

# Christ Episcopal Church

*Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, August 20, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 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](http://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 | The Torah Song

Opening Acclamation |

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity |

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

*People:* **Amen.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***People:* Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

A Reading from Genesis 45:1-15 |

*Reader:* A Reading from Genesis.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

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

Psalm 133 | *Ecce, quam bonum!*

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
**when brethren live together in unity!**  
It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
**that runs down upon the beard,**  
Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
**and runs down upon the collar of his robe.**  
It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
**that falls upon the hills of Zion.**  
For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
**life for evermore.**

A Reading from Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 |

*Reader:* A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

*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 | Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

The Gospel | Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

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

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

[Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

*Celebrant:* 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 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.

O Lord, Creator of all, You have made all humanity in your image and empowered us with life. Help us to forge a holy community in this world. Help rid us of self-interest that often controls our hearts and minds. We acknowledge that we depend on Your wisdom and love. In earnest we pray, **“In Your mercy, help us Lord!”**

Refresh us, renew us, and return us to be a people of Your light in this world. We earnestly ask for Your guidance in clear thinking, selflessness, and fellowship in our lives. Let us help those communities destroyed by fire, especially Lahaina, Hawaii. May we care for those affected by climate change and disaster. Pleadingly, we pray, **“Lord, grant us wisdom and strength to know and follow Your path.”**

Your church is Your Body within the world. Strengthen our leaders to hear discern the voice of the Holy Spirit. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene, our Diocesan Bishop; Carrie, our Bishop Coadjutor; Emmanuel, our Rector; and our entire clergy, staff, and vestry, that all be dedicated to Your service. In the Anglican Communion, for The Church of England and in our diocese for the parishes of St. George's, Hampstead; St. James', Monkton; and St. John's, Western Run, we lift these communities in our prayers, as we exclaim, **“May Your Spirit shine within us.”**

By Your providence our nation was formed. We pray for wisdom, courage, compassion, and eloquence. We pray for Joseph our President and the members of Congress and the judicial system, to focus on unifying actions and goals. Help and guide all the leaders of the world to act rightly and serve not only their people but for the benefit of all. **“Empower our leaders to become beacons of light throughout the world.”**

For those ill in body, mind, or spirit, we pray you send Your healing love to restore them to wholeness; we especially pray for Fr. Richard, Forrest, Brady, Christine, Carol, Rhonda, Wayne, Davar, Javon, Marten, Janeen, Malik, Marian, Denise, Shanaya, Ronald, Jan, Judy, Pamela, David, Dennis, Patricia, Emily, Shirley, Cindy, Roberta, Francis, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those we now name. For those who have passed on, we know they rest in light and joy in Your presence. This day we remember Bola Adams, Laurie Benner, Nana Yahan Oppong, and those we now name. We pray for those family and friends who mourn this separation and ask that You touch their hearts with the knowledge that “All is well.” We also pray for those serving in the military and in harm's way, especially Conner Warlow. **“Send Your Spirit, which heals all wounds, to comfort all who suffer or are in danger.”**

Living in the Spirit brings great joy! We warmly welcome all those new to us. May we be partners in our journey with the Lord. In celebration of birthdays this week, we congratulate Luke, Jacqueline, Samuella, Alexia, Kerica, Michael, Sara, Kevin, George & Jason, and we also remember the wedding anniversaries of Ayub & Denisa Abdallah, Isaac & Janet Olajide and Duane & Leigh Smith and the baptismal anniversary of Levi. In celebration for all the lives that touch us, **“Fount of all joy, we give thanks for Your love!”**

These prayers we do earnestly ask of You, Lord. In faith we know that by Your will, *All will be well!* **AMEN!**

Confession of Sin |

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

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

*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 | Nothing More

*Please scan to give.*



*The people stand as able.*

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 3) |

*Old 100th*

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

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## Eucharistic Prayer A |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

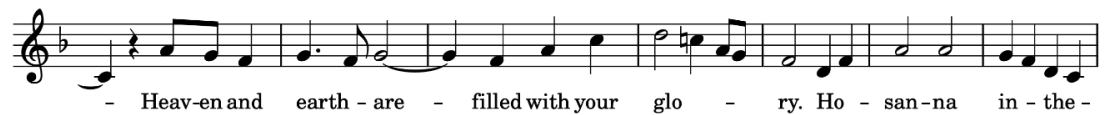
*People:* We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

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



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

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

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

*Celebrant:* After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All:* **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

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

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

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

*All:* **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer | *Sung*

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread |

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

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

*organ*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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

1 I am the bread of life; they who  
2 (The) Bread that I will give is my  
3 (Un-) less you eat of the  
4 I am the re - sur - rec - tion,  
5 (Yes,) Lord, we be - lieve that

1 come to me shall not hun - ger; they who be -  
2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who  
3 Flesh of the Son of Man and  
4 I am the life. They who be -  
5 you are the Christ, the

1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
2 eat of this bread, they shall live for  
3 drink of his Blood, you shall not have life with -  
4 lieve in me, c - ven if they  
5 Son of God who has

1 me un - less the Fa - ther draw them.  
2 ev - er. they shall live for ev - er.  
3 in you. you shall not have life with - in you.  
4 dic, they shall live for ev - cr.  
5 come in - to the world.

*Descant*

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

*Refrain*

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

last day. 1-4 5 Yes, day. *Final Ending*

last day. 2 The 3 Un- day. 4 — 5 Yes, (z)

*The people stand as able.*

Post-Communion Prayer |

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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

*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 | Christ Be Our Light

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

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## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

### 8:00 a.m. Service

**Lector/Reader:** Joan Harvey

**Ushers:** Nancy Winchester, Kayode Fatodu

**Chalicerist:** Joan Harvey

### 10:30 a.m. Service

**Lector/Reader:** Greg Schuckman

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

**Acolytes & Crucifer:** Luke Aribiah, Jonah Aribiah

**Chalicerist:** Mary Vail

**Altar Guild:** Cheryl Lucente, Gail Braatelein, Pam Foreman

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## PARISH CALENDAR

### AUGUST 20 – AUGUST 27

#### Sunday, August 20

|                     |                                                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am             | Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level         |
| 9:00 am             | Cycling for Health and Fellowship               |
| 10:30 am            | Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level |
| 11:30 am – 12:30 pm | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom                      |
| 12:00 – 1:30 pm     | Sunday School Training – New Brick, lower level |
| 12:30 – 5:30 pm     | Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick          |

#### Monday, August 21

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

**Tuesday, August 22**

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7:00 am             | Morning Prayer Livestream         |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom       |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm     | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom        |
| 6:30 – 8:30 pm      | Vestry Meeting – Old Brick & Zoom |

**Wednesday, August 23**

|         |                                                         |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 am | Morning Prayer Livestream                               |
| 6:30 pm | Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level |

**Thursday, August 24**

|                 |                                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am         | Morning Prayer Livestream                |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom               |
| 7:30 – 8:30 pm  | AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level |
| 7:30 – 9:00 pm  | Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level      |

**Friday, August 25**

|                    |                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 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, August 26**

|                 |                                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 12:00 pm        | Memorial Service – Old Brick              |
| 1:00 pm         | Repast – New Brick, lower level           |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm  | AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level     |
| 5:00 – 6:30 pm  | Memorial Service – New Brick, upper level |
| 6:30 – 12:00 pm | Repast – New Brick, lower level           |
| 8:00 – 9:00 pm  | NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level     |

**Sunday, August 27**

|                     |                                                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 am             | Cycling for Health and Fellowship               |
| 10:00 am            | Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level |
| 11:00 am            | Parish Festival & Ministry Fair                 |
| 11:30 am – 12:30 pm | Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom                      |
| 12:30 – 5:30 pm     | Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick          |

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To submit announcements for publication, email [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) by Tuesday evening.

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

### **Sunday School Teacher Training - Sunday Afternoon**

The CEC Sunday School very much needs people to help with our fall Sunday School curriculum. Whether you can help every Sunday or once in a while, please consider joining us for a brief meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service this Sunday. Thank you.

### **Christ Church's Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - Next Sunday**

The Annual Christ Church Parish Festival and Ministry Fair are back this year! There's only one service that day - Sunday, August 27th - so we'll begin with Holy Eucharist in New Brick at 10 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! Every Christ Church ministry will have tables around the campus with information, and you can speak with their members and learn more about how they contribute to our common life - and how you can, too.

### **Centering Prayer - August 21**

Gather with us on Mondays in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. for Centering Prayer, a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are - the Zoom link is [here](#), the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Password is **Centering!** For more info, email Kathy Lyon at [rklyon@cablespeed.com](mailto:rklyon@cablespeed.com).

### **WOCC's September Meeting - September 5**

Join the WOCC for our first meeting for the second half of 2023 on Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, so you're welcome to gather with us in New Brick or on Zoom. The details will be available later this month. The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for this year. Come join us for these events! Speak to any WOCC member, or email us at [WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org).

### **The Annual Flea Market and Craft Fair - September 16**

The Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC, is about a month away! We need your White Elephant Table items, baked goods, and volunteers, so **please read the entire message on our website**. Spaces are also still available; we have forms available in the Narthex, or you can download a copy on our website at [www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market). This is the WOCC's biggest fundraiser of the year, and proceeds are used to help support many Christ Church activities and gatherings. The more people that take part, the more successful this important event can turn out to be!

### **CEC Health and Wellness Fair - September 30**

The Christ Church Health Ministry is creating a Community Health and Wellness Fair for Saturday, September 30th, on our campus. Many health-related tables, booths, and presentations will be available, and everyone's invited to take part. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Christ Church's Annual Auction - November 4**

And so, the countdown begins... in less than three months, we will hold Christ Church's 34th Annual Auction, and we'll host both an online and in-person, live auction again this year. Start thinking about great gifts and ideas that you can donate in order to help raise funds to support our common life, and keep watching this space as we gear up for online bidding during the week leading up to a fun-filled evening on Saturday, November 4th! If you have any questions, please email [auction@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:auction@christchurchcolumbia.org).

### **Cycling for Health and Fellowship - Sunday Mornings**

How about joining us for refreshing cycling before or after church? Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn are organizing invigorating cycling trips that depart from CEC and take advantage of bike lanes and trails around Columbia. There are some beautiful lakes and paved trails right outside our backyard and is a great way to see parts of our community from a different perspective. We always go at a pace that suits everyone in our group, with the goal of returning to Christ Church in time for the 10:30 service. These trips occur every week, weather permitting. Please speak with or email Diane or Kevin at [cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org) for more information.

### **Join Our Vestry for 2024**

Nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun. This year, there are four (4) slots open for election, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and are a giving member of record at Christ Episcopal Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to guide us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, October 16th. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing [nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org) and they will let you know what's needed for this process. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund**

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

### **Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday**

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

### **Communion to You**

In an effort 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.

### **Altar Flowers and Gifts**

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

### **Christ Church Sends Aid to Maui Wildfire Survivors**

On Aug. 8, a catastrophic wildfire consumed the Hawaiian town of Lahaina on the island of Maui, killing at least 106 people and displacing hundreds. It is the deadliest wildfire in the United States in more than a century and the worst natural disaster in the history of Hawaii. Among the historic structures believed to be destroyed is Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, according to **an Aug. 11 statement** posted by **Episcopal Relief and Development** (ERD).

To encourage the many people who are lifting up prayers for Maui, ERD suggested turning to its resource, **"Prayers in the Time of a Disaster."**

Christ Church responded with **a post on its website** and action by the Outreach Commission. On behalf of parishioners, Outreach members voted at the Aug. 14 meeting to contribute \$500 to the **Hawaii Community Foundation** for its disaster relief efforts. This is the latest in a series of disaster-relief donations, including ones earlier this year to help tornado victims in Mississippi and Arkansas and earthquake victims in Syria and Türkiye. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to one and all who make this possible.

### **Community Action Council Will Use \$400 Donation for a Mobile Pantry**

The Outreach Commission at its August meeting took steps to help meet the great demand for food among our disadvantaged neighbors. Christ Church donated \$400 to the **Community Action Council** of Howard County, which expressed deep gratitude. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from parishioners' pledges and contributions. Your support counts. CAC's Director of Food Assistance Services said the funds are coming at a

perfect time and will be used to help supply its mobile pantry next week at Deep Run Elementary School in Elkridge. The pantry is set up to fill a gap between the start of school and the end of the Howard County Public School System summer lunch program, which ran from June 21 to Aug. 4. Thanks to you, CAC will be “feeding kids most in need!”

### **Columbia Community Care Seeks Volunteers for Home Delivery Teams**

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. People can choose tasks to suit them such as gardening, but currently the greatest need is for Spanish translators and for other members of the home delivery teams that provide free groceries to those lacking transportation.

Here is [a CCC signup form](#) that explains the duties for so-called “shoppers,” who fulfill the grocery list not at a store but at the pantry and then deliver the goods. Other volunteers sort and stock items at the CCC pantry building, 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. Look for updates posted in the [CCC Facebook Group](#) or on the [“I Can Help” portion of its website](#).

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

### **Save the Date for the DreamBuilders Spaghetti Dinner**

Please support DreamBuilders’ annual dinner and fundraising event in October 14th at Temple Isaiah. Bid on a wonderful selection of auction items at the silent auction and purchase tickets for their iPhone 14 raffle! All proceeds directly support DreamBuilders mission trips and projects. For more information, be sure to check out their flyer at <https://ibb.co/CWdTBbb>

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

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

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at [outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org). Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.





## CHRIST CHURCH'S PARISH FESTIVAL & MINISTRY FAIR

The Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair is back this year! There's only one service next Sunday, August 27th, so join us for Holy Eucharist in New Brick at 10:00 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! We'll have BBQ goodies, live music from Orlando and Gregory Phillips & Family, and fantastic ways to learn about the many ministries that make Christ Church this wonderful parish.

Many ministries will have tables set up around the campus with information pamphlets and members, and you can speak with them to learn more about why each ministry is a vital contribution to our common life - and how you can join in and take part.

Be with us at 10 a.m. next Sunday!



# STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE

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

## **We want to thank YOU.**

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

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

## **Text Giving**

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

## **Online Giving**

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

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



**Christ Episcopal Church**

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

[www.christchurchcolumbia.org](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org)

[office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org)

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Chaplain Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

**Vestry**

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

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

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