



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

PALM SUNDAY

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Palm Sunday

*at Christ Episcopal Church
Sunday, March 29, 2026*

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Celebrant Beloved in Christ, for these forty days we have journeyed with Jesus from the wilderness up to the gates of Jerusalem. As we join with all the faithful and celebrate his entry in both triumph and humility, let us welcome him with cries of “Hosanna,” and may his praise be on our lips even as we walk with him toward the cross and the grave, confident in God’s power to save.

Let us pray:

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that as we greet our Savior with joy at his entry into Jerusalem, we may follow him in humility and contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The following or some other suitable anthem is sung or said, the people standing

Celebrant Hosanna to the Son of David.

People **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Reader Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. *Zechariah 9:9*

Ride on in the cause of truth
and for the sake of justice. *Psalms 45:4*

Your throne is the throne of God, it endures forever; and the scepter of your kingdom is a righteous scepter. You have loved righteousness and hated evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows. *Psalms 45:7-8*

Celebrant: Hosanna to the Son of David.

People: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Hosanna to the Son of David.

People: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us go forth in peace.

People: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands

At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate Collect is said

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ showed himself to be the true king, reigning with humility and service, and was hailed by the crowd as Messiah. Grant us the faith to know and love him, that we may accompany him on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT |

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 21:1-11

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

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

"When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

BLESSING AND COLLECT |

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:

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant:

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

People:

Hosanna in the highest.

Deacon:

Let us go forth in peace.

People:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSION FROM OLD BRICK TO NEW BRICK WLP 787 | Siyahamba

South African folk song

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are in English and Xhosa. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: We are march - ing in the light of God, we are Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - Mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios, Mar - cha - march - ing in the light of God, We are march - ing in the hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. Mar - cha - re - mos en la we are march - ing in the light of God. si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. light of God, we are march - ing in the light of, the nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha - luz de Dios mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de, la we are march - ing in the light of God. si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.. mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios..

_____ We are march - ing
 _____ Si - ya - ham - ba
 _____ Mar - cha - re - mos

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
 luz de Dios. Mar - cha - re - mos re - mos mar - cha -

_____ Oo _____ we are march - ing in the light of God _____
 _____ Oo _____ si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -
 _____ Oo _____ mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. -

march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, the
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -
 re - mos re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de la

march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, God. _____
 ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -
 re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. -

_____ We are march - ing
 _____ Si - ya - ham - ba
 _____ Mar - cha - re - mos

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing we are
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
 luz de dios. Mar - cha - re - mos, re - mos mar - cha -

_____ Oo _____
 _____ Oo _____
 _____ Oo _____

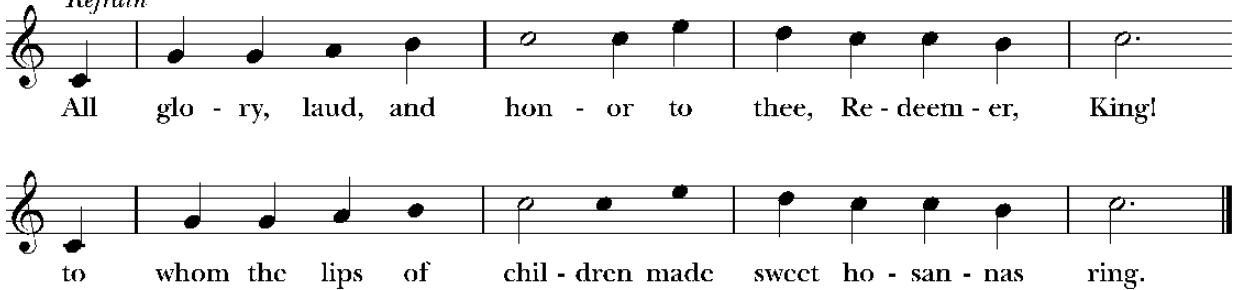
march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God. _____
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -
 re - mos re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz do Dios. _____

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN 155 | All Glory Laud and Honor

Valet will ich dir geben

Refrain

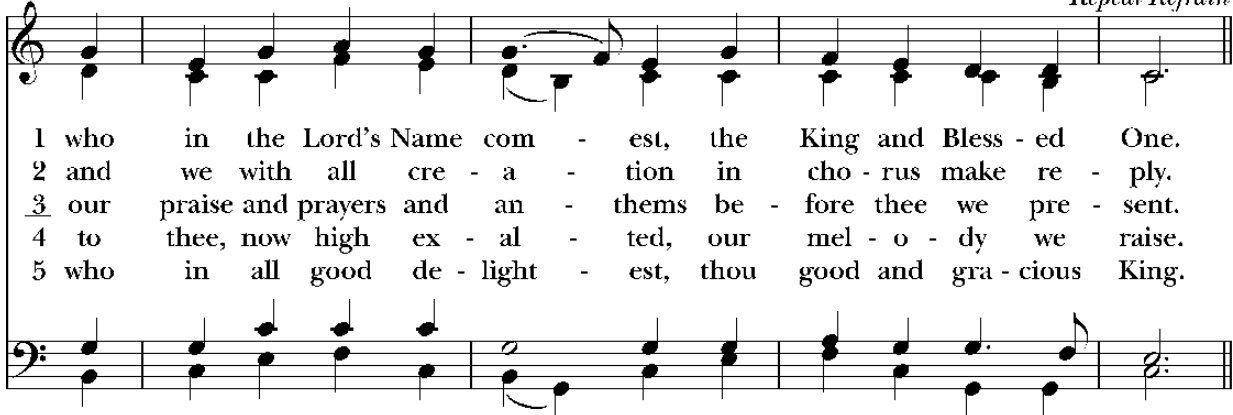


All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 50:4-9a

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

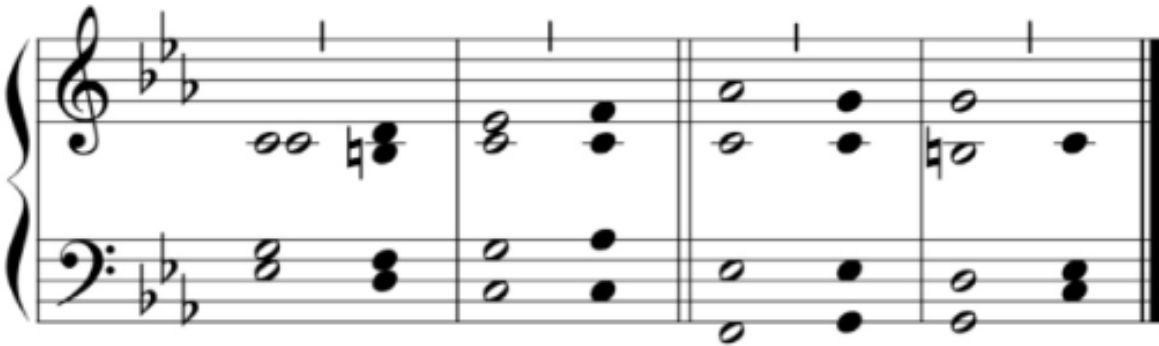
The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 31:9-16 | *In te, Domine, speravi*



Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in ¹ trouble; |
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my ¹ belly. ||
For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with ¹ sighing; |
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are con- ¹ sumed. ||

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
 a dismay to those of my ac-¹quaintance, |
 when they see me in the street they a-¹void me. ||
 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of ¹ mind; |
 I am as useless as a broken ¹ pot. ||
 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all a-¹ round; |
 they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my ¹ life. ||
 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O ¹ Lord, |
 I have said, “You are my ¹ God. ||
 My times are in your ¹ hand; |
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who perse-¹cute me, ||
 Make your face to shine upon your ¹ servant; |
 and in your loving-kindness ¹ save me. ||

THE EPISTLE | Philippians 2:5-11

Reader: *A reading from Philippians.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
 who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
 but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death--
 even death on a cross.
 Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
 so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

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

The people stand as able.



1 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the
 2 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! The an - gel
 4 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Thy last and
 5 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly



1 tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his
 2 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be -
 3 ar - mies of the sky look down with sad and won - dering
 4 fierc - est strife is nigh; the Fa - ther on his sap - phire
 5 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to mor - tal



1 road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 2 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 3 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 4 throne ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.
 5 pain, then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 27:11-54

Celebrant: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Narrator: Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Governor: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus: Jesus said, “You say so.”

Narrator: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”

Narrator: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's Wife: “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”

Narrator: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

The governor again said to them,

Pilate: “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said,

Crowd: “Barabbas.”

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said,

Crowd: “Let him be crucified!”

Narrator: Then he asked,

Pilate: “Why, what evil has he done?”

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: “Let him be crucified!”

Narrator: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

Narrator: Then the people as a whole answered,

Crowd: “His blood be on us and on our children!”

Narrator: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

Soldiers: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Narrator: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

All stand as are able.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd: “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Chief Priests: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”

Narrator: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.
From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

Narrator: That is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystander: “This man is calling for Elijah.”

Narrator: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Silence is kept for a few moments, during which some may wish to kneel.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Centurion: “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

9

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

13

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Intervessor: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People: **That we all may be one.**
Intervessor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People: **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**
Intervessor: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**
Intervessor: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**
Intervessor: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**
Intervessor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**
Intervessor: Give to the departed eternal rest.
People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**
Intervessor: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People: **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**
Intervessor: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect, to which the people respond “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 | Ave Verum Corpus

Sir Edward Elgar

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY 380 vs 3 |

Old 100th

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



THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

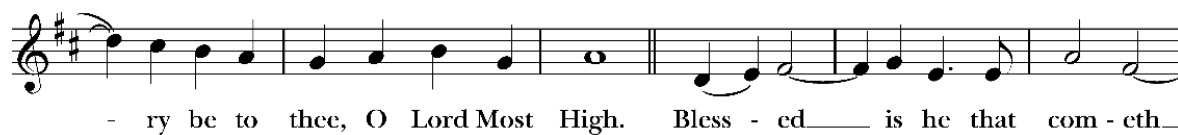
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

Celebrant: Because you sent your Son Jesus Christ to live and teach among us, and in his last days enter the holy city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey, a sign of triumph and humility. We raise our Hosannas as we proclaim a new kingdom in which justice reigns and the lowly are exalted.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

Celebrant: He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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

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."

All: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

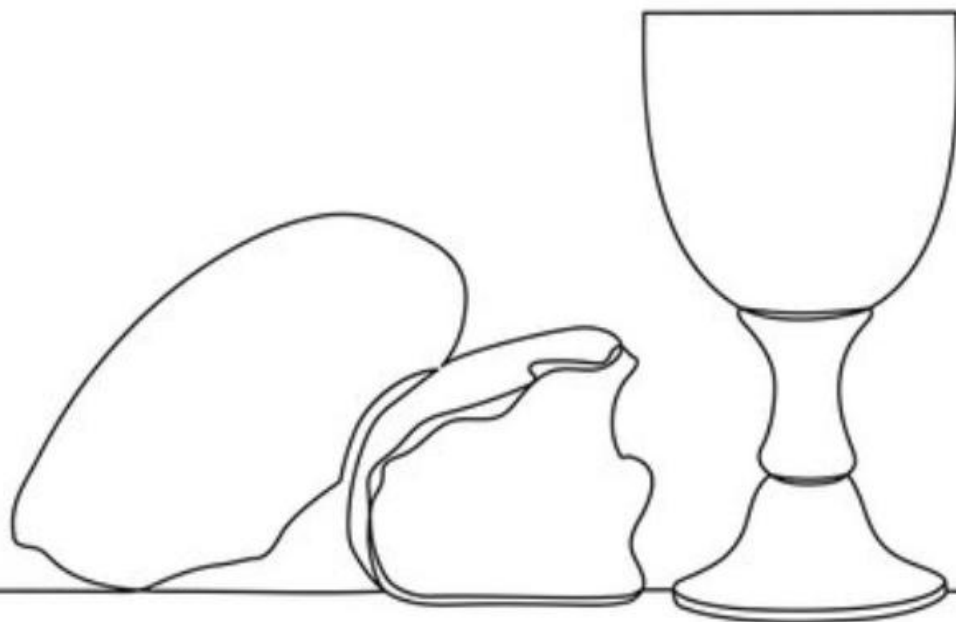
on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.





1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross, There's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
 3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4. Near the cross, I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

1. Free to all, a heal - ing stream Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 2. There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Sheds its beams a - round me.
 3. Help me walk from day to day With its shad - ows o'er me.
 4. Till I reach the gold - en strand Just be - yond the riv - er.

In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er;

Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be - yond the riv - er.

Please stand as able

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you set your example before us as one who came not to be served but to serve: Give us the courage to be your faithful disciples, following your way even to the cross, and proclaiming you as Savior and King. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen

CLOSING HYMN 675 | Take Up Your Cross

Bourbon



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill
3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and
4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and
5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor

1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -
4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -
5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.
5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond:

Thanks be to God!

(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

POSTLUDE |

Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist:

Lector/Reader: Kayode Fatodu

Usher: Michon Semon

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes : Shreya Chrzanowski, Anya Sheriff, Lucas Hernandez

Altar Guild: Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pam Foreman

Chalicerist: Cheryl Lucente, Ivy Amponsah

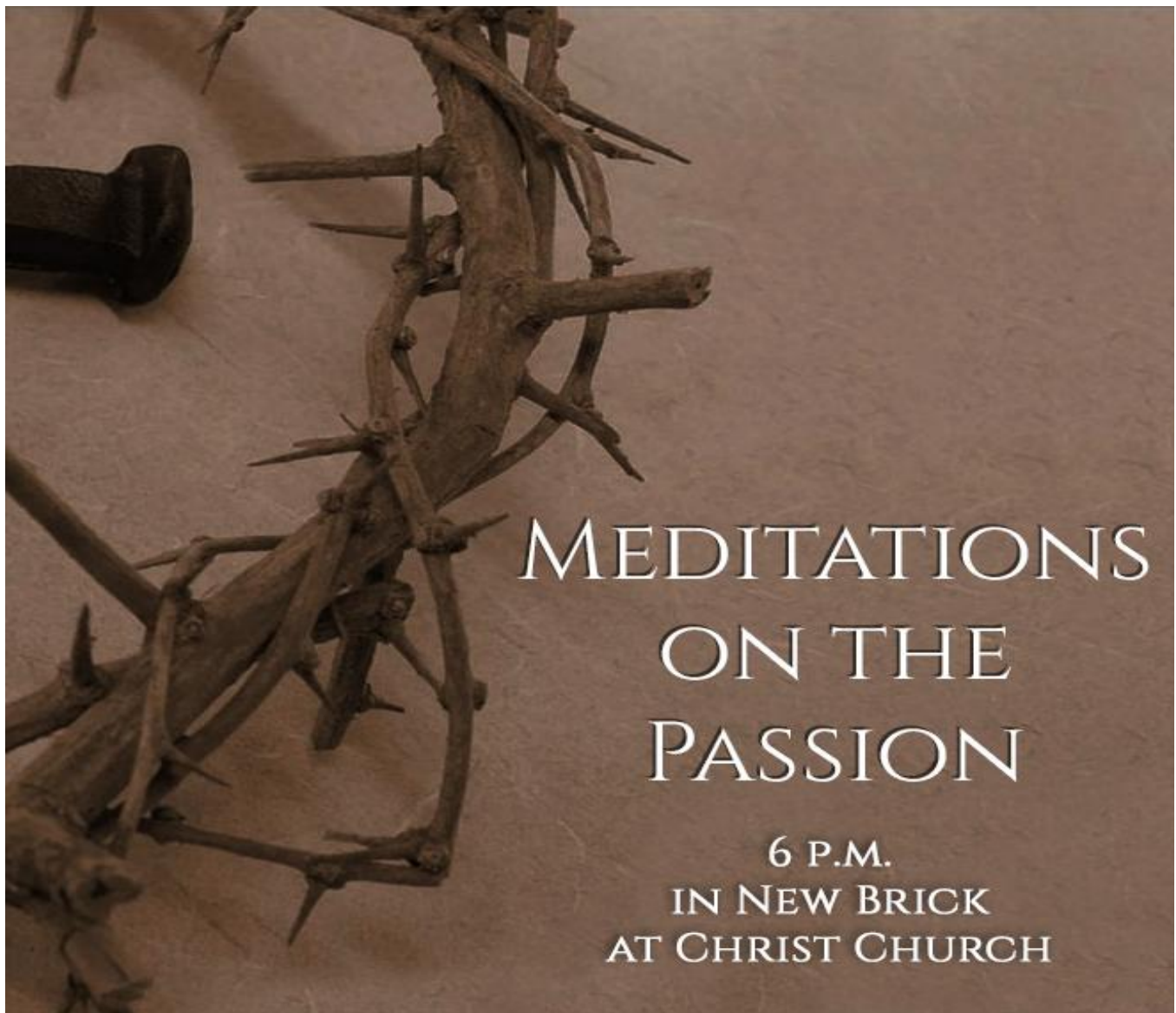
Lector/Reader: Greg Schuckman, Javier Hernandez

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,

Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers: Leanne Sheriff, Cherry Williams

Join us tonight for...



MEDITATIONS
ON THE
PASSION

6 P.M.
IN NEW BRICK
AT CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 29 – APRIL 4, 2026

Sunday, March 29

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
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
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Meditations on the Passion – New Brick, UL

Monday, March 30

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

Tuesday, March 31

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 – 10:00 pm	300 th Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	300 th Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Tenebrae Service – New Brick, UL

Thursday, April 2

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Seder Dinner – New Brick, LL
6:30 – 9:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service – New Brick, UL
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, April 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Good Friday Service – New Brick, UL
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Good Friday Service – New Brick, UL

Saturday, April 4

11:00 am – 4:00 pm	Altar Guild prep
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday) Service & Baptism



HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT CHRIST CHURCH

THE JOURNEY THAT HELPS GIVE EASTER
A DEEPER MEANING

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 8:00 (OLD BRICK), 9:00 (GREAT HALL, THEN NEW BRICK), AND 10:30 A.M. (OLD BRICK, THEN NEW BRICK, WEATHER PERMITTING)

MEDITATIONS ON THE PASSION

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 6:00 P.M. IN NEW BRICK

TENEBRAE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 AT 7:00 P.M. IN NEW BRICK

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 IN NEW BRICK
5:00 LOVE FEAST IN THE GREAT HALL
7:00 EUCHARIST, FOOT-WASHING AND STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR
8:00 P.M. TO FRIDAY AT 12 NOON - VIGIL IN OLD BRICK

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 AT 12 NOON AND 7:00 P.M. IN NEW BRICK

HOLY SATURDAY

EASTER VIGIL, LIGHTING OF THE NEW FIRE, AND BAPTISM
SATURDAY, APRIL 4 AT 7:00 P.M. IN NEW BRICK

EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 A.M. IN OLD BRICK
9:00 AND 11:00 A.M. WITH CHOIR AND MUSIC IN NEW BRICK
EASTER EGG HUNT & FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/HOLYWEEK



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

Sunday School Takes Two Weeks Off

Sunday School is taking place this Sunday, March 22, but will take a break during the following two Sundays: Palm Sunday (March 29) and Easter Sunday (April 5). Classes will resume on Sunday, April 12th. If you have any questions, please email info@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Meditations on the Passion – Tonight at 6:00 p.m. in New Brick

This Palm Sunday evening, Christ Church will present Meditations on the Passion, a special service of poems, readings, dance (courtesy of our Lumen Christi liturgical dance ministry), song, and prayer. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary as we contemplate the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a way that makes us realize the immense love He has for each one of us, a love that is capable of suffering and death in order to free us from our sins.

Easter Altar Flowers, Music, and Offerings

Easter Sunday is a special time when we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers or requesting hymns to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord.

You can present gifts to support our Easter flowers and music here; be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. If you wish to give a general Easter Offering, you can do so here. For those wishing to submit a check, you can drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; please include the same dedication information on the memo line of your check. Whichever way you choose, we thank you for helping support the beautiful Easter services at Christ Church.

Tenebrae - Wednesday, April 1

As Jesus draws ever closer to the events of Good Friday, the church readies itself by reading the service of Tenebrae, taken from the monastic tradition.

In this Wednesday evening service, a candelabrum with fifteen candles is used, and one by one the candles are extinguished, until the only light remaining symbolizes the light of Christ. This light is taken and hidden for a moment, as Christ was laid in the tomb. Then, as a loud noise resembling that of the earthquake is heard, the light is returned to its stand. In silence, and by the light of only that single candle, the congregation exits.

Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Each Thursday during Lent, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. Our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist.

Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Maundy Thursday at Christ Church - Thursday, April 2

On this evening of Maundy Thursday, we gather together to bring into remembrance the Last Supper of our Lord and the Institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We hear and remember the words of Jesus as he states, “Do this in remembrance of me.” As the service concludes, the altar is stripped of all of its appointments, so that the focus of all can be upon the cross alone on the following day, Good Friday. We then hear of the Agony in the Garden, as Jesus is arrested. The Watch then takes place through the night, as in response to our Lord’s question: “Could you not watch with me for one hour?”

Join us for a Love Feast meal in the Great Hall at 5:00, followed by our Maundy Thursday service in New Brick. Then, we invite individuals to reserve space in Old Brick during our overnight vigil. You are welcome to take an hour or several hours, whichever you prefer. [The sign-up link is here](#), and spaces are available from 8:00 Thursday night through 12 noon on Good Friday.

Good Friday - April 3 at 12 noon and 7 p.m. in New Brick

Christians throughout the world recall Good Friday as the day upon which Jesus died. As it remembers the great sinfulness of man, it also points to the glory and love of God. It is most somber in its offering, and includes the Veneration of the Cross, another ancient custom of the Church. A plain wooden cross is carried into the church and is held before us. The congregation is then invited to come forward in reverence of the cross - by touching the wood, a simple bow, a genuflection, or the act of kissing the wood of the cross.

The noonday service lasts one hour and draws our attention to the extraordinary love that God has for each of us in giving His son to die on the cross. The evening service is slightly longer, as we also receive communion from the Sacrament Reserved. Church tradition prohibits the celebration of the Eucharist on this day. Both services are in New Brick.

Holy Saturday - April 4 at 7 p.m. in New Brick

As the church awaits the glory of the resurrection, Holy Saturday is a day of preparation. As the sun sets, bringing with it the end of the Lenten season, one of the most beautiful services of the entire church year is held. We begin in utter darkness, signifying Christ in the tomb, and then a new fire is lit & blessed, and with it the Paschal Candle symbolizing Christ. As the Paschal Candle is carried into the church, the light is passed to parishioners, who each hold a candle. As the church is illuminated by candlelight alone, the ancient hymn The Exsultet is sung. Then, within that light, lessons are read which remind us of God’s desire for man’s salvation. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism takes central focus on the priesthood of all believers, and then we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter. The darkness is now full light!

Easter Sunday - April 5

We have now reached Easter Day – a day of joy, celebration, and the gift of life to God’s people. There are three services this morning, and you are welcome to be with us at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

At the 9:00 and 11:00 services, a full choir and procession, along with all the rituals appointed for the day, help us celebrate and express our joy. The Easter sermon is given; the choir anthems are spectacular, and the glory of the day radiates from our worship into the community.

Celebrations on this day include the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Flowering of the Cross. These are beloved celebrations for the youngest among us, and the rest of us ensure a safe and fun time for all. Please be sure to bring your basket or bag for the egg hunt! Flowers will be provided.

Supporting RISE to Help Neighbors in Need in Baltimore County

Christ Church continues to join with several congregations in the Baltimore metropolitan area that support RISE, a ministry that offers food and other aid to families who are struggling.

The Outreach Commission at its March meeting voted to send \$500 for RISE to its founder, Christ the King (CTK). Funds are derived from a Vestry-approved budget and from your contributions to general Outreach. This is in keeping with our mission to support organizations – local, national, and international – that enhance the lives of people in need. Many thanks for your generosity!

CTK is an Episcopal parish in the Woodlawn area of Baltimore County whose rector, The Rev. Mary Eliot, is a former assistant rector of Christ Church clergy. During the pandemic in 2020, CTK established RISE to address food insecurity among immigrants and others. The ministry also includes a program helping mothers and babies.

RISE conducts twice-monthly distributions of free food such as produce, rice, beans, and maseca. Since January, its volunteers have been feeding 1,360 people per month, of whom 330 to 500 are children. Its partners include the Maryland Food Bank and First Fruits Farm.

In a note of gratitude for our \$250 donation last year, CTK's rector said RISE has fed more than 60,000 people since 2020. "It would not be possible without your support. Thank you from our neighbors and the RISE team," she said.

Food distributions take place at midday on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at CTK, 1930 Brookdale Rd., 20244, which is just off Security Boulevard in Baltimore County.

Volunteers are welcomed to help with preparation as well as distribution. For more information and to sign up, go online to "What is RISE."

A Land Blessing Takes Place at the Site of The Source Community Center

Columbia Community Care (CCC) held a land blessing on March 24 of the future home of The Source, a community center facilitated by Howard County to expand opportunities for young people. Representatives of the Christ Church Outreach Committee attended.

CCC Executive Director Erika Chavarria welcomed residents and supporters to the interfaith service. It began with a Native American blessing that was followed by prayers offered by more than a dozen faith leaders from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations. Find a post that begins, "Many traditions. One heartbeat," on CCC's Facebook page.

The location at 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, Md. 21045 is the former site of the Columbia Flier building, which Howard County acquired in 2014 and that CCC briefly utilized as a pantry and headquarters. The structure was demolished to make way for what the project's real estate partner, Columbia Concepts, describes as "an inclusive, financially sustainable community hub."

CCC promotes youth programs, including STAND and PUSH, that will utilize space at The Source for services such as tutoring. The community center is expected to house a gymnasium, wellness programs, mental and physical healthcare services, and childcare.

Bring Items for FISH/CCC, and Consider Volunteering to Take Calls from Home

FISH and (CCC) partnered last year and merged their pantries. CCC continues to hand out food at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, go online to Get Help.

FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents to provide guidance and financial support because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong (see photo) or email him at andydelong.fish@gmail.com.

You could be the one to lend a helping hand, by lending an ear! As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assisting those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. Thank you always for your support.



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

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 Lipede, *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