

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Jazz Eucharist | First Sunday after Christmas

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, December 31, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.



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!

Today's service is a Jazz Eucharist with music provided by the Leister Quartet.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far and
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

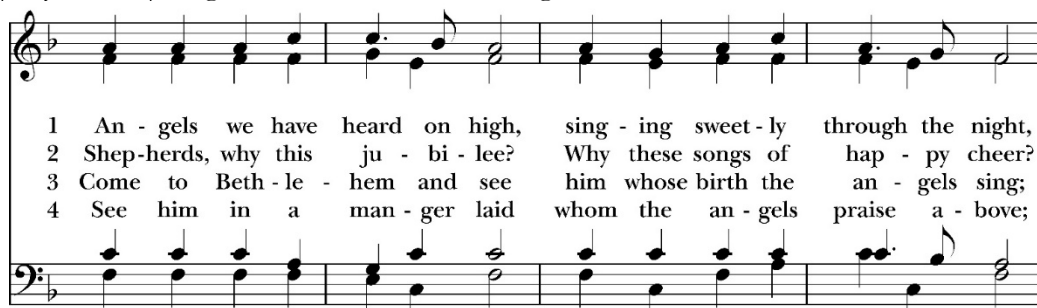
heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

Opening Acclamation |

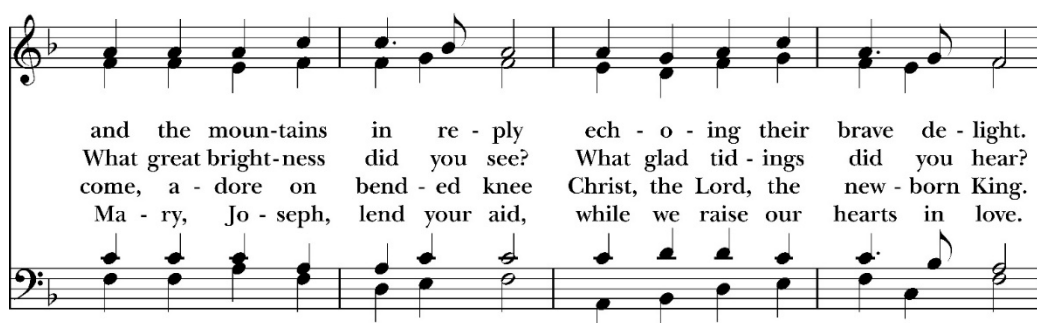
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**
 Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
 Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People: **One God and Father of all.**

Song of Praise | Hymn 96 | Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

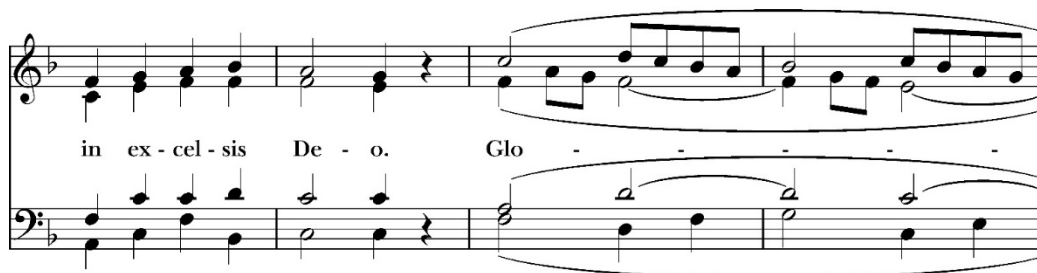


and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

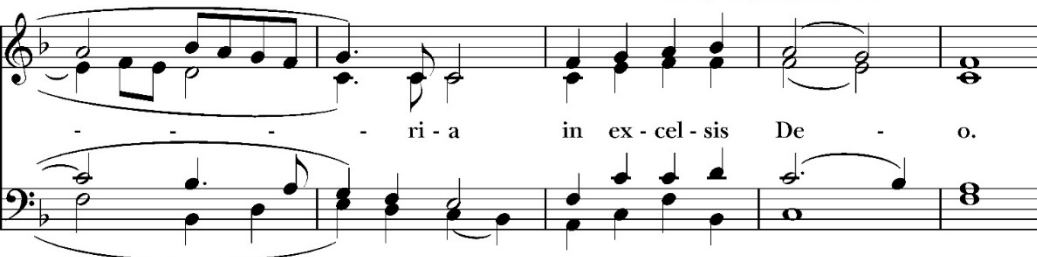
Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Isaiah 61:10-62:3 |

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

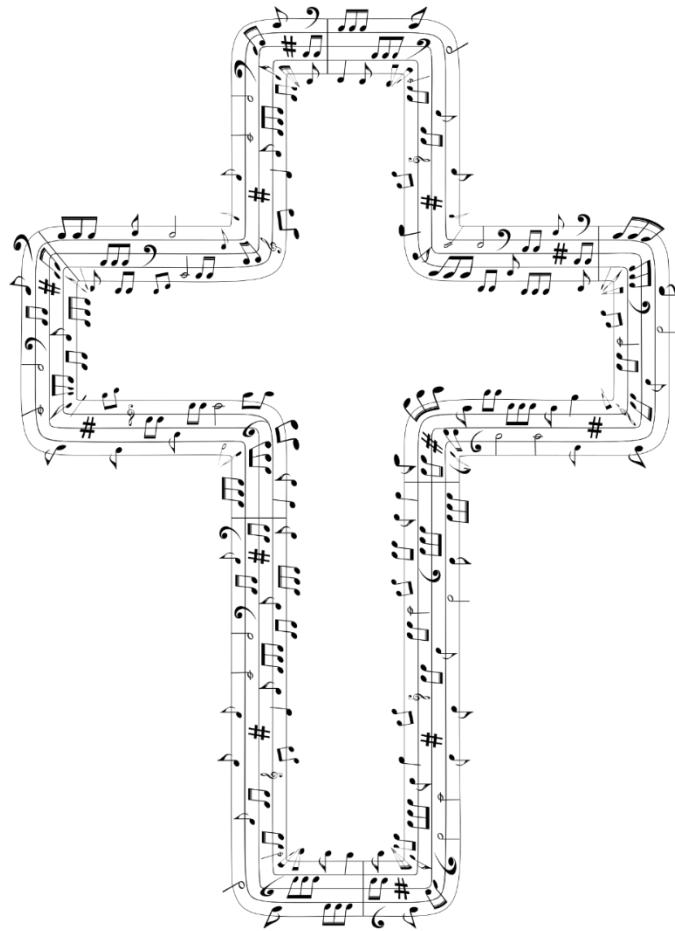
Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 147:13-21 | *Laudate Dominum*

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!





1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain
 O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and
 joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

A Reading from Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 |

Reader: A reading from the Epistle to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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 87 | Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

continued

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

HOLY BAPTISM

The Presentation and Examination of the Candidate |

Celebrant: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents: I present *Janiab Catherine Marina Ngong* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children:

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the Spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce all the sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

I do.

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

I do.

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

I do.

The celebrant then addresses the congregation:

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in her life in Christ?

People: **We will.**

Celebrant: Let us join with Janiah who is committing herself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant |

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidate |

Celebrant: Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Intercessor: Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Open her heart to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Keep her the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Send her into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed

by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Baptism |

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who pours water upon the candidate, saying:

Celebrant: Janiah, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The celebrant continues:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the candidates' heads, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying:

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We receive you into the household of God.
Confess the faith of Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

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 | O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Doxology Hymn 82 (v. 4) |

Divinum mysterium

Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanks giv - ing, and un - wea - ried
prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - ion,
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!—

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

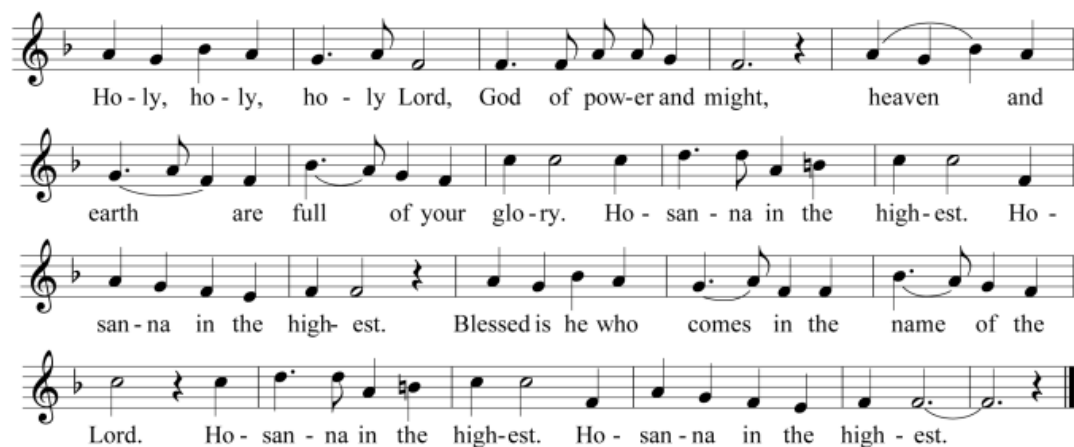
***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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:



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.

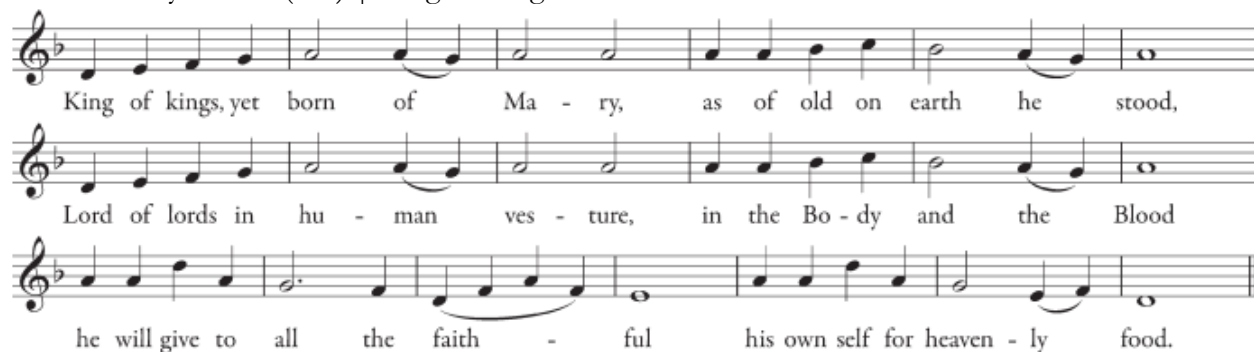
The Breaking of the Bread |

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

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem Hymn 324 (v. 2) | King of King

Picardy



Communion Song | Go Tell it on the Mountain

Spiritual

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 blesses the People, who respond Amen.

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it
 3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it

Oh

1. shine, This lit - tle light of mine,
 2. shine, Ev - 'ry - where I go,
 3. shine, Je - sus gave it to me,

Oh

1. I'm gon - na let it shine; This lit - tle light of
 2. I'm gon - na let it shine; Ev - 'ry - where I
 3. I'm gon - na let it shine; Je - sus gave it to

Oh

1. mine, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it
 2. go, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it
 3. me, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it

Oh

1. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 2. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 3. shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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

Postlude | There Will Never Be Another You

PARISH CALENDAR

DECEMBER 31 TO JANUARY 6

Sunday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
10:30 am	Jazz Eucharist – 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
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, January 1 – New Year’s Day – Office Closed

10:00 am	New Year’s Day Service – New Brick, upper level
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Tuesday, January 2 – Office Closed

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
1:30 – 3:30 pm	WOCC Meeting – New Brick, lower level & Zoom
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 yr Race & Slavery Committee – Zoom

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, January 4

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, January 5

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, January 6

2:00 pm	AA Meeting, Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

New Year's Day - January 1

Celebrating the first morning of the New Year is always special, so join us at 10 a.m. in New Brick for Holy Eucharist and a ringing in of the new year.

Church Office Closed

Christ Church's office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, January 1st and 2nd, in observance of New Year's Day. If you need anything during these times, please email info@christchurchcolumbia.org or call Father Manny, and we'll get back to you.

WOCC Meeting - January 2

The Women of Christ Church will have their first meeting of 2024 at a new date and time. We'll gather this month on Tuesday, January 2nd at 1:30 p.m. so join either in person in the lower level of New Brick or virtually on Zoom, and learn about the plans for the coming year. **The Zoom link is HERE**, the Meeting ID is **843 0204 4790**, and the Passcode is **cecWOCC**.

First Wednesday Fellowship - January 3

The inaugural FWF for 2024 will ring in the New Year in style, with a community potluck dinner and games of all sorts! This is also the only FWF we have until after Lent and Easter, so be sure to join us and unwind for a few hours after the holiday madness subsides. Please bring a dish that your family typically enjoys, and share your holiday stories! As mentioned, this will be the only FWF gathering until the spring, but we're still very busy! We hope that you will attend the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13th and the Wednesday Lenten Supper Series throughout late February and March. Stay tuned for more on those gatherings in the new year.

CEC Book Club - January 11

Christ Church's Book Club decided to take a break this month to focus on Advent and Christmas. We'll return in the new year and meet for about an hour or so on Friday evenings to discuss a chapter or two of our current book. The CECBC is always welcoming new people into our group, so if this sounds like something you might enjoy, give it a shot! Email Ellen Hoke at bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Parish Budget Meeting for 2024 - January 14

On Sunday, January 14th, we encourage everyone to join us right after the 10:30 service for Christ Church's 2024 Budget Meeting. It's a vital part of our common life process each year and we hope you'll attend so we can all see how our gifts are to be used throughout the parish. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **863 3493 0960**, and the Password is **CECBudget**.

Theology on Tap - January 16

The first ToT gathering of 2024 takes place on Tuesday, January 14th at Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd in Columbia. Come and join us around 7:15 p.m. for informal discussion about relevant topics of the day. Engaging, peaceful banter is our aim, and we always welcome new folks to our group!

MOCC Monthly Breakfast - January 20

The Men of Christ Church will gather at a new location for their first MOCC Breakfast of 2024. Everyone is welcome to eat with us at IHOP in Columbia on Saturday, January 20th at 9:30 a.m. The address is 8825 Centre Park Dr, Columbia, MD.

Bible Studies and Lunch - February 7

Christ Church will offer Bible Studies beginning on February 7, 2024. This Bible Study series will explore the Lectionary Readings for each coming Sunday. The class will meet in the Conference Room in the Parish House and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Bible Study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by the clergy and/or postulants of the parish.

Christ Church Donates \$600 to Help DreamBuilders Prepare for Puerto Rico Trip

Two parishioners will represent Christ Church on the next DreamBuilders (DB) trip to rebuild and repair housing destroyed during a natural disaster. Cathy Gold and Amanda Kirkpatrick will be in a group going to Puerto Rico from Sunday, Jan. 14 to Jan. 20.

After Hurricane Maria ripped through Puerto Rico in 2017, it left hundreds who still live in damaged homes or crowded in with relatives until housing can be made livable. DreamBuilders will be making its fourth trip to work with SBP-Puerto Rico on repairs.

On the third trip to the island last January, Gold led the Christ Church contingent as its representative to DreamBuilders, accompanied by Seminarian Mike Looney and The Rev. Denise Schiavone (see photos). Deacon Denise wrote about it in a blog, "What is Your Destiny?" on Jan. 19, 2023.

Christ Church is one of five interfaith partners in DreamBuilders, which offers multi-generational experiences to the congregations' youth groups and adults. The summer trip next June will be a return to a part of Kentucky that had been devastated by floods. You'll also find other DB news elsewhere in this post.

The Christ Church Outreach Commission at its November meeting approved donating \$600 to DreamBuilders for its upcoming trips. These are vestry-approved Outreach budget funds derived from parishioners' donations to Christ Church. On behalf of those whose homes will be restored, please accept this expression of thanks!

Christ Church Gives Funds for Eviction Relief and Utility-Cutoff Prevention

The nonprofit organization, Bridges to Housing Stability takes many actions to fulfill its mission of "Solving Homelessness with Housing." One is eviction prevention. According to its online statistics, Bridges has prevented 55 evictions in the past 12 months. Thanks to you, Christ Church will help carry that effort into 2024. The Outreach commission recently approved a donation of \$500 to Bridges for eviction prevention.

Winter brings another threat to stable housing as some in Howard County find they can't pay utility bills. The commission also approved a donation of \$300 for energy assistance to the Community Action Council (CAC) of Howard County. Thanks on behalf of struggling residents for contributing to vestry-approved Outreach budget funds.

CCC Closes Sites for New Year's But Reopens Its Pantry for Deliveries

Columbia Community Care (CCC) reminds recipients and volunteers that its distribution sites will close on Saturday, Dec. 30, for the holiday. But the CCC shoppers pantry will reopen for home deliveries. Check the CCC Facebook Group for updates. CCC has paused taking any new delivery orders until it erases a big backlog. That's why it continues a plea for delivery volunteers. Here is the CCC SignUpGenius link.

To help CCC keep up its inventory of diapers and wipes, put them along with sanitary and personal care items in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Our point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers its contents.

Please Donate All Kinds of Grocery Non-Perishables and Toiletries to FISH

FISH of Howard County needs non-perishable foods and toiletries. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. Please put donations in the basket at the altar or in the marked yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and Parish Hall. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

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.

Remember Christ Church in Your End-of-Year Giving

As we prepare for the beginning of the New Year, it is our hope that you will be able to gather with family and friends to celebrate the season.

Although it has been a long and difficult year, we also give thanks, especially during this season of gratitude and joy, and we ask you to consider how Christ Church has touched your life and the lives of your loved ones. We pray that you will reflect on how the different ministries that abound here at Christ Church have touched someone and changed their lives and that you will consider a gift to Christ Church as part of your end-of-year giving.

Christ Church depends on your faithful and generous support in transforming lives. Your generosity makes it possible for Christ Church to offer a faithful nurturing space, enriching worship for children and adults, and a place of deep comfort. Your giving allows Christ Church to thrive and grow during uncertain and difficult times. More importantly, your giving ensures that Christ Church continues its life-sustaining ministries.

We invite you to prayerfully consider supporting Christ Church with a gift:
tinyurl.com/CEC-endofyear

With our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Fr. Manny+



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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*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) •

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams