



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | Second Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus asks us “what are you looking for?”
and we respond, “where are you staying?”

Are we really asking can we find a home
with you? Are we worthy enough? Does it
matter what we have done and where
we've come from? Can we be in
relationship with you?

***“Come
and see!”***

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
John 1:29-42

Welcome Home!

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

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

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

Thank you to
Phil Bray, Jan DeBoissiere, JB Hanson, Diane Phillips-Laguerre, and Shannon Pruitt for leading our music today!

PRELUDE | Blowin in the Wind

Bob Dylan

OPENING HYMN 599 | Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

Introduction

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The first staff begins with a single note followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff begins with a single note followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The third staff begins with a single note followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring, ring with the
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, thou who hast

har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise
days when hope un - born had died; yet, with a stead - y beat,
brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might

high as the lis - tening skies; let it re - sound loud as the
have not our wea - ry feet come to the place for which our
led us in - to the light; keep us for ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for

brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new
 slaug - tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we
 get thee; sha-dowed be -neath thy hand may we for

day be - gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 ev - er stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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**

GLORIA |

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, **AMEN**.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever..**Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 49:1-7

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God."

(continued)

And now the Lord says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
 and my God has become my strength--

he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Thus says the Lord,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
 the slave of rulers,

“Kings shall see and stand up,
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

because of the Lord, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 40:1-12 | *Expectans, expectavi*

I waited patiently upon the Lord; *
 he stooped to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
 he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; *
 many shall see, and stand in awe,
 and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are they who trust in the Lord! *
 they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

(continued)

Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
there is none who can be compared with you.

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
but they are more than I can count.

In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
(you have given me ears to hear you);

Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
and so I said, "Behold, I come.

In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
**'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart."**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
**behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.**

Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

You are the Lord;
do not withhold your compassion from me; *
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

THE EPISTLE | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Reader: *A reading from 1 Corinthians.*

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS 106 | Precious Lord

Thomas Dorsey

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws

1. stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
2. near, When my life is al - most gone;
3. near, And the day is past and gone;

1. — Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
2. — Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand, lest I
3. — At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

1. light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
2. fall, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
3. hand, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.

THE GOSPEL | John 1:29-42

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,
Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that
mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Intercessor: In this time of Epiphany, of revelation, You reassure us, Lord. You remind us that we are strong in You and that You are present with us in all times and all places. In the song of the psalmist, the testimony of Paul, and the witness of John the Baptist, our path is made clear. We pray that with sure steps we may follow Jesus, saying: "**My cause is with the Lord.**"

Tomorrow, we commemorate the life and the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man of non-violence and peace. We pray that all people may live a life of freedom and dignity as children of our loving God. We ask for the courage to follow Dr. King's example and live lives of conviction, of spirit, and of faith in the pursuit of justice and peace in our community and in the world. Here us, Lord, as we pray: "**Let me be a light and a blessing to others.**"

We trust in you, O Lord, to guide our spiritual leaders as they strive to proclaim Your truth in word and deed: our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. In the Anglican communion, we pray for Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for: St. George's, Mt. Savage, St. James Chapel, Hagerstown, and St. John's, Frostburg. We also ask that Your Spirit may move all government leaders to strive for peace and justice in these troubled times. We ask for an end to violence and fear and that it be replaced with listening and understanding. We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers who join us today in this house of worship. May you be

renewed in spirit and strengthened in your faith journey as we pray together. We lift up our voices saying: **"I love to do Your will, O my God: Your law is deep in my heart."**

We pray for all those who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit and those who care for them, especially Kimberly, Steve, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. We remember those who have entered the home of their heavenly Father, especially Momodu Sonii & David Attoe, and those you now name. Strengthen their loved ones and surround them with Your love in their time of grieving. We pray: **"You are the Lord, let Your love and Your faithfulness comfort us."**

We are thankful for the many joyful occasions we celebrate in our lives. Today, we mark the birthdays of Brian, Brian, Johanna, Preethi, Sam, Harolyn, Hao, Cindy, Olabisi & Cindy, baptismal anniversary of Nick, and wedding anniversary of Rachelle & Stuart Work. With grateful hearts, we say: **"Great things are they that You have done, O Lord my God!"**

Lord, as we begin this week of work and study, help us to remember these words of your servant, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." In Jesus Name we pray. **AMEN**

Intercressor: We invite your personal petitions & thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

CONCLUDING COLLECT |

CONFESSON & ABSOLUTION |

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

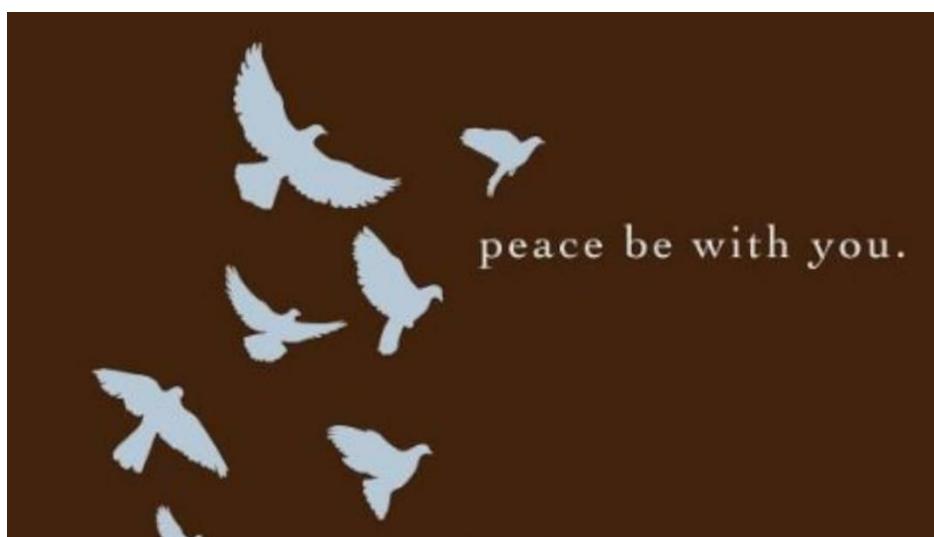
All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your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

THE PEACE |

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

People: **And also with you.**

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



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM MHSO 151 | Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller & Jill Jackson

Please scan to give.



3

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be -
 Let peace begin with me, let this be the

3

gin with me; Lct there be peace on
 mo - ment now. With ev' - ry step on I

2

2nd time to Coda

earth, the peace that was meant to be, With
 take, let this be my sol - emn vow: To

2

God as cre - a - tor, bro - thers and sis - ters are

2

we, _____ Let us walk with each other _____

— in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____

Coda

take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e -

ter - nal - ly. _____ Let there be peace on

earth and let it be - gin with me. _____

DOXOLOGY 380 vs 3 |

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

Old 100th



THE HOLY COMMUNION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...
Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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

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

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

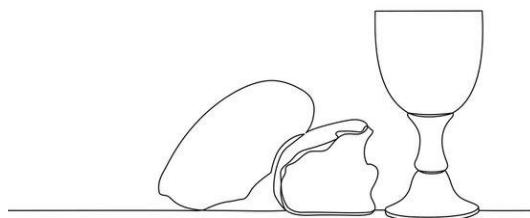
Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE FRACTION |

Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us



COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS 151 | One Bread, One Body

John B. Foley

S

One bread, one body,

one Lord of all, one cup of

blessing which we bless. And we, though

man-y, through-out the earth, We are one

bod-y in this one Lord.

Last time

15

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
 2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the
 3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free, wom - an or man,
 2. works, one in the Lord.
 3. grown, gath - ered to one

D.S.

1. — no more. One
 2. — of all. One
 3. — for all. One

D.S.

⊕ CODA

Lord.

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

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

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen

CLOSING HYMN LEVAS 227 | We Shall Overcome

Spiritual, arr. Carl Haywood



We shall o - ver - come,____ We shall o - ver - come,____

We shall o - ver - come some - day;____ Oh,____

deep in my heart,____ I do be - lieve,____ (Oh)

1.-4. 5. ____

We shall o - ver - come some - day.____ day.

2. We'll walk hand in hand, today.
3. God is on our side, today.
4. We are not afraid, today.
5. We shall live in peace, someday.

THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicist: Joan Harvey
Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey
Ushers: Jo Emily Knox

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes : Shreya Chrzanowski, Daniel Jackson, Lucinda Hart

Chalicist: Cheryl Luente
Lector/Reader: Robin Bradley
Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild:

Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah

Tellers:

Brian Farnandis, Diana Hall

PARISH CALENDAR JANUARY 18 –24, 2026

Sunday, January 18

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am	Family Worship – New Brick, UL
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
1:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Sundays @ 3 Concert – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, January 19

All Day	Office Closed
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

(continued)

Tuesday, January 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Yoga Camp – Online
7:30 – 9:30 pm	300Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Theology on Tap (ToT) – Frisco & the Reckless Shepherd Brewing Co.

Thursday, January 22

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Yoga Camp – Online
6:30 – 9:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, January 23

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, January 24

10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Winter Exercise Group – New Brick, LL
11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Weems GCMTA Recitals – New Brick, UL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

LENTEN MEDITATION BOOKLET

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY



INFO @ CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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

Our Special Sunday Circle Series Continues - *Pilgrimage to Alabama*

This past spring, the Bishop of Maryland led a pilgrimage to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Alabama, and participants visited some of the historic places that shaped and inspired the Civil Rights movement in our country. Two of those pilgrims, parishioners Jan DeBoissiere and Kathy Simms, will share stories of their incredible experiences. This Sunday, Kathy shares her experience, so we hope you'll grab a cup of coffee and gather with us at Old Brick, or join us virtually via Zoom; those details were in yesterday's email.

Have You Sent in Your 2026 Lenten Meditation Booklet Submission?

For nearly 25 years, Christ Church has been publishing an annual Lenten Meditation Booklet and distributing it to our parishioners on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The LMB is created with love and designed to assist us all in times of quiet contemplation, preparing ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. Poems, quotes, stories of reflection, images, prayers, and inspirational pieces by writers or theologians - they all come together to make up this special booklet - one that you can take home with you and use each day throughout the season. The 2026 Spiritual Life Theme is *Building Relationships through Love*, and you can learn more on our website's SLC page - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-life-commission.

To accomplish the LMB in time, we must have all submissions in by Sunday, February 1, so we can edit and publish this work in physical and digital form, the latter of which is viewed by many thousands of individuals worldwide throughout Lent. That gives us less than one month for submissions, so please don't delay. You can submit these by name or anonymously - your choice. If you need help getting started, visit christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations and check out past reflections. Submit yours by email to SL@christchurchcolumbia.org or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church Office. Questions? Speak with Ellen Hoke at church or email the address above.

Christ Church's 2026 Pledge Envelopes are Here

For those who have requested or need them, 2026 pledge envelopes are now available in New Brick. Please stop by the table in the Tower Room (front entrance) of the Narthex at church on Sunday to collect yours. This will help us save postage from sending them. Thank you. Of course, you can also set up safe and secure online giving if you haven't already. Email info@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we'll send you instructions on how to do so.

Book Club Returns - Tuesday, January 20

The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that decides on a book and discusses it as a group, offering different perspectives and experiences. The first book of the 2026 season will be *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington since 2011. It's a fairly brief read; we'll tackle and discuss a chapter or two each week.

We've also moved it to a new night to accommodate more participant's schedules - in 2026, the CECBC will gather via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. beginning January 20th. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 853 4359 7339, and the Passcode is CECBC. You don't have to register ahead of time; just grab the book, and join us to discuss the first two chapters next Tuesday evening. If you have any questions, email us at bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org. We hope to see some new faces along with many familiar ones!

Theology on Tap is Back! - January 21

That's right - Theology on Tap, our much-loved fellowship event, returns for 2026, and in January, it'll take place on Wednesday, January 21st. If you are not familiar with Theology on Tap, this is a time where adults gather for fellowship in a casual, fun environment. This season, we'll meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd for great food, drink, and conversation.

Topics can range from current to historical events; nothing is off the table - we welcome all ideas - and everything should inspire lively, insightful dialogue. All adults are welcome and encouraged to join us, and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends as well. If you have any questions, speak to Ed Chrzanowski or any MOCC member at church, and then meet up at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia for a fun evening!

Friday Film Fellowship – January 23

The next film screening is *God's Not Dead 2* ([trailer](#)) on Friday, January 23, at 7 p.m., in the Church Office (Parish Hall) building's lower level. Bring movie munchies (or pastries on Saturday!) to share with others!

Claggett Center Retreats

Next February, the Diocese of Maryland will host two retreats at the Claggett Center to gather and connect, and to form new friendships and nurture old ones. First, from January 30 - February 1 is a men's retreat, *What Does It Mean to Be a Man in 2026? How Can Men Find and Make Community Now?* and later that month, from February 20-22, is a women's retreat, *Who Is My Neighbor? Loving All in Divided Times*. Both are filled with workshops and keynote speakers, and aim to leave participants connected, cared for, and inspired. Registration information, event details, and other information can be found on the Diocese website - visit [here](#) for the men's retreat and [here](#) for the women's weekend.

Wear RED for Heart Health – February 8

Wear your favorite red on Sunday, February 8th, in support of National Heart Health Month. This is an important awareness event, as heart disease remains a leading killer in the country - yet studies show that 80% of cases can be prevented. Five steps to help prevent a heart attack are 1) eat healthily, 2) get active, 3) stop smoking, 4) achieve a healthy weight, and 5) take medications as prescribed.

Come to church that day in your favorite red items, and be sure to email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org a photo of you in red so he can include you in the 2026 *Wear Red for Heart Health* photo collage on our website and social media later that week.

Nourish Your Spirit with *Divine Love* - February 14

As we begin the new year, consider taking a break from the chaos and treating yourself to a peaceful morning in a soul-nurturing community. The 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN) provides opportunities for us to be in a closer relationship with God by offering an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit. Programs for February center on the theme *Divine Love*, and details will be available very soon on our website www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 17

The incredible youth of Christ Church will once again host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! On February 17th, join us in the Great Hall of New Brick for this traditional start to the Lenten season. We begin gathering at 6:00 p.m., and seating is available until 7:30 p.m. Grab some delicious pancakes and treats as lively music plays and kids enjoy fun and games. It is \$15. for an individual and \$25. for a family, and you can pay using cash or by using our [Online Giving Form](#) (choose "Shrove Tuesday Dinner" in the FUND dropdown menu).

Ash Wednesday Services - February 18

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality and of what we are made of. To get our thoughts and ourselves ready and prepared for Lent, Christ Church offers three services with the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 18th. Gather with us at 7:00 a.m. in Old Brick, or in New Brick at 12:00 noon or 7:30 p.m. We'll also livestream the 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. services on our website, YouTube, and Facebook pages.

Ashes to Go also returns, an opportunity for working commuters, students, and early risers to stop by and receive ashes as they start their day. We will offer a short prayer and administer Ashes to those who cannot be with us in worship that morning, but who desire them. Simply stop by between 6 and 7 a.m. and follow the *Ashes to Go* signs on the lawn.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

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. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evenings

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick, and everyone is welcome to take part. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs! If you're interested, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Make "A Healthier You in 2026" Happen – Saturdays in January

We all know that it's the time of year when we make New Year's resolutions - and we also know how difficult it can be to maintain them - so let's try and make it a little easier to do so. Jane Adams, Christ Church parishioner and certified instructor, will be teaching a basic exercise class at Christ Church this month, a way to comfortably and safely get your body accustomed to a path of fitness and good health. She will provide resistance bands and all other accessories needed for this hour-long session; all you need to do is wear comfortable sportswear and sneakers, and bring a bottle of water.

Gather with us this Saturday morning at 10:30 in the Great Hall (lower level) of New Brick, and get started on the road to exercise under the guidance of a professional who can help you listen to and respect your body's sensations, adjusting your practice without forcing it. With regular exercise, your physical and mental abilities will naturally and steadily improve.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others. None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org. For Inreach, please email inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org (or visit their website page). If you're interested in assisting elsewhere, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thanks!

Read to Our Sunday School Children

Do you love sharing stories and reading? Did you know that we have volunteers who read a Bible story to our youngest children in the nursery? We can always use more, and we welcome anyone - young, or young at heart - to participate in this ministry. We have books and children's Bibles, or you can bring your favorite story to share. There is no preparation needed;

you can do it as often or as little as you wish, and it only takes ten minutes on a Sunday morning. If you are interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jenn Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net or speak with any Sunday School volunteer.

Grassroots Expresses Gratitude for Support by Christ Church

Christ Church parishioners regularly brighten the lives of our homeless neighbors who rely on the Day Resource Center (DRC) in Jessup, pitching in personally in ways that go beyond cooking and serving our monthly midday meal. Some make substantial purchases for its pantry and donate gently-used clothing, especially outerwear. The latest gifts even included a hand-knit hat.

Recently the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, which operates the DRC and two other facilities, expressed hearty thanks in a couple of ways. In a Jan. 6 post on its Facebook page, Grassroots said, "Thank you for your support" while outlining an astounding number of recent services provided by the DRC, which is located at the Leola Dorsey Resource Center. "In December, we gave away more than 16,000 food and clothing items! We provide free hot meals, showers, laundry, access to housing and social services, case management, support through a food and clothing pantry and other resources." In its Facebook story post, the center enumerated: 1441 visits, 436 guests, an average of 120 people served daily, 282 showers, 277 loads of laundry, and distribution of 15,759 food items, 515 pairs of underwear, 282 shirts, 111 hats, 730 pairs of socks, 59 pairs of shoes/boots, 138 pairs of pants, 104 sweatshirts, 48 coats, 61 scarves, and 105 pairs of gloves. All that was accomplished with the help of 168 volunteers who put in 767 hours.

As you may recall, Christ Church paid for some of those things, spending nearly \$500 in November and December on men's new and gently used clothing, as described in the Outreach Blog of Dec. 23, 2025. The Outreach Commission also approved a monetary donation of \$500 to Grassroots for its various services in Howard County. These funds were derived from parishioners' giving to the church.

Here's an expression of gratitude that's meant for you: "Your contribution makes a difference in the lives of those we serve," wrote Dr. Mariana Izraelson, executive director of Grassroots, in her letter of Dec. 30, 2025. "Grassroots is there for our community members during a crisis situation. Your gift helps provide mental health crisis counseling, emergency shelter, and access to our food pantry. Thank you for your support of our programs and services."

We heard about the comprehensive nature of those programs on Sept. 21, when a Grassroots representative spoke on the theme of Generosity at Sunday Circle. For a recap of the presentation by Anna Katz, Grassroots director of grants and support, go to the Outreach Blog of Oct. 9, 2025.

Food Truck Event on Jan. 31 Will Support Hurricane Relief in Jamaica

The charitable arm of Althea's Almost Famous food truck and catering company has partnered with Howard County government to host a drive for hurricane relief during a food truck event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31. The location is outside the Howard County building at 9755 Patuxent Woods Dr., Columbia, MD 21044.

Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products. These will be sent to communities impacted by Hurricane Melissa, which struck the Caribbean in late October.

A post by Althea Hanson, the caterer's proprietor, was shared by leaders of Columbia Community Care (CCC) on CCC's Facebook page: "After the recent hurricane, families in Jamaica lost homes, food and basic necessities. Many are still experiencing an incredibly hard time – emotionally, financially, and physically. Recovery is ongoing, and the need is still real," she said.

Christ Church through the Outreach Commission donated a total of \$700 for hurricane relief in Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean, as described in the Outreach Blog of Dec. 11, 2025.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipedé, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

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