

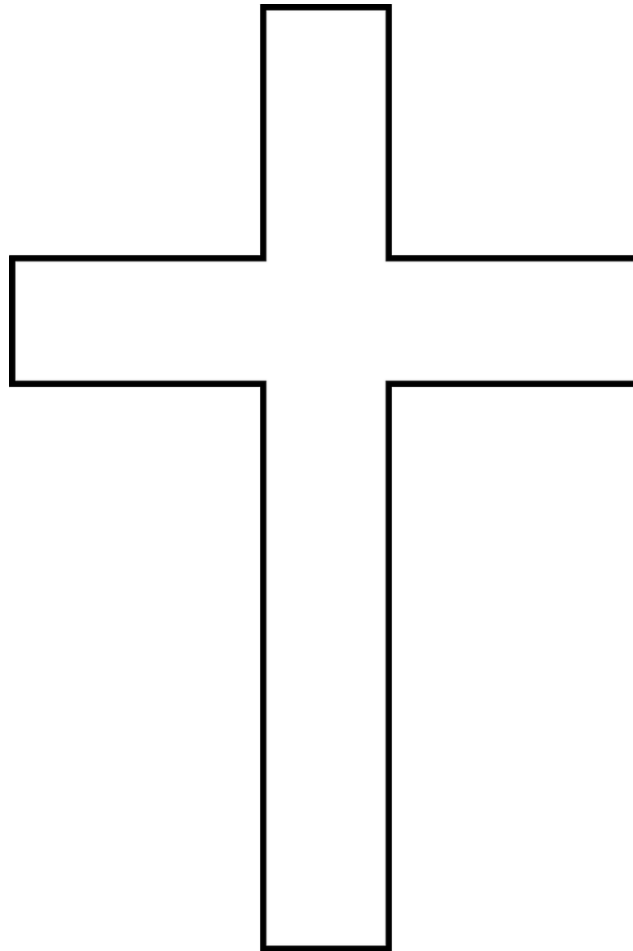
Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, September 24, 2023 | 8:00 am & 10:30 am



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

We are delighted you're here - welcome home!

Prelude | Prelude au Kyrie

Jean Langlais
Ola Oladipupo

Descant

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
 2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and
 4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

deem - er's blood! Whom their souls re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
 deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
 daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
 cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

'Tis his love his peo - ple raise o - ver
on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to

self to reign and as priests, his
sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn

sol - emn prais - es each an of - fering brings.
round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
man - na which he gives them when they pray.
prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity |

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

People: Amen.

Glory to God | S280 Canticle 20 | *Gloria in excelsis*

setting: 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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Exodus 16:2-15 |

Reader: A Reading from Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

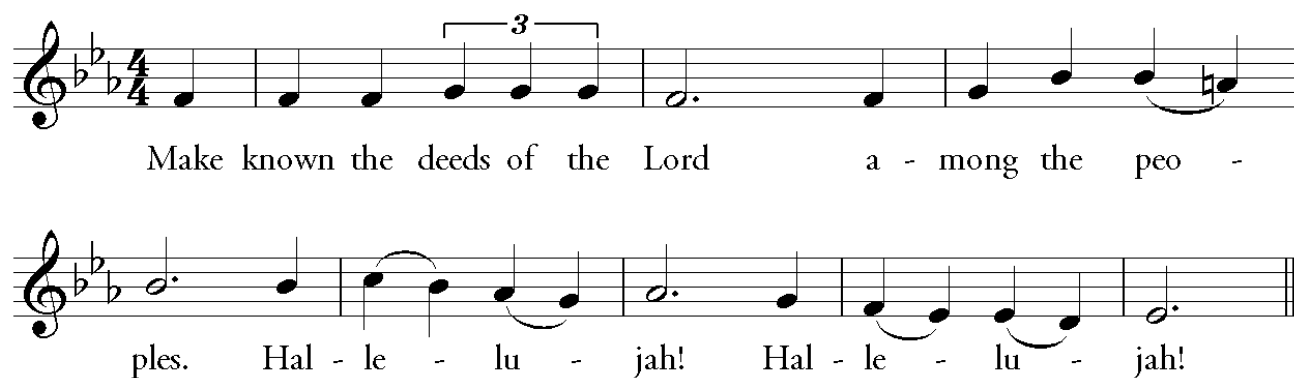
Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Antiphon

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

Antiphon

He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

Antiphon

He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
 so the river ran in the dry places.
For God remembered his holy word *
 and Abraham his servant.
So he led forth his people with gladness, *
 his chosen with shouts of joy.
He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
 and they took the fruit of others' toil,
That they might keep his statutes *
 and observe his laws.
 Hallelujah!

Antiphon

A Reading from Philippians 1:21-30 |

Reader: A Reading from the Epistle to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

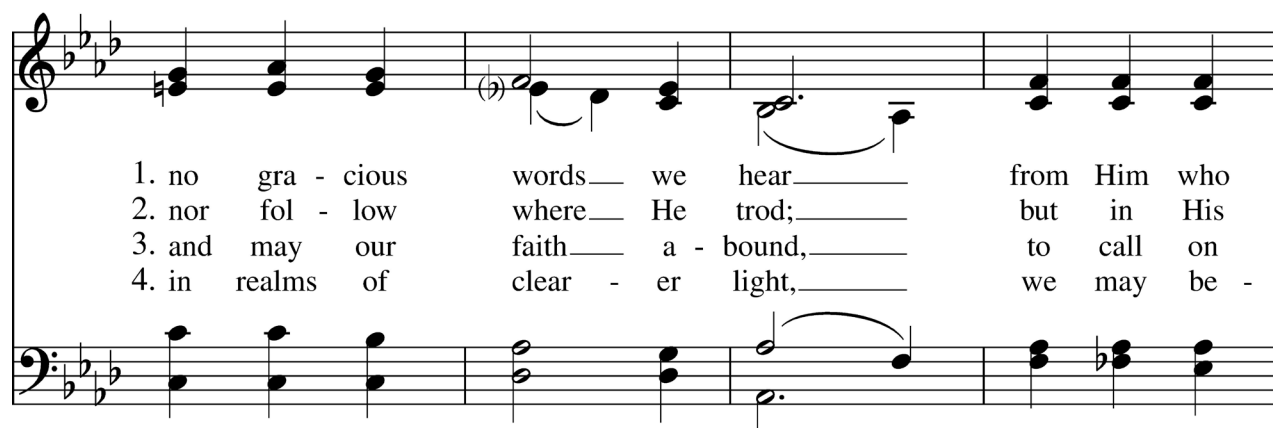
The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 206 | We Walk By Faith

Henry Alford/Eugene W. Hancock



1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
2. We may not touch His hands and side,
3. Help then, O Lord, our un-belief;
4. That, when our life of faith is done;



1. no gra-cious words we hear from Him who
2. nor fol-low where He trod; but in His
3. and may our faith a-bound, to call on
4. in realms of clear-er light, we may be -



1. spoke as none e'er spoke; but we be-
2. prom-ise we re-joice, and cry, "My
3. you when you are near, and seek where
4. hold you as you are, with full and



1. lieve Him near.
2. Lord and God!"
3. you are found.
4. end-less sight."

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

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

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

Sermon | The Rev’d Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The Nicene Creed |

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

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

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

Lord, You continually guide Your people through very difficult times where Your grace abounds. Generosity and provision are ever present in Your love. We each encounter times of doubt in our own personal wilderness. Let us place our faith and trust in You. **Search and gain strength through the Lord.**

The worldwide Church welcomes all as workers in God's vineyard: the new, the established, the unpolished, the overzealous, the introverted, the doubtful, the givers, the needy, the prepared and the unprepared. Jesus modeled inclusiveness in an age of separate cultures. None were turned away. We encourage all visitors and newcomers to be a part of our Christ Church community. We would love to share our worship, praise, and opportunities to minister to others. We are enriched by your presence. **Lord, we praise You for Your faithfulness.**

In the Anglican Communion, we pray today for The Church of Ireland. Following hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods, we ask for restoration of services, medical intervention, and remediation of health care facilities, homes, schools, workplaces, roads and bridges. We pray people's hearts will be opened to bring help and hope to those affected by these disasters. In the Diocese of Maryland, we ask special blessings for the Parishes of Ascension, Scarborough; Christ Church, Rock Spring; and Emmanuel, Bel Air. We ask for the Lord's guidance for our spiritual leaders: the Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Carrie; our Rector, Emmanuel; and Christ Church's clergy, vestry, postulants, and staff. We also ask that our governmental leaders receive insight and strength to find solutions to many problems facing our nation and the world. **Let our hearts rejoice in the Lord.**

We pray for those suffering in body, mind, or spirit, that they may be restored to health and wholeness, especially Charles, Barbara, Sherry, Tim, Dinorah, Fr. Richard, Christine, Carol, Jan, Judy, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Nell, and those you now name. We give thanks for the love and care of family and friends who bring happiness to those in need. As we commemorate Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, we ask your blessings especially upon those struggling with mental health challenges, that they may know and feel Your peace, mercy, and love. We pray for those serving in the military and in harm's way, especially Connor Warlow. We pray for those who have entered the Kingdom of Heaven, especially Charlie Hoke, Betty DeBoissiere, Forrest Titcomb, and those you now name. May the light of God shine forever in their hearts. May the presence of Christ comfort those who mourn. **Glory in God's Holy Name.**

We give thanks for the occasions of joy in our church family. Today we celebrate the birthdays of Dominic, Ian, George, Alicia, Tom, Traci, Harrington, Emily, Rebecca, Shannon & Gavin, and the baptismal anniversary of Brian. We are blessed with these gifts of God throughout our lives. **Our Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

Let us stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for Christ. **Amen**

Confession of Sin |

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

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

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

The Peace |

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

***People:* And also with you.**

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

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Choral Anthem | The Gift of Love

Hal Hopson

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 3) |

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:**

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

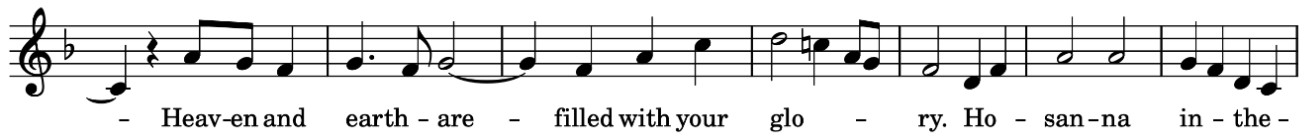
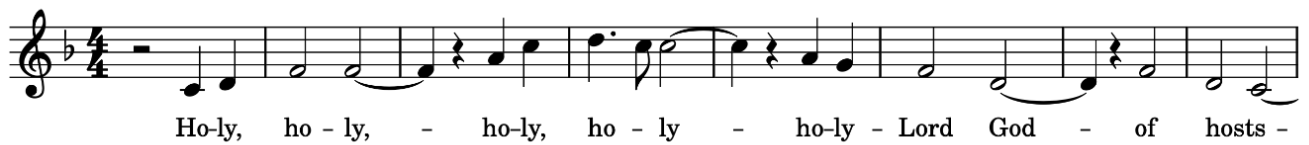
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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...

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:



Celebrant: 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."

Celebrant: 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 is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: 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.

All: **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;

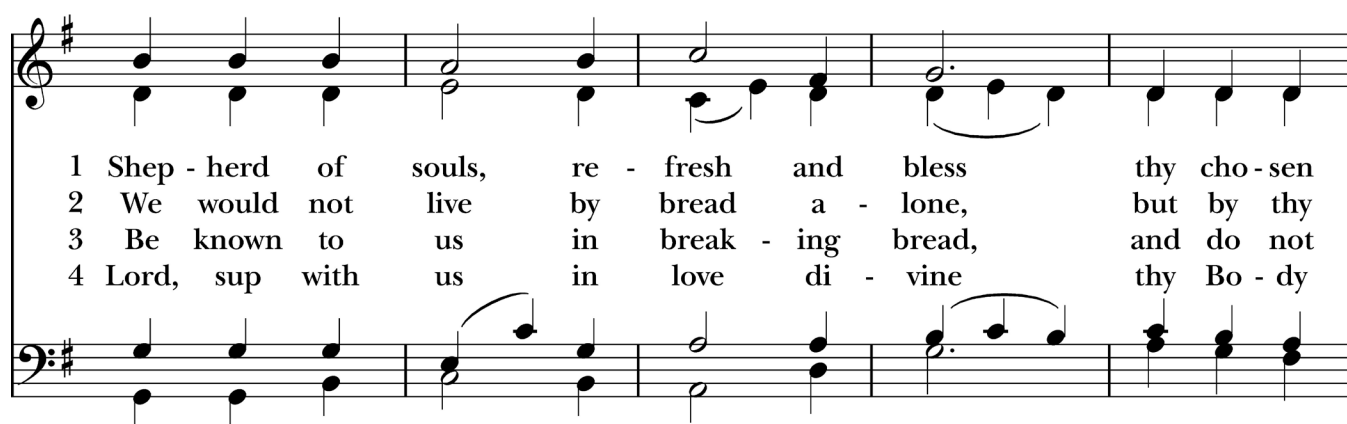
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

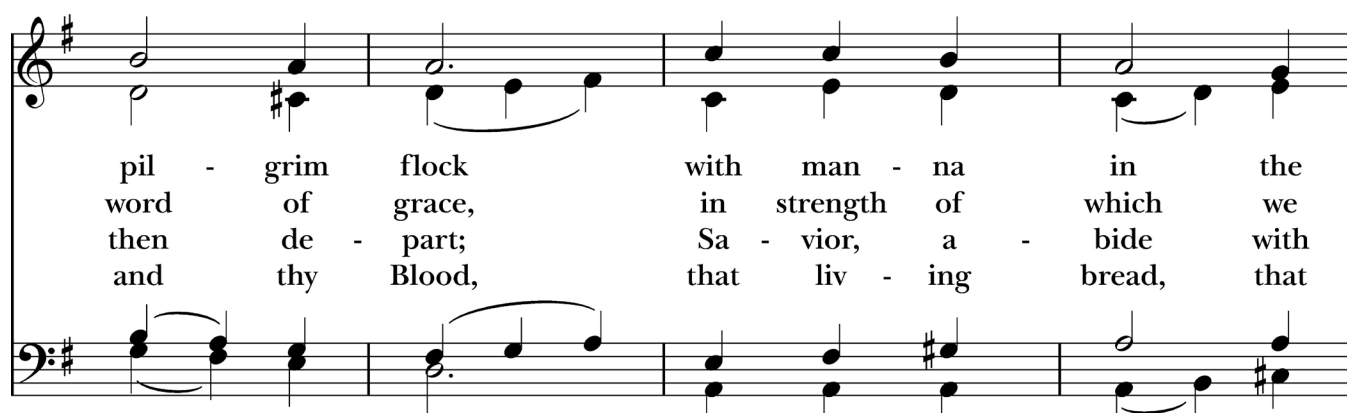
Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

The musical score is written for organ and voice. It consists of four staves of music in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The organ part is marked 'organ' and the vocal part is marked '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.' The organ part features a melodic line with a descending scale in the first staff, a series of eighth notes in the second staff, a series of eighth notes in the third staff, and a series of eighth notes in the fourth staff. The vocal part features a series of eighth notes in the first staff, a series of eighth notes in the second staff, a series of eighth notes in the third staff, and a series of eighth notes in the fourth staff.

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



1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy



pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that



wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

The people stand as able.

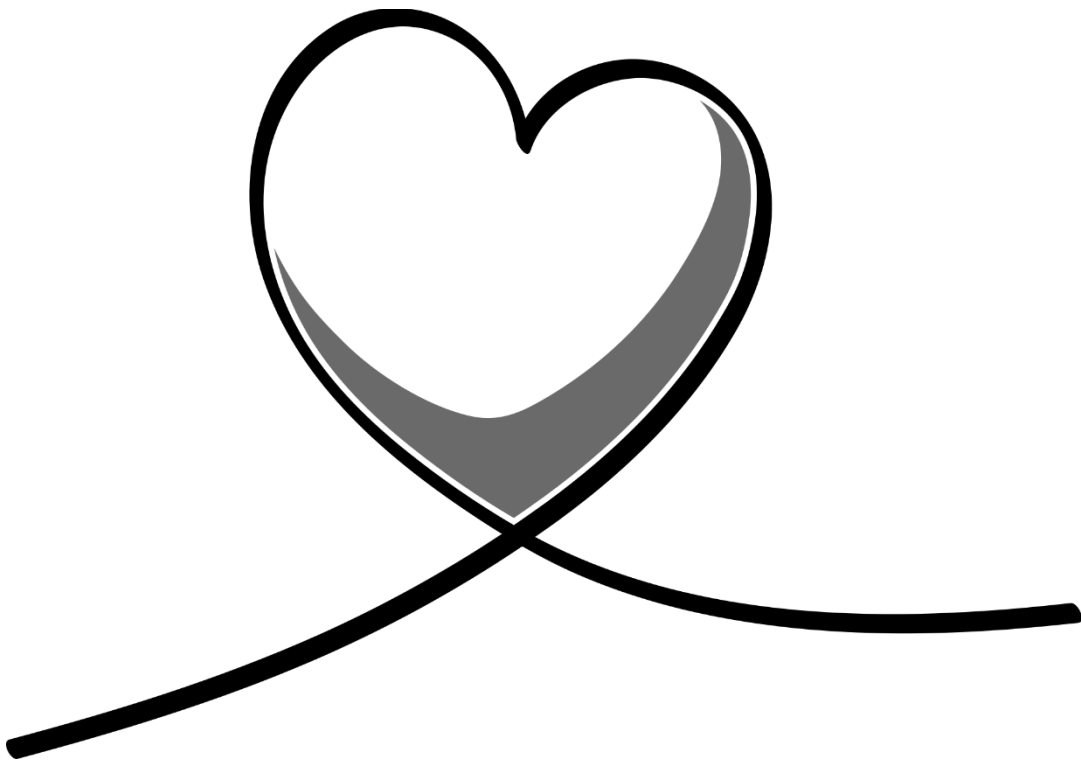
Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing |

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



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

The Dismissal |

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

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney

Ushers: Kayode & Onyx Williams, Yetti Lipede

Chalicerist: Dione Mahoney

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Robin Bradley

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Acolytes & Crucifer: Jonah Aribiah, James Mercer, Caleb McKenna

Chalicerist: Mary Vail

Altar Guild: Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah, Eileen Harlee

PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 24 – SEPTEMBER 30

Sunday, September 24

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
2:00 – 3:30 pm	Forrest Titcomb Memorial Service – New Brick, upper level
3:30 – 6:00 pm	Forrest Titcomb Repast – New Brick, lower level

Monday, September 25

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, September 26

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – Old Brick & Zoom

(continued)

Wednesday, September 27

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, September 28

8:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:00 – 7:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 8:30 pm AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, September 29

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 10:00 pm Health & Wellness Fair Setup – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, September 30

11:00 am – 3:00 pm Health & Wellness Fair – New Brick
2:00 – 3:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication, email communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Celebration of Life - Sunday Afternoon

A service celebrating the life of Forrest "Pete" Titcomb, long-time Christ Church parishioner and Columbia resident, will take place this Sunday afternoon. Please join us in the New Brick Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m., followed by a repast in the Great Hall. You can view Forrest's obituary [here](#).

Children & Youth Formation

We are looking forward to our program year! Children and Youth Formation is open to all ages pre-k through 12th grade and is designed to develop and enrich their spiritual lives and deepen their relationship with God. Visit our website for more details and registration form links - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/youth-formation - or email kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Annual Report Submissions

For our Annual Meeting, we publish and distribute the Christ Church Annual Report, which outlines the parish's activities and each of its ministries and share plans for the coming year. In order to do this, we ask that every leader or representative please write a few sentences or paragraphs about your ministry/group's past and coming years, and send them to Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can include them. If you have a special photo or photos you'd like us to include, send them, too. The deadline for submissions is Friday, October 6. Thank you.

Fall Cycling for Health and Fellowship - September 24

With the cooler weather upon us, Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn are coordinating autumn cycling trips that depart from CEC at a new time on Sundays. We now gather on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. after all three services have concluded, so join us with your bike to ride safely through our beautiful community. These trips will occur every week during the season, weather permitting. Please speak with or email Diane or Kevin at cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Centering Prayer - September 25

Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings for Centering Prayer, a special evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are; **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Office Assistance - September 27

If you help Aisha on Wednesday, September 27th at 10 a.m., please let her know or just come by the office that morning. We have a Stewardship mailing that needs to go into envelopes. Many thanks!

Thursday Healing Eucharist - September 28

Each Thursday at 12 noon, Christ Church offers midday worship in historic Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to join in a prayerful time as we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful chapel, the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

CEC Health and Wellness Fair - September 30

The Christ Church Health Ministry is hosting a Community Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, September 30th, on our campus. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day, many health-related tables, booths, and presentations will be available, and everyone's invited to take part. Some vendors and participants include specialists in Fitness, Massage, Yoga, Nutrition, Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy, Holistic Natural Stem Cell Technology, CPR Training, Health Screening, and Mental Health. Invite friends, families, and colleagues to learn more about how they can live well - and have a chance to win great gifts, too!

WOCC Upcoming Events

- **Monday, October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at The Corner Stable** - Join us for dinner and our monthly meeting.
- **Saturday, October 21st at 12 noon at Robinson Nature Center** - Come and walk with us on the trails and enjoy the beautiful fall colors!

The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for the year. We have as many events as we can scheduled on Saturdays so that more women can attend. Speak to any WOCC member or email WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org if you need more info.

First Wednesday Fellowship - October 4

First Wednesday Fellowship continues through the fall and winter, and we hope you'll spend each gathering with us! Join in the food, fun, and fellowship on the first Wednesday of each month. The next FWF is our Fall Festival on October 4th, so join us for delicious chili and take part in the making of caramel apples. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., and we would appreciate it if you would help defray the cost if you can; each meal costs about \$15 per person, and you can pay online using <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/give/parishlife> and writing "FWF" in the MEMO line. The entire FWF calendar is set for the remainder of 2023, and you can visit it on our website - <https://tinyurl.com/CEC-fwfschedule2023>

Saint Francis Sunday - October 8

The annual Christ Church Blessing of the Animals marks the Feast of Saint Francis. On Sunday, October 8th, bring your furry, feathered, or fuzzy friends - and your scaly or stuffed ones, too! Mother Marcia will bless all of the plushie pets at the 9 a.m. Family Worship, and we'll gather outside at 6 p.m. that evening for the blessing of our live creatures and critters, so be sure to bring them!

Christ Church's Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections - October 15

We will host our Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections on Sunday, October 15th. On this day, we will have only one service at 10:00 a.m. in New Brick, with a potluck lunch and Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections to follow. As has been our practice, we invite parishioners to donate meals for brunch on this day; we'll have sign-up sheets online and in the Narthex soon. Please be sure to join us on this day; since it's the day that we review our past year's ministries and activities while making plans for our leadership in the coming year, it's one of the most important gatherings of the year. The Vestry has approved the following candidates for election (in alphabetical order): Ron Baran, Diane Philips LaGuerre, Greg Schuckman, and Cherrylynn Williams. Backgrounds about these candidates will be published on our website soon.

Education for Ministry

Mother Marcia, a long-time mentor and teacher for Education For Ministry, is forming a new EFM group at CEC. Participants commit to the program on a yearly basis. EFM groups are lively, exciting places for new discovery and personal spiritual growth, so if you are interested in exploring and deepening your call to ministry in Christ's Body - the Church - then Education for Ministry provides a very strong foundation. The Diocese of Maryland is a sponsoring Diocese of EFM. You can also learn a bit more by [visiting the EFM website](#), and by speaking to Mother Marcia in church on Sundays. You can also email her at revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org and she'll answer any questions you may have. Scholarship support is available.

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

We want to thank those of you who have helped replenish the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The RDF typically helps fund - among many other things - rental assistance, gas and electric bill aid, financial support, mortgage assistance, and transportation needs. As you know, the needs of those in our community are always present - there are real people with real needs that we support on a consistent basis, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF in order for us to help our neighbors. [Visit our main Online Giving Form](#) and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

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

Altar Flowers and Gifts

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

It's Auction Time!

We're calling...

All buyers and sellers:

Unearth those treasures

Christ Church Auction needs your donations

There are only two weeks left to register your items

It's easy to do

October 8 is the deadline - on the website, or via email

Now is the time to give! Christ Church ministries will be the beneficiaries of your generosity.

Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/auction for links to register or donate, or email us to tell us about your donation item(s) at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org

Fall Food Drive on Saturday, Oct. 7th from 12-4 p.m. at Elkridge Giant Supermarket to Help Howard County Food Bank, SAFE Food Pantry

Be a part of the action as we hold the Christ Church Fall Food Drive at a local Giant supermarket. The goal: engage shoppers in collecting hundreds of pounds of non-perishable groceries for the Howard County Food Bank and for its partner, **SAFE Food Pantry** (SAFE).

Several of you have already signed the clipboard to take a shift of an hour or more (thank you!). Walk-ins and children are also welcome as Christ Church continues this hands-on, family-friendly activity that resumed last April after a pandemic hiatus. Choose a time between 12 noon and 4 p.m. at Elkridge Giant, 6020 Marshalee Drive, Elkridge, Md., 21075, located off MD Rt. 103 and MD Rt 100. For information, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Groceries collected during the drive will go to the food bank operated by the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC), and to SAFE, which provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income families and individuals.

The need among struggling households is great due to inflation and cuts to federal food assistance. Christ Church is a part of CAC's **Village of Supporters** at its Advocate Level, meaning that we contribute monetarily. To combat food insecurity, the Outreach Commission gave \$1,100 in April to pay for a week of milk and eggs at the food bank, \$250 in cash donations from the Spring Food Drive, and \$400 in the summer for a mobile food pantry, as described in the **Outreach Blog of Aug. 17, 2023**. A donation of \$750 in Vestry-approved funds goes to CAC this month in preparation for its Thanksgiving meal program coming in November.

As a result, Christ Church was recognized in signage at CAC's **2023 Holland Awards event** on Sept. 7, when the church was represented by Kiona Lookingbill, Director of Youth & Family Ministries, and her husband, Josiah, and by Vestry and Outreach Commission member Diane Phillips LaGuerre and her co-leader of Cycling for Health and Fellowship, Kevin Osborn.

Please Help Emilio to Hear as Outreach Continues Our Fundraiser for a Young Man Who Has Been a Somos Amigos Patient Since Boyhood

On Sept. 10, the Outreach Commission launched an effort to help a patient of **Somos Amigos Medical Missions**, which offers medical and dental care at its clinic in the Dominican Republic. Sometimes its patients need advanced care or their condition involves medical expenses beyond what Somos Amigos can provide.

That's the case with Emilio, 23, who has been a patient since 2009 when he was an 8-year-old boy. His congenital hearing loss greatly limits his prospects for a fulfilling life. "We learned from the audiologist that high-quality hearing aids could make a huge difference in the young man's life, allowing him to socialize in ways he has never experienced,

and perhaps even more importantly, with corrected hearing, he might be able to find work to eventually support himself and a family,” said Somos Amigos Executive Director Frank Brightwell.

Specialists recommended hearing aids for both ears that with accessories and fittings would cost approximately \$3,500. Of that amount, the Outreach Commission is seeking to raise \$750 in parishioners’ donations. In mid-summer, the Outreach Commission voted to donate \$1,000 in vestry-approved budget funds, in keeping with our mission of supporting worthy nonprofits that are local, national, and international. In addition, Somos Amigos supporters at Christ Church donated \$1,750, leaving a balance of \$750.

Please help. You can put cash in an envelope marked “Somos Amigos” into the collection plate. Write a check to Christ Church with “Somos Amigos” on the memo line; put it in the Sunday collection plate or mail it to the office. Or you can **go online to Realm**, click “Outreach” in the drop-down menu, and put “Somos Amigos” in the comment line.

Some of you have responded since Outreach member and Somos Amigos volunteer Dione Mahoney launched the effort with her personal remarks. Thank You! Both Dione and Jim Mahoney plan to depart on Saturday, Oct. 7 for the fall clinic. With your help, they will be able to bring with them a check from Christ Church to improve Emilio’s ability to hear.

Columbia Community Care Seeks Baby Care Items, More Volunteers

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by donating items or volunteering. Choose tasks such as translating to enable home deliveries or sorting at the pantry. Check the **CCC Facebook Group** or go to the **“I Can Help” portion of its website**.

Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put any of these in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

DreamBuilders Spaghetti Dinner & Auction is Back!

After three years without DreamBuilders spaghetti, we know you are eager to get a plate full! Spaghetti is back on the menu at Temple Isaiah on Saturday, October 14th, from 5-8 p.m. We’ll be hosting our silent auction at the same time, and we could use your participation. We’ve got two mission trips to fund, including blitz builds, and local projects, too. This is DB's biggest fundraiser, and we’re looking for both donations and help at the auction. And our favorite Christ Church band, Small Delusions, will perform the dinner music! Visit **DreamBuildersmd.org** for more information, or talk to Stacey Frith and Cathy Gold. See you at the dinner!

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

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill their shopping lists. Please put items in a basket that has been returned to the altar. Or drop them in the yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

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.



Leaves

At the first international student orientation at Yale University, I met a student from Kenya who had graduated from Hampshire College that May, and was enrolled as a PhD student in Anthropology. We became friends and would talk about any and all things. One Friday afternoon, I received a text message inquiring if I could do a favor. "What kind of favor?" I asked.

"I have some belongings at Hampshire College, and would appreciate it if you could drive me up there to pick them up."

"Sure, why not?" was my response, as I hadn't been to Massachusetts before and I thought that it would be exciting to drive up there.

We headed to Amherst the next morning, and after loading all the belongings in my car, we decided to tour the area - remember, this was my first visit to the state of Massachusetts. The reason I tell this story is that I simply couldn't believe the sheer beauty of the autumn leaves, some of which covered the trees and some of which covered the landscape. I was completely enthralled.

If I had been there a few weeks earlier, I wonder if I wouldn't have encountered such beauty, such grace - creation can be graceful, and it can be beautiful. "Life is beautiful," I said to myself as we walked around Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Indeed, leaves do change color. And that was the first time that I had seen anything like it - it was the first time I beheld creation in this enthralling beauty. It is this same beauty that I see in you, and it is this beauty that provides me with more than enough hope to say "YES" to life. I say yes to life in all circumstances; not that there aren't rough patches - there are countless of them - but we say "YES" to life in spite of them.

I write today's piece with a dear friend in mind and, in fact, in his honor. It is my prayer that he lives long enough to read it. But even if he doesn't get to read it himself, I hope that someone will read it to him or read it for him. It has been a rough few days for him, and hearing him make reference to leaves reminded me of the words of Jesus in Matthew:

"And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God

so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

This text spills out an incredible amount of hope - hope in the one person with whom we can lay our burdens. And if we trust this person to assume our burdens, hold on to those burdens, and carry them, as well, why would we worry if those beautiful leaves change color and still light up our world?

One of my favorite authors is Viktor Frankl. Frankl believed he survived the holocaust by a combination of chance, choice, and character. But he lost his mother, father, and brother to mass murder in the concentration camps. In spite of the horrific nature of the holocaust, Frankl still believed in human dignity. He believed in the fact that in spite of the often colorless nature of leaves, there is yet meaning to life.

What amazes me about Frankl is his absolute dedication to the belief in life's meaning. There is meaning to life and that meaning is derived by the beautiful responsibility we place on ourselves. Life has never been about one thing, good or bad. To focus on one thing is to miss the point of life. The overall beauty of life lies in its complexities - which, ironically, provide the meaning we seek.

If you pay close attention to life itself, you can trace the markings of the divine over all of life. The truth is that it doesn't have to be pretty to feel divine presence nor does it have to be horrendous to feel that divine presence. In all situations, we can feel that abiding presence.

That is why Frankl, in spite of the horror of the holocaust, couldn't give up on life, the joy of being alive, or the divine. Life is full of meaning - that is why we still say "YES" to life, in spite of it. Life is full of meaning, and that is why a tiny little light in the midst of life's darkness still inspires hope.

In one of his books, "Yes to Life," Frankl wrote these beautiful words:

"Death is a meaningful part of life, just like human suffering. Both do not rob the existence of human beings of meaning but make it meaningful in the first place. Thus, it is precisely the uniqueness of our existence in the world, the irretrievability of our lifetime, the irrevocability of everything with which we fill it — or leave unfulfilled — that gives our existence significance. But it is not only the uniqueness of an individual life as a whole that gives it importance, it is also the uniqueness of every day, every hour, every moment that represents something that loads our existence with the weight of a terrible and yet so beautiful responsibility!"

What beautiful responsibility do you have?

I held his hand this morning, and as I listened to all the beautiful stories he's made with his family, I learned that one of his favorite quotes is ***"It's gonna be all right."*** Yes, it will be all right, because we choose to say "YES" to life, in spite of the color of the leaves. We say "YES," in spite of this.

Leaves grow. Leaves fade before they fall. Leaves may not even fade before they fall, but all leaves fall, nonetheless. In spite of that, we still grow and nurture trees that make beautiful leaves. The fact that the leaves fall does not stop us, and life's darkness shouldn't stop us either.

From this day, every time I see a leaf, be it on a tree, falling from a tree, or on the ground, whether it is green or has changed color, I will remember you, Charlie. You are always a beautiful leaf.

Manny+



STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE

Stewardship is our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship reflects our commitment to making God's love known through the realities of human life and our use of all that God has given us. It is also our service to God's world and our care of creation.

We want to thank YOU.

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness.

Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org**

**Thank you very much for your support
of our vital common life.**



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

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

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

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