# Christ Episcopal Church

*Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ*

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, February 4, 2024 • 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

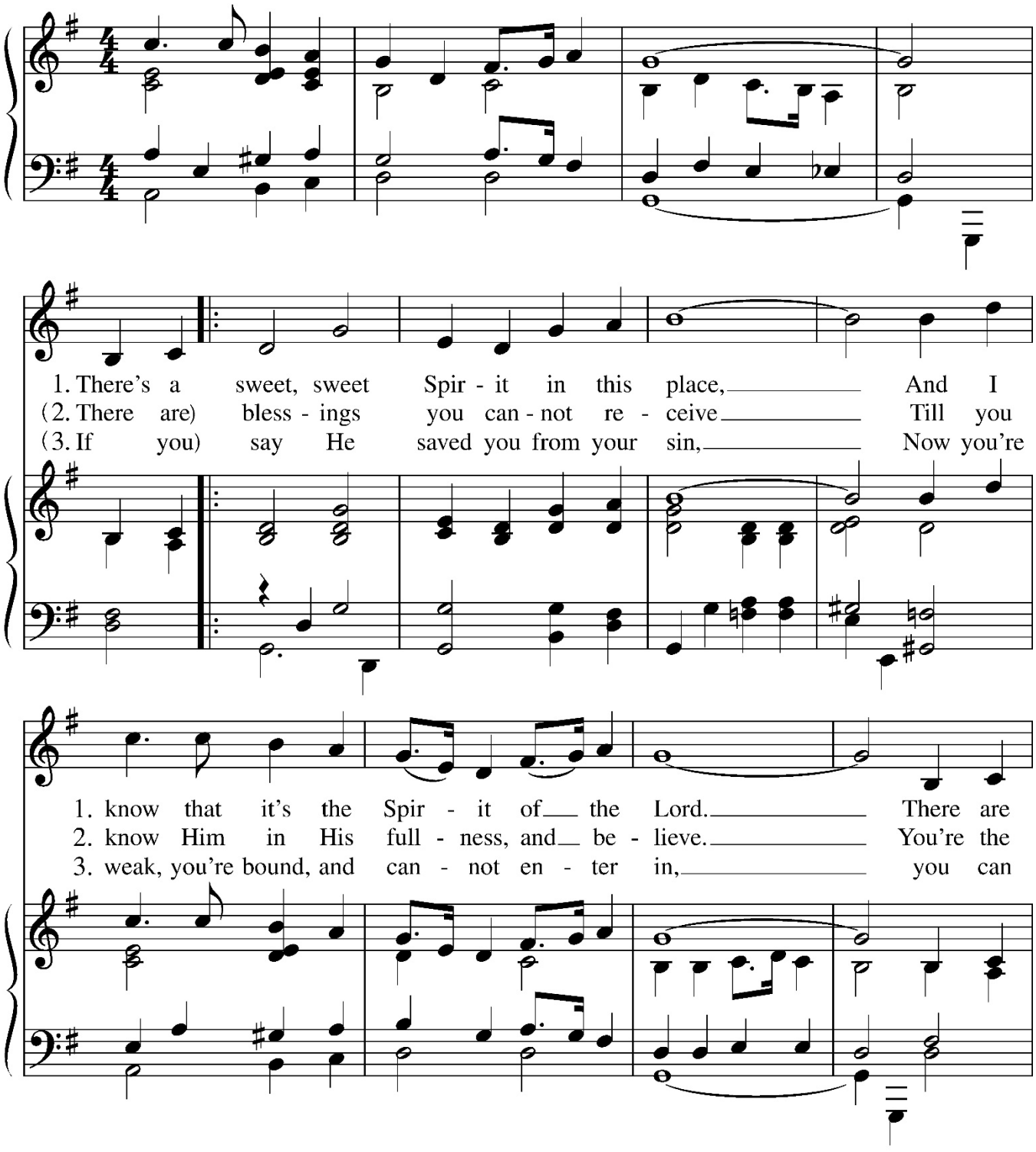
## Welcome Home!

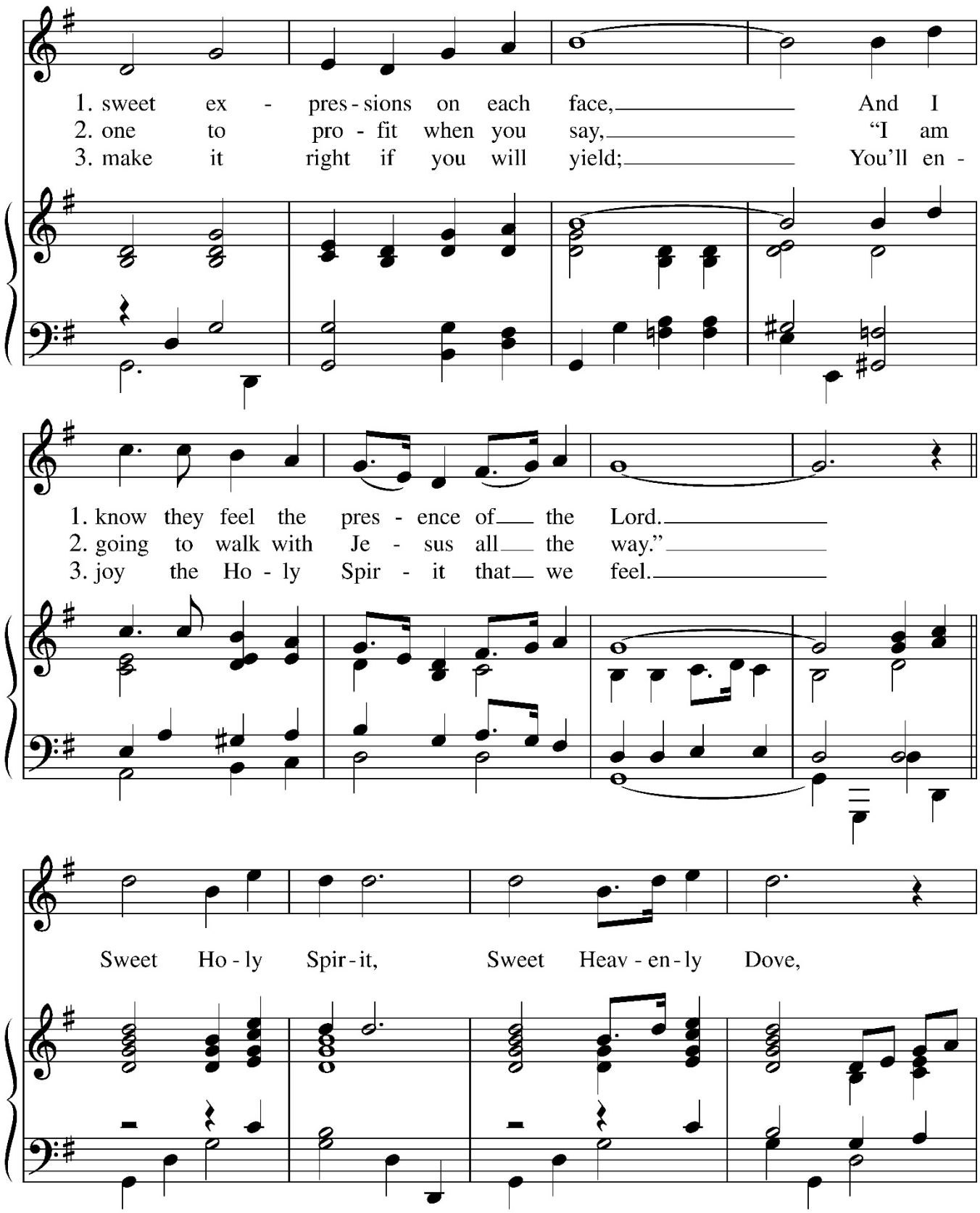
Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone 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!

Prelude |

Opening Hymn LEVAS 120 | There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place Doris Akers




1. sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, And I
2. one to pro - fit when you say, "I am
3. make it right if you will yield; You'll en -
1. know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
2. going to walk with Je - sus all the way."
3. joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that we feel.
Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,

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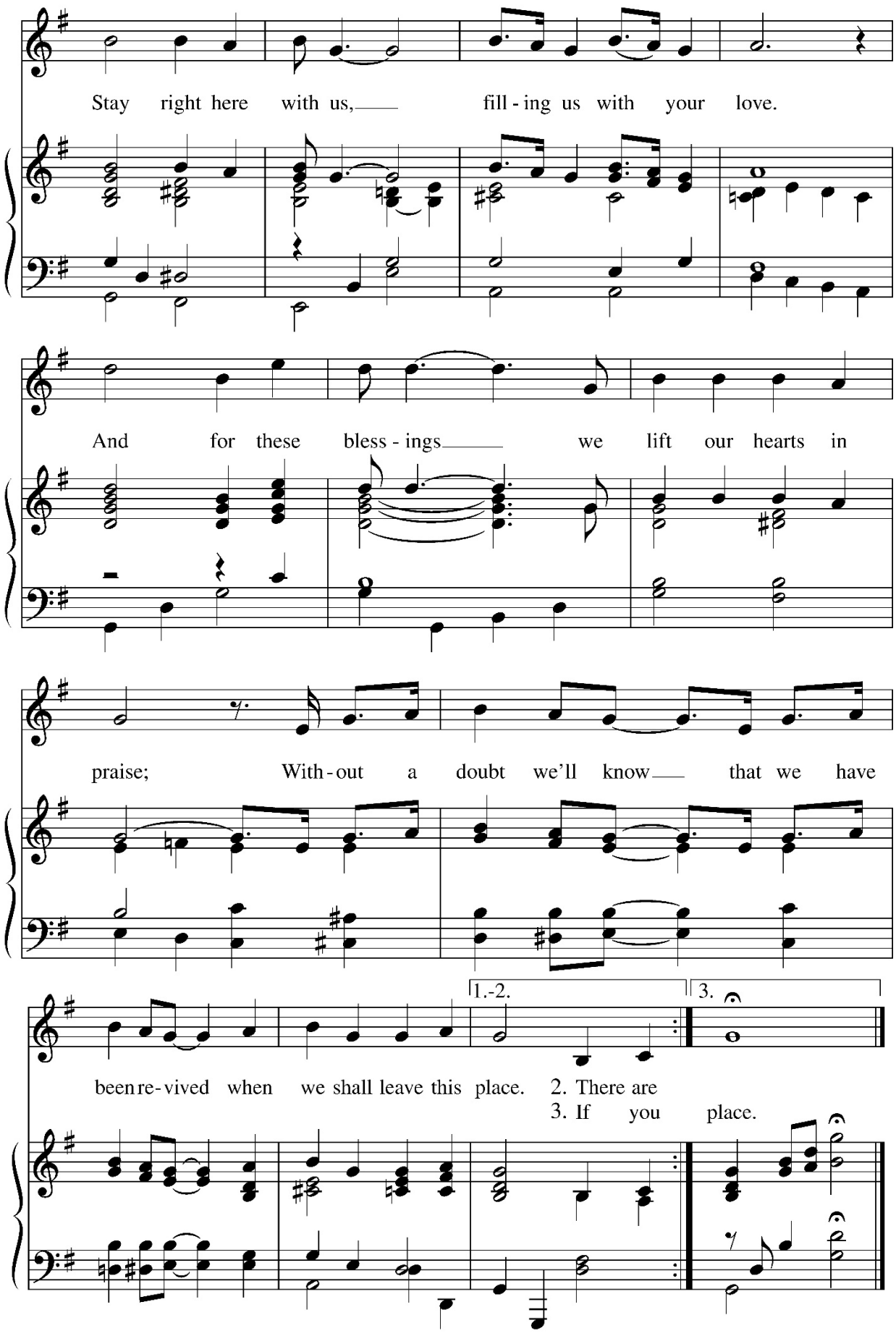

Stay right here with us, fill - ing us with your love.
And for these bless - ings we lift our hearts in
praise; With - out a doubt we'll know that we have
1.-2.
3.
been re - vived when we shall leave this place. 2. There are
3. If you place.

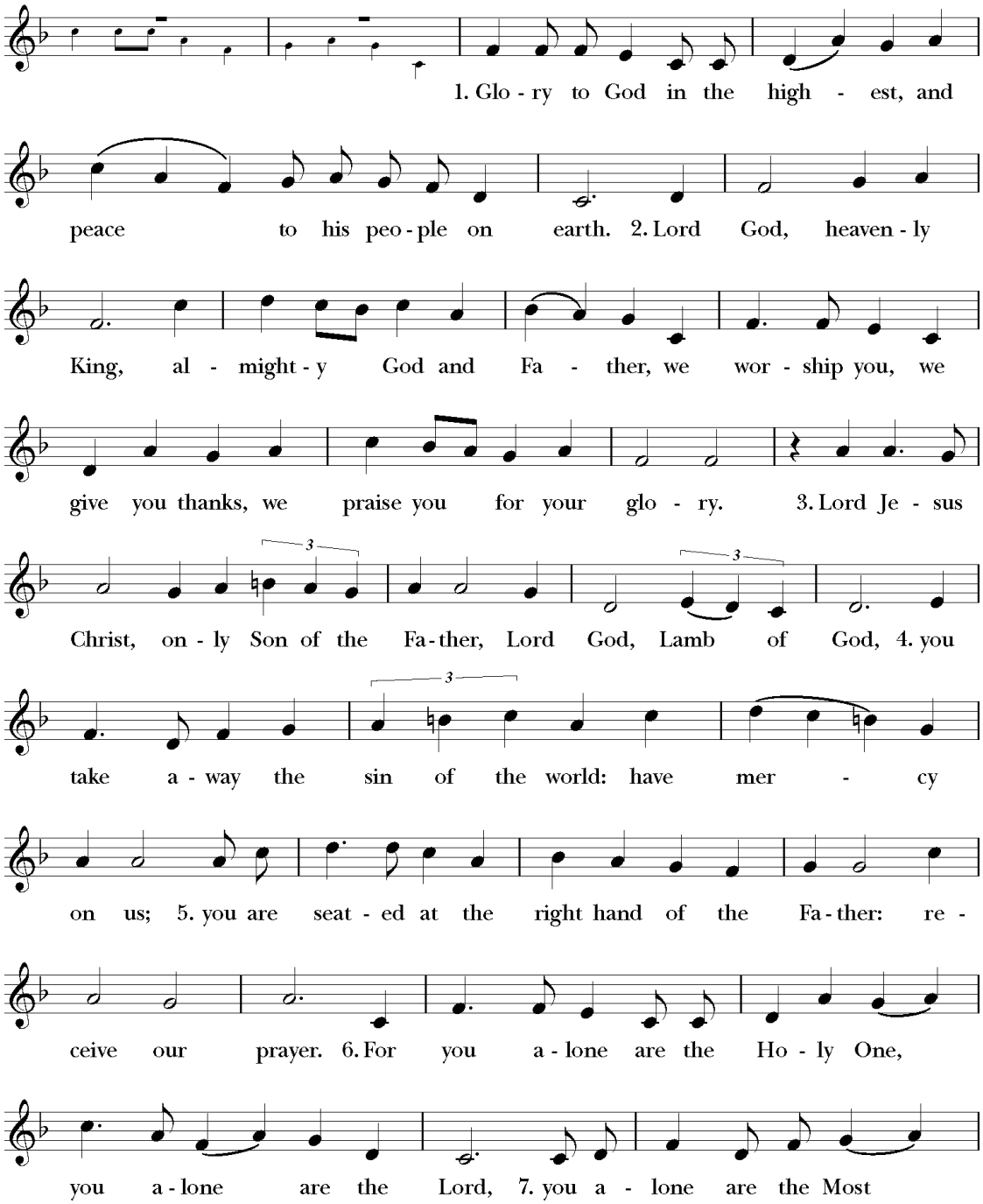
Opening Acclamation |

*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. ***Amen.***

Gloria S 280 | Glory to God — Robert Powell

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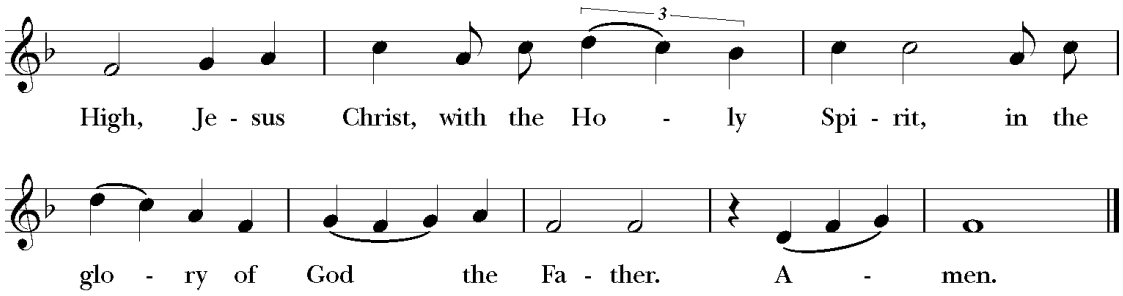



The Collect of the Day |

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

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 40:21-31 |

*Reader:* A reading from Isaiah.

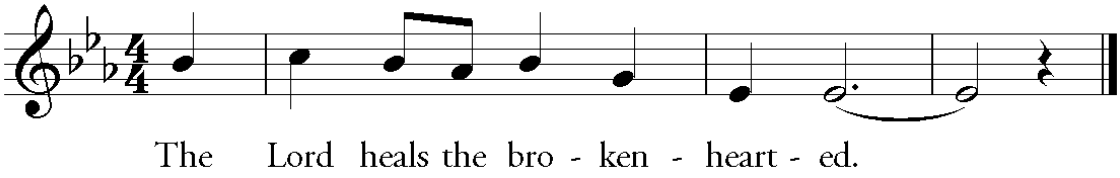
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

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

*The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.*

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c | *Laudate Dominum*




Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
**how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!**
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
**he gathers the exiles of Israel.**
He heals the brokenhearted *
**and binds up their wounds.**
He counts the number of the stars *
**and calls them all by their names.**

*Antiphon*

*Continued*

Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
**there is no limit to his wisdom.**

The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
**but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
**make music to our God upon the harp.**

*Antiphon*

He covers the heavens with clouds *
**and prepares rain for the earth;**

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
**and green plants to serve mankind.**

He provides food for flocks and herds *
**and for the young ravens when they cry.**

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
**he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;**

But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
**in those who await his gracious favor.**

*Antiphon*

Hallelujah!

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 |

*Reader:* A reading from the first Epistle to the Corinthians.

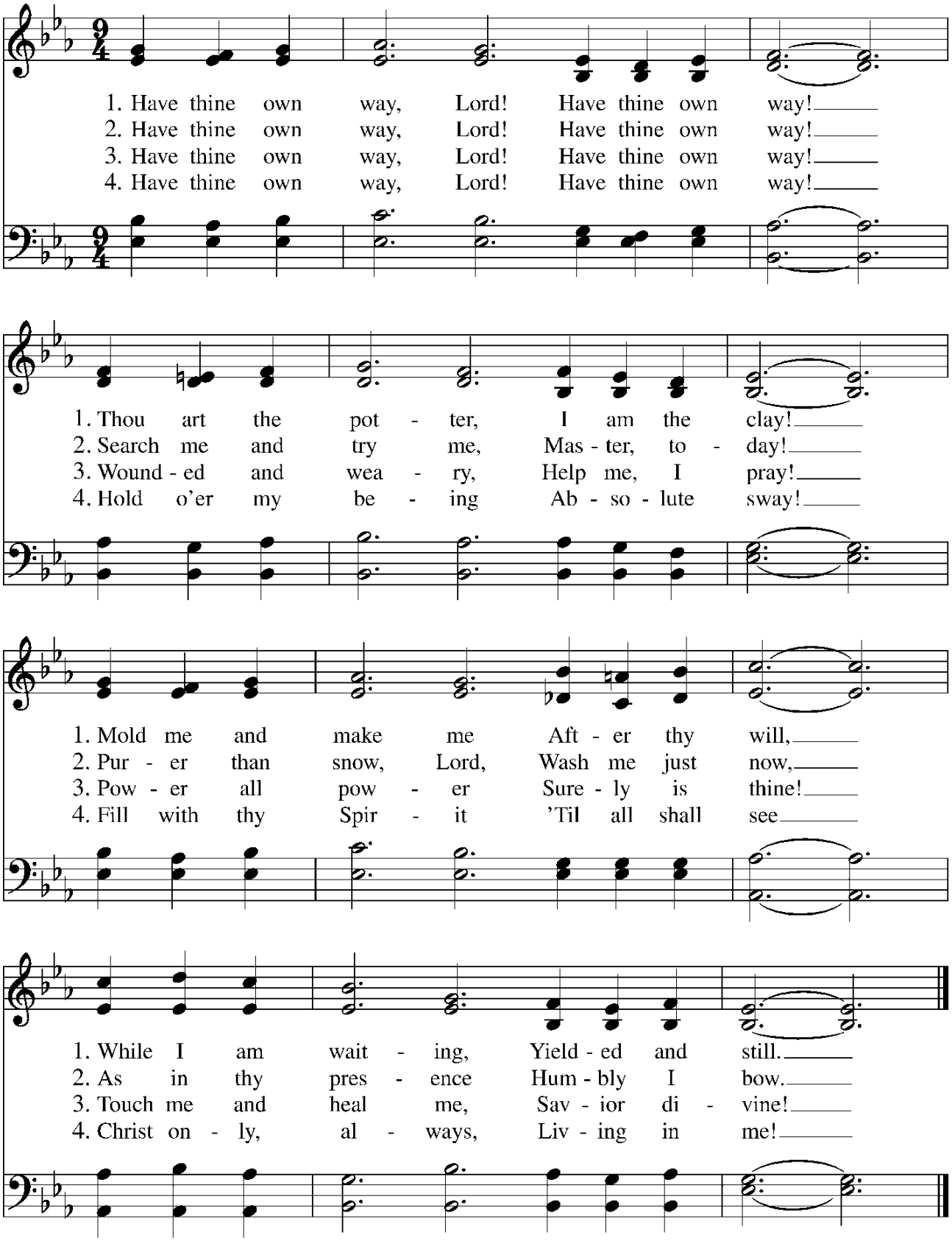
If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

*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 145 | Have Thine Own Way, Lord — Adelaide A. Pollard



The Gospel | Mark 1:29-39

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

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

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

Sermon | Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

*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 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.**

The Prayers of the People |

Today we heard how Jesus spoke to heal the sick. Open our minds to recognize the power of the spoken word and never underestimate it. Open our hearts, Lord, to allow your Spirit to reside within, so Your words continue to inspire us to do Your will. We pray, **Thy will be done!**

On this first Sunday of Black History Month, we reflect on the rich and diverse heritage and culture of Black Americans and their contributions to society. Let us honor these things not just this month, but throughout the year. We pray for the elimination of racism, discrimination, and the systemic inequities that continue to plague our world, recognizing that every person is a beloved child of God. We pray, **Thy will be done!**

We welcome all to join us in Your fellowship, especially those newcomers and visitors among us. In our diocese, we pray for Slate Project, Baltimore; St. David's, Roland Park; and St. James, Baltimore. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Anglican Church of South America. We ask that Your Spirit continue to guide Emmanuel, our Rector; Denise, our Deacon; Richard, our Rector Emeritus; and our postulants, staff, vestry. May all who join this fellowship, Your Church, continue to grow as we pray, **Thy Kingdom come!**

We pray for those suffering in this world: for those lives devastated by senseless violence, especially those afflicted by the scourge of war; for those afflicted by disease and famine, and especially for the victims of oppression. We ask our Lord's protection against persecution of those who live by the Word, praying, **Thy Kingdom come!**

May we always find compassion and provide comfort for those ill in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, send Your healing spirit to speed their recovery, especially: Alfreda, Sherry, Stan, Jack, Kim, Tim, Karen, Nathan, Jim, Doug, Mary Ann, Barbara, Sherry, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, and Nell, and those we now name. For those who have passed into Your care, we ask for Your mercy and grace, that they may live with the heavenly host, especially John West. We ask your blessings for those serving in the military, especially Kofi Abdallah and Conner Warlow. We boldly say, **"The only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lord, hear our prayer!"**

You continually shower us with innumerable blessings. With thankful hearts, let us always speak in praise of Your love and kindness. For those most dear to us, we give thanks that we can celebrate the birthdays of Andrew & Frances, and the baptismal anniversaries of Tele, Shayna & Richard. **Bless Your people with peace and health, but above all, the knowledge of Your Love.**

May we always strive to do Your will. May we find the strength and courage to listen to the word of truth residing in our hearts. May we speak with conviction and authority, proclaiming the Good News that You alone are the truth we all seek. May we always do that which is acceptable in Your sight, in concert with Your will and in Your glory. **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 Anthem | This Little Light of Mine — Traditional, arr. George Mabry

*Please scan to give.*

*The people stand as able.*

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 1) | *Old 100th*

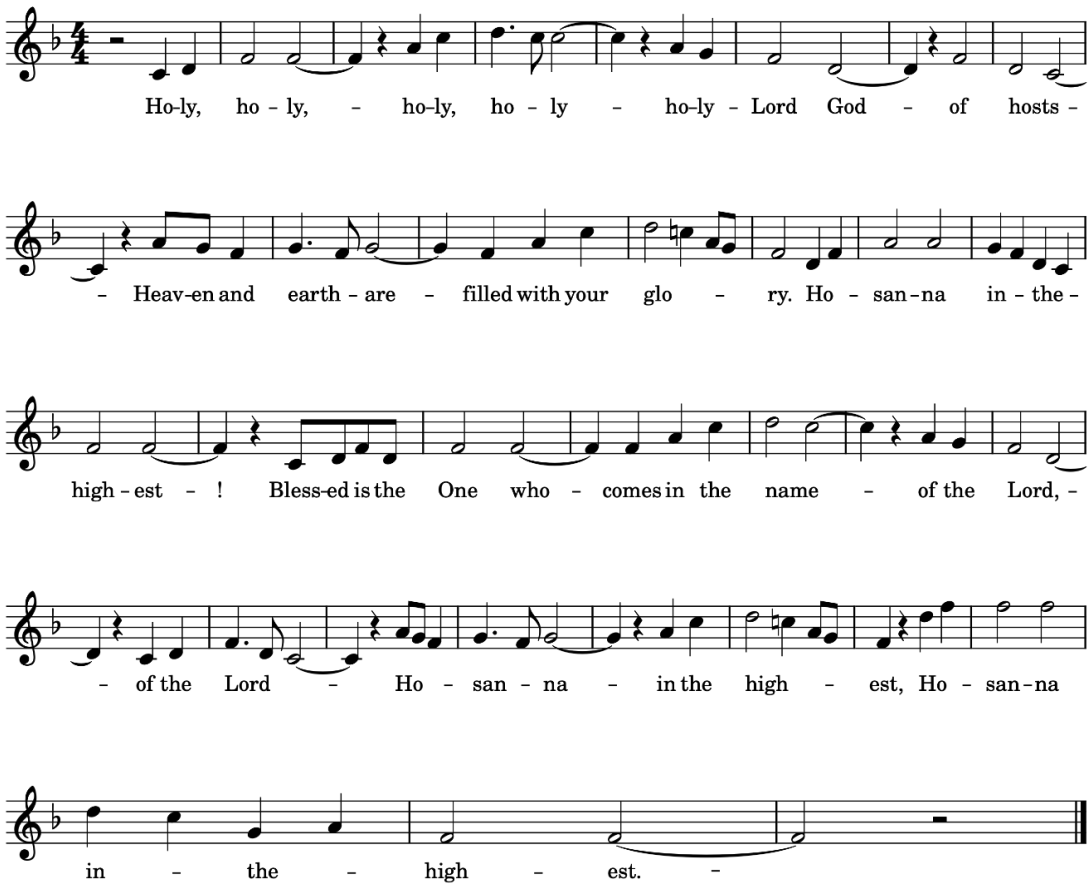
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**
**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**
**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:**
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 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 |

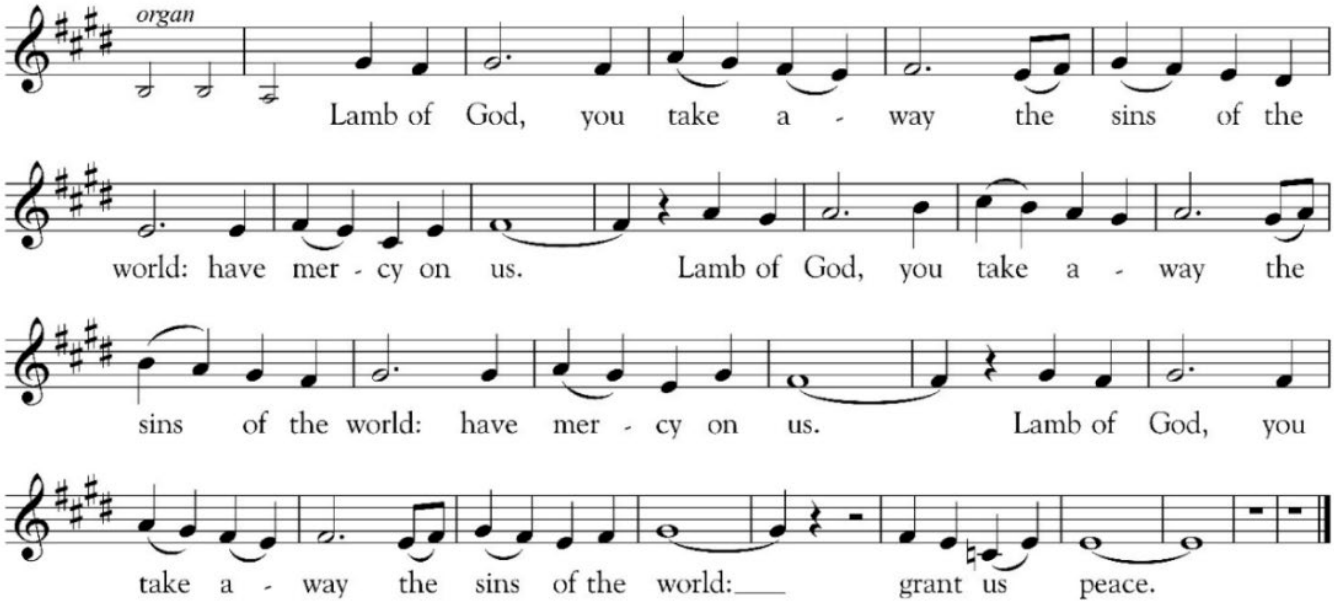
*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

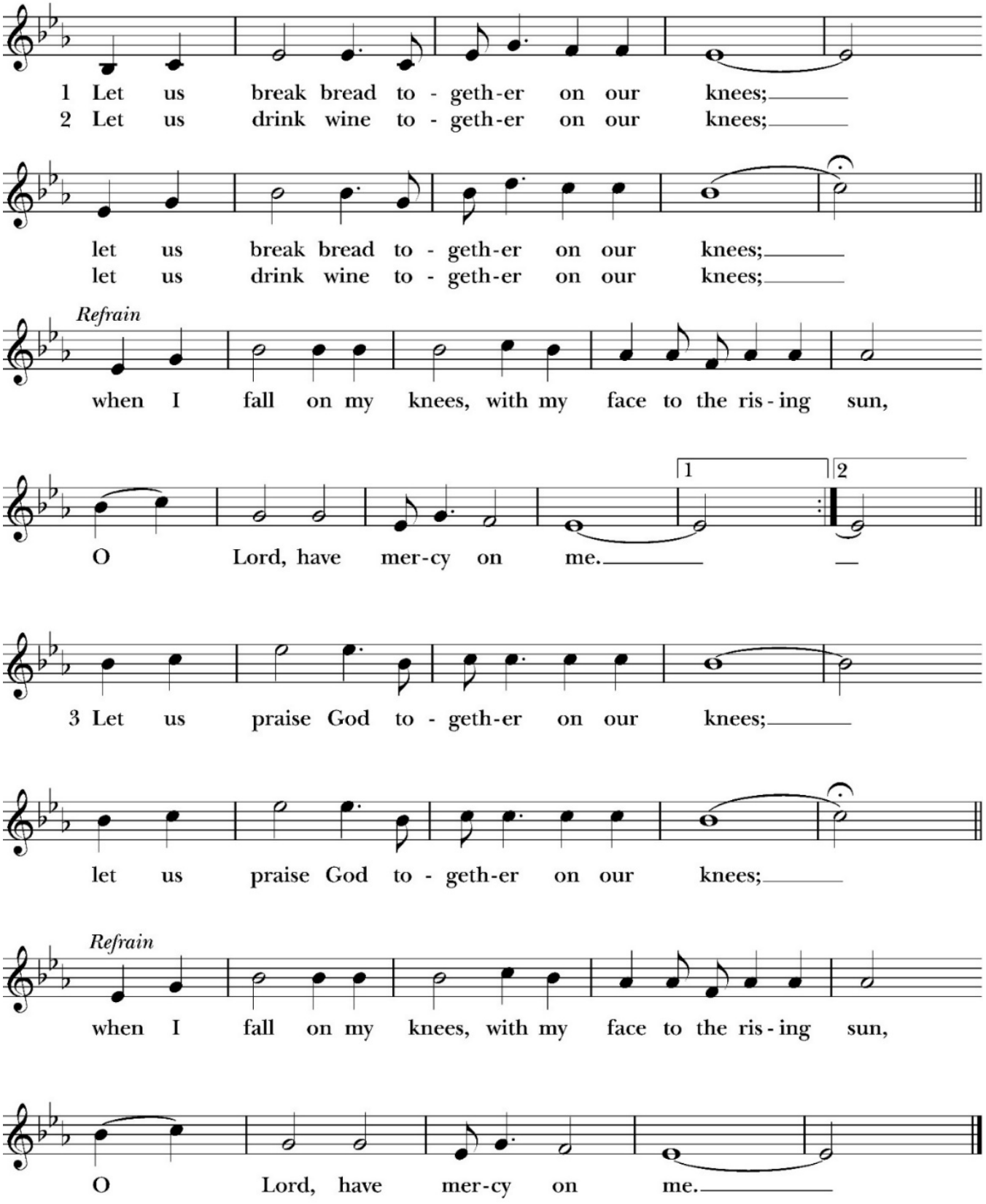
*All:* **Our Father,**
**who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy Name,**
**thy kingdom come,**
**thy will be done,**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread.**
**And forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation,**
**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 LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God — Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis




1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
Refrain
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,
1
2
O Lord, have mer-cy on me.
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;
Refrain
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,
O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

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.**

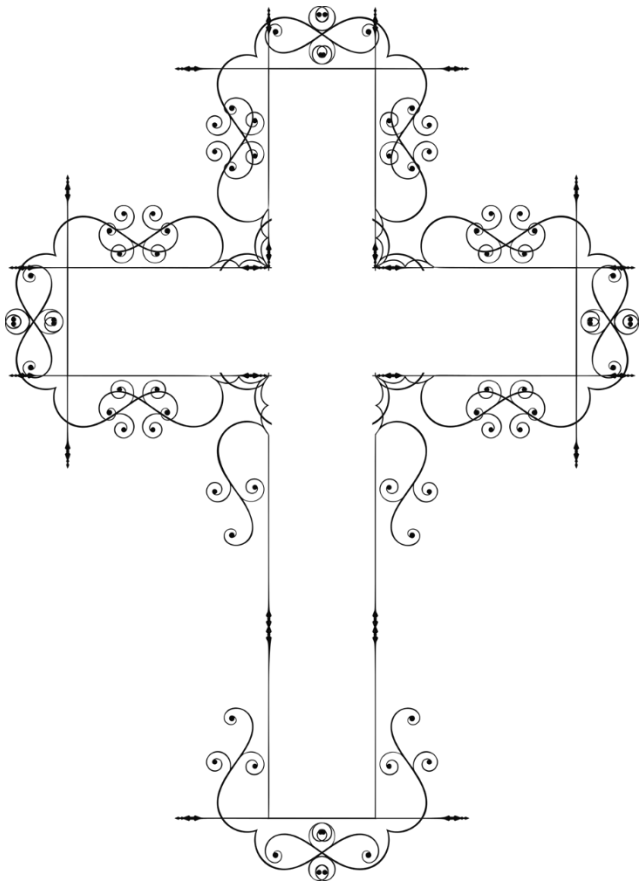
Eucharistic Visitors' Prayer | *10:30 a.m.*

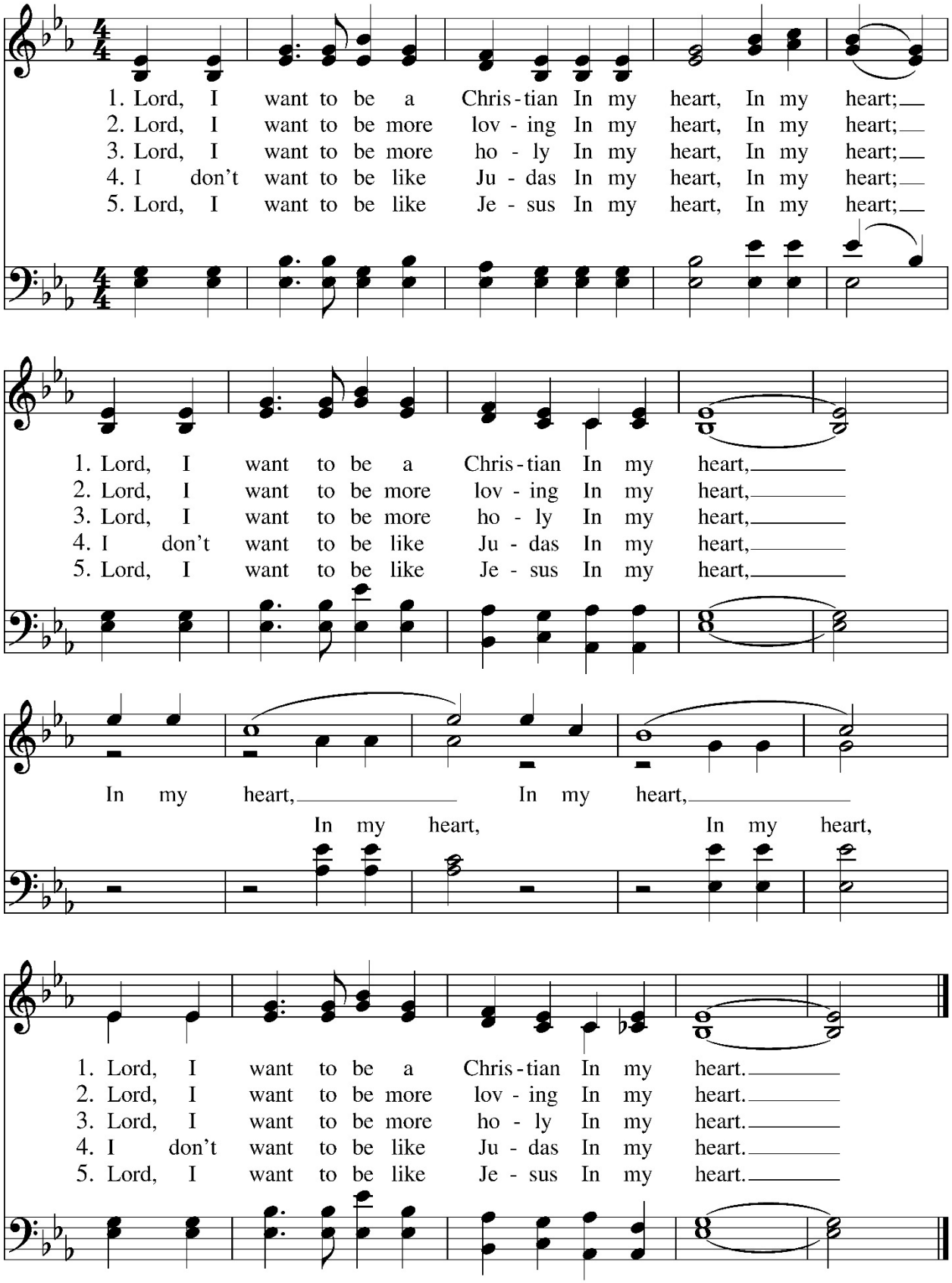
*Celebrant:* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

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

The Blessing |

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




1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, In my heart;
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart, In my heart;
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart, In my heart;
4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart, In my heart;
5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart, In my heart;
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart,
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart,
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart,
4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart,
5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart,
In my heart, In my heart,
In my heart, In my heart,
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart.
4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart.
5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude | 1st movement, Suite Gothique (Introduction-Choral), Op. 25 Leon Boellmann

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**8:00 a.m. Service**
**Lector/Reader:** Sonni Aribiah
**Ushers:** Michon Semon, Kayode Williams, Onyx Williams
**Chalicist:** Sonni Aribiah

**10:30 a.m. Service**
**Lector/Reader:** Kathy Lyon
**Ushers:** Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah, Hope & Eva Oladipupo
**Acolytes & Crucifer**: Setutsi Abdallah
**Chalicists:** Kathy Lyon

**Altar Guild:** Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah

## PARISH CALENDAR
### FEBRUARY 4 TO FEBRUARY 10

**Sunday, February 4**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00 am | Holy Eucharist – Old Brick |
| 8:30 am | Breakfast – New Brick, lower level |
| 8:45 – 9:30 am | Coffee Hour – Old Brick |
| 9:00 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 am | Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level |
| 11:30 am – 12:30 pm | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom |
| 12:00 pm | Confirmation Class – Parish Hall, lower level |
| 12:30 – 5:30 pm | Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick |
| 1:30 – 4:30 pm | EFM – Parish Hall, conference room |
| 6:00 – 10:00 pm | Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level |

**Monday, February 5**

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream |
| 1:30 – 3:30 pm | WOCC Meeting, New Brick, lower level & Zoom |
| 7:00 pm | Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom |

**Tuesday, February 6**

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream |
| 9:00 am – 3:00 pm | Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level |
| 11:00 – 12:00 pm | Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom |

| | |
|---|---|
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom |
| 7:00 – 9:00 pm | MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level |
| 7:00 – 11:00 pm | Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level |
| 7:15 – 8:45 pm | Theology on Tap – Frisco & The Reckless Shepherd, Columbia |
| 7:30 – 8:30 pm | 300 yr Race & Slavery Meeting – Zoom |

**Wednesday, February 7**

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream |
| 10:00 am | Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room |
| 7:00 – 8:00 pm | Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level |

**Thursday, February 8**

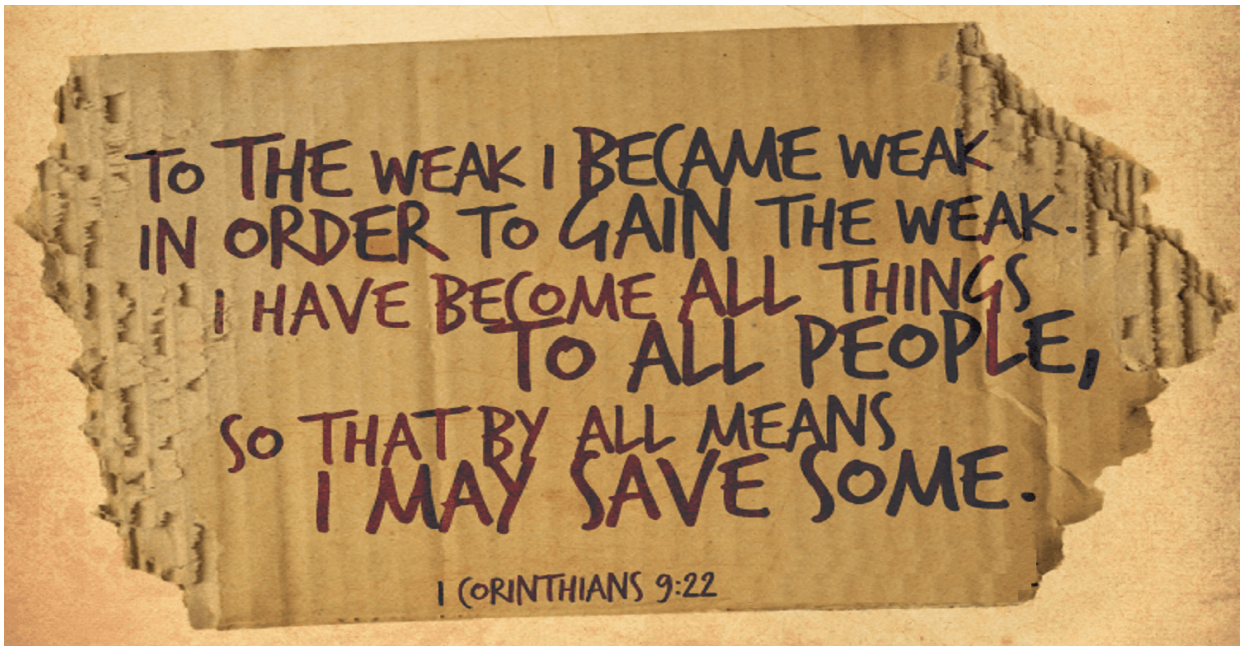
| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream |
| 9:00 am – 3:00 pm | Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level |
| 12:00 pm | Healing Eucharist – Old Brick |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom |
| 7:00 – 7:30 pm | Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level |
| 7:00 – 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, February 9**

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream |
| 7:00 pm | Evening Prayer Livestream |
| 7:30 – 9:00 pm | Book Club – Zoom |
| 8:00 pm – 12:00 am | Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick |

**Saturday, February 10**

| | |
|---|---|
| 6:00 am – 12:00 pm | Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level |
| 12:30 – 3:30 pm | Event Rental – New Brick, upper level |
| 1:00 – 6:00 pm | Event Rental – New Brick, lower level |
| 2:00 pm | AA Meeting, Parish Hall, lower level |
| 7:00 – 11:00 pm | Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level |



# THIS IS THE FINAL DAY!

## Send Us Your Submissions for the 2024 LMB

Christ Church's Lenten Meditation Book is created with love and designed to assist us all in times of quiet contemplation, preparing ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. Our LMB centers on the Spiritual Life Theme, ***Be a Joyful Gift to Others***, which **you can read a bit more about on our website**. Poetry, stories of reflection, images, prayers, and inspirational quotes from 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 during the season.

To accomplish this work, **we must have all submissions in by this Sunday, February 4th** to edit and publish this work in physical and digital form, the latter of which is viewed by many thousands of individuals worldwide throughout Lent.

You can submit these by name or anonymously - your choice. If you need help getting started, visit **christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations** and check out previous years' 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 her at **SL@christchurchcolumbia.org**

# 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.**

**Epiphany V: This Sunday at Christ Church**
Christ Church has three services, beginning with Holy Eucharist in Old Brick at 8 a.m. Our Children & Family Worship gathers at 9:00, and then Holy Eucharist with choral and musical accompaniment is at 10:30, both in New Brick. Sunday Circle continues its series in Old Brick *(below)*, and Sunday School, Youth Formation, and all other Sunday gatherings also take place. See you at church!

**Sunday Circle:** ***Finding Christ's Light in Dark Places***
**Living with Mental Illness:** Denise Giuliano of **Howard County's Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness** (NAMI) will join our adult forum to talk about mental illness, the signs/symptoms, NAMI Howard County's role in improving the lives of individuals with mental illness and their families through education, advocacy, and support, as well as how faith communities can serve those impacted by mental illness.

**Christ Church Connections**
**Sign-Up Deadline is Today**

CHRIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS
A NEW FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Are you interested in getting to know more of your fellow Christ Church parishioners? Here's the greatest opportunity! Sign up for Christ Church Connections (formerly Foyer Groups) and share an evening each month with others you may already know and some you might be meeting for the first time. We gather in small groups during the winter and spring and these groups then get shuffled in the fall. This way, we can meet more people, enjoy evenings at one another's homes, and strengthen the collective bond we all share. Either leave your name and email on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or **complete this online form**, and we will provide you with more information. The deadline to sign up for this first season of Connections is today, February 4th.

**WOCC January Meeting - February 5**
**Wear RED and share your support!** We are asking all to wear red to help raise awareness about Heart Health Month and the risks of heart disease for women. Please send a photo of yourself wearing red to **WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org** by today, February 4th. You can view last year's collage **here**. And don't forget about our WOCC meeting this coming Monday, February 5th. It takes place in the Great Hall of New Brick and on Zoom at 1:00 p.m. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **843 0204 4790**, and the Passcode is **cecWOCC**. Want to learn more about the WOCC? **You can find all recent WOCC news in our January blog post**.

**Centering Prayer - February 5**
Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. The daily practice of this prayer could lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings, but you can also take part virtually from wherever you are; **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596**, and the Passcode is **Centering!**

**Theology on Tap - February 6**
The first Theology on Tap of 2024 is gathering this coming week, and we hope you'll join us! ToT is an informal get-together where you can chat about interesting religious articles of the day, grab a beverage, and enjoy fun, engaging,

structure-free conversation with other parishioners and friends. Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6th at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. We'll also have a second ToT later this month, on February 20th. Questions? Speak with Mike Looney or email **seminarian@christchurchcolumbia.org**

**Bible Study and Lunch Begins this Week - February 7**
Christ Church will offer weekly Bible Study beginning on Wednesday, February 7th. Each week, we will meet in the Conference Room in the Parish House, explore the Lectionary readings for that Sunday, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Wednesday Bible Study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

**Christ Church Choir - February 8**
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**

**CEC Book Club – February 9**
It's never the wrong time to join Christ Church's Book Club; we are always welcoming new people into our group, so if this sounds like something you might enjoy, log in and join us! We'll get you caught up on our latest book. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Password is **CECBooks**. Email Ellen Hoke at **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org** for more information.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 13**
The incredible youth of Christ Church will once again host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! On February 13th, 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. 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). You'll also get to view and purchase the beautiful handiwork of **African Team Ministries** at the event, an opportunity to get your hands on some one-of-a-kind items created by very talented artisans.

**Ash Wednesday Services - February 14**
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 22nd. 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.

**Lenten Reflection Day - February 17**
Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission presents Lenten Reflection Day on Saturday, February 17th. This year, we are very blessed to have The Reverend Kirk Kubicek lead us in prayer and meditation as we examine our 2024 theme, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*. Lenten Reflection Day includes a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m., is followed by the day's program, and then wraps up around noon with an informal Eucharist. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this exceptional and inspirational start to the Lenten season.

**Health Ministry News**
First of all, the Christ Church Health Ministry wants to thank you for your participation in our various events and gatherings last year, and we are gearing up for much more in 2024! As we do, we want to know how to best serve you, our fellow parishioners, with any health-related needs or concerns you might have. We'd appreciate it if you'd fill out a short questionnaire we've made, one that will help teach us what to focus on. **You can find the form here**, and it only takes a minute to complete. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Diane Phillips LaGuerre or Bunmi Daramaja, or email **health@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

**Healing Stations**
Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, email Rebecca Warlow at **healingministry@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 do so by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. Then please email or call the church office and let them know, and we'll be sure to place an acknowledgment in the Sunday service leaflet for that day.

**Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund**
The RDF typically helps fulfill the needs of those in our community. There are real people with real needs that we help support, 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.

**Meals Ministry**
Stewardship focuses on the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, and one way to do so is by lending a hand to those in need. Christ Church's Pastoral Care Commission is growing its Meals Ministry to ensure that someone is always available to provide a meal to those who need one. If you would like to help, or if you know someone in need of this service, please speak with Deacon Denise or email her at **deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

**Communion to You**
To connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers Communion to You, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you want more information, **please complete this form** or **email** the Church Office.

**Outreach Buys Apparel for the Homeless at the DRC, Which Has Become One of Three Sites Where Grassroots Helps County Residents in Crisis**
Our homeless friends depend on the Day Resource Center (DRC) for more than its tasty meals. Once more, staff members called on Christ Church to help restock the closet at the DRC in Jessup, which has become one of three sites operated by the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**.

In the fall, Grassroots expanded to a location at 8990 Old Annapolis Rd., Suite A, Columbia, MD, where individuals are able to access free, walk-in counseling, homeless services, crisis stabilization, mental health resources, and services for substance use disorder. The new site also houses the 24-hour Crisis Line, 410-531-6677, and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Call, Chat, and Text Program, among other services.

You can read about the expansion in **a September online post** and about **honors resulting from the expansion**, both on the Grassroots website.

When Grassroots issues its **monthly needs list** to supporters in the community, the staff requests items for its new site, called the Crisis Center, for its Live-In Facility on Freetown Road, and for the DRC, which has a longstanding relationship with Christ Church. That relationship is why we responded swiftly to DRC's latest request for winter apparel. Outreach member Dione Mahoney bought 13 pullover hooded sweatshirts in men's sizes, 13 women's sweatshirts, 21 women's long-sleeve T-shirts, and 15 pairs of women's jeans in assorted sizes. She delivered the items to the DRC on Jan. 24.

By shopping on "discount" days at three thrift stores, she was able to obtain the clothing for a total cost of $200 in Outreach funds. These funds came from parishioners who donate through the church and mark their contributions to "General Outreach" or specifically to the DRC, which is located at the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center. Thanks to one and all!

Our team led by Outreach member Shahra Toth will next prepare meals on Monday, Feb.12, for the DRC and for the Live-In Facility. Please go online to see menus and read about procedures. Our **DRC online signup form** is for serving the midday meal; our **Grassroots online signup form** is to drop off food for the evening meal. You'll find a Grassroots' monthly needs list under the words "Related Files," on each signup form and also on bulletin boards at Christ Church. You can bring these donations to be dropped off for delivery on the second Mondays.

**African Team Ministries is Here this Sunday!**

It's that time of year - African Team Ministries' beautiful handcrafts will be on display again this Sunday. This ministry provides East African artisans with a market for their beautiful creations. Come and see intricate wood carvings, primitive musical instruments, eye-catching soapstone décor, natural elements nativity sets, stunning necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and more! We also need volunteers to help with set-up, selling, and pack-out. If you are interested in helping and are available after Sunday services or on Shrove Tuesday (the final ATM day), please contact Sara Kirkpatrick at **atm@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

**Final Week Before "Souper Bowl" Sunday**

Each year youth groups across the country participate in "Souper Bowl" Sunday, collecting canned goods and monetary donations for local charities. Last year groups brought in more than $4 million to support local causes! We invite you to contribute this year by placing your donation in the CEC Youth Group soup pot after each service this Sunday, and please continue to until February 11th. You can also donate using **our Online Giving Form**; just choose "Souper Bowl" from the FUND dropdown menu. This year, the canned items will be donated to the FISH food pantry and monetary donations to Grassroots in Columbia.

**DreamBuilders: Sunday Meeting**

DreamBuilders will have its General Meeting this Sunday, February 4th from 3-5 p.m. at Temple Isaiah in Fulton. We will be talking about our upcoming Kentucky trip this June, when we hope to "blitz build" THREE Houses in one week! It's going to be great fun, and we've got lots of pictures from last summer's trip to show you at the meeting, so mark your calendars - see you there!

**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.

**Columbia Community Care Seeks Baby Care Items, More Volunteers**
Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. One task is sorting at the pantry building, 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. Go to the **"I Can Help" portion of its website** or check the **CCC Facebook Group** for updates.

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 Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

**Save-the-Date: Bridges to Housing Stability Sets Next Chili and Cornhole Event on May 5th**
For many years, chili has been a key part of fundraising for **Bridges to Housing Stability**, an advocate for affordable housing that helps individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Last year, Christ Church was a supporter of Bridges' chili event and cornhole tournament, which was held in March. The cornhole competition was heated, but the word "chilly" also applied to the outdoor festivities.

This year the **Beans & Bags** event will be held on Sunday, May 5, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Centennial Park, Pavilion H, 4760 Woodland Rd., Ellicott City 21042. Save the date, and start practicing your cornhole skills!

The event raises crucial operating funds. Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges since participating in a countywide chili cook-off in 2019. At a Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser in 2020, Christ Church won a Silver Ladle Award. Then, at the 2021 Chili & Challenge, **we won gold**. The relationship began at the urging of parishioner Jim Collins, who was honored among Bridges' "Heroes for Housing" in 2022.

**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.**

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We are excited to present Christ Church Conversations, our new podcast series, to you. This series will take shape in many forms over time - audio, video, interviews, scripture-based discussions, and much more - but as it's still in its earliest stages, we're keeping things somewhat simple. As we grow, we hope you'll grow with us.

Our plan for Conversations is a collaborative, multimedia sharing of our parish's many qualities, talents, and interests. It's recently been gaining steam, but we would love to involve more people to help make this the best it can be. If you enjoy writing, wish to learn about the multilayered history of Christ Church, or have an interest in a particular topic you'd like to share with others, we can find a place for you! For more information, email **communications@christchurchcolumbia.org** and visit **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/conversations** for every episode, or to add our series to your favorite podcast platform.

**You can read the Vestry-approved report for December 2023 at**
**tinyurl.com/CECfinanceDec2023**

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.

**Stewardship 2024**

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge**

**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.**

**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*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*
Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

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