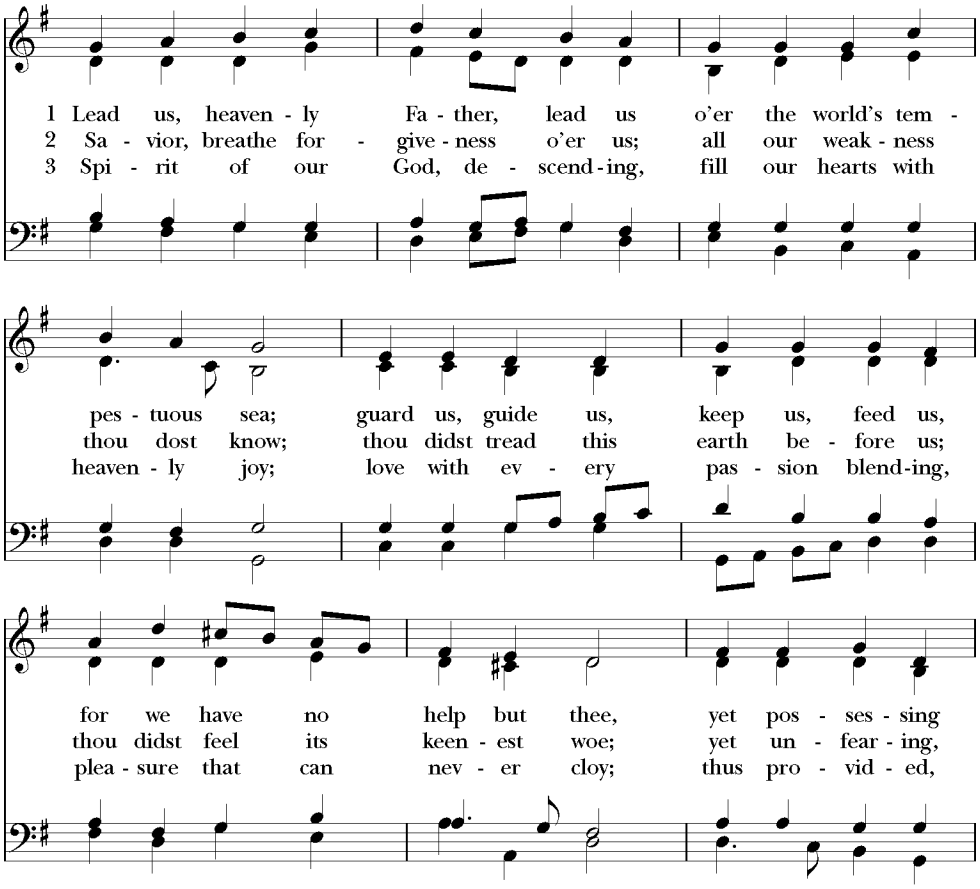
All: **Almighty and everliving God,**
we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us,
in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members incorporate
in the mystical body of thy Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
so to assist us with thy grace,
that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

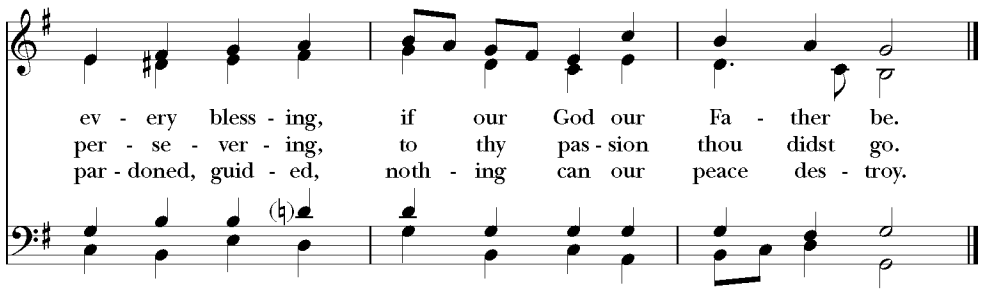
THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the People, who respond ***Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN

Dulce carmen





THE DISMISSAL

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

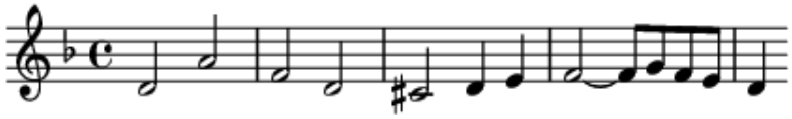
(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

POSTLUDE

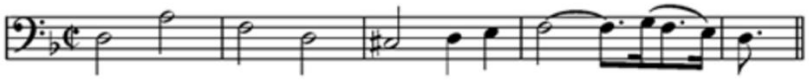
Contrapunctus II, BWV 1080/2 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ABOUT POSTLUDES DURING LENT

In the spirit of "taking on" a new responsibility during Lent, I am aspiring to learn the entirety of Johann Sebastian Bach's monumental *Art of Fugue* (in German, *Die Kunst der Fuge*). This collection of fugues and canons (each titled "*contrapunctus*") was among the last of Bach's compositions; indeed, the final fugue was left unfinished. Each *contrapunctus* is based on the same, single, short theme:



Today's *contrapunctus*, the second, is another "textbook fugue" in four voices. It jazzes up the theme a bit, adding syncopations at the end:



These dotted rhythms hint at a characteristically French idiom: the so-called *notes inégales*, in which notes written in equal values are played with a slight rhythmic emphasis on the first of each pairs. This trochaic pattern lends the fugue a sense of great momentum. You should hear this theme **thirteen times**.

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Doxology *Erhalt uns Herr*. Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. Music: melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543. Words reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-701378. All rights reserved. Music in the Public Domain. | Agnus Dei. Words: Book of Common Prayer. Music: Richard Fitzgerald (1979-), alt. Words in the Public Domain. Music © Richard Fitzgerald. All rights reserved. Used with permission. | "I need thee every hour." Words: Annie S. Hawks (1835-1918). Music: Robert Lowry (1826-1899). Words, music in the Public Domain. | "Let us, heavenly Father, lead us." Words: James Edmeston (1791-1867), alt. Music: melody from *An Essay on the Church Plain Chant*, 1782; adapt. *Collection of Motets or Antiphons*, ca 1840; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889). Words, music in the Public Domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Lenten Season at Christ Church | This year, Christ Church has many gatherings and activities during Lent. Details for all of these are at https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent and will be updated regularly.

Sunday Eucharist and Fellowship | Join us online this Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. as we livestream worship from Old Brick. Our broadcast will be live on our Christ Church website, YouTube, and Facebook pages. A few minutes after the service ends, we'll have our Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom, so everyone is invited to stop by and say "HELLO!" as we catch up with one another in this new year. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is 830 0557 1585, and the password is SundayVCH. See you on Sunday!

Christ Church Sunday School | We have weekly, online Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary school children from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. Please fill out a registration form so that we are able to provide you with the Zoom codes. Our curriculum is *"Weaving God's Promises"* and we are in *Year 3: Weaving God's Community*. To learn more about our Sunday School offerings, please visit our website, and if you have any questions or are able to help facilitate classes, please contact Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net.

We also host weekly Sunday School classes for middle & high schoolers on Zoom from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please fill out the registration form so that we can provide you with the Zoom codes. If you have any questions, please contact Yetti Lipede at theodociayl@gmail.com.

Confirmation and Adult Inquirers Class - Sunday Afternoons | We invite all parishioners who are interested in being Confirmed, Reaffirmed, or Received into the Episcopal Church or have the desire to deepen their faith, to join us on Sunday afternoons for Confirmation and Adult Inquirers class. Our next meeting is this Sunday at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Confirmation and Inquirers classes are an opportunity that we have to explore the varied and rich components that shape and inform our faith. For information, contact Yetti -ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org or Fr. Manny - revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Morning and Evening Prayer – Weekdays | We continue to offer morning prayer Monday through Friday at 7:00 a.m., and evening prayer is now offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to worship via Facebook or the main page of our website, and join in the centering and healing Anglican practice of observing daily offices. If you're interested in helping us lead a virtual prayer gathering in the future, email us.

Two Evenings at the Kitchen Table with Dr. Harolyn Belcher | Dr. Harolyn Belcher, a Christ Church parishioner, Professor of Pediatrics and Vice President at Johns Hopkins Hospital, invites us to the kitchen table on consecutive Tuesday evenings - February 23rd and March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. The virtual gathering on February 23rd will be centered around COVID-19 vaccine information and March 2nd focuses on how we all can help to ensure child and youth health and well-being. We hope that you all will join us for this insightful Zoom series. The link will be Monday's *"This Week on Zoom"* email.

Lectionary Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study takes place on Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and is a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. The readings for next week's Bible Study are located here. 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 online next Wednesday. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is 854 7191 2087, and the password is BibleStudy.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series | The Spiritual Life Commission invites everyone to join us on Zoom for our Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, which centers on our 2021 theme - *Be God's Light that Shines in the Darkness*. Each week during this popular series, we will host a presenter who gives their perspective on this theme.
February 24th: the Right Reverend Robert Ilhoff
March 3rd: The Reverend Kirk Kubicek
March 10th: Lesley DiFransico
March 17th: The Reverend Richard Ginnever
March 24th: The Reverend Emmanual Ato Mercer
Zoom links will be published each week in our Monday *"This Week on Zoom"* emails.

Christ Church Book Club – Fridays | The Christ Church Book Club wraps up its discussion of *Love is the Way* by the Reverend Michael Curry. Then beginning next Friday, February 26th, the Book Club will begin the first of two books by C.S. Lewis - *The Screwtape Letters* followed by *Mere Christianity*. You can get them now from your favorite retailer or library so that you're ready. These Christ Church discussions are conducted via Zoom each week from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. As always, we welcome newcomers at any time, so come and join us. If there are any questions, please contact Ellen Boudreau Hoke by calling or texting her at 301-452-7115, or by emailing her at efboudreau1@gmail.com.

COVID Vaccine Resources, Available Assistance, and Request for Volunteers | Christ Church has been very successful in securing appointments for those eligible for vaccinations, so please don't delay - we encourage you to contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org and we will help.

COVID-19 vaccines are available in Maryland for those who qualify, but getting an appointment is nowhere as simple as it should be. Here is a document that provides more information about who is currently eligible for a vaccine, links to local and state guidance, and helpful direct links to most major organizations providing vaccines. This will be updated each week as information changes, so check back each week for the latest consolidated information. You can also find this updated information on our website, with a link on the site's main page for convenience.

In addition, Christ Church is offering assistance to those who are currently eligible for a vaccine (age 65+) and would like help getting an appointment. Often the appointments at retail locations fill up in minutes, so we have volunteers who can quickly jump on those opportunities for you. Please contact Kathy Lyon at Pastoral Care by emailing rklyon@cablespeed.com if you are interested in getting assistance.

Finally, Christ Church is looking for additional volunteers who are comfortable using a computer and would like to assist our high-risk parishioners with registering for each of the separate vaccine waitlists. If this sounds like something you can help with, please contact Deacon Denise at deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org. By working together, we can help our church community get vaccinated as soon as possible and move one step closer to a return to normal.

WOCC February News | The March meeting of the Women of Christ Church takes place on Monday, March 1st at 1:00 p.m. Once again we'll be meeting via the Zoom app, which is free and available for download at www.zoom.us ahead of time. The meeting details will be in an upcoming email. There is also a WOCC outreach announcement below, and more WOCC news on our website, located here.

Do You Knit? This Message is for You! | Calling all CEC parishioners who knit or crochet! Would you be interested in making prayer shawls for people who are ill or grieving? The Lay Pastoral Care Commission would like to establish a new prayer shawl ministry and we invite you to join. If you are interested, or just have questions, please contact PC Commissioner Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

Home and Elder Care Services | If you, or someone you know, need assistance with in-home or respite care services for seniors or disabled adults during this time, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org and we will direct you to a local, licensed agency. Caregivers can help with a wide range of activities including companionship, meal planning, preparation, and clean-up, light housekeeping, laundry, medication reminders, errands, shopping, as well as escort to and from appointments and events. We need to ensure that all persons are cared for, especially during this difficult time.

Help us Stay Connected to Our Christ Church Family | The Pastoral Care (PC) Commission is endeavoring to make occasional, brief calls to connect those across our parish during these next few cold, isolated months. With the size of our congregation, we need some additional help. You needn't be part of the PC Commission to assist; we just need people willing to take 5-10 names and make a quick call to check in with fellow parishioners once every two to three weeks. If you feel you have a call for this ministry of listening and hospitality, please contact PC Commissioner Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com. Thank you.

It's Nearing Time for Take-Out to Assist Bridges to Housing Stability | Once again, we have the opportunity to help end homelessness in Howard County by eating out. A local restaurant is participating in a benefit for Bridges to Housing Stability from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 24th. That is Shake Shack Donation Day. On that website for the event, you'll find a flyer to download, so please spread the word.

The restaurant is located on the plaza at Columbia Mall, 10300 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044. Please use the code DONATION on the Shack App, web, or kiosk when checking out so that 25% of your total meal purchase will go directly to Bridges.

Christ Church has a warm relationship in helping Bridges. We participated in a countywide chili cook-off, Holier Than Thou, in 2019 and surpassed our fundraising a year ago at our own cook-off. That effort on Feb. 9, 2020, which included the Youth Group's collection from Souper Bowl Sunday, raised $1,000. And that, in turn, led to Christ Church winning a Silver Ladle Award during the Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser held last fall by the nonprofit.

In its February newsletter, you can read about work that your donations support, including help for a mother of four. She writes, "I got behind on my rent when I was laid off from my job due to COVID-19 and then got very sick with COVID-19 and pneumonia. All of my kids were sick, too." Bridges' newsletter includes a timely excerpt of an article on racial inequities in housing, selected for Black History Month. And there's a shout-out to Christ Church for our support of the January restaurant benefit, at Coal Fire in Ellicott City. That means we've set the bar high for participation next week at Shake Shack. So please plan to turn out on February 24th.

Save the Dates: March 15 and April 19 to Help Feed the Hungry at Grassroots | Once again, parishioners and volunteers who join their efforts are looking ahead to the monthly meal that we provide for Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. Save the dates and times: March 15 and April 19, arriving between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. at the parking lot outside Old Brick.

Plan to bring a side dish, a dessert, or items for their pantry to be enjoyed round-the-clock by the 50 residents of the live-in facility on Freetown Rd. And now that we have launched an electronic registry to improve planning, please sign up online no later than noon on the Sunday prior to the meal on Monday. Click on the Christ Church Grassroots Meal link on SignUpGenius to learn which items are requested and to tell coordinators what you plan to bring.

During the pandemic, Christ Church began these parking-lot drop-offs in lieu of the monthly meals that we once provided in-person at another Grassroots facility, the Dorsey/Rt. 1 Day Resource Center. That facility remains closed due to the coronavirus, except for curbside distribution of non-perishables.

In this pandemic-era tradition, co-coordinator Nancy Winchester acquires fried chicken at Weis and meets the other volunteers as they enter the Christ Church parking lot. Nancy then transports the food to Freetown Road for handoff to the staff of Grassroots.

Additional participants — and the resulting side dishes, desserts, fruit, and granola bars to complement our main course — are welcome. Be sure to wear a mask with multiple layers and plan to practice social distancing to keep everyone safe. For questions in addition to the information available at the sign-up link, ask Nancy or co-coordinator Shahra Toth or email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

On their own, parishioners at Christ Church have signed up to provide the evening meal on several evenings recently for the 50 adults and children. Consider pitching in, by picking a date to provide an entree and side dishes, or just the entree. Grassroots encourages an order of 12 pizzas -- four with cheese and the rest with meat (any kind), or rotisserie chickens (12 to make a meal), but discourages lasagna or other pasta entrees. Another welcome option is takeout from restaurants to help the workforce. Here is a link to the sign-up list that's maintained by Grassroots.

Drives Continue to Collect Diapers and Personal Care Items for CCC and Non-liquid, Non-perishable Foods for FISH | Parishioners are asked to support Columbia Community Care (CCC), an all-volunteer effort that came together in Howard County in response to the pandemic, by collecting diapers, baby wipes, and personal care items. CCC needs women's sanitary care products, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, and other toiletries. Please put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," just inside the Parish Hall door. You can drop off items on weekdays until 2 p.m., but we ask that you call the church office (410) 381-9365 to let them know when you are coming.

Meanwhile, the basket of groceries for FISH of Howard County that once stood at the altar has been replaced by a yellow bin, marked "FISH" on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. During winter, please contribute items such as cereal and granola bars that will not freeze. Please do NOT bring canned goods, liquids in plastic such as juices and salad dressing, or glass containers.

February LEMS Committee Update | LEMS teachers will be returning to the school building this month. To help the teachers and staff feel appreciated, the LEMS provided goodie bags for each of them, as requested by the school principal. The LEMS committee is continuing to provide food for ten families one weekend a month. If anyone is interested in volunteering with the monthly bulk purchasing, bagging, and delivering to the school when New Brick reopens please contact the committee. With local COVID cases still elevated we are following strict safety precautions and will expect the same of all volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact lemspc@christchurchcolumbia.org.

WOCC Outreach - Seafarer's Donations | For years, the WOCC has been involved in providing requested items to Seafarers. Below is a list of the types of magazines, books, and DVD's/CD's to be donated. If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated. The Seafarer's bin is in the lower level, near the bottom of the steps, in the Parish House.

Suggested Items needed:

- Bible in modern English (or Tagalog, Russian, or Chinese),
- Times/Newsweek/etc. up to 3 months old
- Sports Illustrated/People/etc. up to 6 months
- Cars/Computers/Consumers magazines - up to 1 year
- Reader's Digest up to a couple of years
- National Geographic (post-2000)
- Books (except for Bibles) are less often requested, but some seafarers do appreciate action novels, as well as picture books about Baltimore or the U.S.
- Action/adventure DVD's. Recent popular CD's.
- Religious books (in easy English), DVD's, CD's; rosaries.

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.

Please Consider a Contribution to Christ Church.

Recent world events have been challenging for us all. It has also affected how we are able to continue to help others. Please consider contributing to Christ Church so that we may continue to support our parish staff, as well as those in need in our community and around the world. Christ Church has achieved much in the past because of everyone's generosity, and for that we are very grateful. We are still carrying out an amazing ministry for a moderate-sized church - even through this very challenging time - but it does require everyone's assistance. Each contribution helps greatly.

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 other 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

Our 2021 Pledge Form is Online

The 2021 Pledge Form is on our website, for your convenience. You can complete the form by clicking here, and if you have any questions, please email stewardship@christchurchcolumbia.org

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone*, Deacon*
Adam Detzner, *Director of Music*
Yetti Lipede, *Interim Parish Administrator*
Kareem Mack, *Staff Bass*
Simone Brown, *Staff Soprano*
Rebecca Warlow, *Licensed Lay Preacher*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*)• Jan DeBoissiere (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
Tim Beaty • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • W. Ben Jackson III • Greta Pike-Barnes •
Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman